

Peace Child

Cast

- Tribesmen x2
- Tribeswomen x2
- Narrator

Props

- War music
- Drum music
- Music player / Speaker
- Spears x2
- Horns x2
- Babies (!) x3
- Manger
- World map (big enough when unscrolled to see Indonesia...)
- Tribal costumes (including baby slings for tribeswomen) *4
- Face paints

Preparation

Have a teacher nominate children to hand 'baby Jesus' to the narrator and place a manger on stage. On stage, to one side is a table with the map scroll.

Scene 1

Children enter hall to the background of 'two tribes go to war' music. Once all are seated, music changes to tribal drums.

Two 'tribesmen' appear from behind the curtain, each blows a horn in turn and stands aggressively towards the other.

After a few moments, two women come from behind the curtain and present their tribesman with a weapon and takes the horns from them, returning to behind the curtain.

Each tribesman strikes the ground with his spear, the drum music begins and again and the fight commences.

Narrator enters stage from behind the curtain, walking between the fighters who then freeze with their weapons up, forming a 'tunnel' through which the narrator can walk. (As narrator enters, drum music is paused) Once narrator has passed through the 'tunnel', the tribesmen lower their spears and turn to face the audience.

Scene 2

Introduction by Narrator

"Good morning xxx school" (get them to repeat their 'Good morning Acting Up' louder...) "Acting Up are always so pleased to be here, especially for our Christmas drama. But you're probably wondering what all this is about, it doesn't seem much like Christmas does it? Tell me, what would you expect to see in a Christmas play?" Gets children to suggest things and at each suggestion, point out that we don't have it, finishing with: "No, we don't have any shepherds, or wise men, not even a baby... how can this be about Christmas?"

(As she says this, the tribesmen, who have been getting restless turn, point their spears at the narrator and 'chase' her off stage. The drum music starts again and the fight continues)

Scene 3

Fight reaches a climax and as both appear to be about to kill each other, the music stops and the tribesmen freeze.

Narrator enters stage, and stands to one side (by the table) Tribesmen continue to scowl and look threatening during the following:

Narrator unscrolls the map: "When your grandparents were children, there were two tribes in Indonesia (points to it on map). They hated each other and were always fighting. There seemed to be no end to it, no hope of it ever changing."

(As the narrator says this, the two tribeswomen, each carrying a baby, enter from opposite sides of the curtain.)

TW1: We hated them! (Scowls aggressively at the other)

TW2: We were always plotting new ways to kill them.

Narrator: "What do you think about that children? Isn't that awful? Always fighting, always hating each other. I wonder if there was any way of stopping it?" (looks at TW1)

TW1: (reluctantly) "Yes, there is a way, but it is too difficult"

TW2: "The Peace Child"

Narrator: "The Peace Child?"

TW1: "As a sign of peace, each tribe would give a small child, a baby, to the other tribe"

TW2: "It showed that we were all the same, that the differences were not important."

TW1: "Loving the child meant we could no longer hate the other tribe"

TW2: "The fighting had to stop"

Narrator: "That sounds amazing. For the sake of peace, you gave up your child. Wow."

(Tribesmen become restless again and start to clash spears)

Narrator: "So you could put an end to this fighting now, you both have babies, the Peace Child could happen now..."

TW1: "Yes, but it would mean me giving my baby away to someone who hates me"

TW2: "And I would have to do the same."

(One tribesman stops his wife from giving their child, using the spear. She pushes it away and goes to the other tribesman. As she kisses the child, he lays down his spear and takes the child. The process is repeated by the other tribe. Having done this, the women pick up the spears, come together and face the audience.)

TW1: "We will look after your child"

TW2: "And we will look after yours. We must learn to love each other, to become one tribe."

The two link arms and lead their men off stage.

Scene 4

Once the tribespeople are off stage, the children nominated are prompted to bring the baby to the narrator and the manger onto the stage.

Narrator: "That's amazing, the two women gave up their children to bring peace... can you think of any situations now that need peace? (maybe give an example...)"

"... that's great, God wants to bring peace to all of those... and to do that He has given His own son. So, you see, it really is the Christmas story. A man called Isaiah wrote those words thousands of years ago:"

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine....

The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned.

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. (*Holds the baby up for all to see*)

The government will rest on his shoulders.

And he will be called:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His government and its peace will never end.

Scene 5

Narrator places the baby into the manger.

Narrator: "As the angel told the Shepherds at that first Christmas: 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour has been born today. Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth.'"

(All re-enter the stage, forming a semi-circle around narrator)

Narrator: Jesus, the Peace Child is here, we believe that's what makes it Christmas. Peace between God and people, between neighbours, between countries. Peace between you and other children in your class or school. Peace on earth.

Everyone: "Acting Up wishes you all, a happy and peace-filled Christmas."

All bow then exit the stage.

Fight 1

Intro

1. Each blows horn after the other
2. Stare aggressively at one another, posturing
3. Women come and exchange the horns for spears
4. Both stand, spear to one side, facing the audience.
5. Drum music begins, we hit the ground with our spears then turn to fight

Fight

1. Circle each other, posturing. First 180 degrees slowly, then at increasing pace for the second half
2. Henrique repositions spear across him to indicate clashes
 - a. 5 x clashes of spears
 - b. Henrique pushes spears back against David who leans back under pressure
 - c. David eventually begins to push back, reversing the process
 - d. Both then jump apart
3. Narrator appears and we reposition spears as an arch for her to pass under. We then turn to face the audience, holding spear in front.

Fight 2

Intro

1. As narrator finishes "...how can this be about Christmas?" we become agitated and move our spears to push narrator off stage
2. We start posturing again
3. Henrique repositions spear across him to indicate clashes
 - a. 3 x clashes of spears
 - b. Jump apart
4. After short posturing, David takes one hand from spear and attacks, striking Henrique's leg
5. Henrique steps back, holds leg briefly whilst both posturing
6. Both now holding spear with one hand;
 - a. Henrique fakes a throw towards David's face and David dodges
 - b. David does same to Henrique
 - c. Both go to attack simultaneously, each lunging with spear at the same time as grabbing the other's spear
 - d. After a few moments struggle, jump back
7. Narrator re-enters, to one side, with map, we stop fighting but scowl...