



"Thanks For The Water"

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PUPPETS

1. Ripley
2. Bernard
3. Flower
4. Claude
5. Bear
6. Character3

PROPS

1. Full Stage
2. Backdrop
3. Rain-O-Matic
4. Log

SOUND

1. I Can't Get No Satisfaction Song (Rolling Stones)
2. Rhythm Of The Rain Song (Sunday Shoes)
3. Flood (Jars of Clay)
4. Mr. Blue (ELO)
5. Thunder & Lightning
6. Rain
7. Log Crash

ACT I

Music: "I Can't Get No Satisfaction"

Ripley: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. And on behalf of Ripples we would like to thank you for coming. I am Ripley.
We hope that you are both entertained and enlightened as we bring you "Stories from The Brook."

Have you noticed that there is very little satisfaction in the world today? The glass is always half-full or half-empty it seems. But is there an alternative? Is there another point of view?

I am reminded of a time when things got a little crazy at The Brook. And for the twinkling of an eye, I wondered if we would ever learn or whether our dissatisfaction would get the best of us all.

You see it all began one day during a terrible rain storm.

Scene: Ripley slides down. Lights come up on center stage. (Flashes?)`

Sound: Thunder and Lightning

Music: Flood (Jars of Clay)

Bernard: The Brook is falling! The Brook is falling! (Runs back and forth.) THE... BROOK... IS...FALLING!!!!

Flower: What on earth are you talking about Bernard?

Bernard: Isn't it obvious? Parts of The Brook are falling from the sky! What are you blind AND numb?

Flower: Are you a beaver or a chicken?

Bernard: I'm a beaver of course!

Flower: It's called RAIN Bernard! The Brook is not falling from the sky. Haven't you seen rain before?

Bernard: No. (Pauses) Ohh... So this is what rain looks like. My mom told me about it but I've never actually seen it before.

Flower: That's right. I forgot that you were born during the winter and that it hasn't rained so far this spring.

Bernard: But if The Brook is not falling from the sky, then this could be disastrous!

Flower: Now I am sure that you have lost your mind. What harm could a little rain do?

Bernard: If I am right – a whole lot! I have to go back to the lodge and check my calculations first. But if I'm right... (clucks his teeth and splashes away)

Flower: I wasn't scared before. I like the rain. But after all, Bernard is a boy-beaver genius! If he's scared there must be a good reason!

Sound: Thunder and lightning

Scene: Character 1 slides down and Claude slides up.

Claude: (Muttering to himself) Oh sockreybleu! This is terrible! This is terrible.

Bear: Oh what are you going on about Claude? Must you always complain? Aren't you ever happy unless you are miserable?

Claude: I'll have you know that this time I have a reason to be miserable!

Bear: All right, I'll play along. So what is it this time. Is the water too brown again and are you afraid your pearl will turn into a root beer pearl?

Claude: It is not nice of you to make fun of me like that – It could have happened you know! Nobody wants a root beer pearl. I would have slaved away my life for nothing I tell you... nothing! (overly dramatic)

Bear: You said you had a reason this time Claude?

Claude: Oh yes, as I was saying. Have you noticed the rain?

Bear: How can I help it? What has the rain got to do with anything Claude? This is the first time it has rained in a while.

Claude: Exactly my point! We are all gonna die!

Bear: Claude did you choke on your pearl? What do you mean we're all gonna die?

Claude: Don't you see? I has indeed been a long time since it has rained. And in case you haven't noticed the Brook is now half-empty. At this rate, if we do not get a lot of rain - and soon, we will all be baked clams I'm afraid.

Oh the horror! Oh the pain! Oh the smell! (all overly dramatic)

Bear: While I don't generally share your pessimistic view on life Claude, I have to admit that this time you might have a point. It has't rained in a long time and if the brook dries up, we'll all be in trouble.

But can we to do Claude? It's not like we can just dial 911 and ask for a little rain.

Claude: I think I have an idea. But I must talk to Ripley first. In order for this to work, we will need his support.

Oh, what will we do? All of this thinking has worn me out. I need an espresso!

Scene: Both slide down.

ACT II

Music: Rhythm of The Rain

Sound: Rain

Ripley: I do so love the sound of the rain.

Character3: Well, I don't know if you're going to like the sounds coming from The Brook, Ripley. There's a storm brewing I'm afraid and I don't think it's going to bring rain.

Ripley: What are you talking about? Everyone has been getting along so well this spring. I don't think I can remember a more peaceful time at The Brook.

Character3: You're probably right. It's all just folks getting excited about the first rain of the season. I'm sure that things will settle down.

Claude: (Rushes in, breathless) Sockreybleu, monsieur Ripley, we are all going to die!

Character3: Or not....!

Ripley: Now just calm down Clyde! What is this all about?

Claude: The Brook, monsieur! She is half-empty! If we do not get more rain, and soon, she will dry up and we will be, how should I say? – Clam stew!

Ripley: Claude, I don't think that The Brook is drying up. Now, I know it has been a long time since it has rained, but that's happened many times before.

Claude: Monsieur Ripley. I do not think you will be so quick to say that when you are flopping on the ground, gasping for your last breath and drying up under a hot sun!

Ripley: Thanks Claude. That makes me feel so much better. What exactly do you propose that we do about it?

Claude: I have a plan! (pause, pause, pause)

Ripley: That's terrific Claude. It would be even more terrific if you would share your plan with the rest of us.

Claude: Oh yes! Well, several weeks ago I received a wave from my favorite inventor Professor Bubbles and he told about a very special machine... the Rain-O-Matic! (Pauses again dramatically)

Ripley: And this Rain-O-Matic does what exactly?

Claude: Why it makes it rain of course! Did you not hear the name?

Anyway, I think I could build it with a little help if I just had your support. We must do something soon before we all are lost!

Ripley: I really don't think that we need to make it rain Claude. But you are welcome to do whatever you wish!

Claude: Excellent! It is settled then. I have your support! I will get started at once! (Claude takes off before Ripley can answer.)

Ripley: I didn't give him my support did I?

Character3: You know Claude - he only hears what he wants to. I'm sure he would have done it no matter what you said.

Ripley: Well, I'm glad that's over with, now we can get back to the peace and quiet of a beautiful day

Scene: Bernard rushes in.

Bernard: Ripley! We simply must do something with expedience or we shall all perish!

Character3: Or not...

Ripley: Oh no, not you too! I have just gotten through talking with Claude and he said the same thing, well almost the same thing.

Bernard: You mean to tell me that that clam Claude has already deduced that the Brook is about to overflow and that we must build a dam to save it? Why he is much smarter than I thought.

Ripley: No, Bernard, Claude said that The brook is half-empty and that if we do not do something soon that we will all dry up.

Bernard: Then my opinion of our senior clam remains... unchanged. He could not be more wrong!
I returned to the lodge after the storm and have been working my calculations all night. You see, with the current flow of the upper troposphere and the prevailing mid-Atlantic currents I have reached an inescapable conclusion.

Character3: What did Bernard just say Ripley?

Ripley: I am not quite sure.
And just what inescapable conclusion have you reached Bernard?

Bernard: It should be obvious to anyone that has two brain cells to rub together that we are in for a lot more rain. And, my friend, if you haven't already noticed, The Brook is half-full. This means we are already half-way to disaster.
According to my calculations, there is a 97.625% chance of torrential rainfall over the next several months.
With the spring storms I am predicting, The Brook will overflow it's banks and it will bring catastrophe to us all. Imagine if you will, all the friends of The Brook, washed over its' banks, trapped in fields and hanging from the branches of trees.

Ripley: Why that would be terrible!

Character3: But what can we do to stop it Bernard? We can't stop the rain.
Besides, Claude is building a machine to make it rain even more.

Bernard: You are right that we cannot stop the rain --- but we can keep it from washing away The Brook. We must build a dam upstream. All I need is Ripley's support and I will get underway.

Ripley: Well I certainly don't want to see the resident's of the Brook hanging from trees. But I'm not sure that we need to build a dam quite yet.

Bernard: Good it's settled then. Thanks for your vote of confidence Ripley. I will begin construction at once. (splashes away.)

Ripley: But... but... I didn't...

Character3: Don't bother Ripley. Bernard quit listening several minutes ago. He is as stubborn as the logs he cuts down. For someone who is so bright, I just don't know about him sometimes.

Ripley: Yeah, but he has our best interests at heart. He's just tryin to protect The Brook.

Character3: So is Claude. But somehow I just get a really bad feeling about this.

ACT III

Music: Mr. Blue (ELO)

Sound: Brook sounds

Scene: Character4 & Character5 are having a discussion.

Character4: It only makes sense to help Claude with the Rain-O-Matic. It should be obvious to even the boy-beaver genius that The Brook is half-empty.

Character5: While I respect your opinion ++++. The only obvious thing to me is that you have spent too much time in the clam bed. Bernard's dam is based on strong scientific evidence that rains are coming and we need to be prepared - while all of Claude's claims are based only on his feelings. And as we all know, Claude wouldn't know a happy feeling if it stole his pearl! Of course he sees the Brook as half-empty, but the really smart ones know that it is half-full.

Character4: Apparently, I can't talk to you. You just won't listen to reason.

Character5: And apparently, you would rather follow a nincompoop than someone who really knows what they are talking about!

Character4: Well I never!

Character5: I'm not surprised!

Character4: Well!

Character5: Well!

Scene: Both storm off in different directions (towards the side of the stage that they support)

ACT IV

Sound: Brook sounds

Scene: Claude is building his Rain-O-Matic.

Claude: Ahh the Rain-O-Matic! It is a work of art! Something at last that is deserving of my time and attention. I will be famous! I will be remembered for generations. I, Claude will have saved The Brook from certain destruction.

Bear: But Claude, I thought that Professor Bubbles designed the Rain-O-Matic. Isn't he the one who should get the credit for saving the Brook?

Claude: Oh, but you miss the point my young friend. Without my realization that The Brook was half-empty and that we were drying up, AND getting the professor's machine here, we would have all been lost. So, the honor is mine!

Bear: I don't know if I would be counting your pearls before they are hatched Claude. The instructions we received from the Professor were pretty complicated and I am not sure that we put this together correctly. For all you know, it just might blow up.

Claude: Nonsense! While I admit that the brightest minds in The Brook are helping Bernard with his ridiculous dam, which only left me well, um you! I think we have still done an admirable job following the Professor's directions. I am positive that the Rain-O-Matic will work flawlessly and the rain will come. In fact, I am working on a speech to accept the Brook's gratitude even now.

Bear: But Claude, what about the pile of parts that we have left over?

Claude: You are simply ignorant my young friend about how these things work. The professor simply sent us spare parts in case we lost some.

Bear: Well, I guess there is only one way to find out whether or not it is working.

Claude: You mean...

Bear: Yes Claude we must turn it on!

Claude: Okay then, you just flick the switch and I will stand back over here to make sure you are doing it correctly. (Claude backs away and trembles.)

Bear: Yeah right. Well, here goes nothing! (Machine comes to life smoke pours out lights, sounds, shaking)

Sound: Machine sounds

Claude: It is working. Look! It is working!

Sound: Explosion

Scene: Both duck down and machine disappears in a puff of smoke

Scene: Bernard is building a dam.

Bernard: Stop! No, Flower, not that way! You are doing it all wrong.

Flower: Cut me some slack will ya? Do I look like Bear? How exactly do you expect me to move these huge logs you are cutting down?

Bernard: It is simply a matter of applying the proper leverage. At this rate though, we won't be finished before next winter. This dam will never hold if we have a bad storm. Oh my, what will we do?

If only Bear wasn't helping out that fool Claude and his idiotic Rain-O-Matic.

Flower: I don't know if I would be so hard on Claude, Bernard. He is only trying to do what he feels is best.

Bernard: That may be so, but only a fool cannot see that The Brook is half-full. If it weren't for Claude and his silly point of view, we would have all the help we need.

But, no sense crying over spilled milk I guess. We had better hurry if we are going to have any chance of having a dam to protect The Brook before the next big storm comes. According to my weather models, there is a 47.2% chance of rain before the end of the week.

Now, if you could just move that log a little to the left. It needs to be placed precisely at a 37 degree angle to achieve the proper strength ratio.

Flower: (begins to move large log) Ohhhh Bernard, I don't think I can hold it!
(Log begins to sway back and forth.)

Bernard: You nearly have it... Just a little more... And wait... Wait....

Flower: Oh noooooo! (Log comes crashing down on Bernard) Oops.

Hmm? I wonder what Claude is doing. (Whistles softly as he sneaks off.)

Bernard: (Mumbling from behind the stage.) Hello? Flower? Are you still there?
Hello? Don't leave me like this!

ACT V

Sound: water flowing, birds etc.

Ripley: Do you hear that?

Character3: Hear what Ripley? I don't hear anything.

Ripley: Exactly. Peace has once again returned to The Brook. The sun is shining. The birds are singing. And all is right with the world.

I guess Claude and Bernard just needed to feel useful. Now, that they are busy with their projects, I don't think that we will hear another peep from them.

Character3: Yeah, I guess you are right Ripley.

Claude: Oh sockreyblue Monsieur! We are all doomed! Doomed I tell you!

Character3: Or not!

Claude: Ripley, you must help me. Bear and I have been trying to put together Professor Bubbles' Rain-O-Matic but something is not right.

Ripley: What do you want me to do about it Claude? I have never put a Rain-O-Matic together before.

Claude: Well, if you can't help me, do you think that you could convince Flower to help? She, at least is smart.

Ripley: I am not sure what you are trying to say, Claude. But you know that I can't take sides.

Claude: But certainly Monsieur Ripley, you can see that The Brook is half-empty.

Ripley: Well I...

Bernard: Quick! Run for your lives!

Ripley: What's the matter Bernard?

Bernard: You see, I have started to build the dam that will save The Brook because of course you know that The Brook is half-full.

Claude: Half-empty!

Bernard: At any rate, we are having difficulty putting the large logs in place that will prevent The Brook from overflowing when the torrential rains arrive.

Claude: But that is exactly what I have been trying to say! The rains will not arrive unless we are able to complete the Rain-O-Matic. And Bernard took all the smart help to build his dam.

Bernard: They are smart because they know the truth when they hear it. They can help me design the dam but they are not strong enough to put the logs in place. All the strong ones are helping Claude with his ridiculous Rain-O-Matic!

Claude: They are strong because they know a reasonable explanation when they hear it. And the Rain-O-Matic is not ridiculous you pompous rodent!

Bernard: Pompous rodent? I'll have you know, you subintelligent bottom-dweller that if you can't realize that The Brook is half-full...

Claude: Half-empty!

Bernard: Half-full!

Scene: They begin to argue and yell, talking over the top of one another.

Ripley: *QUIET!*

Scene: Pause

Claude: (looks at Ripley) What?

Ripley: I'll tell you what. I've had enough, that's what!
Can you only see The Brook as half-empty or half-full? Why can't you just be thankful for the water?

Claude, hasn't God always taken care of us? Can you remember The Brook ever drying up?

Claude: No... but.

Ripley: But nothing!
And you Bernard. The Brook has been high at times but it has never overflowed its banks.

Bernard: But according to my calculations...

Ripley: But nothing! Where is the rain? Don't you know that The Brook will be fine? Is it worth fighting about? Is it worth tearing the friends of The Brook apart before anything even happens?

Bernard: I guess not. Claude, I'm sorry I called you a unintelligent bottom dweller.

Claude: And I am sorry I called you a pompous rodent.

Ripley: Look, I don't see The Brook as either half-full, nor do I see it as half-empty. I just thank God for the water.

ACT VI

Announcer:

We thank you all for coming. We hope you were entertained. But more importantly we would hope that you can find the blessings in your life. We all need to find a little satisfaction in a world that doesn't seem to want us to have any.

May God bless you all.

And on behalf of all of us, remember your lives send out ripples.

~End~