

STAVE HOUSE THEATRE SHOW AND CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

By Ruth Travers

© Ruth Travers
Carlton Cottage
433 Beehive Lane
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 8RJ
UK

(+44) 01245 284407

rstchapelstudio@hotmail.com

CHARACTERS

Notebuilder

He has built Stave House and enjoys keeping it tidy and repaired.
He has a ladder and various tools/paint brush etc. Wears a hard hat and dungarees.

Elaine Elephant

A sweet likeable little elephant. Pink frilly skirt. Bow in hair.

BEE

He appears in and out of the show wishing he could join in with the musical activities.

Stripy jumper and goggles.

Father Crotchet

Brisk, energetic. Black tracksuit, dreadlocks and sunglasses. Trainers.

Dunstan the Dragon

Rather theatrical. Flamboyant,

Ferdi Fox

A bit of a 'spiv' - cheeky – likeable rogue. He is full costume – so his walk is important.

Celia Centipede

The young star – Marilyn monroeish – waving to everyone blowing kisses

Fleeting appearances from Ferdi Fox and Celia in the first song only – they do not speak just walk around and meet the children.

SCENE 1

Mid morning - outside stave house – depicted by large hanging banner

Show opens with music – probably **HERE IS A HOUSE SONG (1)** music only.

Notebuilder walks on with his ladder - opens it up starts to look for jobs to do – ad lib a little – ah yes there's some holes here etc. This needs fixing ... notices audience.

NOTEBUILDER

Hello there - if you are looking for a room to rent I'm afraid they are all taken. Stave House is a very popular place to live. Yes – Stave House - ideal residence for musical people – built by the Notebuilder - that's me by the way! Nowadays I look after it for my four friends – making sure all the paint work is looking smart , keeping the tiles on the roof from blowing off, all that sort of thing. They are a very interesting lot that live here you know - we've got Ferdi Fox down here in room number 1 - he's a cheeky chap, I'm never quite sure what he's up to and .. (music starts) Oh look here they all come ...

SONG – HERE IS A HOUSE (2) ...

All characters except Amos come in from back of auditorium – down centre isle and walk around shaking hands with the children and waving. The children all join in with the song.

NOTEBUILDER

Well well – fancy them all turning up at once like that. All except for Amos the Ant – I don't know where he's got to. Mind you he's very tiny – he might have been there and we just didn't see him . If YOU see him will you let me know – shout out – Amos the Ant and clap at the same time . Let's have a practise .

Children clap and call out the rhythm Amos the Ant.

NOTEBUILDER.

That's great - now I will know when he ... (*as he speaks a tiny ant appears*)
Where ? Where is he ? I can't see him ...

Amos will be pulled across on a wire .

Oh well – next time perhaps .

*He goes back to his ladder to get on with his work . Now let's see – where was I
– yes the door is a bit stiff – needs some oil on those hinges ...*

*Amos appears again – the children call out - he jumps off the ladder and runs
around looking and bumps into BEE who is flying around*

This isn't an ant – it's a Bee! Buzz off Bee ! I'm busy – you are just buzzy.

BEE

I was listening to the song and wondered if I could live in Stave House too.

NOTEBUILDER

I'm afraid not – all the rooms are taken. Go on Buzz off.

BEE exits

NOTEBUILDER

Now talking of rooms - I must get on with my work. Let's get the ladder .

Perhaps you can help

NOTEBUILDER SONG (3)

He stands on a higher rung for each line of the song.

Audience participate in song

There we are – spic and span. Now there's a new tenant I need to meet.

(Chinese dragon music)

Apparently he's taken the cave under the house – doesn't need a room – or much in the way of furniture. He is quite a character though - and by all accounts could be a little dangerous – I've heard he's a fire eater or something like that. I better go and put on my fire fighting equipment just to be on the safe side.

Notebuilder exits to put on a fireman's hat and welder's glasses and gets a little fire extinguisher.

SCENE 2 (back drop – dunstans cave – dunstan and children move in time to the music carrying the trunk and lanterns Dunstan ad libs as though he is moving in. HE opens an old trunk which is full of treasure. Smoke appears.

Dunstan's Chinese dragon dance music is playing

Dunstan comes on and checks his treasure

He picks up various items – ha – the golden vase of king toto – yes that was a tricky one , ah and the diamond of Azkvan – It took me months to mine for it - and this glorious pearl from the underground caverns of lorensa - they tell a story of my discoveries Picks up a fencing sword and strokes back his hair.

DUNSTAN

Ah yes ! I am Dashing Dunstan, the daring, debonair dragon.

He practises his parries not noticing the Notebuilder coming in behind him.

Notebuilder walk rather like private Jones in dads army – with the extinguisher.

The Notebuilder follows his movements from behind cautiously until Dunstan shuffles quickly backwards - Notebuilder calls out – Dunstan leaps round ..

DUNSTAN

An intruder ! On guard sir!

NOTEBUILDER

No, no I'm not an intruder – I'm your landlord- I'm the Notebuilder- I've come to see how you are settling in.

Dunstan lowers sword

DUNSTAN

Well its quite perfect really – except for the ants.

NOTEBUILDER

Ants ??

Amos appears again – children call out and clap.

Dunstan and Notebuilder rush around – Dunstan trying to bash the ants – Notebuilder trying to stop him.

NOTEBUILDER

Stop ! I don't think it's Ants – I think it's just ONE ant - your neighbour – Amos ant from room number 2- he's very tiny and I think you have frightened him away.

You seem to have made yourself at home nicely. Ah – that picture needs straightening – Ill just bang that nail in for you , hmm – this wall could do with a lick of paint perhaps - -I'll see to that – but all in all – very comfortable – and a lovely view.

Dunstan picks up a little telescope and holds it to his eye -

Dunstan

Ah yes – I can see the sea from here and I've got my submarine in the bay here ready to take me off on another adventure at any moment. I'm a discoverer you see

NOTEBUILDER How exciting you're a dashing daring dragon

DUNSTAN YES !

Notebuilder . a discovering dragon

D YES !

N.B- a deep sea diving dragon

DUNSTAN YES !

N.B wow !

DUNSTAN And...

N.B and what ?

DUNSTAN IM a disco dancing dragon !

(mirror ball and discolights)

Music starts and Dunstan puts on a sequined jacket and sunglasses- Elvis type.

He sings the **DISCO DRAGON DANCE SONG (4)** audience and children join in

Bee has crept back to watch and is clapping along – but sitting – not dancing.- on the edge of things.

N.B that was - fabulous ! I better be off now – that high D reminded me that I still have some decorating to do- must dash .

Notebuilder exits-

DUNSTAN And I must be off on an adventure. And we must pack (some children come up to remove lanterns etc. Dunstan ad libs to them about packing etc.) Bye ! waves to the audience.

Children remove Dunstan's set and Dunstan exits too- probably carrying treasure trunk.

Weave around to Chinese lion dance music before exit – while frame is changed for another scene.

SCENE 3

BEE is on stage trying the Dunstan dance but getting it badly wrong.

Notebuilder enters.

N.B – that Dunstan – what a guy – discovering. Diving, dancing,...

Hey – buzz off BEE- I'm about to do some Decorating and I don't want you getting stuck in the paint.

Anyway whatever are you doing?

B. I was trying Dunstan's disco dance – it looked such great fun – but I don't seem to have any rhythm.

n.b YOU SHOULD TALK TO Father Crotchet

Bee- Whose he ?

RHYTHM FAMILY SONG (5) Mother minim brings on the boards during this song and helps with the conga.

Party lights – children make a conga on the second verse .Ferdie fox makes a second entrance during the conga.

Mother minim and Ferdie exit.

Bee sits sadly at the edge watching .

Father Crotchet exits and the children sit down.

SCENE 4

NOTEBUILDER(looking over and noticing bee still sitting there looking quite forlorn) – Never mind Bee - I'll tell you what - Why don't you stay here and talk to me while I'm working. Come up here on the window sill in the sun and keep me company.

Anyone who visits Stave House won't be left out of music making for very long – its Easy !

NOTEBUILDER SONG REPRISE (6) Notebuilder ad libs here – come on Bee – join in – here's a paint brush – you should keep busy then you won't have time to feel sorry for yourself – that's it – (he thrusts brush into bees hand and starts pumping his arm up and down to the music – Bee is resisting – then in frustration – throws down brush – music stops – Bee shouts – NO !

BEE – stop making me I don't want to join in – I can't join in – Why don't YOU (he pushes Notebuilder)stop buzzing around !!

He is very cross – they stand in silence back to back – arms folded - but he and notebuilder realise that Bee has just made a joke – Notebuilder buzzing – not him- they both laugh

Notebuilder – that's funny Bee - you are the bee and I'm the one buzzing around-

BEE – climbs up the ladder – sometimes I just like to BEE me - They both sit.

Notebuilder joins him - yes its nice here in the sun

BEE- quiet

Notebuilder – just listening

BEE- just

TOGETHER – BEE_ING

BEE sings the song –TIME ON MY OWN

NOTEBUILDER - well I've learnt something from you today BEE- you are very good at BEING yourself- it reminds me of a story about one of my friends who lives here in Stave House – Elaine the elephant – she wasn't always very good at being herself....she used to want to be like other people – I'll tell you about her....

They sit on the ladder at different heights.

SCENE 5

Music . Elaine Elephant enters with a magazine reading it as she walks.

ELAINE . Oh Celia is in celebrity news again.

(frame on for Celia's door way) spotlight ready for Celia as well as stage lighting on Elaine and the children.

SONG – Celia the centipede with tableaux from the children of photo shoot – modelling and movies and TV show.

ELAINE She is Soooo glamorous and elegant. She makes me feel positively enormous.

I saw her this morning on her way to the preview of her new film at the cinema.

I wish I was like Celia – then perhaps I could be a film star too.

I need to try and look more like her. Let's see – she's very very long and very very slim

(looks at her round tummy) Hmmm perhaps I should do some exercise.

M.M. wait wait looks round – oh dear they have run off again – I just can't keep up with Father Crotchet and the Quaver twins. Oh hello Dear – Oh have you got the latest news on Celia the Centipede I'm such a fan ...

ELAINE. Yes – here she is ... I want to be more like Celia the Centipede – do you have any good exercises?

M M well – well of course you could start by going for a good walk every day like Father Crotchet. – (points to Picture)

Walk walk walk etc. Mother minim encourages Elaine to walk in time while the audience claps in time to crotchet beats.

Mm. Lets have a look – oh dear – you don't look very different yet – perhaps thats not energetic enough – points to the picture of the quaver twins – try jogging like the quaver tiwns.

Elaine does this while M M encourages and audience claps.

Elaine – oh no its too much

MM wai-t - I have an idea – I will make you an exercise chart – then you can go for a walk do a little jogging and then wait lke me – to catch your breath

M .M sets up the chart –

Jogging jogging walk walk wai-t wai-t wait234 .

There we are you can have a long stretch at the end like this and count like uncle semibreve .wait 234

Elaine tries this – its good she likes it – the audience all join in
Mother minim encourages the audience to join E.laines exercise class

s.

ELAINE . I'm feeling fitter already Mother minim t. Thank you.
Children sit down .

M M - Good luck Elaine – keep it up. (*exits*)

E. I still don't look like Celia- never mind – I certainly feel in better shape and its rather fun . perhaps I will go jogging with the quaver twins in the morning. Gosh I'm hungry. I wonder what Celia eats ? Perhaps if I eat the same foods as she does – I will start to look more like her.

(she picks up her magazine)

Reads aloud ... Celia says she keeps her elegant figure by eating very small meals of leaves and fruit and the occasional egg.

Let's see what I've got in my picnic basket (opens it) hymn .. chocolate cake, crisps, biscuits... oh !

I better go and see if I can find something a little healthier. (*exits*)

SCENE- 6

BEE ... did she start to look like Celia ? I think she would look rather strange all long and squirmy..

NOTEBUILDER that's just it Bee – Elaine wouldn't look right at all if she looked like a centipede- and anyway – she doesn't have enough legs!

B. what did she do ?

NOTEBUILDER she began eating lots of leaves and fruit as well as the occasional chocolate biscuit- and she kept on with her exercises.

(enter Elaine – jogging – with headband and trainers)

Elaine . Oh I'm feeling very fit these days . I can run faster and I actually rather like these interesting foods that Celia eats – but I don't seem to look at all like her.

(she picks up the magazine and reads..)

Celia loves travelling and has visited many parts of the world –

. Oh, then perhaps I should do a little travelling too. Where could I go ? whites this ? many artists and performers are getting ready to appear at the Edinburgh festival in Scotland . Well known artists and newcomers alike are getting ready to delight audiences with 100's of shows.

Edinburgh is a fascinating town full of history and a lovely place to stay.

Oh that sounds like fun ! I love music and theatre – I think this little break is just what I need –

(Elaine exits)

NOTEBUILDER So Elaine packed her bags and bought a train ticket to the City of Edinburgh. When she arrived – it was very busy - full of interesting, eccentric people on their way to the festival.

(children on stage in small tableau roles representing entertainers of different kinds including Dunstan)) kids are making lots of noise with kazoos and voices and there is music n the background. This is great!

E. Now let's look at the programme for today – what shall I go and see ? **PUNK PENGUINS – an alternative to rock hopping – mm – I don't think so ...**

DEPRESSED DOGS UNCHAINED – heavy metal – that sounds rather rough !

JAZZIN AROUND ... ooh a jazz band is playing this evening – how lovely – I love jazz music.

She goes to find her place in the audience while jazz music starts.

Conjurer enters and mimes the magic show with the children making sillouhettes behind the screen.

Jazz Cd

NOTEBUILDER the music was fun and bouncy , and soft and dreamy – Elaine was loving it – and before she knew it she was joining in...

BEE. what ?playing along ?

NOTEBUILDER yes – Elaine is a very talented trumpeter

BEE I didn't know that –

NOTEBUILDER nobody knew that. Even Elaine had not realised just how very good she was.

Everyone started to applaud

(audience all claps)

The band leader called out to Elaine to come up on the stage and join them

E. *(standing up and looking around)* who me ? sorry ? up there ? on stage ? yes but ...

(Elaine walks up goes behind the scree and freezes) (

The conjurer mimes for the audience to applaud as Elaine leads her little troupe off stage. He waves at the light to magic it off bows and disappears.

Yes you see – she was Elaine the Elephant – entertainer extraordinaire ! She did not have to be like Celia - she was perfect just BEEing herself !!!

B. Well that's all very well – she was good at something – and she can fit in here at Stave House because she is musical – I can't.

NOTEBUILDER of course you can Bee – we will help you.

I will make you a picture.

Notebuilder takes bee through the process of the notes in the rooms , F A C E – mother minim plays each sound on the keyboard – they also place D and then B.

They sing song number 1 again with the audience and Bee putting the notes in.

BEE – what happens if I spell my name – (he puts BEE on the board)

NOTEBUILDER – that's SO clever BEE – You can spell too – and now you make a tune with your name !(they sing it)

BEE – let's make some more words cane you think of other words I can make in NOTES

NOTEBUILDER – why don't you ask your friends out here(they ask for suggestions from the children)

Note builder gives the children clues for CAB and DAD.

BEE – let's make a tune then ... BEE,,CAB ,DAD.

They sing it -

ELAINE (Hattie Jacques type voice) HELLOOOOO I'm HOME

NOTEBUILDER - Elaine ! good to see you – how was the tour ?

Elaine – (pretending to be bashful) oh you know - the audience clamouring for more, rather a few standing ovations - oodles of flowers - just the usual

Notebuilder – this is my new friend Bee – and he is really clever – not only can he spell words – but he can make them into tunes ..

Elaine – marvellous – a new tune –

Bee whispers to Notebuilder –

N.B. – Elaine – Bee is wondering as you are SUCH a talented musician whether you might play his tune for him ?

E. absolutely - plays tune on recorder.

M M hallo whites going on here – a new tune ? hmm – but NO rhythm

Bee – that's because I don't have any

M M – ah but I do - all my family have lots of rhythm – just think about us –

Bee - you mean – this note could be you - ? a minim ?

Mm exactly – I have pictures of all my family in my bag – here you are – try father crotchet ... now the quaver twins – they excitedly build up the rhythm pattern

(makes – walk jogging wai-t walk jogging wai-t wait234 wait234 wait234)

Mother minim plays the tune , Notebuilder is singing and clapping Elaine is playing and singing

Bee disappears

Elaine – Oh where has he gone?

Notebuilder – he does that sometimes – just needs a bit of quiet – it probably all got a bit too much for him

Bee enters in tails with a baton and bows – everyone claps.

Bee – orchestra if you please

The children take up positions with tuned and untuned percussion -

They play Bees tune with accompaniment from the piano.

Mother minim – Bravo bravo - well done Bee –

Notebuilder – that was really special bee.....

Song – there's something really special about you

Every one joins in the second time singing it to each other.

Mother Minim – bravo bee – that was splendid – must be off – got to catch up with my family - goes off calling – wai-t wai-t

Elaine – and i must go and unpack byeeeeee

Bee – I better buzz off then – I've had a really lovely time

Notebuilder – come and visit us soon – you can always come and sit in the sun on your favourite window sill

Bee – I will - often and I'll come and make more tunes to play with my favourite notes

(he flies off)

Notebuilder – is that the time – almost tea time – I better pack up then –

(Amos ant appears children shout ..)

Notebuilder – hey Amos – Amos come back – where have you been ?

He's gone ... and I suppose that's a story for another day

Come and see us at Stave House again soon. He waves... and goes off with his ladder .. music to here is a house plays to close show.

Song – here is a house

Ferdi , celia, bee mother minim Elaine and notebuilder all on

Ferdi off – changes back to Dunstan

SONG

Something really special about you ! every one bows and off.

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