

SCRIPT

# One Drop of Rain

A daring musical for young performers



Script and lyrics by Phil Cummings  
Music by Glyn Lehmann



# Introduction

We have developed this work with a view to leaving as much open as possible to enable schools to adapt and adjust to their own particular needs and resources.

Key aspects:

- ❖ Eighteen speaking parts and chorus opportunities in which many children can participate.
- ❖ A solo dancer and an optional dance troupe.
- ❖ The setting is an Australian rural farm/station in the grip of a long drought.
- ❖ Staging suggestions have been included as guidance only; they may help with logistics, stage design, props and costuming. Lighting is suggested but optional.
- ❖ Duration is approximately 30 minutes.
- ❖ As well as the obvious benefits of being involved in a school production there are a number of themes that may be expanded upon in the classroom. We have included some suggestions.

Have fun!

*Phil Cummings* - script and lyrics

*Glyn Lehmann* – music

## Teaching Suggestions

When beginning the process, children could be involved in planning and problem solving of set issues i.e. designing, drawing and drafting. They could also of course be involved backstage in tech roles, costuming assistance and movement of props.

This play also enables classroom teachers to expand on underlying themes. Here are some suggested entry points for expanded study and understanding.

- Engage in a study of water as our planet's most valuable resource.
- How do droughts impact on rural families?
- How is the rural setting the 'playground' for the children? Talk about the importance of imaginative, outdoor play.
- How do people around the world cope with lack of water for basic needs? Study regions around the world where this is a problem.
- What problems are created for water supplies when natural disasters occur? How do aid agencies help?
- How do animals, birds and plants adapt to droughts?
- Make a study of the animals mentioned in *Morning Song*.
- Enter this school challenge and help provide fresh water and sanitation for those in need.  
<https://www.ryanswell.ca/in-the-classroom/school-challenge/>

# Scenery and Props

These are merely suggestions to help get you started.

## **Scene 1: The Verandah and Creek**

A homestead on a dry and remote Australian rural farm/station. This could be a painted backdrop or a structure made from cardboard or other raw materials. Include the following elements;

- dark clouds forming on the far horizon
- a dry creek bed lined with gum trees.

A large pot plant with waxy leaves or a flower shaped like a cup or bowl e.g. Arum Lily placed at the front of the verandah. This will 'catch' the jewelled drop of rain when it falls.

A glass or crystal teardrop, hidden from view in the pot plant. This will be the 'one drop of rain'.

A large white bed sheet hangs on the clothes line, situated on the opposite side of the stage to the verandah. This becomes the sail of the pirates' ship in scene 2.

## **Scene 2: The Pirates**

The red dust becomes the Red Sea. Long lengths of flowing, rust-coloured cloth, held at each end, could be used to waft across the stage gently rising and falling to create a wave effect.

A dancer, swirling ribbons of fine rust-coloured cloth (on dowel perhaps) to create the illusion of a serpent brought to life from the red dust. This dancer may be wearing a 'serpent' mask.

A stick for Harry to use as a wand.

'Jolly Roger' pirate flag.

Clothes pegs for attaching to the pants of Peg Leg the pirate.

A pedestal fan off stage, or fishing line tied to the corners of the sheet might be used to move the sheet when the wind blows.

## **Scenes 3 and 4**

No additional props required.

# SCRIPT

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## One Drop Of Rain

A musical for young performers

script and lyrics by Phil Cummings

music by Glyn Lehmann

### Cast

Jilly

Harry (*little brother*)

Mother

Father

The Red Sea Dancers

Serpent Dancer

### Band of Pirates:

Pirate Captain

Pirate 1

Pirate 2

Pirate 3

Pirate 4

Pirate 5

Peg Leg - *a pirate with lots of pegs clipped to the leg of trouser/pants.*

Roger Jolly

### The Outlaws

Outlaw 1

Outlaw 2

Outlaw 3

Outlaw 4

Outlaw 5

Outlaw 6

**The Red Creek Choir:** *Many children could be involved. The choir could be depicted as birds and animals that live around the creek.*

The roles in this work are not necessarily gender specific. Names and gender for Jilly, Harry, Mother and Father can be altered to suit.

# Scene 1 – The Verandah and Creek



**Tk 1** FX - birdsong

*In darkness or semi darkness (if possible). Stage slowly becomes lighter as dawn breaks. The Red Creek Choir is on stage under the trees down by the dry creek bed.*

**Tk 2** SONG - Morning Song

**The Red Creek Choir**

**Oo ah**

**Kangaroo, lizard, owl, galah**

**Oo aw**

**Kookaburra laugh, eagle soar**

**Emu struts under shade**

**As dawn chases night away**

**Listen to the morning call**

**As the animals wait for rainfall**

*(Repeat all – optionally in 2 parts as a round)*



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**Narrator**

A new day is dawning on the remote rural farm where Jilly Cooper lives. The drought has been long and hard. The land is parched; the creeks are dry, the dams and tanks are empty. The darkness of the night sky is giving way to the colour of a new sunrise. The animals by the creek are waking with new hope...there are dark clouds gathering on the far horizon.

*Jilly bursts through the front screen door (or from off stage) and throws her arms open. She spins playfully.*

**Jilly**

Good morning world!

*Loudly, exuberantly, skipping, spinning.*

Hey creek!

Hey birds!

Hey sheep!

Waaaahooooo!

*Jilly's young brother, Harry, bursts through the door (or rushes in from off stage) after her. He looks annoyed.*

**Harry** *Hands on hips indignantly - stamps his foot.*

You didn't wait for me Jilly! You said you'd wait and you didn't!

**Jilly**

You take too long to tie your shoes. The day would be over if I waited for you.

**Harry** I'm just learning! Mum says you have to be a ... *(pauses thoughtfully, trying to think of the right word)* you have to be a....

**Jilly** I have to be a what?

**Harry** a ...*(pointing a finger as the word suddenly comes to him)* patient!  
You have to be a *patient*.

**Jilly** No I don't, you're not a doctor.

*Harry scratches his head confused. Jilly stands on the verandah and suddenly points to the horizon, excited.*

**Jilly** Look Harry! Look at the hills!

**Harry** What about them?  
*Craning his neck, one hand shielding eyes like an explorer.*

**Jilly** The clouds! There are clouds creeping over the hills and you know what that means?

**Harry** Yes, scary thunder and lightning and hiding under my bed and...

**Jilly** *Grabbing Harry by the shoulders and interrupting him.*

No Harry. It means rain! If those clouds keep coming it might rain today!

**Harry** Do you *really* think so?

**Jilly** Look at them; those clouds are *very* dark. I bet they have more rain in them than we have ever seen.

**Harry** Great! I'll tell Dad.  
*He runs off stage.*



### **Tk 3** SONG - Today Is The Day

**Jilly**

*Chorus 1*

**Today is the day the world will change  
I can see clouds; I can smell the rain  
The breeze will be cool the trees will sway  
There'll be water in the creek today**

*Pre-Chorus*

**Over the hills the clouds will creep  
Settling the dust and drenching the sheep  
We've been waiting for so long  
To dance and sing this rainy-day song**

*Chorus 2*

**Jilly and Choir**

**Today is the day the world will change  
I can see clouds; I can smell the rain  
The breeze will be cool the trees will sway  
There'll be water in the creek today**

*Harry re-appears. Jilly takes his hands and they dance and stomp about happily during the Bridge.*

*Bridge*

**Jilly and Harry**

**When the lightning flashes  
And the thunder crashes  
When the lighting flashes and the thunder crashes  
We will stomp our muddy feet (*stomp, stomp*)  
We will stomp to that beat (*stomp, stomp*)**

**Jilly, Harry, Choir**

**When the lightning flashes  
And the thunder crashes  
When the lighting flashes and the thunder crashes  
We will stomp our muddy feet (*stomp, stomp*)  
We will stomp to that beat (*stomp, stomp*)**

*Chorus 3*

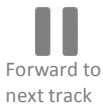
**Jilly**

**Today is the day the world will change  
I can see clouds; I can smell the rain  
The breeze will be cool the trees will sway  
There'll be water in the creek today**

*Chorus 4*

**Jilly, Harry, Choir**

**Today is the day the world will change  
I can see clouds; I can smell the rain  
The breeze will be cool the trees will sway  
There'll be water in the creek today  
There'll be water in the creek today  
(Today is the day!)**



*Father and Mother appear.*

**Jilly**

**Dad! Mum! Look! There are clouds creeping over the hills.  
The rain is coming, I know it is.**

*Pointing excitedly to the hills.*

**Father**

**Well, we'll have to wait and see.**

*Father tipping his hat back from his forehead.*

**Mother**

**Yes, clouds don't always bring rain.**

**Jilly**

**These clouds will. I'm sure of it.**

**Father** I hope you're right Jilly. There is no treasure more valuable than a drop of rain.

**Jilly** One drop of rain?

**Father** Yes, the most precious jewel in the world.  
*Smiling wryly, nodding, he tousles Jilly's hair.*  
Now I must head to the creek and check the fences.  
*Father exits.*

**Jilly** Don't worry Mum, it will rain; I know it will.

**Mother** We will have to wait and see Jilly; like we always do.  
*Mother exits.*

**Jilly** *Calling after her mother.*  
Harry and I will wait right here. As soon as the rain comes we will yell. Won't we Harry?

**Harry:** COOOOOEEEEEE  
*Harry exits stage.*



#### **Tk 4** SONG – All We Need

**Jilly** **Today is the day the world will change**  
*Gently, reflectively.* **All we need is one drop of rain**  
**All we need... is one drop of rain**

#### **Tk 5** FX (distant thunder/wind)

*Jilly exits to the sound of distant thunder, looking to the sky.*

## Scene 2 – The Pirates

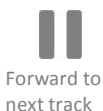
*Subtle wind noises. The sheet on the clothes line moves. Harry enters; looking at the sheet, listening to the wind.*

**Narrator** Harry loved playing games of great imagining, mystery and magic.  
*Harry picks up a stick and examines it. He begins waving it like a wand.*

**Harry** Great serpent rise, great serpent twirl!  
Blow wind, blow...swirl, swirl!

**Narrator** As the wind began to blow, with a wave of his wand the dry red dust became the Red Sea.

*Dancers enter carrying long lengths of rust-coloured cloth held at each end across the stage to create a wave effect.*



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next track



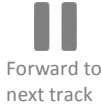
A swirling serpent rose from the waves. Harry soon had it under his spell.



### **Tk 6** Music – Serpent Dance & FX (thunder)

*The serpent dancer enters. The dancer responds in time to the movement of Harry's wand. Harry settles the serpent – he leads it off stage. The Red Sea dancers follow.*

*Jilly re-enters to the sound of thunder.*



**Narrator**

Jilly stood on the verandah like a captain on the deck of a ship. She held her breath, waiting for the next rumble of thunder, and then, in that moment of anxious stillness...she heard a single raindrop fall onto the leaf of the plant beside her.



### **Tk 7** FX – Raindrop

*Jilly looks searchingly up at the sky and then closely down at the leaf.*



**Jilly**

WOW! Harry! Harry! Come and look! Quickly!

**Harry**

What now?

**Jilly**

It's here! Just like Dad said. Look!

**Narrator**

The children gazed down at the plant. They were awestruck; sitting in the well of the leaf was one, very large, very lonely, perfect rain drop; so clear, so pure. It sat like a precious jewel, captured like a diamond in the rough; like a pearl in a shell. It was the jewel, the treasure, the one drop of rain her father had hoped for.

**Harry**

Brilliant! Can we keep it?

**Jilly**

Of course ... unless someone tries to steal it.

**Harry**

I'll be ready.

*Raising his stick.*

*The sheet on the line moves, attracting their attention.*

**Jilly**

You'd better be. Look! There! Sails! A ship is rounding the headland!

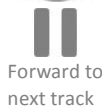
**Harry**

Pirates! And they're loading the cannons.

*A rumble of thunder like cannon fire.*



### **Tk 8** FX – Thunder/Cannon 1



*Pirates enter*

**Captain**

Set the ship to full sail!

**Pirate 1**

Aye aye skip. Full sail it is.



## Tk 9 SONG – Pirate Song

**Pirates**  
(and choir, optional)

### *Verse 1*

**On stormy waters we have set sail  
We have a mission we must not fail  
There is a jewel so rare so fine  
This is our moment, this is our time**

### *Chorus 2*

**We will be rich with such a gem  
Huh! Two children we will scuttle them  
We will be rich with such a gem  
Huh! Two children we will scuttle them**

### *Verse 2*

**We are the pirates of the Red Sea  
We can be cruel, we can be mean  
We have sharp swords to swish about  
We have big cannons so just watch out**

### *Chorus 2*

**We will be rich with such a gem  
Huh! Two children we will scuttle them  
We will be rich with such a gem  
Huh! Two children we will scuttle them**

### *Outro*

**Hoist up the flag, check all the charts and maps  
Put on your hats!  
Ahoy!**

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|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Captain</b>  | Roight! Load all cannons.  |
| <b>Pirate 2</b> | Cannons all loaded and ready for firing.                               |
| <b>Captain</b>  | Raise the Jolly Roger. Let 'em know we are on our way.                 |
| <b>Pirate 3</b> | What did he just say?  |
|                 | <i>Looking bewilderingly at his offsider, Pirate 4.</i>                |
| <b>Pirate 4</b> | Something about Roger.   |
| <b>Pirate 3</b> | Roger? Who's Roger. I don't know Roger. Do you?                        |
| <b>Pirate 4</b> | No, I don't know who Roger is but we have to find him and lift him up. |
| <b>Pirate 3</b> | Excuse me are you Roger? Are you Roger?                                |
|                 | <i>Asking other pirates around him.</i>                                |

**Roger Jolly**                      *Steps forward.*  
Are you looking for me? I'm Roger Jolly.

**Pirate 4**                        You'll do.

*Pirates try unsuccessfully to lift Roger Jolly up.*

**Captain** *Pulls flag from inside coat/jacket*  
Not him you fools! Here! This flag! Raise the flag!

**Pirate 1**                        Hey Peg Leg can you help us?

**Peg Leg**                        Yeah, how many pegs do you want?

*Takes pegs from the collection of pegs that are clipped to the leg of his/her pants.*  
*Pirate 1 and 2 peg flag to clothes line.*

*All cry out with blood curdling intensity. Hands on waists, heads raised.*

**All Pirates:**                      *ARRRRGGGGHHHHH!*

**Jilly**                              I don't like the look of these pirates.

**Harry**                            Me either.

**Jilly**                              We can't let them have the jewel.

**Harry**                            Don't worry; they won't get their hands on it.  
*Wielding his stick/wand.*

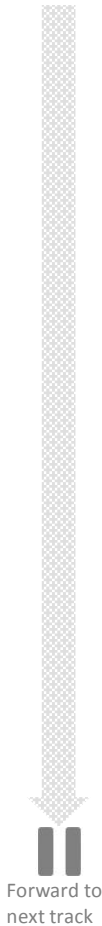


## **Tk 10** SONG – Hero Harry

*Harry doing a rap style jive with appropriate comedic hand movement and gestures. Pirates watch on, bemused by Harry's strange antics, shrugging, pointing chatting quietly amongst themselves, sneering, chuckling, and making fun of Harry.*

**Harry**                              *Verse 1 - Rap*  
**I am here and I am ready**  
**For anything that comes across that sea**  
**There is nothing that will come**  
**And take that jewel from me**  
**Don't you worry there's nothing to fear**  
**Not when Hero Harry is here**  
**Sing it!**

**Choir 1**  
**Oo, Harry our hero**  
**Hero of the Great Red Sea**  
**Oo, Harry our hero**  
**Hero of the Great Red Sea**



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*Verse 1 - Rap*

**Harry**  
**I have been through hard times in my life**  
**But I am ready for any trouble, I can handle any strife**  
**Don't you worry there is nothing to fear**  
**Not when Hero Harry is here**  
**You know it!**

*Chorus 2*

**Choir**  
**Oo, Harry our hero**  
**Hero of the Great Red Sea**  
**Oo, Harry our hero**  
**Hero of the Great Red Sea**

*Chorus 3*

|                    |                                  |  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Choir</b>       | <b>Choir</b>                     | <b>Harry</b>                                   |
| <b>&amp; Harry</b> | <b>Oo, Harry our hero</b>        | <b>I am here and I am ready</b>                |
|                    | <b>Hero of the Great Red Sea</b> | <b>For anything that comes across that sea</b> |
|                    | <b>Oo, Harry our hero</b>        | <b>There is nothing that will come</b>         |
|                    |                                  | <b>And take that jewel from me</b>             |

*Jilly grabs Harry by the arm.*

**Jilly**                      Quickly Harry they are getting closer. If they come alongside and board  
   'The Verandah' we will be in trouble.

*Pirates, positioned in front of sheet, rocking to and fro as if on large waves on their ship.*

**Captain**                      Fire all cannons!

**Pirates**                      **ARRRRGGGGHHHHH!**



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**Tk 11**   **FX – Thunder/Cannon 2**

**Harry**                      I know what to do! We will scare them!

**Jilly**                        How?

**Harry**                      Pirates are very super.... super ... superstitches. Leave it to me.

*Harry waves his arms to the pirates; he calls to them across the sea.*

**Harry**                      Turn Back! Turn back! Beware the Red Sea serpent!

**Pirate2**                      Did you hear that? He says there's a serpent.

**Pirate 3**                      Oh no, I don't like serpents.

**Captain**                      There is no serpent you fools. He's bluffing. Re-load the cannons.

**Pirate 2**                      Cannons re-loaded and ready for firing.

**Pirate 2**                      Wait! Look!



## Tk 12 MUSIC – Serpent Dance 2

*Serpent dancer and Red Sea dancers enter. The serpent is under the control of Harry's 'wand'.*

**Pirate 1** Oh no! The legendary Red Sea Serpent. It lives!

**Pirate 3** The boy has tamed it. He has control!

**Pirate 2** He's sending it to get us!

**All Pirates** AGGGGHHHHH!

**Captain** Change course! Bring her around. Get us out of here!

*Pirates exit with the serpent pursuing them. They pull the sheet and flag off the line, drop them in the dust as they exit the stage.*

**Pirates** WAAAAAHHHHH!

*Off stage – crying out as if the serpent has got them.*

**Jilly** We did it Harry. We saved the jewel!

*Peering at the plant to check the droplet in the leaf.*



## Scene 3 – The Outlaws of the Red Dust Plains

**Harry** Yeah, we showed them.

**Jilly:** We sure did.

**Harry:** But wait! Listen.

**Jilly:** What is it?

**Harry:** I don't know.

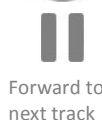
**Jilly** Look!



## Tk 13 FX – Horses

*Outlaws enter, having dismounted offstage.*

**Outlaws** Yaahoo! Yeehaa! Whoohoo! Hooooowl! (*randomly and very loud*)





**Tk 14** FX – Outlaw Song

**Outlaws**  
(and choir, optional)

*Verse 1*

**Yaahoo Yeehaa**  
**We have been waiting for this day**  
**For luck to finally come our way**  
**We have hidden in these hills**  
**Survived the heat and winter chills...brrrr**

*Chorus 1*

**We are wild, we are tough**  
**Our life is cruel, our living is rough**  
**We don't have toilets, we use old drums**  
**And crawling spiders bite our...**  
**Yaahoo Yeehaa**

*spoken*

**That's how we learnt our cry**  
**Just in case you were wondering why**  
**Yaahoo Yeehaa**

*Instrumental/Dance*

*Bootscootin' ( line dancing)*

*Chorus 2*

**We are wild, we are tough**  
**Our life is cruel, our living is rough**  
**We don't have toilets, we use old drums**  
**And crawling spiders bite our...**  
**Yaahoo Yeehaa**

*Tag*

**We have been waiting for this day**  
**Yeehaa!**

*Jilly and Harry are surrounded by the outlaws.*

**Outlaw 1** Well, well, little children. I think you have something of ours.  
*Clearing his throat loudly, disgustingly and spitting loudly to the dust. He wipes his chin.*

**Jilly** No we don't. We haven't got anything of yours.

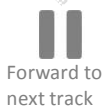
**Outlaw 2** Oh well, it's not really ours...but it will be.

**Outlaw 3** That's right, we take whatever we want from anybody. That's what we do, we're outlaws.

**Jilly** We don't have *anything* that you would want.

**Outlaw 4** Yes you do and you had better hand it over.

**Harry** We don't know what you are talking about, there is no jewel here.



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**Outlaw 3** Ah ha! How did you know we were after the jewel? We didn't say anything about a jewel, did we?

*All the outlaws nod and mumble.*



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**Tk 15** FX – Rumble of thunder

*Jilly looks to the sky directly above.*

**Jilly** You're right. There is a jewel.

**Outlaws** Yee ha!

**Harry** (*Leaning in close to his sister*). Jilly! What are you doing? Don't tell them.

**Jilly** It's all right Harry. I know what I'm doing.

**Outlaw 1** (*Standing over Jilly threateningly.*) Give us the jewel! Now!

**Jilly** Oh all right, there is a jewel ... but I must warn you, it is no ordinary jewel.

**Outlaw 1** What do you mean?

**Outlaw 6** I bet I know what she means. I bet it's really, really, really BIG!

**Outlaw 5** Yeah, the biggest bestest jewel ever in the whole wide world.

**Outlaw 4** And it's going to be ours.

**All outlaws** YEAHHHH!

**Outlaw 1** Hand it over kid.

**Jilly** Oh you can have it. We don't want it. It has terrible power.

**Outlaw 1** What do you mean?

**Jilly:** It has some kind of mystical, ancient power that terrifies us. If you take it from here the sky will unleash a great force upon you.

**Outlaw 1** Ha ha ha ha! That's silly.

**Harry** She's right. Take it, please! That jewel can make scary things happen.

**Outlaw 2** You're mad.

*Making circles with his fingers at his temples to indicate that Jilly and Harry are crazy.*

**Jilly** You'll see.

**Outlaw1** (*Sounding scared.*) W...w...well I'm not scared.

**Outlaw 2** (*Sounding scared.*) M...m...m...me either! Where is it?

**Jilly** It's over there hidden in that pot plant.

**Outlaw 1** Ha ha yes! We will be rich!

**Jilly** You will be...sorry. *(In a sing-song voice)*

*Outlaws gathered around the pot plant - they see the jewel.*

**All Outlaws** *(They lean closer slowly, as one.)* WOW!



**Tk 16** FX – wild storm

Lighting fx. Bright flashes of lightning.

*The outlaws all jump together in fright.*

**Outlaw 1** The horses are spooked! The sky is wild. That jewel does have strange powers. Quickly! Mount up! Head for the hills!

*The outlaws ride away.*

**Outlaws** Yagggh! Yiiiiikes whaaagggh!

*Randomly yelling and screaming.*

*Jilly and Harry give each other a big hi-5.*

**Jilly** That's the last we'll see of them Harry.

**Harry** Wow Jilly! That was the best plan.

**Jilly** Come on, let's get mum and dad and show them the jewel before we have any more trouble.

**Jilly and Harry:** *together.* Muuuuum! Daaaad!

## Scene 4 – The Downpour

*Mother and father enter.*

**Mum** *Worried.* What's wrong?

**Dad:** What's happened?

**Jilly:** Nothing. But we have something amazing to show you.

**Harry** It's awesome! You won't believe it!

**Father** We'd better hurry. The storm is brewing.

*Jilly and Harry lead their mother and father over to the plant. Jilly gently reaches down and lifts droplet. She slowly opens her hand to reveal the jewel in her palm.*

**Jilly** Look. It's exactly what you wished for; a jewel, a precious drop of rain.

**Harry** We didn't let the pirates or the outlaws take it. It's ours.

Forward to  
next track