

MUSICAL

“THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT”

Objectives: oral speech practice; increasing of English studying motivation through participating in collective creative work; aesthetic taste forming; British culture presentation; presentation of literature of English-speaking countries; pupils' individuality development by improving their creative abilities.

Equipment and facilities: Assembly Hall; stage costumes; scenery; notebook; screen; data projector; microphones; piano, guitars, drums.

Poetry: “The House That Jack Built”, a folk English poem; W. Shakespeare “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet”, extract.

Musical compositions: Ethnic collection, “Scottish Bagpipes”; P. I. Tchaikovsky, “Chinese Dance”; Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart, “Take Me to the River”; Baha Men, “Who Let the Dog Out?”; Rob D, soundtrack to the film “Matrix”; Ethnic Celtic collection, “Hills of Connemara”; Holly Dolly, “Holly Dolly Song”; Sarah Connor, “Living to Love You”; P. I. Tchaikovsky, “Waltz of Flowers”.

Characters: Author, Rat (two actors), Cat, Girls-cats (six actresses), Dog, Boys-dogs (eight actors), Cow (two actors), Maiden, Man, Priest, Cock.

Procedure

Curtains are closed. Scottish bagpipes sound. There is nobody on the stage. A basket with a sign “Malt” is in the middle of the stage.

» Scene I

Author appears.

Author. This is the house that Jack built.

This is the malt that lay in the house that Jack built (Points to the basket).

» Scene II

Curtains are opening. Rat is on the stage. Two actors play Rat, they stand one behind the other at the desk so that spectators could see the upper part of the body. The front actor is wearing shoes on his hands, so they seem to be feet, the back one stretches his arms, as if those were arms of the front actor. The back actor is out of sight. The spectators see a very short comic person, whose feet and hands move synchronously.

Author. This is the Rat that ate the malt.

That lay in the house that Jack Built.

Rat. How beautiful it is to live with a stomach full of Malt! The malt was so sweet. I'm not hungry at all! I want to sing and dance and now I have a chance! “Chinese dance” by P. I. Tchaikovsky sounds.

Rat dances in a comic way.

» Scene III

Cat appears (a boy acts the role).

Cat. Hey, you! Little grey monster! You have been eating the malt too long! That's enough! Now I'm going to eat you up! See my claws, see my teeth! Aren't you afraid? I'm coming!

Author. This is the Cat that killed the Rat. That ate the malt that lay in the house that Jack built.

Rat. Don't eat me, dear Cat! I'm an innocent Rat! I won't appear on your way, See: I'm going away! (Disappears.)

» Scene IV

Cats appear on the stage (6 girls act the roles). “Take Me To The River”, by Annie Lennox sounds. Cat and Cats move in an energetic dance.

» Scene V

Dog appears on the stage. Girls-cats disappear in panic.

Dog. Here are you! I've been looking for you, my enemy!

Author. This is the Dog that worried the Cat that killed the Rat that ate the malt that lay in the house that Jack built.

“Hills of Connemara” from ethnic Celtic collection sounds. Boys-dogs appear on the stage (8 actors). They move in an Irish folk dance.

Cat. What are you doing here? What do you want from me? Don't trouble trouble until trouble troubles you! My claws and teeth are sharp enough to fight you! See my teeth and see my claws! They are much sharper than yours! Do not touch me — I'll reply! Just come up — and you will cry!

Dog. Just try and you'll see my power!

Cat. Stay where you are and I'll show you mine!

Dog. Come up and fight. I'm not afraid. And to escape is far too late!

The soundtrack to the film “Matrix” sounds. Cat and Dog fight: they grab each other at the tails, pretend to beat, jump. When the music becomes slower their motions slow down too. Spectators see the effect of so called “slow-motion shot”. At the end of their fight Cow appears on the stage. Cat disappears.

» Scene VI

Cow. Don't hurry! See my horns! My power is bigger than yours! I'll punish you for being bad, Don't touch the Cat, he is my friend!

Author. This is the Cow with crumpled horn
That tossed the Dog
That worried the Cat
That killed the Rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.



■ С. Маршак «Дом, который построил Джек». Рисунки В. Конашевича. Государственное издательство, 1928. (Сайт <http://s-marshak.ru>)

Cow. That cat is my good friend. I won't allow you to trouble him. Go away or you'll see my power.

Dog disappears. Cow is acted by two actors. They are inside the costume of a cow: the front actor plays Cow's head and front legs, the back one plays her back legs. «Holly Dolly song» sounds. Cow moves in a merry dance.

► Scene VII

Spectators hear the voice of Maiden.

Voice of Maiden. Dolly! Where are you? Dolly! Come here, my honey! Dolly, my little girl, where have you gone? It's time to milk you. Maiden appears on the stage.

Author. This is the Maiden all forlorn
That milked the Cow with crumpled horn
That tossed the Dog that worried the Cat
That killed the Rat that ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

Maiden. Here you are at last! Would you like some sweet green grass?

Maiden is holding a bucket in one hand and a small bench in the other hand, she comes up to Cow, sits down on the bench and starts milking. The music of the song "Living to Love You" by Sarah Connor sounds. Maiden stands up, comes up to the stage edge, takes a microphone and starts singing. While she is singing Man appears in the hall.

LIVING TO LOVE YOU SARAH CONNOR

All we had was just one summer
two lovers strolling in the park
But like they say the world keeps turning
as the leaves were falling we should fall apart

Now I'm waiting for the winter, na na na
To build my castle out of ice
And deep inside this massive building
There's a crystal lake of all the tears I cried

Baby for all my life
don't you know that it's true
I'm living to love you
So baby don't think twice
If you feel what I feel
Trust your heart and do what I do,
'cause I'm living to love you
hmmmm I'm living to love you
When you're gone it's not forever
'cause you're remaining in my heart
So tell me why I feel this aching
Every time I think of you when we're apart
Baby for all my life
don't you know that it's true
I'm living to love you
So baby don't think twice
If you feel what I feel
Trust your heart do what I do,
I'm living to love you ohhh yes
I admit that from time to time
I'm feeling insecure and think I'm gonna
lose my mind
Don't let it show, no
oh no, no, no, no, no hmm
I don't think I'll ever understand
That our loving should never have a happy end
So I'm really gonna try my best to let you know
To let you know
Baby for all my life
don't you know that it's true
I'm living to love you
So baby don't think twice
If you feel what I feel
Trust your heart and do what I do
When the final day comes
I know the angels,

they will see my smile
And if they wanna know the reason
I will tell them why

Baby for all my life
hoooo yes I'm living to love you.

» Scene VIII

Maiden finishes her song. Man comes up to the stage but doesn't rise on it.

Author. This is the Man all tattered and torn
That kissed the Maiden all forlorn
That milked the Cow with crumpled horn
That tossed the dog that worried the cat
That killed the Rat that ate the malt
That lay in the house that jack built.

Man. My love, I'm here, can we be together? I have been looking for you. Let me in.

Maiden. My true Love's passion, therefore pardon me,
and not input this yielding to light Love, which the
dark night has so discovered

Man. Lady, by younger Moon I vow,
That tips with silver all these fruit tree tops
Maiden. Oh, swear not by the Moon,
th'inconstant Moon,
That monthly changes in her circle Orbit,
Least that thy Love Prove likewise variable.

Man. What shall I swear by?

Maiden. Do not swear at all:
Or if thou wilt swear by thy gracious self,
Which is the God of my Idolatry,
And I'll believe you.

Man. If my heart dears love Maiden: Well, do not swear, although I joy in thee.

Man. This bud of Love By summer's ripening breath,
may prove a beautiful Flower when next we meet.

Maiden. Goodnight, goodnight, as sweet repose and rest
Come to thy heart, as that within my breast.

Man rises on the stage, "The Waltz of Flowers" by P. I. Tchaikovsky sounds,
Man and Maiden dance the waltz. While they are dancing Priest appears
at the piano by the stage.

» Scene IX

Priest starts playing "The Wedding March" by Mendelsohn, Man and Maiden come up to the stage edge, Priest joins them.

Author. This is the Priest all shaven and shorn
That married the Man all tattered and torn
That kissed the Maiden all forlorn
That milked the Cow with crumpled horn
That tossed the Dog that worried the Cat
That killed the Rat that ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

Priest. Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to join this man and this Woman in holy matrimony. Do either of you have any reason why you should not legally be joint in marriage? Is there anyone present who can show any just cause why these two people should not be legally joined in Marriage?

Then, do you, Robert of Huntingdon, take Marian Filzwalter to be your Lawful, wedded wife? To have and hold from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health, to love, cherish and obey, till death do you part, according to God's holy ordinance?

Man. I do.

Priest. Do you, Marian Filtzwalter, take Robert of Huntington to be your lawful, wedded husband? To have and hold from this day forward, for better Or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health, to love, cherish and Obey, till death do you part, according to God's Holy ordinance?

Maiden. I do.

Priest. By the power vested in me by God
I pronounce you husband and wife.
You may kiss the bride now.
The cock crowing sounds.

» Scene X

Cock. Wake up! Wake up! Get ready for a day!
Wake up and smile, Put all your dreams away!
Leave all your dreams till evening that will come.
This morning meets affairs to be done.
Look at the Sun so merry and so bright.
Time to have fun has come. And this sunlight
Will bring you joy. Just let it be today
My happy voice will show you the way
How to live, to act and to succeed
Never give up and like the life you lead
All the characters appear on the stage
as Author mentions them.

Author. This is the Cock that crowed in the morn
That waked the Priest all shaven and shorn
That married the Man all tattered and torn
That kissed the Maiden all forlorn
That milked the Cow with crumpled horn
That tossed the Dog that worried the Cat
That killed the Rat that ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

Scottish bagpipes sound, the actors bow to the spectators.

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