

When Fire Began

(Sample Script)

E.K.Productions Musical

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STORY OUTLINE:

There is great excitement in the cave village because it's the day of the 'Feast of Fire'. On this day, all the cave villagers celebrate, when long ago, lightning struck a tree, giving the villagers fire for the very first time. The fire has been kept burning ever since and has protected the villagers from, 'The Beast!'

Stonehead, a young caveman and his friends have formed a 'rock' band and really want to play at the feast. To Stonehead's dismay, his father and the elders have given him the responsibility of looking after the fire while the adults are off hunting and gathering food. Stonehead's mother also gives him the task of minding his little sister Clarissa. She is somewhat of a handful and much to Stonehead's dismay, she puts out the fire!

The elders return to find no fire and 'The Beast' nearby threatening the village. In order to save the village and his own skin, Stonehead has to use some good old-fashioned ingenuity and just a little luck to get the fire burning again.

A stone age rocking show, full of great humour and wonderful songs.

MAIN CHARACTERS:

STONEHEAD: A nice guy who just wants to play music. He is a good son and does as his father and mother requests. He has somewhat a love/hate relationship with his sister.

CLARISSA: Stonehead's little sister who has a very cheeky nature. Loves nothing better than annoying her brother.

MOTHER: A doting mum, who fusses over both her children. She loves chatting and is always butting in and cutting people off in mid-sentence. She has a very piercing voice.

FATHER: A very proud dad, who puffs his chest out a lot whilst speaking with great authority.

MEMBERS OF STONEHEAD'S BAND:

AG and OG: Two of Stonehead's best friends. Always willing to help out but are not above stirring and teasing as well.

UG: Another member of the band. He's not the smartest guy in the village and always says, "Uh..." as if pondering what he is going to say.

FAY and EVE: Other members of the band. Talented dancers and always supportive friends.

POPS: The grandfather of the village who has a very dry wit.

MINOR ROLES:

FLO: One of Mother's dearest friends. Always goes to speak but Mother cuts her off before she has the chance to say anything.

MOIRA

MILDRED

BARB

MAGGIE

MARTHA: Village women.

VILLAGE WOMEN: Approximately 6. They go with Mother to gather food for the Feast of Fire.

STAN

BOB

MAX

HARRY

UG'S DAD: Village men who go to gather food with Father.

VILLAGE MEN: Approximately 6. They also go hunting with Father.

YOUTH OF THE VILLAGE.

CLARISSA'S FRIENDS: 2 girls that are always by Clarissa's side.

BOULDER BASHERS: Head Boulder Basher and 4 sidekicks. (They're extremely cool.)

COSTUMES: Caveman gear. (Suggestion: students wear bathers/t shirts and shorts underneath and as clothes or 'animal skins', dark coloured or animal printed lengths of Material. (See ideas for caveman patterns below.)

PROPS:

Set: Caveman

Cut outs of rocks and a few palm trees. Cardboard/paper mache clubs and rocks, paper-mache pots, clear strips of cellophane for water, baskets for food. Fire Keeper's Head Dress (anything that looks 'dorky' but must have two rocks which pull off at the end of the play. The sparks can be made of glitter.) Logs for the fire - paper mache or cardboard cylinders.

FIRE: Suggestions:

A large cardboard cutout of a blazing fire. (When water is put on the fire, the prop is pulled flat with string. When Stonehead lights the fire again, the prop is pulled upright again.)

Using cellophane and lights to create the look of fire.

WATER: Strips of cellophane thrown over the fire.

THE BEAST: A recording of roaring is made. The volume is adjusted according to the vicinity of The Beast. (Loud for close, soft for far away.)

INSTRUMENTS FOR THE BAND: Be imaginative! Example: bent branches with twine for strings, coconut shells, guitars with bones for necks and tuning keys.

GIRLS' COSTUMES

2 side seams
ragged hem
tied on shoulders

BOYS' COSTUMES

2 side seams
ragged hem
tied on one shoulder

WHEN FIRE BEGAN

Opening: *Curtains are closed.*

Two cavemen enter from opposite sides off stage. They enter backwards to each other oblivious to the other's presence. One starts chanting "Ooo ah ooo". The other in turn chants "Uggy, uggy, uggy." They are chanting quite loudly and bravely until they suddenly realize that someone else is chanting. They repeat their chant over and over, getting a little more frightened each time. They finally back into each other and get a huge fright and run off stage screaming.

A lone drummer comes out on centre stage. He looks around and then begins to beat the drum.

The sound of chanting can be heard coming from off stage. ('Ooo ah ooo. Uggy, uggy, uggy', in time with the rhythm pattern on the drum.) The sound grows stronger as the members of the chorus enter from sides of the stage and from parts of the hall.

Curtains Open: *They all join on stage singing opening song:*

SONG: CAVEMAN DAYS *(Chorus members exit stage.)*

(Clarissa and a few of her friends enter with an old man, Pops, the grandfather of the village. They gather around him to listen to his story of, 'The Feast of Fire.')

Clarissa: *(Stands and moves to the front of the stage with Pops, the others on stage follow.) But why do we have the Feast of Fire Pops?*

Clarissa's Friend: Yeah. And why is it so important?

Pops: *(In a very 'old man's voice.) Many years ago, when I was no bigger than you, there was a huge storm. Wind blew and great drops of water fell. There was the sound of crashing in the clouds. Then there was a great light from the sky and it hit that spot over there, (he points to the fire prop) where once a great tree stood. A thing we call fire started and we have kept it burning ever since.*

*Fire is important because it protects us from **The Beast!** (Pop must scream the word out as loudly as he can and frighten all the children. The children tremble when they hear "The Beast.")*

2.

The fiercest dinosaur that ever lived and that has plagued our village for as long as I can remember. **The Beast** is terrified of the fire, so it needs to be kept burning at all times. From fire we also have warmth and best of all...cooked food! *(They all nod and rub their tummies in agreement.)*

(Enter Stonehead and gang. They have overheard Pops and are ready for a bit of fun.)

Stonehead: Blah, blah, blah! Not that boring old fire story again?

Pops: *(Indignantly)* Boring? Let me tell you something you little whipper snapper. Our family has been the guardians of the fire since it first appeared. So don't you be giving me any cheek, you just pay attention.

SONG: WHEN FIRE BEGAN. *(Sung by Pops and cast on stage.)*

Pops: So you young fellas. You just mind what you're saying. You should pay more attention like your little sister here.

Clarissa: *(In a very cheeky voice.)* Did you hear that everyone? He should pay more attention like me. *(Stonehead goes to grab her and she hides behind Pops.)*

Stonehead: *(Putting his arm around Pops.)* All right Pops we get it. This fire is pretty hot stuff. Get it Ag? Hot stuff? *(He cracks up at the pun he has made.)*

Ag: *(Joins in.)* Got it Stoney. I've got one. It just burns me up. Get it Og? Burns me up!

Og: *(Laughing with the rest of them.)* Got it. You're really smoking now. Smoking, get it Ug?

Ug: *(Nods and joins in laughing and then looks blankly.)* Uh..... I don't get it.

Others: *(Together)* You never get it Ug.

(Off stage a voice can be heard calling Stonehead. It is his mother. She has an extremely piercing and annoying voice, which causes others to cringe and block their ears)

Mother: Stonehead!

Eve: (*Pulling a face.*) Oh there's your mother calling.

Fay: (*Rolling her eyes.*) Bet she's got another job for you to do.

Ag: (*Groaning.*) We'll never get to practise now. (*The others all nod in agreement.*)

Stonehead: (*Shrugs his shoulders.*) You know what mothers are like guys. Nag, nag, nag.

Og: Do you reckon things will be different in the future? (*Everyone stops to imagine and ponder.*)

Everyone: (*Shaking their heads.*) Nah!

(*Mother and Father enter with a few other adult members of the tribe.*)

Mother: (*In her unusual piercing voice.*) Stonehead! Have you finished cleaning up your cave?

Stonehead: Yes Mum.

Mother: And put all those clubs of yours away?

Stonehead: (*Getting more embarrassed by the minute.*) Yes Mum.

Mother: And collected all the wood for the Great Feast of Fire tonight?

Stonehead: (*Sighing.*) Yes Mum.

Mother: (*Pinches his cheek.*) Oh you are such a good boy.

Clarissa: (*Peeking out from behind Pops.*) Oh yes indeed, you are such a good boy.

Stonehead: (*Glares at his little sister and then gets really embarrassed as his mother fusses over his hair and clothes.*) Oh Mum, not in front of the guys.

Mother: Now your father has a surprise for you. Go on dear, tell him.

Father: I've talked it over with.....

Mother: *(Cuts Father off abruptly by stepping in front of him and putting her hand up in front of his face. She pushes him out of the way.)* Your father has talked it over with the cave elders and they've decided it was time you learnt to be a Keeper of the Fire. Go on dear tell him.

Father: *(He steps up again.)* We've decided that.....

Mother: *(Cuts him off again. Pushes him out of the way.)* They've decided that whilst the other men of the cave village are off hunting for the feast tonight, you are in charge of the fire. We are so proud of you. Aren't we dear? Go on dear tell him.

Father: *(Tries again but gives up in despair.)* Son we are..... *(After Mother cuts him off again, he turns his back to the audience, hunches over and blocks his ears.)*

Mother: Just so proud of you. Well. Can't stop, the girls are here. *(Other cave women enter.)* We have to finish organising for the Feast. Oh just one more little thing. You need to take care of your little sister Clarissa. *(Mother pats Stonehead on the head, waves to her daughter and exits with the other women.)*

Father: *(Looking around cautiously.)* Has she gone? *(Others nod. He pulls bits of stuffing out of his ears.)* She's a wonderful woman, but sometimes.....

Stonehead: Dad, about this Keeper job. Does it have to be today? I sort of had plans with the guys.

Father: Plans?

Og: Yeah Mr. Crater. We were planning to practise.

Father: *(A little worried.)* Practise what?

Eve: Our music!

Fay: We've formed a band!

Ug: Yeah. We call ourselves Rollinguh Stone.

Ag: *(Shaking his head.)* That's Rolling Rocks, you brontosaurus brain. Who would ever want to listen to a band called Rolling Stone. *(Others nod in agreement.)*

Father: Oh no! Are you telling me that the noise you've been making is music?

Stonehead: What did you think it was?

Father: Another reason to block my ears besides your mother.

Stonehead: *(Sweetly.)* Dad, we were hoping to play at the Feast of Fire tonight. *(The others in the gang look pleadingly at Stonehead's father.)*

Father: *(Looks at the other cavemen and they all shake their heads very quickly.)* Well, Son, I really don't think your music is quite what the Feast needs. You know, tradition and all that.

Stonehead: *(Very disappointed.)* But Dad!
(The others in the gang are feeling very down as well.)

Father: *(Puffs out his chest, full of great importance and begins to lecture Stonehead.)* Stonehead, I'm afraid the time has come for you to take responsibility. Forget about this music nonsense and concentrate on more important matters like the fire. Just a few things to remember. That fire has been burning for a very long time. It protects this village from ***The Beast!*** So whatever happens.... **Don't Let It Go Out!** Now as Keeper of the Fire, on this special occasion, you must wear the Fire Keeper's head dress. *(One of the other cavemen reveals a very ugly, very 'dorky' headdress. Father places it proudly on Stonehead.)* There! Now we're off. Take care of your sister and remember whatever happens..... **Don't Let The Fire Go Out!** *(Father and cavemen exit to go hunting.)*

Clarissa: *(Being the usual annoying little sister.)* I hope you listened very carefully to Dad. Remember... *(Imitating her father.)* **"Don't Let The Fire Go Out!"**

Stonehead: (*Getting cross.*) I'll put you out in a minute if you're not careful. (*He goes to grab her.*)

Clarissa: (*She starts to yell.*) Mum!

Stonehead: (*Quickly changing his mind.*) All right, all right. (*He turns to his friends who have been staring and laughing at his new head dress.*) And just what are you guys looking at?

Ag: (*Walks around Stonehead looking him up and down.*) Just admiring your hat Stoney buddy.

Og: Real pretty, isn't it Ug?

Ug: Yeah, uh.... that's the word for it alright.

Stonehead: (*Turns to Pops who has been sitting on a rock observing what has been happening.*) Pops, you wouldn't like to wear? (*Offers him the head dress.*)

Pops: You mean wear that ugly piece of.... Not on your Nellie. Besides I think it's time you learnt the importance of fire. And now it's time these old bones had a snooze. Try to keep the noise down. (*Pops hobbles off stage.*)

Stonehead: (*Turns to his friends.*) One of you guys wouldn't like to wear it would you? (*They all shake their heads and back away.*) Ag?

Ag: Friendship only goes so far Stoneyman and it doesn't go as far as that thing.

Og: Now be a good little fire boy and put it back on. (*Og places it back on Stonehead's head.*)

Fay: Stonehead, are you having a bad day?

Stonehead: (*Sighing.*) You could say that Fay.

Fay: Well, Eve and I think it's going to get worse. (*Eve nods.*) Here come the Boulder Bashers.