

February 1, 2012

# GEORGE & MARTHA

Tons of Fun

Based on the book  
*George & Martha*  
*The Complete Stories of Two Best Friends*  
by James Marshall  
Illustrated by James Marshall

Book, Music & Lyrics by  
Joan Cushing

Running time: 70 minutes  
Taped Orchestral Score  
Cast of Five

Originally commissioned and produced by  
Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD

© September 18, 2009



## **SCENE**

### **TIME**

Anytime

### **PLACE**

Where George & Martha live

### **Scenes:**

Martha's House

George's House

Garden/Yard in between the houses

Exercise Club

The Park

Recital Hall

The Secret Club

- I. George & Martha Tons of Fun**
- II. George & Martha Little Differences**
- III. George & Martha Mortal Enemies**
- IV. George & Martha Together Again**

## **Cast of Characters (Five)**

**George** – male hippo, tenor/baritone – wicked sense of humor, loyal, sensitive, fun-loving, dreamer, risk taker, practical joker, loves to play his tuba (not very well)

**Martha** – female hippo, mezzo/alto – wicked sense of humor, organized, neat, practical, bossy, a control freak, irritating, nurturing, plays the cello perfectly

**Chorus (3):**

**Croc (Male #1)** – (baritone) A crocodile  
Friend of George and Martha  
Romanian Flower Seller  
Master of Ceremonies/Lounge Lizard  
Waiter

**Dog (Male #2)** - (tenor)  
Friend of George and Martha  
Mailman, Fed Ex Man, UPS Man, Moving Van Man  
Aviation Ground Crew for George's first flight  
Waiter

**Pig (Female #1)** – (mezzo, alto, belter)  
Friend of George and Martha  
Martha's Dance Instructor  
Model for George's painting  
Torch Singer

**Note:** For the original production, the Chorus (Croc, Dog, Pig) brought on, danced on, all the props, and moved the pieces for scene changes. Pig held the hose when Martha needed it, or handed Martha her watering can, or took the top off the hamper for Martha to hear the clock, or held the vase for Martha to put in the flowers George brought her. Dog and Croc held the ballet bar for Martha's dancing lesson,. Often all three were positioned in a scene to react silently, like a Greek chorus. After the initial leaf falls in "Autumn," the Chorus dropped leaves from a basket throughout the song. All three picnicked in the park during George's art scene, spreading a blanket, opening a picnic basket, pouring wine into glasses and toasting, and opening Pig's parasol. Pig brought on the plates of cookies. Dog and Croc brought on a trash can for George to dump Martha's tulips, and so on. All three rolled on George's bed, then each (plus Martha) velcroed roller skates to the bed, and pushed it, while Martha sang and directed traffic.

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

GEORGE & MARTHA, TONS OF FUN .....	Croc as M.C., Dog & Pig
SPLIT PEA SOUP .....	Martha, George & Ensemble
THE CUCKOO CLOCK SONG .....	George & Friends
THE FLYING SONG .....	George & Ensemble
PLASTIC FLOWERS FOR SALE .....	Croc as Romanian Flower Seller
GEORGE & MARTHA, TONS OF FUN Reprise #1 .....	Croc as M.C., Dog, Pig
WAKE UP, GEORGE! .....	Martha & Ensemble
OH, WHAT A WORK OF ART .....	George & Ensemble
THOSE LITTLE CRACKS IN THE ARMOR .....	Croc/Ventriloquist & Dog/Puppet

## ACT II

THE SECRET CLUB .....	George & Ensemble
SEPARATE TABLES .....	Pig as Cabaret Singer
WITHOUT YOU .....	George & Martha
AUTUMN .....	George & Ensemble
GEORGE & MARTHA, TONS OF FUN Reprise #2 .....	Croc as M.C., Dog, Pig

Can be performed without an Intermission.

February 1, 2012

# ACT I

## PART I.

The marquee reads:

**GEORGE & MARTHA  
TONS OF FUN**

### SCENE 1.

#### CABARET

*CABARET LIGHTING COMES UP on CROC, a lounge lizard dressed as a Master of Ceremonies. HE is flanked by two Chorus People, DOG and PIG, maybe dressed in black. DOG has a kazoo and PIG has a slidewhistle. They use the instruments to punctuate Croc's routine.*

*The cabaret device is used throughout the play to comment on the action of the characters and can be achieved by lighting. CROC is the Master of Ceremonies. DOG is a Waiter. PIG is a Cabaret Singer. At the end of ACT I, PIG and DOG are CROC's puppets.*

*For the cabaret scenes, Bob Fosse style close staging would be fun, or something very sophisticated, uptown, to distinguish from the rest of the play.*

*MUSIC CUE #1 - Top of Show - "George and Martha, Tons of Fun."*

#### **"GEORGE AND MARTHA, TONS OF FUN"**

*Verse/sung freely*

CROC

*(Sings)*

THERE'S A COUPLE OF HIPPOS  
WHO LIVE IN A BOOK  
ON A SHELF.

*Kazoo!*

AND IF YOU HAVEN'T MET THEM,  
YOU'RE WELCOME TO LOOK  
FOR YOURSELF

*Slidewhistle!*

EVERY MADCAP CHARADE IS NOTORIOUS FARE  
AS THEY COME ALIVE ON THE PAGE.  
AND TODAY (TONIGHT) WE PRESENT THIS GLORIOUS PAIR  
IN PERSON

*Slidewhistle! (as GEORGE opens his door and steps out)*

CROC

AND “LIVE”

*Kazoo! (as MARTHA opens her door and steps out)*

CROC

ON THE STAGE.

MARTHA

Hello, George.

GEORGE

Hello, Martha.

*(Cabaret vamp underscores.)*

*Dressed for a date, Martha wears a blouse and skirt, with shoes and hat to match, and a feather in her hat. George has on a spiffy tie and fedora, and carries a walking cane.)*

GEORGE

*(Excitedly)*

I know a really good movie: *The Lion, the Witch & the Warthog*.

MARTHA

I've already picked one. “Hipporamus!” At the Hippodrome. *Slidewhistle!*

GEORGE

Hipporamus? That's not even one of my favorites.

MARTHA

Don't worry, George. You'll like it. *Kazoo!*

*(Musical vamp begins.)*

*GEORGE and MARTHA walk to an imaginary movie.*

*DOG and PIG set down two folding chairs.*

*One of them hands MARTHA a bag of popcorn.*

*GEORGE and MARTHA sit down and watch the imaginary movie.*

*Their actions with the popcorn show their different personalities. MARTHA holds the popcorn bag and GEORGE takes handfuls from it, spilling popcorn all over, which MARTHA keeps picking up. When GEORGE tries to take turns holding the popcorn, MARTHA grabs it back and insists on holding it. She is bossy and neat. HE is easy-going, a gentleman, and a slob.)*

CROC  
*(Sings)*  
COME AND MEET A MOST AMUSING PAIR.

SHE IS NEAT AND HE IS DEBONAIR.

THEY GO TO THE MOVIES  
TO SEE A SHOW.

THERE'S A MONSTER SCARING HIM.  
GEORGE

*(Screams)*  
Ahh!

CROC  
MARTHA HAS TO PRACTICALLY CARRY HIM.

CROC  
AFTERNOONS THEY PICNIC IN THE PARK.

PLAYING CARD GAMES IN THE SUN.  
MARTHA

Gin! *(SHE beats him at Gin Rummy!)*  
GEORGE

Drat!

CROC  
GEORGE AND MARTHA. *(THEY pack up their things.)*  
*Slidewhistle!*

GEORGE AND MARTHA. *(MARTHA piles everything on GEORGE to carry.)*  
*Kazoo!*

TONS OF FUN!  
*Open! (Martha opens her door and enters.)*  
*Close! (Martha closes the door in George's face.)*

CROC  
MARTHA TAKES A BATH AND GETS A SCARE.

MARTHA

PIG & DOG  
*(Sing)*

AMUSING PAIR.

SO DEBONAIR.

THE MOVIES.

PIG  
SHE TAKES CHARGE.  
DOG  
LIKE A SARGE.

PIG & DOG  
A PICNIC IN THE PARK.

PIG  
GEORGE IS PEAKING!

Aah!

GEORGE

Aah!

CROC

GEORGE HAD BETTER SLINK AWAY FROM THERE.

PIG

HE IS SNEAKING.

*Slam! (Sound of a window coming down.)*

GEORGE

Ow!

CROC

GEORGE PUTS ON DISGUISES (*PIG hands GEORGE an Indian headdress*)  
AND RINGS HER BELL.

*Ding Dong!*

MARTHA

HI, GEORGE,  
WHY THE INDIAN COSTUME?

GEORGE

DARN IT, MARTHA,  
HOW'D YOU KNOW IT WAS  
ME, ME, ME?

MARTHA

HEE HEE HEE!

DOG & PIG

HEE HEE HEE!

*(DOG and PIG set out two chairs and two music stands.)*

*Broad*

CROC, PIG & DOG

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AFTER DARK.

*(DOG & PIG set up two music stands.)*

MAKING MUSIC'S NUMBER ONE.

*(DOG & PIG hand MARTHA her cello and GEORGE his tuba.)*

PIG

GEORGE AND MARTHA.

*(MARTHA plays "Three Blind Mice" perfectly on her cello.)*

DOG

GEORGE AND MARTHA.

*(GEORGE continues it with his tuba, making big mistakes.)*

CROC, PIG & DOG

TONS OF FUN!

*MUSIC CUE #1a - Segue from Cue #1 - "Tons of Fun" Scene Change I (Add cello, middle section of Three Blind Mice at end of cue.)*