

Jack And The Beans Talk

By

Phil McEntee

Scene One:

(Curtains closed. Mother and Jack enter Right. Cross to Center.)

Mother:

"He hurried and chopped down the magic beanstalk. Jack and his Mother never had to worry about the Giant again, and so they lived happily ever after."

Jack:

Mother! What would we do if a giant came to our house?

Mother:

I don't know about you, but I would say, "BOO!"

Jack:

Would that really scare a giant?

Mother:

It just might. Remember that silly song we used to sing. **(sings)** "When you don't know what to do say "BOO!"

Jack:

I remember that song. Do you think it will work? Would a giant be scared if you say, "BOO?"

Mother:

Jack, we don't need to worry about giants around here. But, I believe that you don't need to worry about anybody if you show that you are not afraid.

Jack:

Are there really magic beans? I wish we had some. I would plant them in the garden.

Mother:

Oh, we'll be planting plenty of beans in the garden tomorrow. I can't say that they are magic, but they'll come in handy soon enough. Now, bedtime young man. Sweet dreams. Here. Here are three beans. Put them under your pillow and dream of a bountiful harvest.

Jack:

I can't wait to see the garden. Beans! Ha! Look at these beans. They're all different. One is all speckled. The other two aren't. What kind of beans are we planting?

Mother:

Here, let me see, now. Oh, this one is a Pinto bean; this one is a Lima bean, and this one? That's a Roma bean. That's my favorite. Now. Goodnight Jack. Sleep well. Dream about the garden.

Jack:

Mother, will you sing me to sleep?

Mother:

Oh course, Jack.

Music Cue # 1

(Mother sings)

Sleepy head,
It's time for bed.
So close your eyes now,
Go to sleep.

May the moon beams,
Bring you dreams,
Treasures for you to keep!

Mother:

Now off to bed. Don't forget to put those beans under your pillow and dream sweet dreams! Goodnight!

**(Mother exits Right. Jack takes his pillow Left and settles down to sleep.
Lights dim.)**

Scene Two

(Curtains are closed. Jack is asleep Left. Lights come up slowly.)

Lima: (Backstage Left)

Hey! That's your foot in my eye! Move over!

Pinto: (Backstage Left)

I'm suffocating in here! Mayday! Mayday! Let's get out!

Roma: (Backstage Left)

Did you hear that snoring? I thought it was an earthquake.

(Jack stirs, jumps up and looks under his pillow. The three beans rush onstage from Left.)

Jack:

What? Who are you?

Lima:

I'm Lima. This is Pinto and this is Roma. Some folks think she's special, but if you ask me, a "Roma's" just a smell.

Roma:

Some aromas are better than others. You know what they say about Lima beans.

Lima:

Hey! That's hitting below the belt!

Roma:

Indeed.

Pinto:

Say! What's your name fella?

Jack:

Wait! Slow down. I'm Jack. I'm glad to meet you all. But, who are you?

Lima:

Maestro! That's our cue! A little music please. Fellows?

Music Cue # 2

The Beans sing:

We are Beans!
We are Beans!
We are the Magical Beans!
The more beans you've got,
The louder we sing!
Some like us hot!
Right straight from the pot!
Make sweet music with Magical Beans!

Lima: (sings)

Mister Christopher Columbus,
He went sailing to the West,
Thought it best
To take a rest.
He sent a message to the Queen,
"This brave new world is full of beans!"

Beans: (sing)

We are Beans!
We are Beans!
We are the Magical Beans!
The more beans you've got,
The louder we sing!
Some like us hot!
Right straight from the pot!
Make sweet music with Magical Beans!

Roma: (sings)

Marco Polo traveled East,
Searching for the perfect feast.
Went to China so it seems
Brought us back some magic beans!

Beans: (sing)

We are Beans!
We are Beans!
We are the Magical Beans!
The more beans you've got,
The louder we sing!
Some like us hot!
Right straight from the pot!
Make sweet music with Magical Beans!

Pinto: (sings)

People walking on the moon
Heard our playful little tune.
Thought they'd have some cheese of green,
All they found were magic beans!

Beans: (sing)

We are Beans!
We are Beans!
We are the Magical Beans!
The more beans you've got,
The louder we sing!
Some like us hot!
Right straight from the pot!
Make sweet music with Magical Beans!

Jack:

But what are you doing here? Where did you come from? How did you get here?

Roma:

Jack, you put us under your pillow.

Lima:

We're here from the garden, of course! The Boss sent us to get help.

Jack:

Help? Can I help?

Pinto:

Hmmm, well . . . Say! Maybe you can be the substitute.

Lima:

I think he's perfect! Come on! Let's go meet the Boss!

(Scarecrow enters Right)

Roma:

Hey! Look who we found! He'll be great! Don't you think?

Lima:

See! He's got arms! And Legs! He's even got a hat!

Pinto:

He might just work. Jack, meet Topper. He's in charge of the garden.

Roma:

Jack will be great!

Scarecrow:

Well, we don't really have time to find anybody else. Jack, I just got wind of a terrible twister out in Kansas. Blew my Cousin Kate all the way to Eastaboga and part way back. She's pretty well scattered right now and I need to leave right away to help her get herself back together, but I can't leave the garden untended. Think you could fill in for a bit? Not much to it, right now. Everything's growing right on schedule.

Jack:

Gosh! Me? In charge of the garden?

Pinto:

You can do it Jack. We're right here to help.

Lima:

Say yes, Jack. Please.

Roma:

We will all feel safer if you are watching over us.

Scarecrow:

How about it, fella? Are you in?

Jack:

Well. Sure! When do I start? What do I do?

Scarecrow:

That's great! Much obliged young fella. If you can, start right away. The Beans will show you around. Folks, I've got to get going. I'll try to be back before the Harvest Dance.

(Scarecrow exits Right)

Pinto:

Hey Jack, let's go! What do you want to see first?

Lima:

What do you think? Our old stomping grounds? Beans and Corn?

Roma:

No. Let's save the best 'till last. I know! Let's see what's happening over at Truck's Coffeeshouse.

Jack:

I'm game. Let's go!

(Jack and the Beans exit Right)

Scene Three

(Curtains open. Truck's Coffeehouse. Cauliflower with guitar is Left. Onion with trumpet is far Left. Greasy Greens are Right. Jack and the Beans enter Right.)

Onion:

Here's a little tune. I call it "Hot Onion Rings."

Music Cue # 3

(Onion plays his horn. Scattered applause.)

Thanks. Next up, straight back from sunny California, Miss Polly Cauliflower!

Music Cue # 4

Cauliflower: (sings)

The moon is shining brighter than the starry night can hold,
The shadows seem to shimmer silver and gold,
From near and far the garden folk share stories and good cheer,
One and all gather 'round here.

The time has come for garden folk to sing a Summer song,
Of lazy Summer days, hot and long,
Of gentle rains and weather vanes that pivot to the West,
Of all the year, Autumn is best!

Look to the Rising Moon,
Harvest Time will be here soon!

Look to the Rising Moon,
Harvest Time will be here soon!

(Onion picks up the melody on his trumpet. Cauliflower dances a dreamlike dance.)

Onion:

And now, the Greasy Greens!

Music Cue # 5

Greasy Greens: (sing doo wop style)

She was young and tender,
Just waiting to be picked.
Her stalks were slender,
Her roots were nice and thick.
So I walked up beside her and sang this soulful ballad,
"Lettuce get together in a Summer salad."

Salad Days
They're all the craze.
Find new ways,
To spend those lazy
Summer days,
Tossed together with you!

When she looked me over,
She said, "You might be nice.
But, to be my lover
You'll have to add some spice."
I'm afraid that I might lose her,
I guess I'd better scurry
Where can I find some curry
In a hurry!

Salad Days
They're all the craze.
Find new ways,
To spend those lazy
Summer days,
Tossed together with you!

Roma:

Oh! Those Greasy Greens! I could just swoon when I hear them! But, I feel like dancing.
Come on. Everybody! All together! Let's Stroll!

(Cauliflower and Onion play, the Greasy Greens sing and the Beans dance.)

Music Cue # 6

Greasy Greens:

Don't you know that you've got a long row to hoe?
(Hoe that row!)
Don't you know that you've got a long row to hoe?
(Hoe that row!)
Now don't be slow, go back and hoe some mo'
(Hoe that row!)

Roma:

Hey Jack, do you like to dance?

Jack:

You know, that was fun.

(Jo Weed enters Right, Virginia Creeper enters left, Dandelion enters Back Center.)

Pinto:

Hey, look over there. I've never seen her around here. Wow!

Lima:

I don't know Pinto, she looks dangerous to me. Look, who's that creeping in over there?

Roma:

What's going on?

Music Cue # 7

Music Cue #8

Jo Weed: (sings)

Oh, you better take heed,
I am Jo Weed.
I go where I want to go,
I grow where I want to grow.
All that I need is one tiny seed,
And I'll move in with you!

Music Cue #9

Virginia Creeper: (sings)

Now you better beware,
I'm over there.
While you're sleeping,
I come creeping!
I really don't care
If I give you a scare.
I can strangle you!

Music Cue #10

Dandelion: (sings)

Dandelion paratroopers
Riding on the wind.
If you think you're safe,
Better think again!
Dandelion paratroopers
Flying through the air!
The next thing you know,
We're everywhere!

Jo Weed:

This is our turf now!

Onion:

Whoa! Who are you?

Jo Weed:

Outta my way, you Scallion! Pay attention! We're taking over!

Cauliflower:

Oh, I think you'll find there is plenty for all of us to share. We all live under the same sky, you know.

Jo Weed:

Listen and listen closely. I don't like having to repeat myself. This is our place now. We're in charge. You are outnumbered. By this time tomorrow, all you will see are weeds! Weeds everywhere! We're putting down roots!

Lima:

I can't believe this is happening.

Pinto:

Look! There are even more weeds outside. We're surrounded!

Roma:

Jack! You've got to do something. Someone has to put those weeds in their place. This is your garden. The Scarecrow left you in charge. You can't let the weeds take over!

Jack:

Me? . . . I mean, . . . er, . . . You're right! Those weeds have no right to be here!

(Jack grabs a hoe and brandishes it at the weeds.)

Now! You listen to me! I'm not going to be finished until every one of you weeds are gone. And don't even think about coming back!

(The weeds wilt at the sight of the hoe and hastily retreat. Exit Right and Left. The vegetables cheer!)

Pinto:

Wow! Jack! You showed them. Wow! Look at them go!

Lima:

I knew we could count on you.

Roma:

Jack, you were wonderful!

Pinto:

We better move on folks. We have a lot of ground to cover.

(Curtains close)

Scene four

(Curtains closed. Jack and the Beans enter Right. Compost Ben enters Left.)

Lima:

Wow Jack, you surely showed those weeds a thing or two. I'm starving. Anybody else hungry? All that excitement really made me hungry.

Pinto:

Hey look! Just in time. It's Compost Ben. Come on. Lunch is on me!

Roma:

I wouldn't mind a slice of cantaloupe rind, unless it's too fresh.

Music Cue #11

Compost Ben: (sings)

I've got coffee grounds tossed in mounds of rotted leaves,
Phosphorus is a must if you believe in living well,
Don't you love that smell?
You better follow that hunch!
When it's time for lunch,
I've got bunches to munch!

I've got crushed eggshells for calcium,
Shredded up paper with a minimum,
Of pesticides,
You know you can rely on me.
Yes, I have got what you need,
When it's time to feed organically.

(They all dance.)

Roma:

I love your cantaloupe rind.

Ben:

I've got just the thing. Six months old if it's a day

Roma:

Perfect!

Lima:

Hey Ben, do you have any decaying potato peels?

Ben:

Would you like that with bat guano sprinkles?

Lima:

Yes! Pinto? You did offer to treat didn't you?

Pinto:

Of course. Everybody. Order whatever you like! I'll have the lightly turned humus with a side of earthworms. Jack? How about you?

Jack:

Actually, . . . uh, . . . I'm really not very hungry right now. Ah, I ate just before I got here.

Pinto:

Oh? What did you have?

Jack:

Tacos! With re-fried b___ Oops! Say! Where should we go next?

Lima:

Jack's right. We have places to be, veggies to see. Everybody, eat up! Next stop: Underground!

(Jack and the Beans exit Right, Compost Ben exits Left.)

Scene five

(Curtains open. Stage is dark. Tomato and Peppers are in darkened stage back.)

Announcer: (From Booth)

Ladies and Gents, Spuds and Plugs! I am delighted to welcome you Underground. Unfortunately, due to circumstances completely beyond our control Miss Sweet Potato Patty will not be here. However, after beating the bean bushes to find someone worthy of your attention, I am pleased to say we have discovered someone right over our noses. Right from our own garden, Miss Lima Bean! Ladies and Gents, Spuds and Plugs, welcome to our Yam Jam!

(Spotlight shines on Lima as Jack and the Beans enter Right.)

Music Cue #12

Sweet Potato Patty: (sings)

When the moon,
Is shining up in the sky,
Shining high up above like a sweet potato pie,
It's time for dancing,
And sweet romancing,
It's Harvest Time!

All too soon,
We'll all be wondering,
Yes we'll all be wondering why.
Why our time has come so fast,
And why the good times never seem to last.

Not so long ago,
We were just starting out,
We were young and tender, just fragile little sprouts,
Now at Summer's end,
It's time for us to spend,
A day and night to celebrate our life!

So when the moon,
Is shining up in the sky,
Shining high up above like a sweet potato pie,
It's time for dancing,
And sweet romancing,
It's Harvest Time!

(The Yammer Jammers play and the audience dances.)

Roma:

Lima, I could listen to you sing all night long!

Lima:

I wish we could stay, but we need to show Jack the rest of the garden.

Pinto:

Where to next?

Roma:

Let's go see the Tomatoes and Peppers!

Lima:

Great idea! Let's go!

(Curtains close)

Scene six

(Dr. Pepper Left, Peppers Right. Salsa music blaring, Dr. Pepper is doing that funky hand jive while the Peppers clap excitedly. Jack and the Beans enter Left.)

Music Cue #13

Peppers: (sing)

Spice up your life with fun!

Dr. Pepper : (sings)

Take a chance!

Peppers: (sing)

Share it with everyone!

Dr. Pepper: (sings)

Sing and dance, on this day!

Peppers: (sing)

Make up a song to sing on this day,
What do you say?

Dr. Pepper: (sings)

Try it today!

Think what you have to give,

Peppers:

Give what you've got!

Dr. Pepper: (sings)

That is the way we live!

Peppers: (sing)

Mixed in a pot!

Dr. Pepper: (sings)

Make us a salsa on this day,
What do you say?

Peppers: (sing)

On this day,
Try us today!

(The Peppers dance.)

Dr. Pepper:

Oh, hi! Welcome to the pepper patch. You must be Jack. Everybody's been talking about you. You are very brave to help Scarecrow. I heard how you chased the weeds away.

Jack:

I don't like weeds in the garden. You all seem very happy here. I enjoyed your music and your dancing.

Penelope Pepper:

Oh! Thank you. It's fun to play and we love to sing. Would you care to join us?

Pinto:

Shhh! What's that sound!

Peppy Pepper:

Aphids! Oh my! It's the aphids! Help!

Music Cue #14

(Aphid enters Right, dancing.)

Aphid: (sings)

Oh boy! Big Boy Tomatoes!
Rutgers, Atkinson's, Early Girls too.
What a joy! Sweet Bell Peppers!
There's plenty for me and plenty for you!

Peppy Pepper:

They'll eat us alive! Somebody help us!

Roma:

They're all around! We're surrounded! Jack! Make them go away!

Lima:

There's too many of them. We'll never be able to get them all!

Roma:

Bugs! I hate bugs!

Jack:

Wait! I remember reading in my science book that some bugs are very helpful in the garden. Some bugs help keep the pests away. Call out the Ladybugs! We need Help!

(Sings)

Aphids, on the prowl.
Ladybugs, HELP! We need you now!

(Ladybug enters Right, battles the Aphid.)

Lady bug:

Aphids! Yum! Aphids! This will be fun!

Music Cue # 15

Dr. Pepper:

Peppers! Tomatoes! A little music please to give them strength, courage, victory!

Ladybug: (sings)

Aphids, one by one,
Ladybugs have you on the run!

(The Ladybug drives the Aphid away. They both exit Left.)

Penelope Pepper:

We're safe! Thank you, Jack!

Jack:

I'm glad I could help.

Roma:

That was quick thinking, Jack, but we better move along. We've been saving the best for last.

(Curtain.)

Scene seven

(Curtains closed. Two crows, Chauncey and Saucy enter Right.)

Chauncey:

Have you heard? The Scarecrow has gone!

Saucy:

Scarecrow is gone? Who's guarding the garden?

Chauncey:

I heard they brought in some new kid. First timer. Never worked a garden before.

Saucy:

Never worked a garden? That's music to my ears!

Music Cue #16

(Sings)

There's a new kid on the block.
Now it's time for us to give him a shock!
Call all the birds,
Spread the words,
We'll feast at twelve o'clock!

Chauncey: (sings)

Oh, I'll call out the flock.
In no time at all, this place will rock!
We'll show this nerd,
That it's absurd,
To think that he's a jock!

(They dance and exit Left. Jack and the Beans enter Right.)

Jack:

So. What's next?

Lima:

We've saved the best for last!

Pinto:

This is our place.

Roma:

Welcome to the Pea Patch! Corn and peas, pole beans, bush beans. All the best as far as the eye can see!

Music Cue # 17

Jack:

Oh! I hear music!

Roma:

Hurry! They're starting without us!

Scene eight

(Curtains open.)

Lima, Pinto & Roma: (sing)

Summertime makes me think of a country song!
Sitting on the back porch wishing you could sing along.
Looking at the stars way up in the sky,
Thinking 'bout the twinkling in your eye,
When you said, "Goodbye."
You said, "Before too long,
They'll be singing our song!"

Corn Chorus: (sings)

Summertime makes me think of a fiddling tune.
Dancing through the night,
By the light of a big old moon.
The mandolins ringing,
The tree frogs singing,
Every little thing keeps bringing new meaning,
To this life we share,
Do you hear over there?
That's our song in the air!

(Beans and Corn dance. Crows enter Left and Right.)

Saucy:

Mind if I cut in? Yum!

Corn:

Yikes! A crow!

Pinto:

A crow! Look! There's another one!

Lima:

And another, and another!

Roma:

They are everywhere! Jack! Make them go away! Do something!

Jack:

Oh! I guess it is up to me. Uhhh, what does the scarecrow do when the crows come around?

Lima:

He waves his arms and looks menacing.

Pinto:

Try shouting!

Roma:

Oh my! They've grabbed poor Butter Bean! Jack! Do something!

(Jack waves his arms wildly and looks menacing. The crows look at him and laugh.)

Jack:

Go away! Get out of here! Shoo crows! Shoo!
They're not scared! They won't fly off. Shoo! Scram!

Lima:

Well Jack, at least you tried.

Pinto:

You did your best, Jack. We don't blame you.

Roma:

They are ruining our beautiful garden. I just feel like crying.

Jack:

Wait! Roma, Don't cry. I just remembered something. Something my mother sang:

Music Cue # 18

(Sings)

There may come a time,
When nothing seems to work,
No matter how hard you try.

It's probably just a quirk,
A little bit out of rhyme.
It will all work out by and by.

So when this happens to you,
There's no time to be blue,
Here's my advice to you:

When you don't know what to do say, "BOO!"
Not Boo Hoo!

(Jack strides over to Chauncey, who is threatening the corn, and taps him on the shoulder.)

Chauncey:

Huh?

Jack:

BOO!

Chauncey:

Awwaunck!

Lima:

Wow! It worked!

Jack:

Come on everybody! Let's show those crows!

(Jack and the Beans say "BOO!" to the crows, who exit Left and Right.)

Roma:

Jack! You did it!

Jack:

We did it! We chased the crows away!

Lima:

Hooray!

Pinto:

Look! Over there! Look at the moon!

Corn Chorus:

Look! It's the Harvest Moon!

Pinto:

But look there! It's the Scarecrow! He's back!

Roma:

Just in time for the Harvest Dance!

Lima:

Quick! Call everybody! It's time to celebrate!

(Scarecrow enters Left. All others enter Left and Right.)

Scarecrow:

I heard the commotion and hurried to help, but I see that you were able to scare those crows away.

Roma:

It was Jack's idea. He saved the garden.

Jack:

I'm just glad it worked.

Scarecrow:

Well, we all have reasons to celebrate. Look! The Harvest Moon! Come on! Everybody!

Music Cue # 19

(Sings)

Welcome to our Harvest Dance
Kick off your shoes and stay awhile.
Rolled up jeans and Turnip Greens
Will always be in style.
We're so glad you all could come,
There's enough for everyone,
Come on, Folks, let's have some fun,
While we have the chance!

(Instrumental music continues as each group is recognized with curtain calls.)

Now we have to say, "Goodnight!"
Hope that you enjoyed our show,
For it seems that in our dreams,
We find the way to go.
One last word we'll leave with you,
Maybe it will help you too,
When you don't know what to do,
Say, "BOO!"

Jack And The Beans Talk

Cast list:

Mother	Erin Dukes
Jack	Luke Emiliano
Lima	Kylie Jordan
Pinto	Olivia Gilbert
Roma	Katie Ozley
Scarecrow	Kayla Hutcheson
Onion	Charli-Ann Baugh
Polly Cauliflower	Emma McSwain
Greasy Greens	Jini Kellgren, Blakeley Baggett, Ella Thornthwaite
Jo Weed	Emily Anne Smith
Virginia Creeper	Julia Smith
Dandelion	Gracie Smith
Compost Ben	Brady Baugh
Sweet Potato Patty	LoriElle Hutchinson
Cherry Tomato	Gabrielle Reynolds
Penelope Pepper	Abby Bryant
Peppy Pepper	Abby Broadhead
Aphid	Mary Frances Wheeler
Ladybug	Abigail Baugh
Chauncey	Priya Atchley
Saucy	Jacob Ozley
Corn Chorus	Meredith Adams, Sarah Martin

