

EVE'S ODDS, a Musical Midrash

SYNOPSIS

The **CHORUS** of angelic voices in Heaven sing a stately Alleluia. (The Chorus should be visible but never directly part of the action on stage at any time.) As they sing, the Chorus grows more spirited and raucous, then catches itself and ends the Alleluia in the best High Church tradition as lights come up on:

EVE, alone in the Garden of Eden early on a morning of the second week. She sings a simple song of joy for sheer being. Suddenly she is joined by her friend, the **SNAKE**. He has a slight problem with his sibilants, but does his best to control his esses. Actually, he is only playing the fool for Eve in order to dupe her. The Snake sings a ballad about free will, and he assures Eve that the forbidden apple is not dangerous at all. Eve considers eating the apple when -

ADAM enters. He's had a busy day of naming things, and he enters with his naming song. He has also discovered a new word: 'danger'. He doesn't know what 'danger' means, but he is sure that Eve and he will soon be in it. The Snake suggests that perhaps 'danger' is the name of the wardrobe that Adam just built for Eve. The three get into and out of 'danger' (the wardrobe).

While Adam is busy with this danger game, the Snake presents Eve the apple, which she almost eats. But Adam convinces her to trust him (he has always told her the truth) when who should enter but -

LILITH, Adam's first wife. She sings a habanera about her affair with Adam. Eve knew nothing about Lilith until now, and she flies into a rage and decides to eat the apple. But Adam sings a love song and the couple are reconciled. The opera is about to end happily when who should enter but -

The **BAD ANGEL** who tempts Eve with rancorous and jealous thoughts (and a cha-cha). The Bad Angel almost wins when the **GUARDIAN ANGEL** enters and sing a coloratura cavatina and caballetta entreating Adam and Eve to strive for higher things. General pandemonium is let loose on stage as each adviser and tempter try to sing their way into Eve's good graces when -

Eve shuts everybody up and decides once in her life for herself. She eats the apple. The chorus sings a blues of fate.

Adam is too much in love with Eve to be left without her. Wherever she goes, he goes too. After a reprise of his love song, he eats the apple.

Adam and Eve's eyes are opened and they name some new things: 'nakedness', 'eternity', and 'maternity'. They also go about inventing the middle class.

God is heard walking in the Garden and the couple go to face the music. Concluding chorus.