

The parable is elaborately acted out, story-theatre style, as it is being told. The Narrators use different voices to characterize the various characters, and the characters' words are mouthed by those portraying them. As many illustrative sight gags and visual puns as possible may be employed. For instance, in the original, when GEORGE said: "So, he divided his estate between them," CELISSE, as the Servant, took a piece of Styrofoam, loudly broke it over her knee, and handed each piece to one of the sons. And so on. The point is to be as imaginative and amusing as possible.)

GEORGE

Once upon a time there was a man who had two sons. And the younger said to his father: "Father, give me my share of the property." So, he divided his estate between them. A few days later the younger son turned the whole of his share into cash and left home for a distant country, where he squandered it in reckless living. He had spent it all, when a severe famine fell upon the country and he began to feel the pinch. (Ouch!) So he decided to attach himself to one of the local landowners...

(NICK, the Son, attaches himself with a sucking sound to JUDAS, the Landowner.)

...Who sent him on the farm to mind the swine.

JUDAS

(Ordering NICK)

Swine!

NICK

Swine?

ANNA MARIA, MORGAN, UZO & LINDSAY

(As Pigs)

Pigs!

GEORGE

He would have been glad to have filled his belly with the pods that the pigs were eating...

(NICK gets down to try to eat with the pigs, but they shoo him off.)

PIGS

Oink, oink, buster!

GEORGE

...But no one gave him anything. Then he came to his senses (BOING!) and said: "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they can eat, and here I am starving to death. I will set off and I will go to my father and I will say to him: 'Father, I have sinned against God and against you; I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.'" So he set out for his father's house,

(GEORGE)

but while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and his heart went out to him. (Lub-dub, lub-dub, lub-dub, lub-dub) The son ran to meet his father, threw his arms around him, and kissed him, saying: "Father, I have sinned against God and against you; I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." But the father called to one of his servants:

(Whistle)

"Quick, fetch me my robe, my best one. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet and bring the fatted calf and kill it.

(LINDSAY, as the fatted calf, skips happily on, clanging a cowbell, and is immediately shot.)

And let us have a feast to celebrate the day, for this son of mine was lost and is found." And the festivities began!

(ALL begin enacting festivities. GEORGE becomes the elder son, as JUDAS takes up narration.)

JUDAS

Now, the elder son was out on the farm, working. (Whew!) And on his way back, as he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called to one of the servants and asked him what it meant. The servant said: "Uh, uh, uh, your nephew — nope, nope, nope, your cousin — nope, nope, your brother, yup, your brother's come back home again and your father's killed the fatted calf 'cause he has him back safe and sound, yup, yup, yup!" But the brother was ...

(GEORGE enacts being boiling mad. JUDAS watches him, searching for the right word to describe what he sees.)

...irritated.

GEORGE

Oh, c'mon!

JUDAS

He was pretty damned mad! And refused to go in the house. The father came out and pleaded with him but he retorted, in dance:

(GEORGE elaborately dances/mimes out the speech, illustrating virtually every word, as JUDAS narrates it..)

"You know how I've worked for you all these years and I never once disobeyed your orders and you never gave me so much as a kid for a feast with my friends. But! Once this son of yours turns up, after running through your money with his women, you kill the fatted calf for him."

(After GEORGE's enactment, he strides away grandly, hopefully accompanied by audience applause. TELLY, as the Father, acts out the next section.)