

# JONAH THE MOANER

By Rod

*Based on the book of Jonah*

## CAST

*Narrator*

*God*

*Jonah*

*A Crew, Fish, Ninevite*

*B Crew, Fish, Ninevite*

*C Crew, Fish, Ninevite*

*D Prop deliverer, scrum half, miner, waiter, vinecutter, buzzer operator.*

## PROPS

*Profit/loss graph*

*Pole (e.g. broom handle)*

*Lightning stick*

*Cereal packet*

*Rugby ball*

*Miner's hat + torch*

*3 pairs sunglasses + medallions etc*

*Soapbox*

*Chair under pulpit*

*Vine on string fed up to pulpit*

*Garden lopper (+ worm's eye?)*

*Pianist to play Minute Waltz*

*Buzzer*

*Bucket marked 'God's'*

Now then here's a little story  
About Jonah, prophet of God;  
But in truth more loss than prophet  
And his actions – remarkably odd.

*Enter Jonah*  
*Holds up graph - upward trend*  
*Rotates graph 90° - show loss*  
*Discards graph to D*

When God said, "Go to Nineveh!  
Assyrians are being a pain."  
Instead of travelling eastwards  
Jonah set his sights West - for Spain.

*God rises in pulpit. Points stage right*  
  
*Jonah looks right*  
*Jonah 'scans' then goes left*

He boarded a ship for Tarshish  
At a nearby port, called Joppa.  
But God kicked up a mighty storm;  
By all accounts – a real woppa.

*ABC form ship. B holds pole as mast*  
*A welcomes. A,C hold pole as rail*  
*Boat moves across stage*  
*God throws 'lightning'*

It shook the boat to breaking point;  
Shook the crew up good and proper.  
They started crying to their gods,  
"We're going to come a cropper."

*A&C move pole up and down a lot*  
*B worried. Jo asleep*  
*B prays – hands together or arms*  
*stretched upwards*

But Jonah said, "It's all my fault,  
For from the Lord I'm on the run.  
And if you throw me in the Salt,  
Waves will calm, and out come the Sun."

*Jo points to self  
Points to God  
Points to sea  
Indicates calm water+ sunbathing*

The crew feared God, and thought Jo odd,  
But, reluctantly, did his wish.

*Crew look to God, think Jo nuts  
B pushes Jo over pole when in  
downward phase  
Boat moves gently. D takes pole  
& gives cereal packet to C. C now  
mouth of fish. BC form body and tail.  
When see Jo, discard cereal and 'eat  
Jo*

Immediately the surfing stopped,  
And Jo became breakfast for a fish.

So it was that boyyo Jonah  
Had this to add to all his ails,  
As well as falling out with God,  
He spent three days and nights in Wales.

*Jo now kneels below Fish  
ABC form rugby front row above Jo*

Inside the fish he prayed to God.  
Yes, his failings did he admit.  
Which goes to show there can be light  
Inside the darkest mid-Wales pit.

*D delivers rugby ball as scrum half  
  
Jo prays on knees towards God  
  
D returns with helmet and torch  
Enters 'scrum' as if mining*

Jonah's prayers were full of moans;  
Much too much for the fish to stand.  
He felt so ill he spewed Jo up,  
And so our prophet hit dry land.

*Jo cries exaggeratedly  
Fish looks unwell  
Fish vomits  
ABC throw Jo towards God*

"Right", said God, "go eastward now,  
To Nineveh, just like I said."  
"Okay," said Jo. "It is your will;  
That's why you spared me from the dead."

*God points to right  
  
Jo indicates agreement  
& points back*

"With you beside me, I've no fear."  
And so to Nineveh he went,  
Where his arrival caused a stir –

*Looks confident  
Heads right does loop in front  
Meets townspeople [A,B,C]  
+sunglasses and 'bling'  
They sniff the air & look at each other*

It could have been the fishy scent.

"Is that 'Midnight in Paris', Jo,  
A new perfume from Christian Dior?"  
"No, it's three fifteen in Wales;  
Bristol Channel Number Four."

*One person [B] approaches Jo  
  
Jo points at watch, then back towards  
Sea. People hold noses etc*

He told them of their dreadful sin,  
And then waited for their wrath.  
But 'stead of doing Jonah in  
They rushed away to don sackcloth.

*D brings on soapbox. Jo stands on  
Holds head as if awaiting attack  
People look chastened  
People rush to side. Remove bling-*

Sackcloth became the latest thing  
For all the Ninevites to wear.  
No more Bling for man, beast nor king,  
And they rubbed ashes in their hair.

They cried to God, they did not eat,  
And from their evil did repent.  
God heard their cries; He saw their change,  
And from His anger did relent.

So Jonah's preaching saved the town,  
But our prophet wasn't happy,  
How could God forgive Ninevites?  
He wanted judgement – short and snappy.

So Jonah went on sit down strike,  
  
And had a good old-fashioned wine.  
No, not a Bordeaux Thirty-four;  
He moaned - till God made grow a vine.

Jonah was happy 'bout the vine.  
"This vine's divine, it shades my head."  
But God replied, "It's also mine –  
For all the worms to eat and shred."

No wine from the vine. And no shade –  
So Jo got heated on his head.  
And lots of whine from Jonah now.  
Mainly, "I wish that I were dead."

"Why should you whine about the vine?"  
Said God to his prophet Jonah.  
"You see the vine is only mine;  
It's not you that is the owner."

"And Nineveh is mine as well;  
And I love the people in it.  
Better for me that they repent.  
Consider, for just a minute:

You started with hesitation,  
And a Spanish deviation,

Some repetition of errors –

But still you've saved a nation."

*Put on piano  
They return  
C parades as if on catwalk  
Look/hold bling. Shake heads  
Rub hair*

*They implore God, pray, beat breasts  
etc  
God cups ear towards them  
Gives them 'thumbs up'.*

*People dance happily  
Jo not happy  
Wanders to stage left under pulpit  
Picks up lightning & stabs at ABC*

*Jo sits down sulkily[chair beneath  
pulpit]  
D as waiter with tray gives Jo glass  
Offers bottle. Jo refuses  
God pulls up vine*

*Jo smiles  
Shades eyes from sun  
God directs worm[F]  
D operates lopper. God lets vine fall*

*Holds up empty glass  
Shades head. Looks hot  
Shakes head  
E.g. Knife through heart action*

*God leans over & points to vine*

*Points to people of Nineveh  
ABC still happy*

*Piano plays 'Minute waltz'. ABC draw  
in Jo to form line as panel.  
D enters with buzzer*

*Jo says "Er" [BUZZER]  
Jo goes to left.C holds him back  
[BUZZER]  
Jo repeats previous 2 actions  
[BUZZER]  
ABC happy. Embrace Jo*

So moaner Jonah teaches us  
That there is none beyond God's pale.  
And if we're slow to go to them,  
Watch out – 'cos God may send a whale!

*Jo steps forward  
D holds bucket with 'GOD'S' on it  
Jo looks reluctant  
ABC form fish again. Rush upon  
congregation and eat a suitable  
candidate*