**A BASKET CASE**

**By Rod**

*Based on Exodus 1 and 2, this tells the story of Moses’ rescue from the basket. We did it with 6 actors and a narrator, but people could double up.*

*POSSIBLE CAST*

*Narrator*

*Pharaoh*

*Pharaoh’s ‘ bully’ – our actor doubled up as Pharaoh’s daughter*

*Moses’ mother – also generic Israelite*

*Moses’ father – also generic Israelite*

*Moses’ sister – also generic Israelite*

*Moses as a boy – our actor also played the part of an Israelite*

I will tell a little story;

It’s about a basket case. *Enter Pharaoh followed by bully*

He’s Egypt’s royal Pharaoh,

But his conduct’s pretty base. *Narrator holds up BOO sign*

He didn’t like God’s people, *Enter mother, father, sister booing*

Who had settled in his land. *(As Israelites)*

He felt their growing numbers

Were getting out of hand. *Boy Moses holds up large hand*

He made them work for nothing *3 Israelites get down to mime making bricks*

In making bricks and mortar.

He treated them so cruelly, *Bully cracks whip/cane*

In a way he never oughta’.

He made their lives taste bitter; *Bully counts Isarelites - “3” to Pharaoh*

Made to work hard night and day. *Boy Moses sneaks to join other Israelites*

But numbers still kept rising, *Bully turns – to now see 4*

So he tried another way. *Moses is cross*

The Pharaoh passed an order, *Pharaoh grabs and holds up scroll*

That was horrible and vile. *Narrator holds up BOO sign*

Male Hebrew new-born babies

Must be thrown into the Nile. *All Israelites look shocked*

Now at this time a Levite *Mother and father nip off stage -*

And his wife, they bore a son. *To return with babe in arms.*

Three months she kept him hidden; *Hide baby behind themselves as watch*

Right from birth he’s on the run. *Pharaoh and bully*

But when he grew too chunky, *Exit Pharaoh and bully*

Was no longer just a titch, *Father grabs basket*

She put him in a basket *Mother places babe in basket*

That was daubed with tar and pitch. *Other 2 Israelites paint basket with brushes*

This meant the basket floated *Mother places basket in Nile*

When she placed it in the Nile,

Where baby’s elder sister, *Elder sister sneaks across stage to hide*

Hid nearby, and watched a while.

Then one of Pharaoh’s daughters *Enter Pharaoh’s daughter + swimming towel*

Came along to take a dip. *Mimes diving/entering water*

She heard the baby crying, *Looks in basket*

Bawling loud, with quiv’ring lip.

And as she cuddled baby; *Pulls baby out of basket*

Big sister seized her chance. *Sister leaps up and mimes speech*

“Ma’am, if you need a wet-nurse,

I might know one - just perchance.”

So the baby’s real mother *Sister goes off to fetch mother*

Was then fetched to raise the boy. *Enter mother who nurses baby*

Midst the sadness caused by Pharaoh *Enter Pharaoh* *Narrator holds up BOO sign*

Just a little bit of joy. *Exit mother, sister and baby*

But when the boy grew older, *Enter Boy Moses to join Pharaoh’s daughter*

Now son to Pharaoh’s daughter,

She went and named him ‘Moses’,

“I drew him from the water”. *She indicates Nile. Moses grabs basket*

So Moses was protected *Enter all Israelites behind Moses*

By a floating basket case,

That rescued him from Pharaoh – *Enter Pharaoh. Narrator holds up BOO sign*

God’s chosen hiding place.

God’s people were still suff’ring, *Moses’ father is holding spray of roses*

Their lives no bed of roses; *Pharaoh exits – grabbing rose on way*

But Great Escape had started –

Their leader would be Moses. *Moses steps forward. Others surround him.*

*THE END*