

## The Invitation

This puppet play is based on Matthew 7:7 (NIV)

*“Ask and it will be given to you;  
Seek and you will find;  
Knock and the door will be opened to you.”*

Setting: **Dandhland** - an imaginary land of animal-like characters

- 1) inside the home of Ime
- 2) outside the door of the ‘party’

Characters:

**Ime** - a two headed creature who represents the two sides of a personality  
(could be 2 identical puppets attached at the body using only 2 arms)

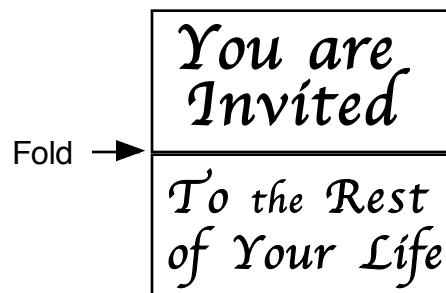
**Bird Messenger** - any bird puppet

**2 Singing Messengers** - any animal puppets

**Munghadew** - a bee -type insect puppet

Staging: This play was originally performed in a 2 level stage with a working door hanging from the upper level. A spotlight shone from behind the door when it was opened for the puppets to enter. The door in Ime’s house is off-stage and the sound effect indicates the door opening and closing.

Props: - a large cardboard invitation with word printed on the back for the audience to see when it is opened for the puppets to read



- two flat, rectangular hats for Ime
- one bright scarf
- one small hand mirror

## The Invitation

Opening Music. There is a knock on the door. Voices are heard off-stage.

I  
*(Pleasantly)*  
Who is it?

ME  
*(Grumpily)*  
What d'ya want?

Bird MESSENGER  
*(Speaking with a southern drawl)*  
Special delivery for Ime.  
Is there an Ime at this address?

I  
*(Opening the door)*  
Yes, certainly.

ME  
Yeah, sure.

I  
Thank you. Good-bye.

ME  
Bye.  
*(Slams the door hard.)*

Ime enters above.

I  
Really you don't have to be so rude!  
Why did you slam the door in his face?

ME  
I felt like it!

I  
Why are you always so grumpy and rude?

ME  
Because you're so happy and positive!  
It's not easy to live with, you know.  
I want to sleep- you want to work;  
I want to walk- you want to run;  
I want to wear Nikes - you want to wear cowboy boots!

## The Invitation

**ME**

*(Disgusted)*

Other creatures in Dandhland sure are lucky to have only one head to worry about.

**I**

That's what you think!

One-headed creatures have this tug of war going on inside their heads-

and you know what's said about them  
when they're caught talking to themselves!

*(Makes gesture to show 'crazy'.)*

No- I might actually be better off this way.

**ME**

Hmph. Don't believe it.

**I**

Hey, I didn't open the letter yet.

Let's see what it is.

**ME**

Probably junk mail.

**I**

It's an invitation.

*(Reading)*

"You are invited--

You are cordially invited to join with us today.

Please come along and meet my Son,

and then you'll soon know Me.

Address: #1 Faith Lane."

**The audience sees the back as I holds up the invitation.**

**ME**

Well, if it's a party- no way.

Who sent it anyway?

**I**

*(Breaking concentration)*

Huh? Oh- I'm not sure yet,

but it sounds like a party for His Son.

**ME**

What do they want from me anyway?

Nobody just sends an invitation out of the blue

without wanting something in return!

## The Invitation

I

Sure, sometimes. Maybe I should go.  
I've been a little down in the dumps lately-  
might cheer me up.

ME

But maybe I shouldn't-  
wouldn't be very good company in this mood.

I

On the other hand,  
I might go and meet new people.

ME

They probably wouldn't like me though.

I

But, whoever sent the invitation might be hurt if I don't go.

ME

Silly, how could they?  
They don't know me at all.

I

They might. Who knows?  
Besides, I could just drop in and see if I like it.

ME

What if they don't let me leave when I want to go?  
And another thing- if it were up to me,  
I'd take something with me to a party  
and there's nothing in the house right now.

I

*(Looking at the invitation)*

It doesn't say anything... *(Pause)*  
Oh, wait a minute here. What's this B.Y.O.B.?

ME

Pardon?

I

B.Y.O.B. Oh, it says underneath,  
"Bring your own body."

ME

That's all? Just your body?

## The Invitation

I  
Yes.

**Pause.**

**ME**  
Does it say anything about two heads?

I  
It was very kind of whoever sent this invitation.  
I think I should go.

**ME**  
Not me!

I  
Fine, you stay - I'm going!

**I starts to go, but is soon jerked to a stop by Me.**

I  
Woops! I forgot... I guess it's all of me or none of me, right?

**ME**  
Right! And it's none of me!

**There is a knock on the door.**

**ME**  
Now who? C'mon.  
*(Exits to answer the door.)*

**The door opens.**

I  
Yes? Oh look, it's singing messengers.

**SINGING MESSENGERS**  
*(Tune: The More We Get Together)*  
You are cordially invited, invited, invited,  
You are cordially invited to come with us now.  
We're going to a party, a party, a party.  
You are cordially invited to come with us now.

I  
Thank you very much. I'd like to come,  
but give me a few minutes to get ready.

## The Invitation

**The door closes. Ime returns to the stage above.**

**ME**

What do you mean, "Give me a few minutes to get ready"?

**I**

What's on this paper they handed me?

**ME**

**(Looking at the paper)**

B.Y.O.M.

**I**

Pardon?

**ME**

B.Y.O.M. It says, "Bring your own mind."

**I**

Well, I'm certainly of two minds about that.

**ME**

Yes, well I know of one mind that should stay home!

**I**

Nevertheless, I do feel quite single-minded about this.

**(Emphatically)**

I've now had two very nice invitations to this party,  
and I think I should go.

**ME**

O.K. C'mon. I can't go looking like this.

**(Exit)**

**There are sounds below stage- drawers, humming etc.  
Puppeteers put flat, rectangular hats and 1 bright scarf on Ime.  
All gussied up, Ime re-enters above with a hand mirror.**

**ME**

Well, how's this?

**I**

**(Groaning)**

This won't do. I look like a flip top box!

**ME**

Good. At least now you can really flip your lid!

## The Invitation

I

*(Frustrated)*

This has got to go.

**I removes the scarf.**

**Me**

Not the hat. The hat looks good to me.

I

All right. Let's try something else.

**There is a knock on the door.**

**ME**

Not again!

*(Exits to answer)*

**The door opens.**

I

Hello. Why, it's the Munghadew. Come in.

**Enter Ime and the Munghadew.**

**ME**

*(Chuckling, in a singsongy voice)*

How are yew,  
Munghadew?

**Munghadew**

Busy, busy, busy.  
No time to stop and chat.  
I'm going to the party.

*(Pause)*

Why are you wearing that hat?

I

The hat? Oh, I'm thinking about going to the party, but-

**I is cut off by the Munghadew.**

**Munghadew**

I know you've been invited.  
That's why I've just dropped in  
To see if you are coming  
And invite you once again.

## **The Invitation**

**ME**

Boy, this must be some bash.  
This is the third invitation.  
But, Munghy, what to wear seems to be the problem.

**Munghadew**

Problem? Problem?  
There is no problem so far.  
We only want you to be you. You see,  
The party's a "Come as you are."

**I**

A come-as-you-are party?  
Well, that makes it easy, doesn't it?

**Munghadew**

I must be on my way now.  
I have other Dandhans to see.  
So I'll see you at the party.  
I hope that's where you'll be.

**ME**

O.K., Munghy. See ya there.

**The Munghadew starts to leave, but returns.**

**Munghadew**

Oh, and by the way, I almost forgot  
To leave this card with you.  
It's most important for this party  
That you bring this with you too.

**ME**

What is it now?

**I**

All it says is B.Y.O.H. & S.

**ME**

O.K. Don't tell me. Let me guess-  
ah- Bring your own ham and steak.

**I shakes head for each answer.**

**ME**

Hot dogs, soda pop, hat and shoes?

## The Invitation

I

Nope. "Bring Your Own Heart and Soul."

ME

Soul? Really? You're putting me on. Weird!

I

I guess I'm ready if it's a come-as-you-are.  
My body, mind, heart and soul all seem to be present.

ME

It still seems strange to me.  
I'm not sure I'm ready for this.

**The music starts up.**

**The Munghadew sings the song while Ime chimes in with the echo "No?"**

### SONG

#### Refrain

Don't say, "No"           No? *(Spoken)*  
When you've been invited.  
Don't say, "No"           No?  
When you've heard His call.  
Don't say, "No"           No?  
When somebody's asking.

#### Verse 1

Don't say, "No", don't say "No".  
He wants you body, He wants you body,  
He wants you body, mind heart and soul.

#### Refrain

Don't say, "No"           No? *(Spoken)*  
When you've been invited.  
Don't say, "No"           No?  
When you've heard His call.  
Don't say, "No"           No?  
When somebody's asking.

# The Invitation

## Verse 2

Knock on the door, knock on the door.  
He wants you body, He wants you body,  
He wants you body, mind heart and soul.

## Refrain

Don't say, "No"            No? (*Spoken*)  
When you've been invited.  
Don't say, "No"            No?  
When you've heard His call.  
Don't say, "No"            No?  
When somebody's asking.

Knock on the door, knock on the door, knock on the door. (*Fade*)

**The Munghadew exits as the song fades. The door closes.**

**I**  
I think he wants me to go.

**Me**  
Right- well- onward.

**I&ME**  
Let's go out the -

***Simultaneously.***

**I**  
-front.

**ME**  
***Simultaneously.***  
-back.

**They pull in opposite directions, struggling off stage.**

**I**  
Let's run. Let's cross here. (*Voice fades out.*)

## The Invitation

**ME**

*(Simultaneously)*

Let's walk. Let's cross there.

**The music fades in: Don't Say No.  
During the music, the top curtains open to reveal a door.  
Near the end of the music, Ime enters the lower stage.**

**I**

This looks like the place.  
I think it's the right address.

**ME**

Not much happening. Some party!

**I**

Well, just wait a minute. You never know.

**They stand around humming for a few seconds.  
A messenger enters approaching the door.**

**ME**

Oh, excuse me-

**Bird MESSENGER**

*(Speaking with a southern drawl)*

Yes?

*(Recognizes Ime)*

Oh, hello. How'r y'all?

**I**

Fine, thanks.  
Is this where the party is taking place?

**Bird MESSENGER**

Sho' nuff. Glad to see y'all here.  
If'n yer body's here-  
rest o' yew cain't be fer behind!

**ME**

Huh?

*(Puzzled, scratches head)*

**I**

You certainly seem to be happy here.

## **The Invitation**

### **Bird MESSENGER**

Yep. it's the Light, chile,-  
walkin' in the Light.

**The messenger knocks on the door and exits through it.  
A light is shining in the doorway.**

### **ME**

They sure say the strangest things about this party.

### **I**

I'm glad I asked.  
At least I know I'm in the right spot.

### **ME**

But nothing much is happening.

### **I**

After what he said, though,  
I'm really curious.  
I'm of a mind to stick around and find out what's going on.

### **ME**

Hmmm- well, I have half a mind to...

**Me is cut off by Singing Messengers  
who bump into me.**

### **SINGING MESSENGERS**

*(In a singsongy voice)*

Oh, excuse us. We're so sorry.

### **MESSENGER 1**

I guess we were blinded by the Light.  
*(They giggle together)*

### **ME**

*(looking around)*

Light? What light?

### **MESSENGER 2**

A figure of speech- you know- of course-  
if you're coming to the party-

**Messengers start singing.**

## The Invitation

### SINGING MESSENGERS

*(Tune: The More We Get Together)*

Please accept the invitation, invitation, invitation.

Please accept the invitation and walk in the Light.

There's friendship and fellowship and love and understanding

Please accept the invitation and you will be made new.

### ME

All of these folk talk in riddles.

Do you mean this light is going to zap me

and change me into something new-

like a frog-prince or something?

### SINGING MESSENGERS

*(Giggling)*

Not quite, but in a way.

### MESSENGER 1

You'll look the same on the outside-

### MESSENGER 2

But you'll feel differently on the inside!

### I

Does that mean that life will be easy street from now on?

### MESSENGER 1

Goodness no! There will always be ups and downs.

### MESSENGER 2

-the waves with crests and troughs.

### MESSENGER 1

But the changes inside will help to keep you on an even keel.

### MESSENGER 2

You'll certainly never feel completely alone again-

especially in the down times!

### SINGING MESSENGERS

Come- walk in the Light!

**They knock on the door and exit to the inside.**

**Light is seen in the doorway.**

## The Invitation

**ME**

Hey, wait. Who's throwing this party anyway?

**I**

**(Sadly)**

They're gone. I wanted to know more.

**ME**

Me too.

**I**

Well, at last I seem to be getting my heads together!  
It would be nice to have my minds set in one direction for a change.

**ME**

Yes, it's a nice feeling, isn't it?  
It seems to me that this invitation  
has something to do with it.

**I**

Hmmm- could be.  
Still don't see much of this party though.  
Maybe I'm not quite in the right spot yet.

**ME**

The others all went over there.  
I'll try it.

**Ime goes and stands by the door. A few seconds pass.**

**I**

Nothing.

**Me**

Nothing.

**I**

**(Brightening up)**

Hey, here comes Munghadew.  
He ought to know what to do.

**ME**

**(In a singsongy voice)**

Hi there, Munghadew.  
And how are yew?

## The Invitation

**MUNGHAEW**

Fine, fine, fine.  
I'm glad to see you here.  
I was afraid you wouldn't come  
And then I'd shed a tear.

**I**

You'd be sad if I didn't come?

**ME**

Why? It's only a party.

**MUNGHAEW**

Oh my goodness gracious me,  
It's not just something for fun.  
The invitation is especially for you  
To come and meet the Son.

**I**

Ohhh! I get it! - Sun-Light-

**MUNGHAEW**

Oh dear, my friend, no, no,  
You don't understand just yet.  
Your host, you see, is our Heavenly Father,  
And it's His Son you have not met.

**ME**

Sooo, that's the Son you mean.  
It must be very important to God for me to meet His Son.  
He keeps sending these invitations!

**MUNGHAEW**

Did you answer to his first?  
No, you didn't show your face.  
Did you answer to the second?  
"No, I won't," you said. "I'll stay here just in case."  
The third, the fourth, the fifth, the sixth,  
He'll send out of His good grace.!

**ME**

Now you make me feel badly.

**I**

I didn't know.  
But now I'm here and I still can't find the party.

## The Invitation

**MUNGHAEW**

Did you ask?

I

Yes, I asked the messenger,  
and he said that I was near-  
or at least my body was.

**MUNGHAEW**

And did you seek further?

**ME**

Yes, certainly.  
My curiosity was piqued  
so the singers told me more-  
about changing me inside-  
I guess my heart and mind.

I

So here I am- body, mind, heart and- soul.

**ME**

And -no party!

**MUNGHAEW**

You're almost there, I assure you.  
Now, let me see how you've done.  
You handled the asking and the seeking.  
You're much closer to the Son.  
But read the invitation,  
Find the bottom line- the most important one.

**IME**

*(Slowly, together)*

"Knock, and the door shall be opened."

**MUNGHAEW**

If you truly want to meet the Son -  
just knock on the door.

**Ime turns and knocks. The door opens.  
There is bright light through which all exit.**

## **The Invitation**

### **VOICE**

And Jesus said:

“When a man believes in me,  
he does not believe in me only ,  
but in the one who sent me.  
I have come into the world as a light,  
so that no one who believes in me  
should stay in darkness.”

**(John 12:44-46)**

**There is a pause. The music comes in.  
It is the conclusion of “Don’t Say No”.  
All sing and then fade.**

# Don't Say No

C.G. Rogers

Vocal

Lively

D

D

Don't say, "No!" (No?) <sup>spoken</sup> When you've been in - vit - ed. Don't say.

Piano

6

D

A7

D

"No!" (No?) When you've heard His call. Don't say. "No!" (No?)

6

6

11

D

G

D

G

D

When some bo dy's ask ing. 1)Don't say, "No!" Don't say, "No!"  
2)Knock onthe door. Knock onthe door.

11

11

# Don't Say No

2

16 G D G D G

He wants you bo - dy He wants you bo - dy He wants you

21 D A7 D D

bo - dy mind, heart and soul. Don't say,

26 D D

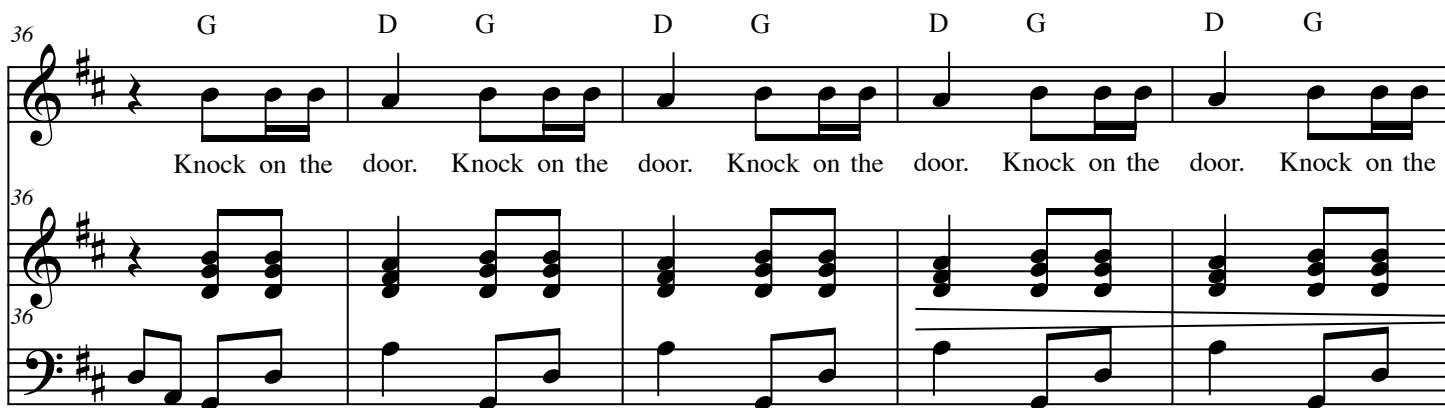
"No!" (No?) When you've been in - vit - ed Don't say, "No!" (No?) When you've heard His

# Don't Say No

31 A7 D

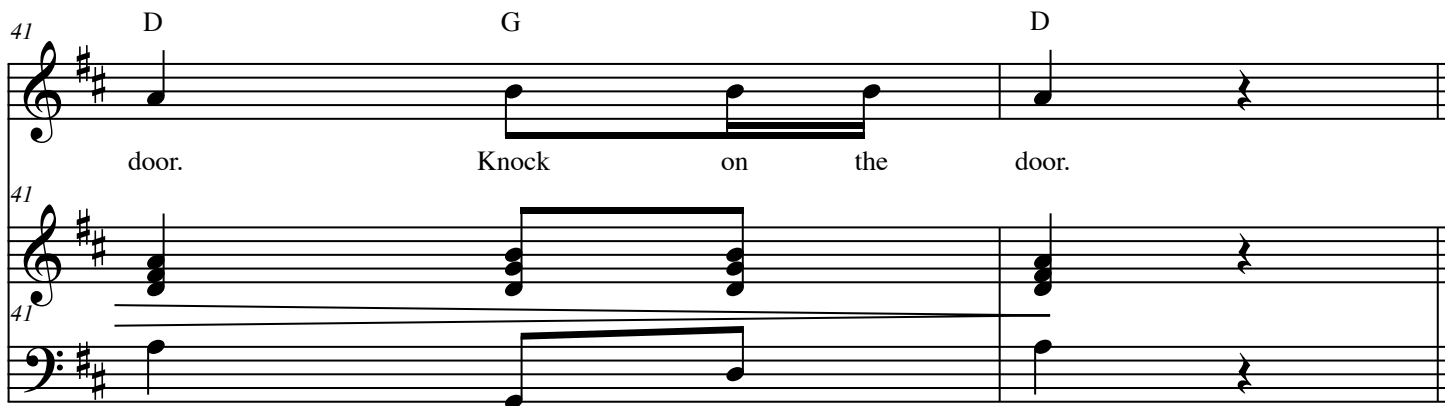
call. Don't say. "No!" (No?) When some-bod - y's ask-ing.

36 G D G D G D G D G



Knock on the door. Knock on the door. Knock on the door. Knock on the door. Knock on the

41 D G D



door. Knock on the door.