

# **Sir Ed – You're a Legend!**

## **A Musical**

**The Script**  
V.3.

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## **Summary of Musical Items**

1. The Overture ( allow time for groups of students to enter in character) - Page 3
2. Red River Valley – Page 8
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9. Music
10. A Musical Reprise

# **Sir Ed – You're a Legend!**

A Children's Musical

By Susan Battye  
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Musical arrangements and original music by Trevor Thwaites

## **Synopsis**

The musical is a documentary- drama about the life of one of New Zealand's most famous son's, Sir Edmund Hillary. Edmund Hillary grows up with his brother and sister in Tuakau and goes to school, first in Tuakau and later at Auckland Grammar School. He goes climbing with friends and joins his family in the bee keeping business. He joins the Royal New Zealand Air Force and comes home from the Pacific injured. He goes climbing in the Southern Alps with friends, conquers Mt Cook and rescues Ruth Adams. Next he goes climbing in the Himalayas and is the first to climb Mount Everest with Tensing Norgay. He is knighted by the Queen and marries Louise Rose. He carries out many projects in Nepal and is recognized by the Nepalese people as their benefactor and friend.

## **Cast List in Order of Appearance**

- 1) Dave Bigshot      TV Presenter of This is Your Life
- 2) Jane Smartpants TV Presenter of This is Your Life
- 3) Chorus
- 4) Narrator 1
- 5) Narrator 2
- 4) Percy              Edmund Hillary's father
- 6) Gertrude           Edmund Hillary's mother
- 7) Young Ed           Primary School Aged Edmund
- 8) Rex                  Edmund Hillary's brother
- 9) June                  Edmund Hillary's sister
- 10) Bully 1
- 11) Bully 2
- 12) Bully 3

13 Referee

9) Teen Ed                Teenaged Edmund Hillary

10) Postman

11) Unemployed Person 1

12) Unemployed Person 2

13) Unemployed Person 3

14) Newspaper Boy

15) Policeman

16) Harry Ayers                A New Zealand Mountain Guide

17) Mick Sullivan                A New Zealand Mountain Guide

18) Ruth Adams                A New Zealand Climber

19) Earle Riddiford                A New Zealand Climber

20) George Lowe                A New Zealand Climber

21) Ed Cotter                A New Zealand Climber

22) Train Conductor                Indian

23) Telegram Boy

24) Eric Shipton                A British Climber

25) Tom Bourdillon                A British Climber

24) John Hunt                Head of British Expedition

26) Tenzing Norgay                A Sherpa Climber

27) Charles Evans                A British Climber

28) Queen Elizabeth II

29) Louise Rose                Sir Edmund Hillary's First Wife

30) June Mulgrew                Sir Edmund Hillary's Second Wife

Additional cast: Chorus, Puppeteers, Trampers, Police, Sherpas, Monks, Climbers, Porters, Monks, Tibetan Dancers. Reporters.

Note: Many of the roles may be doubled and the cast list is flexible in terms of male/female roles.

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*During the Overture the cast members move on stage in their various groups. They form a series of frozen tableau. From time to time during the play the Chorus mimes the action or form frozen tableau. They frame the stage and the actors move in and out of the action to play their roles. A Brechtian staging technique is to have the Chorus and Narrators visible at all times – e.g. seated on stage so that they can 'comment' on the action and become various characters with a minimum of props and costume elements. The Chorus mime the action as they speak. The Director can of course decide how this can best be done but it is important to maintain a flow in this documentary-drama-musical. There is no need for blackouts. The number of Narrators can be expanded to fit the needs of the class / school group. Similarly there may be more than one person allotted to play Sir Edmund Hillary. Selected images and film clips may be projected to accompany the musical to create a sense of place and period.*

### **Scene 1**

#### **A Television Studio**

Dave                      Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, kia ora and welcome one and all to our studio audience here today for our special edition television show. And may I say how smart you are all looking. We're your hosts for this occasion. I'm Dave Bigshot...

Jane                      ... and I'm Jane Smartpants.

Dave                      During our show we want you people to be able to join, in listen up and be ready to take part in a way that means everyone can enjoy the show – don't we Jane?

Jane                      Yes Dave, so no phones or other gadgets please – turn them off and put them away now. Oh and you're welcome to clap

appropriately but make sure the person sitting next to you can hear what we say and hear the sound track on our “film clips”.

Dave Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls we're here to celebrate the life of New Zealand's most famous son. Please welcome a man known to us all as ...

Jane ... the shy country boy from Tuakau ...

Chorus No!

Jane ... who becomes a beekeeper ...

Chorus Really?

Dave .... before conquering the world's highest mountain ...

Jane (To audience) Who can it be, audience? Can you guess?

*If someone calls out Ed Hillary's name then...*

Dave That's right! Sir Edmund Hillary!

*If no-one calls out Edmund Hillary's name then...*

Jane .... The man who is the face on our five dollar note – a man called ...

*Drum roll.*

Jane Smartpants and Dave Bigshot and Chorus Sir Edmund Hillary!

**Jane** and **Dave** *clap and encourage the audience to stand up and clap **Ed** as he enters and waves to the crowd.*

Dave Yes folks, it's Sir Edmund Hillary and Sir Ed, today, do we have a surprise for you! Sir Ed ...

Jane and Dave ...this is your life!

*Projected image reads, “This is Your Life”. **Jane** and **Dave** encourage the audience to join in the applause. **Ed** waves. **Dave** exits.*

Jane Smartpants Introducing, Ed's father, Percy. At the time when Ed is born at the end of the First World War, on the twentieth of July 1919, Percy is a newspaper editor and a beekeeper in a small town called ...

Jane and Young Ed ...Tuakau!

Jane

Let's take a walk down memory lane and watch the following film clips from Ed's life.