

THE HISTORY OF MANKIND ... IN LESS THAN 10 MINUTES

by Ken Bradbury



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SYNOPSIS: Fast paced and hilarious, it's a real opportunity for two talented and energetic students to showcase their imagination and creativity. Join them as they travel from the beginning of time to the present including scenes between Adam and Eve, Henry and Edsel Ford, Wilbur and Orville Wright, and many others.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 either)

BRENNAN (m) *(119 lines)*

TRAVIS (m) *(123 lines)*

BRENNAN: The History of Mankind!

TRAVIS: In less than ten minutes!

BOTH: In the beginning ...

BRENNAN: God created the heaven and the earth and the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep! And God said:

TRAVIS: Let there be light!

BRENNAN: (*Looking up and squinting.*) All right! ... Way to go, big guy!

TRAVIS: Let there be earth!

BRENNAN: (*Raising up feet.*) Whoa!

TRAVIS: Plants!

BRENNAN: Cool!

TRAVIS: Sun!

BRENNAN: Yes!

TRAVIS: Moon!

BRENNAN: Awww ...

TRAVIS: Stars.

BRENNAN: (*As ELVIS.*) Thank you. Thank you very much.

TRAVIS: And on the sixth day God created ... Man!

BRENNAN: (*As ADAM, jumps forward.*) Yes!

TRAVIS: And while man slept, God reached in (*Reaches into ADAM's chest.*) and removed a rib ...

BRENNAN: (*Giggling, being tickled.*) Hey! Hey! Hey! Quit it!

TRAVIS: And made woman!

BRENNAN: (*Seeing EVE.*) Whoa! Nice work!

TRAVIS: Now! Be fruitful and multiply!

BRENNAN: No problem!

TRAVIS: But lay off the fruit!

BRENNAN: Are you kidding? When I've got this?

TRAVIS: (*As EVE, taking an "apple" from a snake. In a hissing voice.*) Here. How 'bout some dessert?

BRENNAN: (*As ADAM.*) I'd rather have a cigarette. (*Takes apple.*)

TRAVIS: And God became angry. (*Forcefully.*) You! Out!

BRENNAN: (*As ADAM.*) She made me do it! I swear! It was a set-up! (*Seeing EVE.*) Whoa! You're naked!

TRAVIS: (*Looks at ADAM and laughs.*)

BRENNAN: (*As ADAM. Covering himself, to the audience.*) I think the honeymoon is over.

TRAVIS: Alternative beginning!

BOTH: In the beginning!

BRENNAN: Two one-celled protozoa meet in an ocean of primordial soup!

TRAVIS: Hi. Wanna have sex?

BRENNAN: (*Gum-popping nasal whine.*) I can't. I just got one cell and I'm savin' it for marriage.

TRAVIS: So they join together.

BRENNAN: Is this supposed to be fun?

TRAVIS: And Cro-Magnon man evolved!

BRENNAN: (*Jumping forward, as a prehistoric man.*) Ugh.

TRAVIS: (*As prehistoric woman.*) And saw the first woman!

BRENNAN: Ugh! (*Hits her with his club and she falls into his arms.*)

TRAVIS: Meanwhile, back in the Bible!

BRENNAN: Adam and Eve begat Cain and Able and Seth, who begat Enos, who begat Eainan, who begat Mahalaleel, who begat Jared, who begat Enoch, who begat Methuselah, who begat Lameeh, who begat Noah!!!

TRAVIS: Stop! Oh ye sinful generation! So much begetting!

BRENNAN: So he built a boat!

BOTH: (*Begin to rock back and forth, seasick, moaning.*)

TRAVIS: God, what a mess!

BRENNAN: Don't say that, sweetheart! Look! It's a dove.

TRAVIS: Just what we need. More animals.

BRENNAN: God has rescued us! We're approaching land!

BOTH: (*"Bump" to the ground.*)

TRAVIS: Such a gift.

BRENNAN: And God said ...

TRAVIS: Okay, let's try this again ... and get it right this time.

BRENNAN: And God called a man named Abram!

TRAVIS: Hey!

BRENNAN: (*Picking up a phone.*) Hello? Abram speaking.

TRAVIS: No you're not.

BRENNAN: Huh?

TRAVIS: From now on, you're Abraham.

BRENNAN: Says who?

TRAVIS: Me. God.

BRENNAN: You God?

TRAVIS: You got it.

BRENNAN: Then me Abraham.

TRAVIS: Congratulations. You're my chosen people.

BRENNAN: Cool!

TRAVIS: That's what you think.

BRENNAN: And so Abraham and his generations wandered around the earth for several thousand years, getting all the benefits of being God's chosen people ... plagues (*Both react.*), starvation (*React again.*), persecution (*React again.*), circumcision (*React again.*), Pharaohs ...

TRAVIS: Let my people go!

BRENNAN: Fat chance, Jew boy!

TRAVIS: And they basically starved, ran, cried, and fought their way through the rest of the Old Testament.

BRENNAN: The Hittite Kingdom!

TRAVIS: The Greek Alphabet!

TRAVIS: Socrates!

BRENNAN: Plato!

TRAVIS: Aristotle!

BRENNAN: The cultivation of the oyster!

TRAVIS: The First Olympic Games! (*TRAVIS takes his stance.*)

BRENNAN: (*Looking at his bare behind.*) Nice outfits, boys! I vote for number three.

TRAVIS: Which brings us to ...

BOTH: (*Timpani sounds.*) Bom bompa bom bom bom bom bom bom Bom! The Mighty Roman Empire!

BOTH: (*Stand in a Roman salute.*)

BRENNAN: And the noblest Roman of them all!

TRAVIS: Caesar!

BRENNAN: (*As CAESAR.*) Yes, darling?

TRAVIS: (*As CAESAR'S WIFE.*) Don't go the Forum today! I beg you!

BRENNAN: (*As CAESAR.*) But I'm scheduled to become a god.

TRAVIS: (*As CAESAR'S WIFE. Throwing herself at his feet.*) Don't go, great Caesar! Don't go! I had a dream!

BRENNAN: (*As CAESAR.*) What?

TRAVIS: (As CAESAR'S WIFE.) I had a dream! You were murdered, Caesar!

BRENNAN: (As CAESAR.) You're kidding!

TRAVIS: (As CAESAR'S WIFE.) It was Brutus and Cassius along with Polonius, Pompus, and Bumpus!

BRENNAN: (As CAESAR.) Brutus and Cassius along with Polonius, Pompus, and Bumpus!?

TRAVIS: (As CAESAR'S WIFE.) No. Make that two Brutus, one Cassius, hold the Pompus and make the Bumpus to go.

BRENNAN: (As CAESAR.) I can't believe it! They love their Caesar!

TRAVIS: (As CAESAR'S WIFE.) But wait! Even now I hear them approach!

TRAVIS: (As CAESAR.) Now? While Caesar's dressing?

TRAVIS: (As CASSIUS.) Caesar!

BRENNAN: (As CAESAR.) Hail, Noble Cassius!

TRAVIS: (As CASSIUS.) Death to Tyrants!

BRENNAN: (As CAESAR.) What happened to "Have a nice day?" (Cassius stabs him.) Ouch. (Cassius stabs him again.) I don't suppose this is a joke? (Cassius stabs him again.) This is getting old.

TRAVIS: (As BRUTUS.) Caesar!

BRENNAN: (As CAESAR.) Thank Zeus you're here, Brutus. These fellows have no sense of humor. (Brutus stabs him.) Oh. Darn. Et tu, Brute?

TRAVIS: (As BRUTUS.) Et too, Julie.

BRENNAN: (As CAESAR.) I don't suppose you'd reconsider? (Brutus stabs him again.) No, I suppose not. Anyone seen Marc Antony?

TRAVIS: (As MARC ANTONY.) Friends! Romans! Countrymen! Lend me Cleopatra!

BRENNAN: (As CAESAR.) Friends. Go figure. (And he dies.)

TRAVIS: Then came the most terrible Roman of all! Nero!

BRENNAN: (As NERO.) One, Two, Three, Four! (Fiddles and sings turkey in the straw.)

TRAVIS: Attila the Hun invades Rome!

BRENNAN: (As ATTILA. Jumping forward, a real heathen barbarian.) Huhhh!!

TRAVIS: Hordes of barbarians destroy temples (*screams.*), libraries (*Screams quietly.*) and just generally screwed up the entire world! Ignorance was rampant!

BRENNAN: Who are you?

TRAVIS: I'm ignorance and I'm rampant. Duh!

BRENNAN: Meanwhile in the rest of the world ...

TRAVIS: Muhammad was born! (*A slap is heard and a baby begins to cry.*)

BRENNAN: (*As MUHAMMAD'S MOTHER.*) Our baby!

TRAVIS: (*As MUHAMMAD'S DAD.*) Finally! I made a prophet!

BRENNAN: The Tang Dynasty in China!

TRAVIS: (*As TANG.*) Wook what I have invented! The compass! The abacus! Gunpowder! And a wemarkable new owange-fwavored bweakfast dwink!

BRENNAN: (*As TANG'S ASSISTANT.*) And what will you call it, Mr. Tang?

TRAVIS: The Viking Explorations!

BRENNAN: (*As VIKING WARRIOR.*) Captain Ericson! Look, Leif! Land!

TRAVIS: (*As LEIF ERICSON.*) At last!

BRENNAN: (*As VIKING WARRIOR.*) What shall we call it?

TRAVIS: (*As LEIF ERICSON.*) What's the use? The Portuguese rename everything! I've got it! I'll beat Columbus to the punch and name it as he would. I dub thee Columbus, Ohio!

BRENNAN: The Crusades to gain back the Holy Land!

TRAVIS: The Black Death covers Europe and China!

BRENNAN: The Renaissance!

BOTH: (*Making lovely bird sounds, dancing, smiling, etc.*)

TRAVIS: (*As JOAN OF ARC. Hopping forward, her hands tied behind her.*) Meanwhile, back in France!

BRENNAN: Joan of Arc!

TRAVIS: (*As JOAN OF ARC. Tied to the stake, furiously trying to blow out the flames.*) I'm burning, here!

BRENNAN: (*As DA VINCI.*) Hold that pose! (*And he begins to furiously paint away.*)

TRAVIS: Leonardo Da Vinci! Are you nuts?

BRENNAN: (*As DA VINCI.*) Scuzi. Scuzi. Un momento! Oh, mama mia!

TRAVIS: (As JOAN OF ARC.) Anybody got a fire extinguisher??? I need water! Now!

BRENNAN: Johann Gutenberg here! Wanna buy a bible? Absolutely free with just a small donation of 400 marks to my ministry!

TRAVIS: (As JOAN OF ARC. To the audience.) That burning sensation you may be smelling, is me.

BRENNAN: (As GUTENBERG.) ... remember, just 400 marks and make your check to Moveable Type Ministries!

TRAVIS: (As JOAN OF ARC.) Help!!!!!!!

BRENNAN: 1492!!!!

TRAVIS: Columbus sailed the ocean blue!

BRENNAN: (As SCOTTY.) Captain! Captain! The sails will not take much more!

TRAVIS: (As COLUMBUS.) Dang it, Scotty, they've got to.

BRENNAN: (As SCOTTY.) We're going to strike land!

BOTH: (A big bump as both are jolted and fall.)

TRAVIS: (As COLUMBUS.) Dang it, Scotty, can't you give me a little warning?

BRENNAN: (As SCOTTY.) Look, captain! Tracks!

TRAVIS: (As COLUMBUS.) Great. (Picking up his feet.) Viking droppings all over the beach.

BRENNAN: (As SCOTTY. Reading.) "I landed here 400 hundred years before you were born, you lousy guinea. Ha. Ha." Signed, "Leif Ericson."

TRAVIS: (As COLUMBUS.) Curses! Somebody give me the spray paint, quick! (Scotty does and Columbus sprays out the Viking inscription.) There!

BRENNAN: (As SCOTTY.) Captain, you're destroying history!

TRAVIS: (As COLUMBUS.) Wait 'til you see what I'll do to the Indians!

BRENNAN: Wittenberg, Germany! 1517! (Begins to hammer away as LUTHER.)

TRAVIS: (As PRIEST.) Who's knocking? Luther!

BRENNAN: (As LUTHER.) Uh ... never mind. Go back to bed, your holiness. (He continues to hammer.)

TRAVIS: (As PRIEST.) Vat's dis? (Pulls a paper off his door.)

BRENNAN: (As LUTHER.) It's a thesis, your holiness.

TRAVIS: *(As PRIEST. Misunderstanding him, dropping the paper and jumping back.)* Ahhhhh!

BRENNAN: *(As LUTHER.)* No! Thesis! Thesis!

TRAVIS: *(As PRIEST.)* Oh. You vanna be qvuiet?

BRENNAN: *(As LUTHER.)* I beg your indulgence.

TRAVIS: *(As PRIEST.)* No problem. *(Extends his hand.)* Forty marks.

BRENNAN: Jamestown! 1607.

TRAVIS: *(As PILGRIM MAN.)* Uh ... look honey, about this feast of Thanksgiving ...

BRENNAN: *(As PILGRIM LADY.)* What about it?

TRAVIS: *(As PILGRIM MAN.)* Uh ... I've invited a few guests.

BRENNAN: *(As PILGRIM LADY.)* What are you callin' a few guests?

TRAVIS: *(As PILGRIM MAN.)* The ... uh ... The Potawanami Tribe.

BRENNAN: *(As PILGRIM LADY.)* The whole blasted tribe? Are you out of your mind? Where am I gonna get the food to feed a hundred Indians? You idiot!

TRAVIS: *(As PILGRIM MAN.)* Can't you just ... well, add a little more water to the soup?

BRENNAN: 1756! Mozart is born! *(A slap is heard, then a baby crying.)*

TRAVIS: *(As MOZART. Jumping forward, sees an imaginary girl on the opposite side of the stage, throws his head back in a maniacal laugh and takes out after her.)*

BRENNAN: The Salem Witch Trials!

TRAVIS: *(In feminine voice. Tied to the stake, blowing furiously at flames.)* Ooo Ooo ... Hot! Hot! ... Oh baby! Oh baby! ... Ouch!

BRENNAN: Beethoven!

BOTH: *(Singing the 5th Symphony as Beethoven directs.)* Dit Dit Dit Da!

TRAVIS: The American Revolution!

BOTH: *(Line up as English "gentlemen soldiers".)*

BRENNAN: *(As ENGLISH COMMANDER. In a British accent.)* I say, bit of a nuisance, these Americans. *(A shot is fired and he is hit.)* Drat. That rather stings a bit. Nasty rascals, aren't they? We shall have our revenge someday. We'll send you Elton John! *(Another shot is fired and he is hit again.)* Just for that! You get CATS, too!

TRAVIS: The Declaration of Independence!



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