**“What a Fine Mess, Ness!”**

**Character, Set, Props, and Costumes Lists**

Characters (10 named characters \* and 18 + supporting characters)

Folks can also play Troubled Trees and/or Mop Crew

Servants can also play Troubled Trees or Roman Guard

Gotcha Gang can also play Troubled Trees and/or Mop Crew

Roman Guard can also play one of the Folks, Gotcha Gang, and/or Troubled Trees

If there are an abundance of performers still uncast after fully casting this play, a “Greek Chorus” may be formed of singers who sit very near the stage and sing all the parts where there are more than two people singing. They can be dressed similarly to Philemon’s Servants if costumes are desired, or wear T Shirts with the play logo and can be responsible for scene changes or extra sound effects (such as stormy winds in the forest or extra sheep “baaaas”) as well.

\*Narrator 1

\*Narrator 2

\*Onesimus – Philemon’s house servant, young man

\*Philemon – Master of the house

\*Apphia – Philemon’s wife

\*Archippus – Philemon and Apphia’s grown son

Philemon’s Servants – 2 Servants or more, M or F

\*Kathodiga – Sly leader of the Gotcha Gang

Gotcha Gang – 2 or more Kathodiga’s thieves, M or F

\*Poimenas – A shepherdess

Sheep – Several small children, Poimenas’ flock

Troubled Trees – 2 or more any age, dressed as trees who move and taunt

\*Tychicus – Paul’s helpful friend/brother in Christ, serving at the Roman house jail where Paul is imprisoned. Young adult or adult.

Mop Crew – 2 or more actors/dancers, servants with Tychicus

Folks – 4 or more believers who attend Philemon’s house church

\*Paul – Mature actor, writer of the Epistles

\*Roman Guard

Characters (10 named characters \* and 18 + supporting characters)

Folks can also play Troubled Trees and/or Mop Crew

Servants can also play Troubled Trees or Roman Guard

Gotcha Gang can also play Troubled Trees and/or Mop Crew

Roman Guard can also play one of the Folks, Gotcha Gang, and/or Troubled Trees

If there are an abundance of performers without specific parts after fully casting this play, a “Greek Chorus” may be formed of singers who sit very near the stage and sing all the parts where there are more than two people singing. They can be dressed similarly to Philemon’s Servants if costumes are desired, or wear T Shirts with the play logo.

\*Narrator 1

\*Narrator 2

\*Onesimus – Philemon’s house servant, young man

\*Philemon – Master of the house

\*Apphia – Philemon’s wife

\*Archippus – Philemon and Apphia’s grown son

Philemon’s Servants – 2 Servants or more, M or F

\*Kathodiga – Sly leader of the Gotcha Gang

Gotcha Gang – 2 or more Kathodiga’s thieves, M or F

\*Poimenas – A sheep herder, M or F

Sheep – Several small children, Poimenas’ flock

Troubling Trees – 2 or more older youth or adults dressed as trees who move

\*Tychicus – Paul’s helpful friend/brother in Christ, serving at the Roman house jail where Paul is imprisoned. Young adult M or adult M.

Mop Crew – 2 or more actors/dancers, servants with Tychicus

Folks – 4 or more believers who attend Philemon’s house church

\*Paul – writer of the Epistles, mature M

Roman Guard

Optional - Big Little Letter (actor in a scroll costume personifying the Letter to Philemon)

Set and Scenery

Scenes 1 – 3: Philemon’s house and outside Philemon’s house

Stage is set with a backdrop or background of hanging gardens, pillars, a stone wall, or some plants, etc. If screen projection is used, use a slide of an upscale 1st century Greek or Turkish home or garden.There are trees USL and USR. Basically you’re going for the feel of an ancient Mediterranean courtyard of a wealthy family, the home of Philemon, his wife, Apphia and son, Archippus, or, “Pastor Archy.”

In the center of the stage, there are two framed “doors” or “gates” that can easily be moved by cast members during the course of a scene. (Use any materials, including covering frames with wood or metal looking cloth.) These doors are closed with a sign hanging on front – “Fellowship Meeting Today followed by Free Concert by the Collosal Collosians Choir!”

Optional: Place 2 mic stands w/mics together at either far end of the stage for Narrators

Optional: If there are an abundance of performers, a “GREEK CHORUS” may be formed. Typically, this kind of chorus would sit very near the stage and support all songs where a bigger sound would be of benefit. This CHORUS would join in any lines of songs where more than three people are singing, such as the song sung in Philemon’s house church.

Scene 4 – Marketplace

Clear away moveable objects Philemon’s house including doors or gates. Replace with a simple booth, covered frames, or tables and baskets.

Scene 5 – Grazing Field

Clear away all Marketplace items leaving the backdrop and trees and plants

Scene 6 - Same as Scene 5, but Troubling Trees actors will add trees to those stationary trees already on stage. If there is lighting available, “scary lighting” would be appropriate for this scene.

Scenes 7 through Finale – Roman House Jail

Use columns or other decorations from Philemon’s house but in a different placement. Add a table and chair for Paul.

Props

Narrators:

Quill pens and a scroll (A binder with Narrators’ lines placed on a podium would be helpful if lines are to be read instead of memorized)

Philemon's House:

Servant towels to hang on Servant's belts

Mop

Dusting rags

A tray of food or fruit

Basket of fruit and bread

Money bag/cloth sack

Small stool

Scroll for Archy

Coins for Folks to put in collection bag

Marketplace:

Baskets with common marketplace items for sale (bread, fruit, fish, oars, nets, blankets, etc.)

Sheepskin for Onesimus

Grazing Field:

Staff for Poimenas

Forest:

A loose branch

Roman House Jail:

Mops (one for each servant and Onesimus)

Wood stool or chair

Small wood table

Basket of bread rolls

Plant stands/columns from Scenes 1-3, different placement

Scroll and quill pen with ink well (not real)

Sword and spear for Roman Guard

Costumes

Everyone wears strap sandals except Sheep and Trees. Try to avoid shiny buckles. No flip-flops.

Philemon’s Family and Folks – Ancient Greek style robes and hair, possibly olive wreaths on men’s heads or small flowers or ornamentation and thin scarves for women’s hair/headwear. Folks playing Marketplace People can put on cloaks.

Onesimus and Philemon’s Servants – Shorts and short sleeved tunics, (matching) with belts and nice looking servant towels hung over the belts in back

Kathodiga and Gotcha Gang – Simple T shirts with pants or leggings covered with short tunics and lots of other brightly colored but raggedy layers of vests, scarves, cloaks, or skirts, etc. Kathodiga has a pocket or satchel on her person.

Poimenas – Simple 1st century style poor shepherd’s robe and tunic or vest and headdress if desired

Sheep – White, black, beige, or brown leggings, pants, or sweats; plain long sleeved t shirts or sweat shirts underneath. T shirts covered in fluffy/wooly looking material in colors to match their under clothes. Black socks on hands and feet (hooves). Headbands or hoods with sheep ears. Sheep face make-up if desired.

Troubling Trees – Camo head to toe or brown pants and shirts. Cover arms, head, and torso with real or made tree branches and leaves. Camo face paint. Black or brown socks

Tychicus and Mop Crew – Same style as Philemon’s servants. Matching colorful sashes instead of belts.

Roman Guard – Black shorts and plain red or black Tshirt under a knee length red tunic; leather looking vest, helmet, sword, sandals with straps going up the calves

Paul – Bible era robe and vest or tunic; "chains" from ankle to ankle, long enough for him to take small steps