

CASTING AND COSTUMING

'Slingshot' will work beautifully for any size choir. You may do the musical as written, utilizing only the main characters if you have a smaller choir. If your choir is large you may wish to divide parts or add solos. Think 'outside the box.' Give everyone a part, if possible. In so doing, you will encourage attendance and participation.

There are two solos; David's in *You Get Tall When You Fall On Your Knees* and another solo for someone else – perhaps Abinidab or Eliab, or one of the Death Valley Voices – at Jesse's house in the song, *The Lord Saves (Psalm 20)*.

DEATH VALLEY VOICES CHORUS (DVV)

The chorus sings in support of whatever is occurring in the story at the moment. They stand randomly on the risers. The risers are situated at center stage, in between Philistine Hill and Israel Hill. The DVV may wear typical garb of the era, e.g., robes – or, you may wish to have them wear blue jeans and matching shirts, since they do not play roles in the drama, per se.

FEMALE NARRATOR #1 AND #2

Since the story of David and Goliath is heavy with male roles, we encourage you to allow girls to play both narrators (there are also roles for four additional females as the GoBros Wives).

DAVID

David's role is vital, of course. He carries much of the dialogue and also sings a solo in *You Get Tall When You Fall On Your Knees*. He may be dressed in traditional garb of the day (*as will most other characters*), wearing a pouch (*for the five smooth stones*) around his neck, as well as a sling-shot. He should be shorter than his brothers, Abinidab and Eliab.

JESSE, David's father

A beard would suggest Jesse's age.

JESSE'S WIFE, David's mother

Traditional biblical costume.

SAMUEL, the Prophet

Perhaps Samuel should wear a white beard to suggest his age and wisdom.

ABINIDAB AND ELIAB, brothers of David

Traditional biblical costumes.

SAUL, "lame duck" King of Israel

Saul's character should be tall, if possible, since the Scriptures attest to his height (*though he will not be as tall as Goliath!*).

GOLIATH, the "Fighting Machine of the Philistines"

For greatest effect, Goliath should be played by an adult, and a tall one, at that! He's "not the sharpest sword in the drawer," so he needs to come across as dim-witted, needing a lot of help from his brothers. Dress him in a sleeveless outfit and have him wear sandals and colorful socks (*David "knocks off Goliath's socks"! GoFigure can hold up one of the socks on his line, "Goliath's socks are available."*)

Goliath should have some weapons with him for the battle scene, like a javelin, sword, and spear. Since he cannot easily hold all three at once, one or two of these weapons could be in a harness on his back.

GO-RILLA, personal trainer

GoRilla will be played by a child, as will all the GoBros. He could wear a headband, wristbands, and anything else that would say, "personal trainer." He could also carry a clipboard on which he pretends to write as he leads Goliath through his exercise regimen.

GO-FIGURE, family accountant

GoFigure is the bookish brother, who may carry a scroll on which he records Goliath's winnings. If you wish, you could affix large dollar signs on his clothing.

GO-TEE, family philosopher

Of course, this GoBros' distinguishing feature is a prominent goatee. He speaks slowly, for emphasis, convinced his sayings are profoundly wise. Think "hippie" or "surfer dude".

GO-FISH, fisherman (!)

GoFish has a one-track mind – fishing! He could wear a fishing hat with large lures attached and carry other fishing accessories on his person (e.g., a net, stringer, rod and reel, etc.) He is disinterested in what the rest of the family is doing, preoccupied with thoughts of his next fishing trip.

GO-BROS WIVES

These five "ladies" lip-sync the song, *Dave, Dave, Davy Goodbye*. They can be drawn from the DVV, if need be. They should "ham it up" as they taunt David from across the Valley of Death. Since the song has a McGuire Sisters feel, you could have the girls wear dresses appropriate to that era. GoRilla's wife has a spoken line prior to the song, so she should have a loud, saucy voice.

RING ANNOUNCER

The ring announcer should be played by an adult for greatest effect. He/she can be dressed in more modern attire, since the idea is to portray a boxing or wrestling announcer. He/she could wear black pants and a long-sleeved white shirt with a red or black bow tie. The ring announcer voice is also on the split trax recording on the vocal side should you prefer to use the recorded voice.

SET CONSTRUCTION

The set is relatively easy to accomplish. At center stage, place riser on which the "**DEATH VALLEY VOICES (DVV'S)**" will stand. You could place a sign above or nearby them saying, "**DEATH VALLEY VOICES.**"

At stage right and stage left you could have a simple backdrop on which is drawn or painted a depiction of a hill. The backdrop on stage right should say, "Israel Hill"; the one on stage left, "Philistine Hill." Instead of backdrops you could also use signs indicating the locations of the two hills.

Stage right is the location of the early action at Jesse's house, so do not put the "Israel Hill" sign there until the action at Jesse's house has been completed. For Jesse's house, you could use a door frame through which Samuel would enter on his visit.

The final conflict between David and Goliath will occur at center stage, the Valley of Death, in front of the risers.

THE BOULDER

Goliath's "exercise boulder" could be a large ball covered with brown paper, spray painted with streaks of black and/or brown.

CHAINS

These will be worn by the GoBros after Goliath's defeat. They can be made of plastic and you can use the sfx of rattling chains on the split trax CD.