

'What on Earth is the matter?' By Sid River

Background

This is a piece about the environmental destruction of our planet, with a few laughs and plenty of word puns of course! More of a long sketch than a short play. This could be used as part of a larger show or assembly that has the same theme or message.

Parts	Description
Earth	The poorly patient. Lacklustre and feeling very 'under the weather'
Earth Mother	Typical fussy, overly-emotional mother. Prone to mild hysterics when it comes to the health of her offspring.
Dr Sun	White lab coat, stethoscope etc you know the sort. Very calm and in control.
Nurse Pluto	An efficient Nurse
Dr Jupiter	Another Dr, as before but more like a lab technician. Points to charts a lot.

Notes

This could support a project on global warming or environmental issues. I think I preceded it with facts about waste and poems about re-cycling (it's been a few years though!) You could end with a fully orchestrated song about hope and peace (and re-cycling bottle tops), have thousands of flowers drop on to the audience from the sky, and even get Bob Geldof or Prince Charles to come and say a few words of encouragement!

The scene is a doctors consulting room. Dr Sun is seated behind the desk looking at notes and Nurse Pluto is in the room.

- Dr Sun: Nurse Pluto, could you send in the next patient.
- Nurse Pluto: Yes Dr Sun. It's the Earth. He's feeling a bit under the weather and his mother's brought him in.
- Dr Sun: Not again! Oh well, send him in.
- Nurse Pluto: *(Leans out of the consulting room door and yells)* Calling Earth. Come in Earth!
Earth enters looking glum with his mother and sits down.
- Dr Sun: Ah here again young Earth. And what seems to be the problem this time?
- Earth: I'm just a little und . . .
- Earth Mother: *(Interrupting and sounding like an overbearing mother)* He's feeling awful Dr Sun, aren't you dear. Lost all his colour and wont eat a thing!
- Dr Sun: Well, Let's have a look at you. *(He gets out a magnifying glass)* Oh yes I see, dirty brown patches where it should be lush blue and green. You look a bit warm. Are you?
- Earth: Yes, well I keep going cold then warm in patches all over!
- Earth Mother: And then there's the smell Doctor. Some quite noxious gasses at times!
Everyone except Earth waves their hands in front of their face as if to waft away an unpleasant smell. Earth tries to look innocent.
- Dr Sun: Yes, I . . . Cough . . . See what you mean! I tell you what, let's pop a thermometer in to your atmosphere and see what it's like. Nurse Pluto could you take his temperature.
- Nurse Pluto: Yes certainly Doctor. *(Puts thermometer into Earth's mouth)*
- Dr Sun: How are your motions lad? Are they regular?
- Earth: Regular as clockwork Doctor. Once every 24 hours, although with some things, you know, it's only every 365 days!
- Dr Sun: Perfectly normal my dear boy. Ah the temperature. Goodness me, that's high! I think I detect a bit of global warming. Do you like gardening?
- Earth mother: Oh Yes Dr. Sun. He's grown some lovely greenery all year round!
- Dr Sun: Well very good, but I suggest you stay out of the greenhouse. It will only aggravate your condition.
- Earth: And what condition is that Doctor?
- Dr Sun: Well, It's rare. What you have is a hole in your Ozone layer. Could be serious if something's not done about it. Here, Take this Non CFC inhaler three times a day.

Dr Jupiter enters the room.

Dr Jupiter : Dr Sun, I have the results of Earth's sea test from his last visit. It's not good news I'm afraid.

Earth mother: Oh dear oh dear! The news is bad! What's a mother to do! Where's his father when I need him.

Dr Sun: Well, we'd better hear it. Try to calm down Madam.

Dr Jupiter It appears that his sea is full of pollution. We found traces of industrial chemicals *and* oil!

Earth: Oil! Are you joking! This is no time to be crude!

Dr Jupiter: No I'm not joking. We also found traces of rubbish. We think that some kind of bug is responsible.

Dr Sun: Ah, the Millennium bug!

Dr Jupiter No! The Millennium bug was just a hoax to make us all buy new laptops and DVD players at the turn of the century. This is more of a litter bug!

Earth mother: (*becoming melodramatic*) A Litter bug! I knew it! You haven't been eating properly. If only I'd been there to look after you, but no, you go off for a few million years. You don't phone! You don't write! What's a mother to do!

Nurse Pluto: There! There! Earth mother. Sit down and I'll get you a nice cup of tea. How does that sound?

Dr Sun: Thank you Nurse Pluto. Anything else Dr Jupiter?

Dr Jupiter: Well yes. When we analysed the sea sample we found surprisingly low levels of sea life.

Dr Sun: Hmm. That's a bit fishy.

Dr Jupiter: We have also noticed significant tree loss around Earth's tropical regions. But, most disturbing of all, we found traces of a new phenomenon called nuclear waste which is emitting dangerous levels of radiation.

Dr Sun: Well I'm in complete con-fusion. Do we know what could be causing all this.

Dr Jupiter: Well, we have a theory. (*He goes over to a flip chart and holds the corner of a page*) Recently there has been evidence of a microscopic life form which could be the cause of all these problems. (*He flips over the page to display a badly drawn stick-man*) We've called it . . . **the human race**, because of the speed with which it is running around destroying things.

Dr Sun: The human race eh! Do we know what they look like?

Dr Jupiter: Well, yes. (*Turns and points at the audience*) A bit like **that** really.

Nurse Pluto: (*Looking out at the audience and panicking*) Oh no! They're everywhere! Swarming all over!

Dr Sun: (*Taking a close look at the audience*) Yes, they certainly seem to be spreading quickly. Is there any chance for Earth?

Dr Jupiter: Well, it looks dicey but amazingly there are small pockets of the bacteria that seem to be trying to prevent the spread of the disease and stop the actions of the others.

Dr Sun: Really? What do they seem to be doing?

Dr Jupiter: Well, some of them seem to be trying to produce less waste material and then put the rest of the waste into small areas to be reused. It could give Earth here a lot of renewed energy.

Earth: Energy, yes! That's just what I've been . . . (*yawn*) . . .lacking (*he stretches his arms up in tiredness*)

Dr Jupiter: Yes, and some of the bacteria seem to be trying hard to produce less poisonous gases!

Dr Sun: Well, that would be good news for all of us, wouldn't it Earth old chap? (*they all waves away an unpleasant smell from in front of their noses*)

Dr Jupiter: The only problem is, these pockets of good bacteria are few and far between. They're fighting a bit of a losing battle!

Earth: (*Earth begins to cry*) That's it for me then . . . *Sob* . . . I might as well give up and become a lump of rock again . . . *Sob* . . . Floating aimlessly through space!

Nurse Pluto: Oh Dear Dr, I think Earth's ice caps are beginning to melt (*she gives him a tissue and comforts him*)

Earth Mother: (*wailing*) Oh, What's a mother to do! What's a mother to do!

Dr Sun: There is only one thing that we can do. Nurse Pluto, prepare the vaccination!

Nurse Pluto: Yes Dr, I have it here already.

Earth: You mean that there is a cure? I'm going to be saved?

Dr Sun: There is no guarantee, but this is the only thing that I can think of.

Earth: But what is it Dr?

Dr Sun: It is out last chance. (*he holds up a syringe and flicks it*) It is an injection (*he injects Earth*) . . . of HOPE! The rest I'm afraid.... (*walks to the edge of the stage and looks at the audience*) ...is up to the Human race.

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