

# JOSEPHINE

Josephine

An Easy Read Story



## About The Play



*Josephine* is a play. A play is a story told by people acting on stage.



There is music in the play.  
The music is quite loud.  
Sometimes the characters might shout.



The play takes place in 'Café Josephine' in 2021 and also travels in time to the 1920s, 1930s and the 1960s.



This play is about Josephine Baker who is a dancer, activist and World War Two spy.  
Some of the other actors will pretend to be different people during the story. The people they play are called characters.

## The Characters



### Josephine

I'm Josephine Baker. I am a singer, dancer, spy and activist. This play is about my life and all the events I achieved in my life.

I have come back from 'the beyond' to meet Marie and Jack who are my grandchildren and remind them of everything I achieved in my life.



### Marie

I'm Marie. I'm Jack's sister and help run Café Josephine with him. I am also Josephine's granddaughter but I don't know that Josephine has come back from the beyond.

Sometimes I will be playing different characters in Josephine's life. I will do this by changing my voice and the way I move. Some times my character might shout and be loud.



### Jack

I'm Jack. I'm Marie's brother and help run Café Josephine with her. I am also Josephine's grandson but I don't know that Josephine has come back from the Beyond.

Sometimes I will be playing different characters in Josephine's life. I will do this by changing my voice and the way I move. Some times my character might shout and be loud.



### The Beyond

I'm The Beyond. You will only hear my voice. I am here to help Josephine teach Jack and Marie about her life.

I represent the after life, and it is me that gives permission for Josephine to travel back to earth.

# The Story

## Act 1, Scene 1— The Café



Josephine arrives from the Beyond and performs her shadow dance.



Josephine realises that no one knows who she is.

Josephine makes a plan to make sure she will be remembered.



Josephine is in Café Josephine, a themed café based on her. However it is just about to close.



Jack and Marie both run the café. They are packing boxes with things from the café because it is closing down.



They are excited about a new customer and get ready to take Josephine's order.  
Jack and Marie don't recognise Josephine.



Josephine asks about the café and the theme.



Jack gets very excited and tells Josephine about the stories from Josephine's life.  
Jack rings the bell and they are taken to St. Louis in the 1910s.

# The Story

## Scene 2— Rent Parties



1910s



Josephine has travelled to St. Louis.

Jack explains that when Josephine was younger she worked as a maid to support her family.



Josephine and her mum, Carrie, are throwing a party for all of their friends, to raise money to pay the rent.



Lots of guests start to arrive at the party. Josephine collects the money.



Momma Carrie and Josephine dance.



Momma Carrie and Josephine talk about Josephine moving away to dance on Broadway.



Jack dings the bell and everyone travels back to Café Josephine, in the present.



# The Story

## Scene 3— Back In The Café



Josephine talks to the Beyond about Jack and Marie misremembering her story.



Marie tells Josephine about the riots in St. Louis.



**1917**



Marie dings the bell to travel to St Louis in 1917.

## Scene 4—Riots of East St. Louis



Marie tells the story of the Riots in East St. Louis in 1917.



Josephine remembers running away from the riots.



Marie talks about the damage of the riots on the people and the city.



Jack dings the bell and everyone travels back to Café Josephine, in the present.

# The Story

## Scene 5— Back In The Café



Jack and Marie argue about the riots and if they should tell people about them.



Josephine talks to the Beyond about how scary the riots were and that it is important to tell everyone about them.



Jack dings the bell.

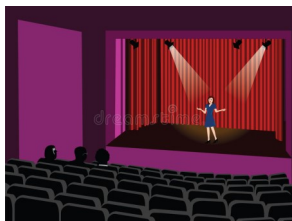
## Scene 6—Dixie Steppers Audition



Jack becomes a different character in this scene. The actor is now playing the role of Sam, who is a trumpeter.



Sam auditions to be in a show on Broadway by dancing.



Josephine also auditions for the show. Josephine tries dancing, magic and impressions.



Josephine gets a job in the theatre as a dresser for the actors.

# The Story

## Scene 7— Road To Broadway



Jack tells the audience about Josephine working backstage.



A dancer called Estelle breaks her ankle and Josephine goes on stage in her place.



Josephine hears of a new dance school opening in Paris. Josephine gets on the next boat to go to Paris.

## Scene 8— Paris



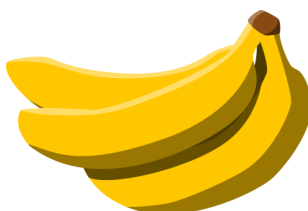
1920s



Josephine explores the freedoms of Paris in the 1920s.



Josephine becomes a famous dancer in Paris.



Josephine eats at a café and gets recognised. The chef gives Josephine some bananas which turns into a skirt of Bananas. The Banana Skirt.

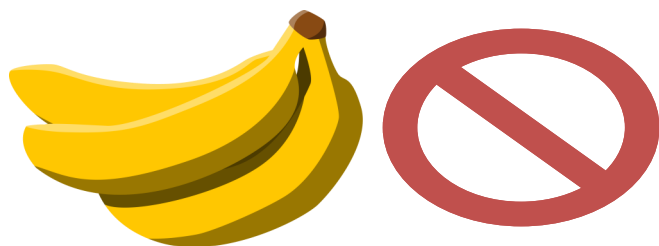


Marie dings the bell and everyone travels back to Café Josephine, in the present.



# The Story

## Scene 9— Banana Skirt



Marie and Jack argue about showing Josephine The Banana Skirt.

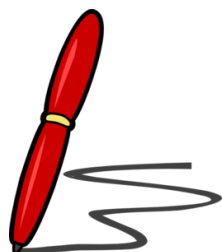


Marie and Josephine recite a poem about Josephine and her Banana Skirt dance.



Marie, Josephine and Jack argue about showing the banana skirt again. Jack and Marie ding the bell and travel back to 1940.

## Scene 10—Word War Two vs March On Washington



The actors playing Marie and Jack play lots of different characters. Josephine is greeted by a number of her fans.



**1963**

Marie dings the bell and they travel to Washington in 1963.



A man and woman are waiting to hear Josephine speak at the March on Washington.



**1940s**

Jack dings the bell and they travel to 1940s France.

# The Story



Josephine has become a spy and is going on a secret mission.



Josephine is almost captured but tricks the German officer into letting her go.



1963

Marie dings the bell and travels back to 1963, Washington DC.



Josephine gives the speech she gave at the March on Washington.



1945

Jack dings the bell to take them to France, 1945.



Josephine receives a medal for her bravery.



Marie and Jack fight over the bell.

# The Story



Josephine talks to The Beyond about how she is remembered.



Josephine finds out her son, Henri, started the Café in memory of her.



1951

Josephine dings the bell and takes them to the Stork Club, 1951.

## Scene 11, The Stork Club



Josephine sits at a table and orders a meal at the Stork Club.



The waiter refuses to serve Josephine her food, because of the colour of her skin.



Josephine makes a call on the phone to her lawyer and to civil rights groups in order to protest her treatment.



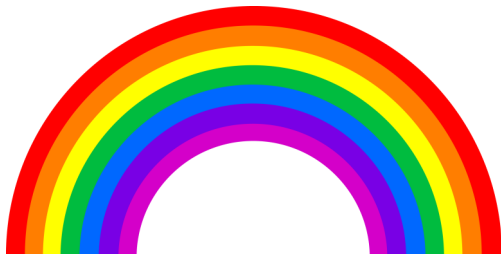
Marie dings the bell back to the café.

# The Story

## Scene 12 — Back In The Café



Jack and Marie wonder how Josephine knows so much about her life.



Josephine talks about her adopted family called The Rainbow Tribe.



Josephine dings the bell and shows us an argument between Josephine and her son, Henri.



Josephine dings the bell back to the café.

## Scene 13— Shadow Dance Part 2



Josephine lies to Jack and Marie by telling them she only knows about her life because she was an old friend.



The Beyond arrives to take Josephine back to 'Infinite Nothings' where people go when they are forgotten.



Josephine, Jack and Marie dance one last time.