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SF PERUSALS

Bar and Ger

A drama in one act

Geraldine Aron

Samuel French—London
www.samuelfrench-london.co.uk

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BAR AND GER

First performed at Brian Astbury's Space Theatre in Cape Town, South Africa in 1975.

Ger	Yvonne Bryceland
Bar	Wilson Dunster

Designed and directed by Walter Donohue

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(See also page ii)

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

Bar and Ger is the story of a brother and sister, Barry and Geraldine. At the beginning, Ger is about ten years old and Bar is newly born. They age gradually – not necessarily at the same time – until Bar is seventeen.

A good convention for this short play is to have the characters sit, kneel and recline against two giant cushions propped against a low rostrum. A carpet under the cushions is comfortable for the actors. They should wear simple, timeless clothing. Their movements should be slight and symbolic without any big theatrics. Sometimes they touch or interact, but mostly they are separated by time and place.

Three dots (***) indicate a change in time.

Luigini's Ballet Eygptien makes a good overture and can be played again at the end.

GLOSSARY
Marmite, a sandwich spread
Eleven Plus, an exam at the end of primary school
Earl's Court, an arena for military displays, etc
Andrew's Liver Salts, like Alka Seltzer
Pillion, the passenger seat on a motor cycle

As the lines are often rhythmical, do not substitute words unless absolutely necessary. The name Ger is pronounced with a "J".

Geraldine Aron

To beloved Brigi, my friend and younger daughter

BAR AND GER

The play begins in darkness

Luigini's Ballet Eygptien is a good choice for opening and closing music

Bar Knock knock.
Ger *(bored)* Who's there?
Bar Marmite!
Ger Marmite who?
Bar Ma-might-have-a-baby!

Ger groans

Bar He he he he he.

***

A spot grows until Bar and Ger are encircled by a ring of light. Bar is curled up like a baby. Ger leans on her elbow, looking down at him

Ger Little mite with big red face
Blonde head and bawling mouth.
What do you think of London?
I'm not so sure I wanted a brother
but Dad's delighted
though I'm sad to say
you'll be a five minute wonder
like his three daughters were.
Yuk! I hate feeding babies mashed potato.

***

Ger sits upright, looking downstage. Bar leans on his elbow and looks at her

Bar I saw my sister on a horse
showing off and waving
She wouldn't take me 'cos she
wanted to canter
but she gave me a small red truck instead
I won't wave back or she'll think I like her.
Anyway, she's gone round the corner now.

***

Ger I told my brother Bar he was adopted.
(*To Bar*) Where do you think your blonde hair comes from?
Bar (*furious)* You're adopted yourself, you rotten liar —
Where do you think your big nose comes from!
Ger Then he punched me — as hard as he could
and wouldn't let me hug or kiss him all day.
Wish I'd never said it now.

***

Bar sits cross-legged, his back to Ger. Ger looks innocent

Bar The Mother Superior is gonna kill me at 4 p.m.
When I have to report to her office,
privately.
Because my sister Ger was supposed to
have "helped" me with my homework.
The silly cow spelled everything wrong —
and put Belfast as the capital of Ireland.
And the Mother Superior will be waiting
at 4 p.m.
Thanks very much for nothing.

***

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