

Our Shared Forests Science Night Puppet Show

Description of characters

Wendy Woodpecker: Georgia southern belle. She loves her home in the mixed pine-oak forest. Wendy has a slow, southern drawl to her voice.

Sunny Summer Tanager: a neotropical migrant from Ecuador, who spends the warm seasons in Georgia. Has a friendly Hispanic/Latino accent. (May have a bit of a crush on Tommy Toucan in Scene 2)

Chippy Chipmunk: Hyper, young fellow. Very curious, but not necessarily the brightest. His voice may be best portrayed as winy, but excited about what's going on in the forest.

Hector Hummingbird: An Ecuadorian hummingbird that does not migrate. He is hyped on coffee berries. His voice is high pitched and very fast – excited.

Flah-rita Blackburnian Warbler: A very confused migrant from New York. She was headed to Florida and ended up in Ecuador. She has a friendly northern accent, but is little disoriented. (She is a little flirtatious with Tommy Toucan)

Tommy Toucan: A ladies man from the Ecuadorian rainforest. He is very flirty with both Sunny and Flah-rita. He has a suave Hispanic/Latino accent.

Scene 1:

- Wendy Woodpecker
- Sunny Tanager
- Chippy Chipmunk

One puppeteer performs Wendy and Chippy; other puppeteer does Sunny

Scene 2:

- Sunny Tanager
- Hector Hummingbird
- Flah-rita Warbler
- Tommy Toucan

One puppeteer performs Sunny and Tommy; other puppeteer does Flahrita and Hector

Scene 1: Located in the Georgia mixed pine-oak forest. Sunny has recently arrived in Georgia from Ecuador.

Wendy Woodpecker: Isn't it a beautiful hot summer day. Umm, Hmm! That Georgia breeze carrying the sweet smell of Gardenias. Wonderful! Ooh and those blueberries, well aren't they delicious?! Cousin Sunny, I understand why you migrate north to spend your warm seasons here each year.

Sunny Tanager: Si, it is wonderful. There are so many yummy bugs for me to eat and plenty of forest for me to raise my Summer Tanager family in.

Wendy Woodpecker: Oh yes, and don't forget about our southern charm.

Sunny Tanager: I'm sure these boys and girls enjoy the summers here as well. What do you like about summer? (*wait for response*)

Chippy Chipmunk: Hey, Hey. What's all the racket about?

Sunny Tanager: Oh hello, Chippy. We were just talking about how much we enjoy Georgia summers and why I love migrating here.

Chippy: Migrating. What does that mean?

Sunny Tanager: Well, migration is what we call our long journey from South America to North America when the weather gets warm here.

Chippy: Why would you want to do that? It would take me forever to travel all that way. Whew, and can you imagine all the roads I'd have to cross? Dangerous!

Wendy Woodpecker: Yeah, don't you get tired too?

Sunny: It is a long journey, but boy is it worth it once I see these tall Southern Pines and those big, old Oak trees.

Chippy: I like acorns. (*yum, yum, um – make chomping/slurping noises*)
(*Wendy and Sunny look at Chippy oddly due to his random remarks*)

Wendy Woodpecker: I do wish that you could stay in North America all year with us.

Sunny Tanager: Cousin Wendy, you know that I must go back to Ecuador when it gets cold in the fall. You Woodpeckers do just fine pecking into your Pine trees to find bugs and looking for worms in the soil of North America, but I must migrate down South where the weather is warm year round and there is lots of food.

Wendy: I understand.

Sunny: Anyways. I'd be cramping your style, not to mention your food supply, if I stayed here year round. There is plenty of lip-smacking insects for me to eat, hangin' around the coffee plantations.

Chippy: Well that trip must be exciting!

Wendy: Yeah, the things you must see, the birds and other animals you must meet. Wow, I can't even imagine that journey.

Sunny: It is really cool having two places to live too. Ecuador is **sooo** beautiful!! You should see all the different kinds of plants and animals we have. Some of the birds even look different down there.

Chippy: What! Do they walk around on four legs or something?

Sunny: No, Chippy. One of my best friends in Ecuador is a Toucan. He is a beautiful bird, with a big beak that looks like a rainbow.

Wendy: He sounds quite handsome!
(*Sunny nods in agreement*)

Chippy: Oh, brother. You girls. I believe it is time for me to get going. I hear Old Bernie Bear is going to shake that Oak tree by the pond later. They'll be plenty of acorns left on the ground for me to feast on. See ya'll later.

Wendy: Bye, bye Chippy!

Sunny: Adios, amigo! You know, I should probably get a move on also. You know, I've got to find me a good spot to start building my nest. Oh, I can't wait to hear the chirps of my little ones.

Wendy: You don't be a stranger now, you hear!

Sunny: See you later.

Hold up a sign reading, "Months Later. Back in Ecuador"

Scene 2: Sunny is back in Ecuador and meets up with some of her old friends. A new bird, Flah-rita, also makes her way to the rainforest.

Sunny: (*reminiscing*) Wow, I sure enjoyed my summer in Georgia. I always love meeting the different animals there. And the nuts and berries there are so good.

Hector Hummingbird: (speaking fast) Hey! Who are you talking to?

Sunny: Oh, I was just thinking about my summer in Georgia. It was a long and dangerous flight. I came this close to the being caught by *El Gato*, the meanest cat in Mexico. I am glad to be back in Ecuador.

Hector: I don't understand why you would ever want to leave the warm air and fresh fruit you find here in the rainforest.

Sunny: Well, I raised two lovely Summer Tanager baby birds. They made a stop in Costa Rica. You know how those kids love to be different.
(*In comes Flah-rita*)

Flah-rita:(New York accent) Whew! Hey you guys! I never thought I would get here. Florida is such a long way from New York!

Sunny and Hector: FLORIDA! Did you say Florida!

Hector: Oh, boy. Did you ever make a wrong turn!

Sunny: You are in Ecuador. What's your story, Lady?

Flah-rita Blackburnian warbler: Ecuador! Oh no! Well, my name is Flah-rita and I spend my summers in the beautiful Central Park of New York. Then every winter I head south to Florida. I just love watching that senior crowd play shuffle board!

Sunny: Well, how did you end up all the way down here in Ecuador?

Flah-rita: Good question! I do remember something about running into a glass building. Everything has been a bit fuzzy from then on out. I guess I caught the wrong tail-wind.

Hector: Didn't you notice that big body of water, called the Gulf of Mexico?

Flah-rita: (*confused*) I thought that that lake looked a lot bigger than last year.

Sunny: Well, don't worry. You will love it here in the rainforest. There is plenty of food to go around.

Hector: Yeah! Wait tell you get a taste of these red berries here in the shade-grown coffee plantation.

Flah-rita: What's a coffee plantation? I don't think they have those in Florida.

Sunny: Oh, shade-grown coffee plantations are great for us birds. They have big trees, plenty of insects, and delicious fruit. They're way better than those sun coffee plantations where they cut down all the big trees.

Flah-rita: That sounds awful.

Sunny: Oh, it is! But we are lucky here in the shade-grown coffee plantation. The farmers plant coffee trees under the shade of large rainforest trees. That way we have plenty of shade and lots of food. It's great!

Hector: Uh, huh. And did I mention that these red berries are the best! Sunny told me to lay off the red berries, but I can get so much done during the day when I eat them. Speaking of... I'm out of here. Good to have you back, Sunny. Adios!

Tommy Toucan: Well hello, Sunny. Long time no see. How was your trip to Georgia?

Sunny (*shyly, flirty*): Hello, Tommy. Yes, Georgia was wonderful. I did miss the beauty of the rainforest, but Georgia has its own beautiful forests. It is great being able to spend time in both places.

Tommy: Well, you sure were missed here. Who's your friend?

Sunny: This is Flah-rita all the way from New York. She's never been this far south before. She was supposed to end up in Florida.

Flah-rita: (*in astonishment*) Wow! That's some beak! I'm quite impressed.

Sunny: (in jealousy) Alright. Enough already. Come on Flah-rita, I'll show you around the plantation. Just wait until you get a taste of some of this fruit. You won't miss Florida at all. See you later, Tommy!

Tommy: Hey, you ladies should stop by my tree later. Maybe I can show you around the cloud forest.

Flah-rita: That sounds great! Bye, bye, Tommy. (*To Sunny*) I think I'm going to like it here.

Sunny: Yeah, come on let's go get lunch.