GET OUT!
THE BUDDY BISON MUSICAL

SYNOPSIS

The Buddy Bison Bus breaks down in an urban neighborhood. He needs the enthusiasm of neighborhood children for the great outdoors to “fuel” the bus. The children express their wonder of the world beyond their town except for one child who is reluctant to explore new places. Buddy and the other children win him over and set off on a magical tour of the National Parks with Buddy Bison.

CAST
(16 roles as written)

Buddy Bison
14 Children (non-specific)*
Eric (or Erica)

*The “Children” roles are generic and interchangeable. Each character has three to seven lines (plus vocals) except for Buddy Bison who has roughly 30 lines. The show can be easily performed with as few as 8 or as many as 20 “Children” roles. Even larger casts can be accommodated with additional children being part of the chorus (non-speaking roles).

BACKDROP
Optional: Backdrop can depict a row of houses or buildings close together. Maybe a stop sign or other “urban” elements. Students can prepare this as an art project.

PROPS

The only prop required is the Buddy Bison Bus. This can be as simple as a heavy cardboard or Styrofoam board cut out, about 2’ x 3’ depicting the front of the bus. You can option for a longer piece that would depict a side view of the bus instead. Fasten a strap of some sort on the back side so actor can carry on and off stage.

The bus may have drawings or pictures of National Parks, Buddy Bison and NPT stickers, etc. Also, see OPTIONAL ending in script. For this, you will need a few “city park” props such as a bench, statue, flowers, trees, etc.

For simpler productions, just arrange chairs in rows of 2 or 3 to represent the bus.

OPTIONAL: Slide projector to show images of national parks during “The Parks from A to Z” number.

COSTUMES

The only required costume would be for Buddy Bison. It could be as simple as a set of horns, a beard and a tail. The other children should dress in every-day clothing. OPTIONAL: If available, each child could be given a “Buddy Bison” hat or T-shirt to put on for the final number.
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[Setting: Optional backdrop shows a row of houses—an urban scene. Chugging sound precedes the entrance of Buddy Bison, holding a cardboard "bus" prop. Prop reads "Buddy Bison’s Bus” plastered with stickers/posters from various parks. Bus chugs to a dead stop, center stage. ]

[SOUND EFFECT: Engine sputtering and stalling]

BUDDY BISON
Oh dear! My bus has broken down. And right in the middle of a strange town. I’ll need some inspiration to get this going again. But will I find any here?

[CHILD 1 and CHILD 2 approach from right, cautiously]

CHILD 1
Whoa! Look at that funny bus!

CHILD 2
And look what’s driving it!

[Buddy Bison looks behind him, then realizes they’re gawking at him]

CHILD 1
It’s a buffalo!

BUDDY BISON
No, no, no, no! Why do they always think I’m a Buffalo! [Turns to children] I am a bison. Buddy Bison is my name. I’m an ambassador for all the parks big and small—for the great outdoors!

CHILD 2
What are you doing here, Buddy Bison?
BUDDY BISON
I’m trying to get home. But my bus broke down.

CHILD 1
What’s the matter with it?

BUDDY BISON
Well, it usually breaks down when it feels uninspired.

[Children 3 thru 6 filter onto the stage]

CHILD 2
Uninspired?

BUDDY BISON
Let me ask you something. Is there a nice park in your town?

CHILD 3
There’s a Park-N-Go supermarket up the street!

CHILD 4
There’s Mrs. Park—the librarian.

CHILD 2
There’s Park Avenue, around the corner!

BUDDY BISON
No No. I mean a place outside to play or sit and enjoy nature. Where do you go to play?

CHILD 5
Right here—on this vacant lot.

CHILD 6
We don’t have any parks in this town.

CHILD 4
This town is too small. Parks are huge

CHILD 5
I don’t think they have to be huge. What about the town square?

CHILD 6
It’s just a bench - - - and a fountain.
CHILD 1
That counts, doesn't it, Buddy?

[Buddy Bison nods]

CHILD 2
I've read a lot about parks. And I've seen pictures on my computer.

CHILD 1
So we know a little about parks.

BUDDY BISON
Well, guys, tell me what you know.

SONG: I KNOW A PARK

CHILD 1: I KNOW A PARK, IT'S VERY SMALL
A BENCH ALONGSIDE A GARDEN WALL
FLOWERS AND CHIPMUNKS AND PIGEONS, TOO
A PARK FOR ME AND YOU

CHILD 2: I KNOW A PARK, A PLACE TO PLAY
SOCCER AND BASEBALL EVERY DAY
TABLES FOR PICNICS BENEATH A TREE
A PARK FOR YOU AND ME

CHILD 3: I KNOW A LAND, WHERE THE AIR IS CLEAN
PRETTIEST FOREST I'VE EVER SEEN
THERE ARE RIVERS AND ROCKS AND A WATER FALL
A LAND FOR ONE AND ALL

CHILD 4: I KNOW A PLACE FULL OF HISTORY
RELICS AND RUINS, WHAT MYSTERY
WHO WERE THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE BEFORE?
A PLACE YOU CAN EXPLORE

BUDDY B: I KNOW A PARK WHERE THERE'S ACRES TO ROAM
BLACK BEAR AND ANTELOPE CALL IT HOME
SNOW COVERED MOUNTAINTOPS KISSING THE SUN
A PARK FOR EVERYONE.

ALL: I KNOW A PARK, IT'S VERY SMALL
A BENCH ALONGSIDE A GARDEN WALL
FLOWERS AND CHIPMUNKS AND PIGEONS, TOO
A PARK FOR ME AND YOU
ALL: BIG PARKS, SMALL PARKS, CITY PARKS, TOO A PARK FOR ME AND YOU

BUDDY BISON
You do know a lot about parks.

CHILD 5
Yes, but we’ve never been to one.

CHILD 1
We don’t even know anyone who owns a park!

BUDDY BISON
Ah, but most parks are public lands. That means that everybody in America owns them!

CHILD 2
I want to see my park!

BUDDY BISON
How would you like to visit the National Parks in the Buddy Bison bus?

ALL CHILDREN
Yay!

CHILD 6
But we can’t miss school.

BUDDY BISON
Not to worry! In the Buddy Bison Bus, you can take a virtual tour of all the National Parks in the blink of an eye! But I need more believers in the great outdoors to help me get this clunker going.

CHILD 1
The rest of our friends are inside.

BUDDY BISON
And what are they doing that’s so important?

CHILD 3
Sleeping,
CHILD 4
Playing video games.

BUDDY BISON
So? Let's get them up and out. Come on!

[Children sing to sides of stage. Additional Children file in as they sing:]

SONG: GET OUT

CHORUS: GET OUT OF THE HOUSE, GET OUT OF THE BED
LET MISTER SUN SHINE DOWN ON YOUR HEAD
DON'T EVER SAY THERE'S NOTHING TO DO
THE GREAT OUTDOORS IS WAITING FOR YOU

GET OUT OF THE HOUSE, GET OUT IN THE YARD
GO FIND A PARK, IT ISN'T THAT HARD
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING BETTER TO DO
THE GREAT OUTDOORS IS WAITING FOR YOU.

WHETHER YOU'RE FROM THE COUNTRY OR THE CITY
YOU MAY FIND YOU'RE MISSING SOMETHING PRETTY
OH WHAT A PITY,
IF YOU DON'T

GET OUT OF THE HOUSE, GET OUT IN THE LAND
SEE MOTHER NATURE, GIVE HER A HAND
FORESTS OF GREEN AND RIVERS OF BLUE
THE GREAT OUTDOORS IS WAITING FOR YOU

WHETHER YOU'RE FROM THE COUNTRY OR THE CITY
YOU MAY FIND YOU'RE MISSING SOMETHING PRETTY
OH WHAT A PITY,
IF YOU DON'T

GET OUT OF THE HOUSE, GET OUT OF THE BED
LET MISTER SUN SHINE DOWN ON YOUR HEAD
DON'T EVER SAY THERE'S NOTHING TO DO
THE GREAT OUTDOORS IS WAITING FOR YOU

GET OUT, GET OUT -- GET OUT, GET OUT,
GET OUT, GET OUT OF THE HOUSE! (Sing this line four times-first time in loud whisper, then increase volume each time)
[All children are now center stage except for ERIC (or ERICA) who sits solemnly alone, stage left]

CHILD 7
Come on, Eric. We’re going to see the parks!

ERIC
I’m not much of the outdoorsy type. You go ahead.

BUDDY BISON
But we may need you, Eric. We may need all the power—all the wonder we can get to fix the bus.

CHILD 8
Eric doesn’t wonder much about anything, Buddy.

CHILD 9
Yeah, but we wonder about Eric.

BUDDY BISON
Give him some time, children. I’m sure he’ll come around.

CHILD 10
So what do you mean, you need . . . wonder to start the bus?

BUDDY BISON
This bus gets all its energy from the excitement and curiosity of the people around it. If there is enough wonder and amazement in the air, she’ll start purring like a kitten - - - roaring like a big brown bear is more like it!

CHILD 11
Oh.

BUDDY BISON
Oh? Is that all? Don’t you wonder about the world around you?

CHILD 12
I wonder . . . what it feels like to be on top of a mountain!

BUDDY BISON
Good! What else?

CHILD 13
I wonder . . . what if there are any wild hairy animals in the parks. [Pause] Oh, sorry Mr. Bison.
CHILD 14
I’m curious . . . what a place would look like without any houses or roads or cars?

CHILD 7
Let’s give Buddy some wonder!

CHILD 8
Let’s give him some curiosity!

ALL
Let’s give some wonderocity!

SONG: WONDEROCITY

CHORUS: I WONDER WHY, I WONDER HOW
I WONDER IF YOU’LL TELL ME NOW
WE’LL GO WITH MUCH VELOCITY
AND OUR WONDEROCITY!

BUDDY: I WONDER IN, I WONDER OUT
I WONDER HOW THINGS CAME ABOUT
WE WILL DISCOVER HISTORY
WITH YOUR WONDEROCITY

CHORUS: I WONDER UP, I WONDER DOWN
WE WILL EXPLORE BEYOND OUR TOWN
WITH BUDDY’S GENEROSITY
AND OUR WONDEROCITY

CHILD 10: WHAT IS THE BIGGEST?
CHILD 11: WHAT IS THE TALLEST?
CHILD 12: WHAT IS THE OLDEST?
CHILD 13: WHAT IS THE SMALLEST?

CHORUS: I WONDER UP, I WONDER DOWN
AS WE EXPLORE BEYOND OUR TOWN
WITH BUDDY’S GENEROSITY
AND OUR WONDEROCITY
BUDDY BISON
That’s was terrific, kids! Now let’s see if this tin can will catch.

[SOUND EFFECT: whirring sounds, but engine doesn’t catch]

CHILD 9
Almost, Buddy!

CHILD 10
Try it again!

BUDDY BISON
No. I can tell it needs one more pound of wonder.

[Cast collectively turns toward Eric who is still sulking]

ERIC
I don’t want to go!

CHILD 11
But why, Eric? It will be fun!

CHILD 12
And we won’t be gone for more than a minute. That’s the magic.

[Buddy Bison approaches; CHILD 11 & 12 step back]

BUDDY BISON
You know, the first time I left my home, I was kind of scared.

ERIC
But you’re used to the great outdoors.

BUDDY BISON
Exactly! All I knew was wide open spaces with endless acres of grasses and trees. But I wasn’t used to crowded towns and noisy villages! [looks around] That still takes some getting used to.

SONG: THIS IS ALL I KNOW

ERIC: THIS IS ALL I KNOW, A TINY NEIGHBORHOOD IT’S EVERYTHING THAT’S BAD, IT’S EVERYTHING THAT’S GOOD THIS IS WHERE I LIVE, THIS IS EVERYTHING I DO AND I’M NOT SURE I WANT TO GO ANYWHERE NEW
IF I GO WITH YOU, IF I WOULD ACT SO BOLD
THEN I MAY BE TOO HOT, OR I MAY BE TOO COLD
THIS WOULD BE BEYOND ANYTHING I’D EVER DO
SO I’M NOT SURE I WANT TO GO—ANYWHERE NEW.

BUDDY: BUT THERE IS THE MAGIC OF THE BUDDY BISON BUS
THAT KEEPS YOU CLOSE TO HOME WHEN YOU TRAVEL WITH US
YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE WITH YOU, BRING YOUR FAMILY, TOO
AND SHARE THE JOY OF DISCOVERING SOMEWHERE NEW

CHORUS: THIS IS ALL WE KNOW, A TINY NEIGHBORHOOD
BUT OPEN UP YOUR MIND, IMAGINE, IF YOU COULD
AS LONG AS YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY ARE WITH YOU
WE ARE SURE YOU’LL LOVE TO GO ANYWHERE NEW.

ERIC: MAYBE I WILL LOVE TO GO ANYWHERE NEW.

CHILD 13
Come on Eric, we need you!

[Eric moves to center stage with others]

CHILD 14
Buddy Bison, start that bus!

ALL
Start that bus! Start that bus!

[SOUND EFFECTS: engine starting]

BUDDY BISON
Hurray! Hey, everybody, climb aboard! Get your family too! We’re going to see more parks in a minute than most people see in a lifetime!

SONG: GET OUT (reprise)

CHORUS: GET OUT OF THE HOUSE, GET OUT OF THE BED
LET MISTER SUN SHINE DOWN ON YOUR HEAD
DON’T EVER SAY THERE IS NOTHING TO DO
THE GREAT OUTDOORS IS WAITING FOR YOU

[Cast drives offstage, to GET OUT theme. Lights dim briefly, then the bus returns.]
[Children are loudly chattering excitedly as they exit bus]

CHILD 8
That was so cool!

CHILD 9
It seemed like I was gone for a month!

CHILD 10
And it was more than just open land. We saw refuges where they keep the land safe for wildlife.

CHILD 11
Like birds and turtles!

CHILD 12
And buffalo - - - I mean Bison!

CHILD 13
And we saw preserves!

CHILD 14
Like strawberry preserves!

CHILD 13
Not that kind of preserve . . . a place that saves the land in its natural form. Like the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

ERIC
Can we go again?

BUDDY BISON
You can always find a park to visit. It may not be as big as Yellowstone, but even a city park or state park has a lot to enjoy. You don’t have to go far.

CHILD 3
Thank you for showing us your great outdoors, Buddy Bison!

BUDDY BISON
Remember, it’s your land, too! Take good care of it.

CHILD 4
I’ll always have the memory of - - - what parks did we visit?

CHILD 7
I think we saw parks from A to Z!
CHILD 6
Really! I dare you to name them!

CHILD 7
I’ll try!

**SONG: THE PARKS FROM A TO Z**

CHILD 7: **ACADIA** amazed me with its wet and rocky coast
**BADLANDS** has Mount Rushmore, that’s what I remember most
**CARLSBAD**, an endless cave and underground delight
**DEVILS TOWER** rising up is such a stunning sight

CHILD 1: **BOATING THROUGH THE EVERGLADES** where ’gators congregate
**VISITING FORD’S THEATER** where Lincoln met his fate

CHILD 2: **GLACIER PARK**, those soaring peaks, beneath the snow and ice
**SOAKING IN A WARM POOL DOWN AT HOT SPRINGS** sounds so nice

CHILD 3: **WALK WITH BEN FRANKLIN AT INDEPENDENCE HALL**
**STROLL THE STREETS OF JAMESTOWN, THE BEGINNING OF IT ALL**

CHILD 4: **WALKING IN KINGS CANYON** where sequoias grow so high
**SAILING ON LAKE MEADE** underneath the desert sky
**MOUNT RAINIER** was awesome in its coat of white and grey
**THE VIEW INTO NEW RIVER GORGE**, took my breath away.

ALL: **AWAY!**

CHILD 1: **THE FORESTS OF OLYMPIC PARK** were deep and misty green
**THE SAND OF PADRE ISLAND** was the softest I have seen

ERIC: **QUINEBAUG CONNECTICUT ALONG A WINDING RIVER**
**ROCKY MOUNTAINS** beauty only nature can deliver

CHILD 2: **FOLLOWING THE PIONEERS ON SANTA FE TRAIL**
**SAW THE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE** where bison still prevail

CHILD 3: **WE FLOATED DOWN THE RIVER OF THE UPPER DELAWARE**
**SAW THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PARK, AN UNDERWATER FAIR**
**THE ROLLING DUNES OF WHITE SANDS** stood several meters tall

CHILD 4: **THEN WE STOPPED AT XYLOPHONE, THE NEWEST PARK OF ALL!**

ALL
Booooo!

**BUDDY BISON**
I’m afraid there’s no park that starts with “X”.


CHILD 4:  
Oh well…it was worth a shot!

[Continue song:]

CHILD 4:  
THE WATER FALL WAS AWESOME WHEN WE SAW YOSEMITE  
ZION PARK IN UTAH WAS UNREAL SCENERY

CHORUS:  
THANK YOU FOR THE TOUR IN YOUR WONDER BUS TODAY  
WE SAW THE PARKS FROM A TO Z ACROSS THE USA  
WE SAW THE PARKS FROM A TO Z ACROSS THE USA

BUDDY BISON  
And thank you for getting my bus running again. Now I can return to my home on the  
rangle in Yellowstone National Park. Come visit me there!

ALL  
Good bye, Buddy Bison!

[Buddy Bison exits with bus.  SOUND EFFECTS: Bus engine]

ERIC  
Hey everyone, let’s make this into our own special park, right here!

CHORUS:  
THERE ARE SPACES BIG AND SMALL NOT FAR FROM YOU TODAY  
STEP INTO THE GREAT OUTDOORS ACROSS THE USA!  
STEP INTO THE GREAT OUTDOORS ACROSS THE USA!

END

Optional ending:  Children bring out a bench, tree, statue, etc. to set up their own park  
to reprise of GET OUT!