God’s Garden (Musical)

Cast:
Steve:
Joe:
Kari:
Mayor:
Brutus (red):
Belcher (blue):
Belcher fan 1:
Belcher fan 2 and 3:
Brutus Fan 1,2 and 3:
Townspeople:

Scene 1:
Overture

The music ends and there is a cheering crowd standing around a central competition. The crowd is mixed (red and blue shirts mixed together.) Some people in the crowd are holding supportive and positive signs (things like: “You Can Do It” “We Be-leaf in You!” “You’re the Best.”) Brutus and Belcher are in the arena taking turns chopping wood. As they compete, the townspeople are cheering and laughing and high-fiving each other. Off to one side there is an announcer table with Steve and Joe sitting behind it. On the front of the table there is a banner with a TV channel logo “TTS Tree Town Sports.” They have 2 mics on the table.

Steve:
(With a classic announcer voice. He is speaking to Joe, but also to the “TV audience” of the Lumberjack competition)
What a great competition we have here today, Joe.

Joe:
(Also with an announcer voice. He seems a little bit clueless. Really ham up the pun)
Yeah, Steve. WOODn’t you believe it. Get it wood..n’t you!

Steve:
(Puts his head in his hands and groans in a way that makes it clear that Joe makes these kinds of puns a lot)
Oh, Joe... Anyway, as many of our viewers know, Tree Town has been known for great Lumberjack competitions for decades. Brutus, in the red, and Belcher, in blue—the two champions—have been competing since they could hold an axe. But Joe, as you know, these competitions haven’t always been this, shall we say, friendly.

Joe:
Indeed Steve. The competition between Brutus and Belcher has been one of the great rivalries in sports. In the past they had very loyal fans. So loyal, in fact that if you dared to switch sides—or to even talk to a rival supporter—it would have been an act of treason.

Steve: *(intentionally ignoring Joe)*
Yes. But things have started to change in this town. I think it is about time for one of our human interest stories, don’t you Joe.

*Kari Intro Music starts.*

Joe:
*(looking into Steve’s eyes)*
Oak. Kay. Oak—like the tree.
*(Steve shakes his head)*

*Brutus and Belcher step back to make space in the center and Kari comes forward wearing a neutral color (not blue or red)*

Steve:
Our story starts with a girl. And this girl changed everything for Brutus and Belcher and Tree Town.

Kari:
*(Singing)*
I’m Kari,

Steve:
*(as if interviewing Kari)*
Now you’re not from Tree Town are you Kari?

Kari:
*(singing)*
No

Steve:
Where are you from?

Kari:
*(singing)*
I’m from a town called God’s Garden
Just a few miles up the road
When I came here to Tree Town

*(speak singing)*
Everything was different
Joe:
(announcer voice)
Let’s go back in time and have a look

Back in time sound effect and Music Changes to Belcher/Brutus Vamp 1

The crowd moves to new locations. All the red shirts move to Brutus’s side and all the blue shirts move to Belcher’s side. The signs are turned around and now hold partisan and non-supportive words (things like: “Brutus is Best” “Brutus is going down” etc.) Brutus and Belcher move back to their competition locations and swing their axes in time with the music while their fans cheer for them

Belcher Fans (blue):
(singing)
Belcher, Belcher, Belcher, Belcher

Belcher/Brutus vamp 2
Brutus Fans (red)
(singing)
Brutus, Brutus, Brutus, Brutus

Belcher/Brutus Vamp 3
Belcher Fans:
(singing even louder)
Belcher, Belcher, Belcher, Belcher

Belcher/Brutus vamp 4
Brutus Fans:
(singing even louder)
Brutus, Brutus, Brutus, Brutus

Vamp keeps going quietly under Steve’s talking.

Steve:
Tree Town was all about competition. All they cared about was whether their champion had chopped down more trees than their competitor. The town was divided in two.

Joe:
Yes, you could say the town had “grown” apart!

Steve:
(groans and buries his head in his hands)
Ugh....

Transition music, then “Tree Town” begins

Town:
(singing)
We are Tree Town
And we love to watch our champs
Chop down trees
We are Tree Town
And we love to root for
Our champs

Brutus Fans:
*(shouting and shaking their fists in the air)*
BRUTUS!

Belcher Fans:
*(Shouting and shaking their fists in the air)*
BELCHER!

Town:
*(singing)*
We are Tree Town
And we love to watch our champs
Chop down trees
We are tree town
And we love to root for
Our champs

Brutus Fans:
*(shouting)*
BRUTUS!

Belcher Fans:
*(shouting)*
BELCHER!

As the Brutus fans sing, Brutus moves to the center and flexes and swings his axe. The Belcher fans, hold their noses, give thumbs down, and wave their hands dismissively.

Brutus fans:
*(Singing)*
Brutus is the greatest champ in town
Look at him swing that axe
He will always be the best
And if you root for someone else
Then we’ll never talk to you again!

As the Belcher fans sing, Belcher moves to the center and flexes and swings his axe. The Brutus fans, hold their noses, give thumbs down, and wave their hands dismissively.

Belcher fans:
*(Singing)*
Belcher is clearly far superior
He far above the rest
He will always be our champ
And if you disagree with us
Then you are not our friend!

Dance Break! Band plays through the “We are Tree Town” section 2 times while the kids dance. Maybe like a dance off of some kind? The Brutus Fans dance, then the Belcher fans try to top it. It goes back and forth a few times then the go back into “We are tree town!”

Town:
(Singing)
We are tree town
And we love to watch our champs
Chop down trees
We are tree town
And we love to root for
Our champs

Brutus Fans:
(shouting)
BRUTUS!

Belcher Fans:
(Shouting)
BELCHER!

Music transitions to Kari’s Theme. Kari comes out of the crowd to center stage. She is still not wearing red or blue. She looks around confused.

Kari:
(Singing)
I’m from a very, very different town
A town of peace and love
You see, in my town, we don’t chop stuff down
But we build each other up
In God’s Garden we grow the fruit of the Spirit
In God’s Garden we grow the fruit of the Spirit

Music transitions back.

Town:
(Singing)
We are tree town
And we love to watch our champs
Chop down trees
We are tree town
And we love to root for
Song Ends. Everyone breaks up and mingles as if they are in the town square, no longer at a competition. They don’t mingle with people from the other side, however.

Steve:
As you can see, Kari didn’t fit very well into Tree Town. On her second day in town, just as she was really starting to learn about the quirks of Tree Town,

(music starts)
the mayor came to the town square to make an announcement.

Mayor:
(Singing)
I am the mayor of this fine town
I have an announcement so settle down
Tomorrow at three on this very street
Brutus and Belcher will both compete

(music continues)

Joe:
The town lived for these announcements. Business closed down to prepare for the competition. People started speculating on what the competition would be and who would win. They loved to ROOT for their champs and they just couldn’t “leaf” it be!

Town:
(Singing with excitement)
Shut down the businesses, close the streets
It's time for our champions to compete

Brutus Fans:
(as if talking among themselves)
Brutus is going to win, hands down

Belcher Fans:
(to each other)
Belcher will make him look like a clown!
Musical interlude for dance? Or for the townspeople to move around, shutting down businesses, setting up street closed signs etc.)

Town:
Though we Love to root for

Brutus Fans:
(singing)
Brutus!

Belcher Fans:
(shouting)
Belcher!

Town:
There is one thing we love more
We love to tell our rivals
That their champ is such a bore

Music continues quietly under dialogue.

Brutus fan 1:
(Shouted across the arena to Belcher Fans)
Watching Belcher compete is like watching paint dry. It's not a-peel-ing!

Belcher fan 1:
(Shouted across the arena to Brutus Fans)
Oh yeah, watching Brutus is like eating a peach. It always ends in the pits.

Brutus fan 2:
(Shouted across the arena to Belcher Fans)
You Know, I would ask Belcher to chop me some firewood, but I prefer to burn LOGS not TWIGS!

Belcher fan 2:
(Shouted across the arena to Brutus Fans)
Oh yeah, Brutus is such a poor lumberjack, he had to ask for help cutting down his Christmas TREE!

Music gets louder

Belcher Fans:
(sung)
You’re Wrong!

Brutus Fans:
(sung)
You’re Wrong
Belcher Fans:

*(sung)*
You’re Wrong!

Brutus Fans:

*(sung)*
You’re Wrong

Town:

*(sung)*
We’ll never get along!

Our town may be divided
But we are fine with that
As long as we have

Brutus Fans:

*(singing)*
Brutus!

Belcher Fans:

*(shouting)*
Belcher!

Town:

We’ll never bridge the gap.

Town:

*(Singing with excitement)*
Shut down the businesses, close the streets
It’s time for our champions to compete

Brutus Fans:

*(as if talking among themselves)*
Belcher won’t win! There is just no way!

Belcher Fans:

*(to each other)*
Brutus will lose, we can surely say!

Belcher Fans:

*(sung)*
You’re Wrong!

Brutus Fans:

*(sung)*
You’re Wrong
Belcher Fans:  
(sung)  
You’re Wrong!

Brutus Fans:  
(sung)  
You’re Wrong

Town:  
(sung)  
We’ll never get along!

Song ends and scene ends with the two sides divided and angry at each other.

Scene 2.

It is the next day and the competition is set up. A person walks across the stage with a sign that says, “The Next day—the day of the competition.” Brutus and Belcher are in the center both standing in front of big logs with axes at the ready. The fans are divided. Brutus/Belcher Vamp 1 starts.

Belcher Fans (blue):  
(singing)  
Belcher, Belcher, Belcher, Belcher

Belcher/Brutus vamp 2  
Brutus Fans (red)  
(singing)  
Brutus, Brutus, Brutus, Brutus

Belcher/Brutus Vamp 3  
Belcher Fans:  
(singing even louder)  
Belcher, Belcher, Belcher, Belcher

Belcher/Brutus vamp 4  
Brutus Fans:  
(singing even louder)  
Brutus, Brutus, Brutus, Brutus

As the Brutus fans are singing, the mayor comes to the podium and waves his/her hands to get the crowd to quiet down. The Brutus/Belcher vamp stops abruptly.

Mayor:  
Today’s competition is very simple.
Music for competition.

Brutus and Belcher will take turns chopping their log. The champion that cuts his log in two in the fewest strikes will win this competition. We have flipped a coin and Brutus has chosen to go first.

Brutus vamp, Play quietly under Brutus until he swings his axe, then play the “Axe Hit”

Steve:
(now actively announcing for the competition whispering into the mic as if it is a golf match)
Brutus steps up to his log. He has always been known for his strength and accuracy. Let’s see how he does with this log.

The Crowd is quiet as he prepares to swing. He raises his axe and takes a swing. There is a loud clank, the axe bounces off, and Brutus looks very confused. Belcher fans boo and laugh.

Joe:
(speaking in an announcer voice over the noise of the crowd)
That looked like great form Steve, but the axe didn’t even put a notch in the wood. That must be very hard wood.

Music starts again (belcher vamp. Play quietly under Belcher until he swings his axe, then play “Axe Hit”

Steve:
(whispering again)
Alright, Belcher is up. Let’s see how he does.

Belcher swings, it is a good swing. Belcher fans go wild.

Joe:
That looked much better, Steve. It looks like Brutus has some catching up to do.

Music starts again. (Brutus vamp) Play quietly under Brutus until “Axe Hit”

Steve:
(whispering)
Here is Brutus again. He is looking a little shaken. He Swings, and,

Brutus goes again with the same results.

Steve:
Oh... something is not right.

Music starts again. Brutus takes his axe and taps it on the log. He looks at the log curiously. He tries to pick it up, but cannot.

Brutus:
(shouting to the crowd)
This log is made out of solid metal! Someone is cheating so that I will lose! THE COMPETITION IS RIGGED

The music gets louder and keeps going up a half step. The crowd is becoming visibly agitated.

Belcher:
Are you accusing me of something?

Brutus:
Yeah! YOU’RE A CHEATER!

The Crowd Starts to yell at each other and the music build and builds and gets faster and faster. It reaches a point of chaos.

Kari:
(Yelling over the top of the Crowd)
STOOOOOOP!

As Kari yells the music stops and everyone looks at her shocked. They don’t seem to know how to respond. There is a moment of silence and then new music starts.

Kari:
(Speaking)
What is going on in this town!? You are obsessed with Brutus and Belcher. You are obsessed with these competitions. You are so obsessed that you have forgotten how to treat each other.

(Singing)
This is not how we’re supposed to act
This is not how we’re supposed to live
God wants us to plant the holy fruit
The Holy Spirit’s Fruit found in our hearts

I come from a town that lived like this
I want you to know a better way
We can plant the fruit of peace and love
Kindness, gentleness and patience too

(Speaking)
Brutus and Belcher, you two aren’t that different. In fact, I bet you would be friends if you just decided to cultivate God’s fruit instead of competition and rivalry and meanness. Brutus, I know you were hurt by the cheating in the competition today, but can you try to say something kind or loving to Belcher?

Brutus:
(looking sheepish)
Well...ok...Belcher, I...I...um...well, I have always admired your skill with an axe. And I guess it has been really fun to compete against you all these years.
Belcher:

*(blushing)*

Aww, thanks Brutus. You’re well, you’re really great too. I have always wanted someone to train with, and maybe we could work together and help each other get better, instead of always being against each other.

*The crowd starts to lighten up. If Brutus and Belcher can plant good fruit, maybe they can too.*

Kari:

That was beautiful! God wants us to plant the Fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

Belcher Fan 3:

*(yelling to the crowd)*

I haven’t spoken to my brother in 10 years—since he decided to root for Brutus. Maybe we could be brothers again!

Brutus Fan 3:

*(yelling)*

I LOVE YOU SIS!

Belcher Fan 3:

I Love you too, Bro!

*They run from their sides to the middle and bro hug. Other people in the crowd start to do the same thing. The theme Kari sings at the beginning starts again.*

Kari:

*(singing)*

Can’t you see that this is a better way? Don’t you want to plant the spirit’s fruit? Tree Town can become a place of love You just have to think of others first

We can decide to be a different town A town of peace and love We won’t decide to cut each other down, instead we’ll build each other up

Town:

*(singing together)*

We can decide to be a different town A town of peace and love We won’t decide to cut each other down, instead we’ll build each other up
In tree town we’ll grow, the fruit of the spirit
Yes in tree town we’ll grow the fruit of the spirit....

Mayor:
(speaking to the crowd)
Well, this is a real turn of events. Let’s call it a day and come back tomorrow and try this competition again. I have a feeling that it might be a little different.

Scene 3
The back in time sound effect plays again. We are back at the competition that started the show. Steve and Joe are back at their table. The crowd is mixed watching the two champions with their positive signs showing again.

Steve:
And that brings us to today. Tree town still loves their champs, they still love the thrill of competition, but now they try to grow the Fruit of the Spirit. They love each other, they are patient with each other, they are good to each other, and above all, they are kind.

Joe:
That is right Steve. One little girl planted the seed in Tree Town and it grew into a place a lot like God’s Garden. A place where the fruit of the Spirit is grown. A place where people build each other up instead of cutting each other down.

Steve:
Kari’s simple actions and example for the town helped it to be a beautiful place and the town is still thriving today.

Theme from the beginning starts.

Town
(Singing)
We are tree town
And we love to watch our champs chop down trees
We are tree town
And we love to root for our champs
Brutus, belcher

We are tree town
And we love to help our friends and be kind
We are tree town
And we plant the Spirit’s good Fruit
(Shouting)
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness and self-control!

We can decide to be a different town
A town of peace and love
We won’t decide to cut each other down, instead we’ll build each other up
In tree town we’ll grow, the fruit of the spirit
Yes in tree town we’ll grow the fruit of the spirit....

(Kari invite the crowd to sing along)

Yes in this town we’ll grow the fruit of the spirit....

The end.