

The Wild Animal Song Contest

This play describes a competition to see which animal from which nation can produce the best song. Kingsley DEBIT, a King Penguin, is the show's compère. This scene takes place in the dressing room where Debit, with a fake hand mike, is conducting a rehearsal.

DEBIT: We've got to get on with rehearsals. First of all, I'll remind you of the rules. Rule One: each animal shall perform a song written by itself. Rule Two: each animal will be interviewed before performing and reply politely when asked about its hobbies and ambitions. Rule Three: political songs – about famine, unemployment or peace – are not to be sung. Rule Four: there must be no songs which make fun of human beings or penguins. Rule Five: for the contest itself, but not for rehearsals, the singers will perform wearing human being costumes and masks. This will add dignity to the proceedings. Rule Six: the winner will be awarded the title, King or Queen of the Animals, and will be presented with the Million Gun plus one hundred thousand bullets for the Million Gun. It's the gun which kills a million animals with every bullet. It's the greatest gun, and it's the only one. Now, we've just time to rehearse the show. I'll take Quilla in front of the cameras first. The rest of you – vanish yourselves and get ready.

(DEBIT takes his hand mike and steps into the screen)

I'm going to start the rehearsal now! Action! And now I'd like to introduce the unique, the amazing, the absolutely superfluous Inter-Galactic Universal Wild Animal Song Contest, coming to you live from... *(Insert name of venue)*

I'm your loveable compère, my name's Kingsley Debit, and we're going to have fun, fun, fun and win the Million Gun! And here comes our first competitor. Will you please put your wings together for Quilla, the Golden Eagle.

by Adrian Mitchell