

Playstage

Junior

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THE PRINCESS AND THE SPROUT



A jolly search for a true Princess!



Written by
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THE PRINCESS AND THE SPROUT CAST

Narrators (could be between 2 and 6 narrators)

Princess

Paws (the cat) non-speaking

Pippin

Trees x 3

Queenie

Kingy

Prince Charming

Nutmeg

Clove

Cinnamon

Jeeves the butler

Removal men x 3

Princess A la Stroppe

Princess Pink-n-Fluffy

Princess Got-to-Get-On

Three fanfare blowers. (These could also be the Narrators.)

28 parts are possible – not all speaking parts but could be singing. The number of characters is flexible.

Running time approximately 40 minutes.

MUSIC and SPECIAL EFFECTS

Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artiste's recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do. Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Songs can be trimmed to whatever length required. Free sound effects sources are given below. Videos of the songs below can be found on You Tube for rehearsal purposes in class. We have given the relevant links.

SONGS:-

1. SONG : You've Got a Friend in Me from Toy Story
 YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIYOJ_hSs0o
 Backing track: <https://www.karaoke-version.co.uk/instrumental-mp3/randy-newman/you-ve-got-a-friend-in-me.html>
2. Music: In The Hall of the Mountain King from the Peer Gynt Suite.
 MP3: https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hall-Mountain-King/dp/B002LI250M/ref=sr_1_1_tw_mus_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534679297&sr=8-1&keywords=In+the+Hall+of+the+Mountain+King+mp3
3. Music: Yakety Sax
 YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnHmskwqCCQ>
4. Music: Right said Fred
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8Ybkj7oLJU>
5. SONG : You Raise Me Up
 Backing track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5Wu6svvKR0>
 YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rkkw8RhH9ck>

THE PRINCESS AND THE SPROUT

All characters are sat on benches at the back of the stage. One NARRATOR is standing at one end of the benches, the other NARRATOR at the other end. They stand when they speak.

NARRATOR 1

Welcome to our story we hope you enjoy the show
It's got nothing to do with Christmas so please just go with the flow

(PRINCE comes forward and looks charming in an obvious way)

NARRATOR 2

Our prince is very charming
In fact he's rather vain

(PRINCE bows with a flourish. PRINCESS comes forward looking tired, rubbing her eyes and stretching her arms then rubbing her bottom)

NARRATOR 3

Our princess is rather sensitive
A bad night's sleep again

(QUEENIE stands forward, hands on hips, looking stern. KINGIE stands, looking worried and nervous)

NARRATOR 4

We've a bossy Queenie and a sleepy King
They're on the look-out for a right royal wedding

(QUEENIE looking around, hand up to eye brows)

NARRATOR 5 *(Pippin stands, shrugs, links Princess's arm)*

And ever loyal Pippin
Forever at Princess's side

NARRATOR 6

And Paws, for thought, our cat.

(PAWS carrying a spotted handkerchief on a stick. S/he bows to the audience)

So, come along for the ride.

(NARRATORS sweep of the hands in unison to demonstrate the beginning of the show. ALL the cast leave the stage. The TREES enter and take up position.)

SCENE 1 - THE FOREST.

(PRINCESS, PIPPIN & PAWS enter. They are out for a walk. There are three TREES standing in the woods, still.)

PRINCESS *(humming song You've got a Friend in Me. Miming picking berries.)*
These berries are sooo delicious, don't you think so Pippin?

PIPPIN *(looking adoringly at her)*
They are, your Highness, but we don't want to go too far and get lost. *(Looking around)*
Looks like a storm's brewing and it's beginning to get dark.

PRINCESS *(skipping)*
Just a little bit further, Pippin, I'm so enjoying roaming free. Come along Paws!

(PAWS meows and follows her as she's skipping along.)

PIPPIN *(looking after them, dreamily)*
Whatever you say. *(to himself)* I'll be right by your side, wherever you go. *(sighs)*

PRINCESS
You are wonderful, Pippin, thank you for being such a good friend.

PIPPIN
That's what friends are for.

(They link arms and dance to song. PAWS dancing along.)

SONG : YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME

PIPPIN
You've got a friend in me

PRINCESS
You've got a friend in me

TOGETHER
When the road looks rough ahead
And you're miles and miles from your nice warm bed
You just remember what your old pal said

Girl/boy you've got a friend in me
Yeah you've got a friend in me

PIPPIN

You've got a friend in me

PRINCESS

You've got a friend in me

TOGETHER

You got troubles and I got 'em too

There isn't anything I wouldn't do for you

We stick together, we can see it through

'Cause you've got a friend in me

You've got a friend in me

PIPPIN

Some other folks might be a little bit smarter than I am

Bigger and stronger too

Maybe

But none of them

Will ever love you the way I do

It's me and you girl

TOGETHER

And as the years go by

Our friendship will never die

You're gonna see it's our destiny

You've got a friend in me

You've got a friend in me

You've got a friend in me

(End of song. They hug.)

(APPLAUSE)

PIPPIN *(coming to an abrupt stop)*

But we're going too far, your Highness, and it looks like a storm is brewing. Those trees are looking pretty spooky too. I'm sure I saw them move!

(TREES start closing in on PRINCESS, PIPPIN & PAWS)

PIPPIN

They *are* moving!

(SOUND EFFECT of crack of thunder, rain and lightning followed by music from PEER GYNT. The TREES do a dance as they attempt to close in on our CHARACTERS. A chase scene follows as trees attempt to catch the CHARACTERS (2 mins). This could be where the trees try and catch the PRINCESS and PIPPIN rescues her. The TREES exit.)

PRINCESS

Thank you, Pippin, that was a close shave. Quick, Pippin, Paws, we need to find cover.

PIPPIN

This way, your Highness.

(They run off stage. Mighty crack of thunder.)

END OF SCENE 1/

SCENE 2 – THE PALACE KITCHEN

Enter two NARRATORS, carrying a table between them, which they place centre stage. As they speak, two other NARRATORS bring on two chairs, which they place either end of the table. The second two NARRATORS then exit.

NARRATOR 1

Meanwhile, in a castle not far away, a Queen and King prepare to cook.

NARRATOR 2

A storm is brewing outside its true

But inside another storm brewing inside, come and take a look!

(The NARRATORS exit and QUEENIE enters with an apron in her hand and chef's hat over her crown. She stands behind the table. Her long-suffering husband, KINGIE enters, sits on one of the chairs and immediately nods off. The PRINCE enters and sits on a chair, polishing his nails. He's bored and a bit vain.)

QUEENIE *(bossy and flamboyant)*

Get a move on, Kingie! Time waits for no one, not even for an important person such as myself. We have a cake to make for our party. (to PRINCE) We've invited three gorgeous princesses from the three corners of the Queendom *(aside)* did you hear that Kingy, Queendom, not kingdom, I'm in charge here *(KINGY wakes up suddenly, raises his eyebrows and sighs, shakes his head sadly)*, to present to our son *(waves her hand in the direction of the PRINCE)*.

PRINCE

(he looks up from his nails)

It's *four* corners of the, whatever, mother, not three.

QUEENIE

What?

PRINCE

(with emphasis) It's *four* corners, not three.

QUEENIE

Four corners? Whoever heard of *four* corners? Well, whatever. We have found three beautiful contenders from ... around abouts to present to you as possible marriage material.

PRINCE

But mother, as I've said before, I don't want to get married yet.

QUEENIE

You just haven't found the right girl, has he Kingy?

KINGIE (*waking up suddenly again*)

What? Yes dear.

QUEENIE

And, anyway, it's time you got on with your life. You're old enough and, well ugly enough, to start your own life rather than hanging around here doing nothing. You need to move on and get your own place with a nice girl.

PRINCE

But I'm happy here, mother.

QUEENIE

Happy doing nothing! No, I've made my mind up, you need a wife and I could do with letting out your bedroom to get some extra cash.

PRINCE

But we're royalty, we've got loads of dosh!

QUEENIE

Every little helps, son. Now, Kingy! (*he's startled awake again*). Help me get this cake made for the Princesses' arrival.

(*Crack of thunder, flash of lightning (if possible)*)

Sounds like thunder. Good job we're in our lovely warm castle and not out in that dreadful weather.

KINGIE (*waking up*)

Yes dear.

QUEENIE

Now then, we need to make a cake. (*she clicks her fingers, calling*) Clove, Cinnamon, Nutmeg, you're needed! (*nothing happens*) NOW!

(*she blows a whistle. QUEENIE is like Sergeant Major, yelling instructions. They march into position in front of Queenie and "fall in" like soldiers.*)

QUEENIE

Attention!

CLOVE, CINNAMON, NUTMEG (*saluting*)
Your Majesty.

QUEENIE
We have a job to do.

CLOVE, CINNAMON, NUTMEG
Yes, *marm*!

QUEENIE (*turning to KINGY and PRINCE*)
See, this is how I should be shown respect, not like you two slackers. (*turning to CLOVE, CINNAMON, NUTMEG*), right, you 'orrible lot, I want a cake to be made, a cake to rival all cakes, a cake so magnificent, so stupendous, so luxurious, so imperial, so resplendent ...

PRINCE
Alright, mother, we get the general idea.

QUEENIE
Well, it's got to be good. Good enough to entice a young lady to take you off our hands. Bake off, schmake off! Eat your heart out Paul Hollywood and ... that other one... whoever it is these days. Yes, a cake like no other.

PRINCE
A show-stopper?

QUEENIE
Well, we wouldn't want to stop the show now, would we? We've hardly got started and the audience haven't heard me sing yet.

KINGY (*stirring from his slumber*)
That's something well worth missing ... I mean, waiting for, dear.

QUEENIE
There's no stopping *this* show, I'm on a roll. Right, Clove, Cinnamon, Nutmeg, let's get to work!

(*CLOVE, CINNAMON, NUTMEG bring on a long table which they place in front of QUEENIE, longways on so we can see QUEENIE behind the table and the audience have a good view of the contents. It contains a bowl, exaggeratedly large bags of flour, sugar, bouncy eggs and big chunk of butter which could be made out of cardboard. All big and over the top. It doesn't have to be real. SEE PRODUCTION NOTES.*)

QUEENIE

Let's get started (*she rolls up her sleeves, CLOVE puts an apron on QUEENIE and ties it at the back, she adjusts her chef's hat*).

(*A farcical, slapstick scene follows. MUSIC: YAKETY SAX plays in the background (not too loudly)*)

QUEENIE

Flour!

(*CINNAMON passes her flour. QUEENIE throws it into the bowl. She gets flour all over her face, which she attempts to blow away*)

Sugar!

(*NUTMEG carefully and surreptitiously passes to QUEENIE who throws it into the mix. She sticks her finger in a licks it*)

Yummmmm. Butter!

(*CLOVE passes the big chunk of butter which QUEENIE bungs into the bowl. A big waft of flour comes out. This is messy*)

Eggs! (*CINNAMON is cowering holding the eggs at the end of the table*) Come on, girl, give me the eggs !

(*CINNAMON reluctantly passes QUEENIE the eggs and makes a mad dash right over to the other side of the stage and cowers. QUEENIE starts throwing the eggs around and, being bouncy eggs, they jump all over the place including into the audience*)

QUEENIE

These eggs are lively! Give me some more!

(*CLOVE passes her more eggs which QUEENIE puts in bowl. She stirs. MUSIC stops.*)

Kingy! Pay attention!

KINGY

Wha.. wha.. what dear?

QUEENIE

Do keep up, Kingy, something very magical is taking place here.

PRINCE

It's a mess, mother!

QUEENIE

You've got to crack a few eggs to make an omelette, son.

PRINCE

I thought you were making a cake?