

Grandma's House

A Play in One Act

By

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“Grandma’s House” was first performed under the title of “Three Princesses & A Witch” at Bamber Valley Elementary School on April 27th, 2001.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

The original cast and crew that helped create the ideas and characters for this show and put forth the time and energy to take this show on the road in order to bring theater arts to over 1,500 elementary students in the Rochester area. The cast and crew are: Ashley Cook, Jackson DeMars, Cassie Edds, Kaleb Lukes, Holly Olnes, Zach Otten and Emilee Schacht.

The parents of these students who donated money and time to create costumes and props for the show and helped make life just a little bit easier.

The schools that were willing to take a chance and let a fledgling school come and entertain their students.

My fellow faculty members at Studio Academy for their support, and of course, my wife, Melisa, who helps to support my madness.

PRODUCTION NOTES

This play can easily be used for one-act competitions and runs around twenty-five minutes.

The original set consisted of a door and a platform located directly upstage center. A spinning wheel, hidden under a sheet, is stage left of the door. A table and four chairs are downstage and slightly right of center. Everything is brightly colored and looks as if it were plucked from the books of a fairy tale.

Costumes fit the fairy tale motif: the princesses wear gowns and crowns, the prince wears tights and a cape, and the witch has a black hat and dress.

The props are as follows: 1 table, 4 chairs, 1 tablecloth, 1 vase with flowers, 1 spinning wheel, 1 sheet, 1 candlestick and candle, 1 banana, 1 remote control, 4 bowls, 4 glasses, 4 wooden spoons, 4 napkins, 1 serving tray, 1 bucket, 1 scrub brush, 1 wig, and 1 very large note.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Wicked Witch: She is very mean but not exactly the greatest at casting spells.

Cinderella: She's been married for a few years now. Because of having to deal with the past abuse of her stepsisters, she has now developed a cleaning complex and is quite anal-retentive.

Sleeping Beauty: She seems like a very nice person, but she falls asleep way too much.

Snow White: She has been married for a few years too and has become a devout vegetarian.

Jack the Prince: He is a combination of a lot of Jacks from the fairy tales. He is still single, largely due to the fact that he is unattractive and uses bad pick-up lines.

Scene

In the land of fairy tales at Grandma's house.

Time

The present.

SETTING: Directly upstage center is a door with a four feet by four feet platform in front of it. At stage left is a spinning wheel which is covered by a large white sheet. A table with four chairs is located slightly right of downstage center. The table is covered by a tablecloth, and a vase with flowers sits on the center. A very large note is attached to the downstage side of the table and reads "To My Favorite Princess". There are exits/entrances located at stage right and stage left.

AT RISE: Evil, scary opening music begins to play, and the lights illuminate the set. The door handle jiggles a bit and after a pause the WICKED WITCH pokes her head into house. She peers about and finally enters, shutting the door behind her. She looks around again and finally works her way to downstage center. She notices the audience and glares at them before speaking.

WITCH

Oh, hello there. Do you know who I am? Can you guess? That's right... I am a witch. What sort of witch do you think I am? (*Laughs wickedly*) Am I a good witch? Am I a sandwich? Am I a bad witch? You're darn right I'm bad witch! I am the most evil witch in all the land and I've broken into this house because I know there's a magical spinning wheel in here. You see, long ago, there was a spinning wheel of fortune and people from all over the land gathered every night to watch it spin, spin cloth into gold. Then one day it disappeared... someone had stolen it. Well, I looked high and low for that wheel and never could find it. Until one day I heard of an old grandmother who had a magical spinning wheel, so I've traveled here to see if it is the wheel. When the grandmother left the house just a little bit ago, I took my chance. Now, where is that wheel?

(Begins to look around again. A knock is heard at the door.)

CINDERELLA

(From offstage) Grandmother! Are you in there?

WITCH

Drat! Who could that be?

CINDERELLA

Grandmother! Open up! It's me, Cinderella.

WITCH

What's this? I must hide, but where?

CINDERELLA

She must not be home, girls. We'll just have to wait.

SNOW WHITE

Why don't you just go in? I'm sure the door is unlocked.

CINDERELLA

Really, Snow White. Where's your manners? You can't just barge into a stranger's house.

SNOW WHITE

She's your grandmother. She's not a stranger. (*Turns doorknob as they*

continue to ad-lib an argument.)

WITCH

Oh, no! They're coming in! I know, I'll cast a spell which will make Cinderella and her friends think I'm the grandmother. That'll buy me enough time to find the spinning wheel and get out of here. Ka bu, Ka blam, Shazam, Shazam, Time to change who I am.

(Pulls out a gray wig out of her costume. Puts it on quickly and hides her hat. She opens the door just as the three girls open the door.)

WITCH *(Continued)*

Why Cinderella! What a pleasant surprise! What are you doing here?

CINDERELLA

What do you mean what am I doing here? I wrote you a letter and told you I was coming for a visit. Didn't you receive it?

WITCH

Oh... yes...of course. Sorry, dear. For some reason I thought it was next Tuesday.

CINDERELLA

No, it's Monday.

WITCH

You were coming next Monday?

CINDERELLA

No, today. Monday.

WITCH

Of course, it is dear. It's so good to see you.

CINDERELLA

And you too, Grandma. Although, your hair is much longer than the last time I saw you...and so messy too. *(Reaches for hair)*

WITCH

Oh, my! I see you're still a little fidget monster. What would Cinderella do if she didn't have something to tidy up or fix?

CINDERELLA

Oh, grandma. I'm not that bad. And your eyes...they're much bigger than before.

WITCH

All the better to see you with, my dear. I see you brought some friends with you.

CINDERELLA

Yes, I hope you don't mind, but this is Sleeping Beauty.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

(Yawns) Hello. Pleased to meet you.

WITCH

Oh, what's wrong, my dear? A little tired from the trip?

CINDERELLA

You'll have to excuse her sleepiness, Grandmother. A few years back she had a spell cast on her by an evil witch. Even though a passing prince kissed her and broke the spell, she has never really recovered. Now she has narcolepsy. Narcolepsy is a disease where you fall asleep all the time and can't do anything about it. It's a sleeping disorder that can be treated with medication.

WITCH

I'm well aware of what narcolepsy means, Cinderella. *(Addresses audience)* You don't have to talk to me like a third grader.

CINDERELLA

Sorry. This is my other friend, Snow White.

SNOW WHITE

Pleased to meet you. Nice place you got here.

WITCH

Thank you, dear. Have you been friends with Cinderella long?

SNOW WHITE

Just a couple of years. My husband, the prince, is actually brothers with her husband, the prince. So, I guess we're related through marriage now.

(Sleeping Beauty, who has nodded off, falls to the floor. They all scream cries of alarm and help pick her up. Cinderella begins brushing at her dress with her hands.)

CINDERELLA

Good gravy, Sleeping Beauty. You fell down again. Just look at your dress. It's all dirty.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Relax, Cindy. I'll take care of it. Why do you always have to be so clean?

CINDERELLA

A princess must be proper... and clean!

WITCH

It looks like you girls are a little crabby from the trip. What you need is a nice meal to make you happy again. What do you say to some nice porridge and some apple juice? (*Says "apple" strangely, causing SNOW WHITE to take notice.*)

CINDERELLA

That sounds great, Grandma. We'll go get freshened up. C'mon, girls.

(All flounce off stage left.)

SNOW WHITE

(Stopping) Do I know you from somewhere?

WITCH

I don't think so, dearie. What makes you say that?

SNOW WHITE

I don't know. Your voice sounds familiar to me somehow. Especially when you said the word "apple."

WITCH

Oh, I don't think so. You must have me confused with someone else. Run along now. (*Waits until she leaves.*) Mmmm, perhaps this spell isn't working as well as I thought. Oh well, no matter. I'll just poison their food with a little of my death spell and when they've all bit the big one I'll find the spinning wheel and be on my way. (*Laughs wickedly*) Now, to the kitchen I go. Death awaits. (*Exits Stage Right*)

SLEEPING BEAUTY

(Enters) Would you just leave me alone? I don't want to wash up.

CINDERELLA

(Enters with SNOW WHITE) Really, Sleeping Beauty. You're all dirty from the trip. You need to look good. It's our job as princess.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

I don't need to work at it. I'm naturally gorgeous. Why do you think my name is Sleeping Beauty?

SNOW WHITE

Really, Cinderella. Just give it a rest. No one is going to care what we look like right now anyway. This was supposed to be our chance to get away from all the princess stuff, remember?

CINDERELLA

Yeah, I suppose you're right. But we really should wash our hands though. Grandma could always tell when I didn't wash my hands before a meal.

(All look at each other and nod together. They flounce out Stage Right.)

SNOW WHITE

(Talking as they exit) Say, she isn't going to serve any meat, is she?

CINDERELLA

I don't know, why?

SNOW WHITE

Because I'm a vegetarian, remember?

WITCH

(Enters Stage Right, carrying a tray with four bowls of porridge, four glasses of juice, napkins, and silverware.) Ah, yes... here we have their last meal. Hee, hee, hee. *(Begins putting the porridge on the table.)* Now this will be my bowl of porridge and I'll make sure that I don't poison it... but I'll poison the others. Bim Bob Bibbily bom bood, Conjure me up some evil food, Poisoned porridge they all will eat, except for me, ah yes, what a treat! *(Waves her hand around and finishes putting everything on the table.)* There we are. Perfect.

(The girls enter from stage left.)

WITCH

The food is ready, girls.

SNOW WHITE

Great, I'm starving.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

I'm tired.

SNOW WHITE

What else is new?

WITCH

That's because you haven't eaten, dear. Please sit down. *(Motions to 1st upstage chair.)*

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Thank you. *(She sits down.)*

SNOW WHITE

Man, this looks great! *(Sits at stage right where the non-poisoned porridge is.)*

WITCH

No!

SNOW WHITE

What! What is it?

WITCH

I... I... forgot the rolls. I'll go pop some in the oven. *(Turns to leave)*

CINDERELLA

Oh, forget it Grandma. This is just fine. *(Sits in 2nd upstage chair and begins rearranging silverware and place setting.)*

WITCH

Okay... if you insist. *(Sits reluctantly in stage left chair and stares at her poisoned porridge. Cinderella fiddles with spoon and drops it.)*

CINDERELLA

Oh, dear. I've dropped my spoon.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

It went under the table.

CINDERELLA

Under where?

SNOW WHITE

(Laughs) You said underwear.

ALL PRINCESSES

(Clapping their hands.) Underwear, underwear, underwear.

WITCH

(Slams bowl on table. They stop.) That's enough, girls. Eat your porridge.

(CINDERELLA reaches down and grabs her spoon and begins to polish it obsessively with her napkin. SNOW WHITE takes a bite of porridge.)

SNOW WHITE

Hey, this is pretty good. It's just right.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

(Attempts to take a bite.) Mine's a little hot. Perhaps I better wait and let it cool off a bit.

SNOW WHITE

I really like these little chunks in here. What is it?

WITCH

Oh, that's just a little diced ham.

SNOW WHITE

(Spits out porridge back into the bowl.) Ewww, I can't eat this... I'm a vegetarian!

WITCH

A what?

CINDERELLA

A vegetarian, grandma. A vegetarian is someone who doesn't like to eat meat.

END OF PREVIEW- PLEASE CONTACT FORREST MUSSELMAN AT formusselman@hotmail.com if you'd like to see the full script or discuss performance rights.