

Spotlight Publications

Pig Tale

A play in one act

By Ron Nicol



COPYRIGHT © RON NICOL 2009
Published by Spotlight Publications

All rights are reserved including performances on stage, radio and television. **No part of this publication may be copied by whatever means without the prior permission of the copyright owner.** It is an infringement of the copyright to give any performance or public reading of the play before a licence has been issued.

Drama groups must obtain a full acting set of scripts (a minimum of one script per actor plus one for the director) or an electronic script before a performing licence can be issued.

The name of the author shall be stated on all publicity including posters and programmes. Programme credits shall state "script provided by Spotlight Publications".

All enquiries to:
Spotlight Publications, 259 The Moorings, Dalgety Bay, Fife, KY11 9GX, UK.
Tel. 01383 825737

Email: wwpanto@gmail.com
Website: www.spotlightpublications.com

ISBN 978-1-907307-05-8

Pig Tale

CAST (in order of appearance)

Narrator
Prompter
First Little Pig
Second Little Pig
Third Little Pig
Mummy Pig
The Sheep
Big Bad Wolf
Man or Woman With Straw
Man or Woman With Sticks
Man or Woman With Bricks
Police Officer

Most of the characters including the Three Little Pigs can be male or female, with the text changed appropriately. The Prompter can play several of the smaller roles if desired.

The setting can be as simple or as elaborate as resources dictate. It could be the countryside with hills in the distance, a white fence US and a few bushes and flowers, or perhaps it might be a child's nursery with a bed or cot in one corner, a doll's house in another and toys scattered around, or maybe something imaginative, weird and wonderful - but even a bare stage will do.

Pig Tale was shortlisted in the Youth section of the Drama Association of Wales One Act playwriting competition 2008, being described by the judge Angharad Elen as "by far the funniest play in the competition ... the only play that made me laugh out loud, not once but several times. Ron Nicol has a wonderful and quirky sense of humour."

Music plays, fading as the Narrator enters and the lights are brought up

Narrator Now children, are you all sitting comfortably? You are? Then I'll begin.

S/he checks clothing, smooths hair, opens script, holds it at an appropriate angle, coughs, clears throat, etc. - the big build-up - the gifted performer. The complete poser and utter pain in the neck!

Once upon a time, long, long ago - long, long, long ago, when all the world was fresh and young and new, and all living things were fresh and young and innocent - a long long loong ...

Prompter (off) Get on with it!

Narrator As I was saying, before I was so rudely interrupted - as I was saying ...

S/he finds the place in the script and sets off with aplomb

A long time ago, when all the world was fresh and young and new ...

S/he feels confident enough to speak without the script, and puts it behind her/his back. S/he'll regret it

Prompter (off) You'll regret it.

Narrator ... and all living things were fresh and young and - no - young and fresh and - no, I was right the first time ... Fresh and young? Young and fresh? Frush and long ...

S/he frantically searches through the script. The Prompter enters

Prompter Told you. Pride comes before a fall. Got too confident, didn't you? Thought you could do it without the script, didn't you? Lost your place, didn't you?

Narrator Who are you?

Prompter I'm the prompter ...

Narrator I'll take notes from the director alone. Nobody else. Certainly not the *prompter!*

Prompter I'm vital to this production, I'll have you know. Vital!

Narrator Don't be ridiculous. Get back where you belong. Leave everything to me. I'm a gifted performer, you know.

Prompter Gifted performer, my foot! Needed my help, didn't you?

Narrator Right, yes, well - all right, where was I?

The Prompter points to the place in the script

Prompter There. Look. Still on Page 1.

Narrator Ah! Yes. Thank you.

S/he prepares to read, then realises that the Prompter is still there

Aren't you going back to the prompt corner?

Prompter I thought you might need me again ...

Narrator I'm fine. Leave me alone.

Prompter All right. You know best. Bet you'll be wanting something in a minute ...

Narrator I won't!

Prompter We'll see.

The Prompter goes towards the prompt corner, but doesn't quite exit. The Narrator tries to regain his/her composure

Narrator Once upon a time, when all the world - er - perhaps I'll miss that bit. Once upon a time there were three little pigs. A big little pig, a middle-sized little pig, and a teeny weeny itsy bitsy titchy tiny loveable little pig. They all lived in a loveable little thatched cottage in the country. A beautiful little thatched cottage with a big brass polished door-knocker, and roses round the door ...

Prompter And graffiti all over the walls.

Narrator And graffiti all over ... no, no!

Prompter It was a proper pigsty.

Narrator No it wasn't.

Prompter It must've been. They were pigs, weren't they? They must've lived in a sty.

Narrator All right, they were pigs, but they didn't live in a sty, they lived in a beautiful little thatched cottage with roses round the door and ivy all over the walls.

Prompter That Ivy gets everywhere.

Narrator I don't care.

Prompter Ivy's Mum does.

Narrator I couldn't care less about Ivy's Mum.

Prompter That's what Ivy says.

Narrator Just leave Ivy alone!

Prompter That's what Ivy's Mum says!

Narrator Shut up, you!

Glares at the Prompter, who retreats a little. The Narrator remembers the audience and tries desperately to recover his/her poise

I'm so sorry about that, children. Let's get back to the story. Now, where was I ... ?

Prompter Still on Page 1.

A glare from the Narrator sends the Prompter scuttling back towards the prompt corner - where s/he continues to lurk

Narrator Now, the three little pigs lived very happily all together in their little thatched cottage. They lived all alone ...

Prompter What about their Mum?

Narrator What? I don't remember that bit. *(Checks script)* Oh yes. You're right. They didn't live all alone, children, they lived with their Mum.

Prompter I told you.

Narrator *(hisses)* Shut up!

Smiles at the audience, pretending nothing's wrong

Now Mummy Pig was a sweet loveable fat old Mumsey Wumsey Pig, who loved all her children dearly, especially the teeny weeny itsy bitsy titchy tiny loveable little pig, who was ...

Prompter A right pain in the neck!

Narrator A right pain in the - no, he wasn't! *(Hisses)* Will you get back in that corner!

Prompter All right, all right. Keep your hair on.

The Prompter exits, going completely offstage this time. The Narrator tries to regain his/her composure

Narrator Take no notice of these interruptions, children. I'm quite capable of working alone. I'm a gifted performer. Gifted. Everybody says so. Now, the youngest little pig was a dear sweet little loveable pig, who always combed his hair and washed behind his ears, and did as he was told, and ate up all his bacon at breakfast ... Now just a minute! "Always ate up all his bacon"! That can't be right! Hey, you!

The Prompter enters smugly

Prompter I knew you'd need me.

Narrator Who wrote this?

The Prompter is rather evasive. You'll see why in a moment

Prompter (*evasively*) It's probably anon. Or trad.

Narrator Anon? Trad? What are you talking about?

Prompter Anonymonymous or traditionitional. Most children's stories are anonymonymous or tradiddlemiddlenational.

Narrator Anonymous or traditional. I know that. But who wrote this version? See here - "... always ate up all his bacon ...". Pigs don't eat bacon.

Prompter They do if they're cannibals.

Narrator They aren't cannibals!

Prompter How do you know?

Narrator Because they're dear sweet loveable pigs.

Prompter So? They could be dear sweet loveable cannibal pigs.

Narrator You can't have cannibal pigs.

Prompter Why not? There's a precedent, you know. What about "This little pig went to market ..."

Narrator Ah, yes. "This little pig stayed at home ..."

Prompter "This little pig had roast beef!" See! Roast beef. So why not bacon? They're probably the same pigs. Cannibal pigs!

Narrator They can't have been. There were five of them, remember, and only one had roast beef. One of them had none.

Prompter That's why the first little pig went to market - to get some more.

Narrator And the last little pig went wee, wee, wee all the way home because the market was shut, I suppose!

Prompter No. He'd probably had too much to drink down at the pub.

Narrator Now you're being ridiculous. This story's for children. You can't mess it about.

Prompter Why not? You have to keep up to date. Modernise. Children these days are used to stronger stories than that. They're into Alien Invaders and Hybrid Mega-blasters and Zombie Flesh Eaters and stuff like that. So why not Cannibal Pigs?

Narrator You can't do that.

Prompter I've already done it. I've made one or two alterations to the script. It was *so* boring during rehearsal. I wanted to liven it up a bit.

Narrator Liven it up a bit! Where's the original? The original script. The one we were rehearsing with?

Prompter I tore it up.

Narrator You tore it up!

Prompter Yes. So?

Narrator I need it.

Prompter Why?

Narrator To read!

Prompter Haven't you got a good book?

Narrator I don't want to read a book. I want to read the script!

Prompter Didn't you learn it?

Narrator Of course I didn't learn it. I'm the Narrator. I *narrate*. It's a waste of time learning the lines if I've got the script in front of me.

Prompter You've *got* the script in front of you.

Narrator It isn't the one I used in rehearsal though, is it? You've changed it! I've got a reputation to keep up! I can't use a second-rate script.

Prompter When have you ever had a first-rate script?

Narrator That's irrelevant. I can't take any risks. I've got to think of my future. What about my fans? My

public? I'm a celebrity, you know.

Prompter But this might take the theatrical world by storm. You never know. If it's a success, you'll be part of it. You'd never forgive yourself if it took off and you'd turned it down. What would your public think? Mustn't disappoint your fans, you know. Think about it. Appearances on reality TV. 'I'm a Celebrity Make Me A Millionaire', 'You Can't Touch Me I'm A Celebrity Show-off' and such like. Come on, you've started, so you'll have to finish. Gifted performer, and all that?

Narrator Yes, you're right. I suppose the show must go on. (*Sighs and continues*) The first little pig always helped his Mummy and did as he was told, and ... and always ate up all his bacon at breakfast.

Pig Tale

Plot Summary

An updated re-telling of the tale of the Big Bad Wolf and the Three Little Pigs. Mummy Pig throws the Three Little Pigs out into the big wide world to seek their fortunes. They have to cope with the demands of relating to others, gathering materials, building houses, and keeping the wolf from the door. The Narrator of the story finds he has his own problems to deal with in the shape of an insufferable Prompter and a wily and wilful Sheep.

The play was written with youth groups in mind, but can equally well be played by more 'mature' companies.

ISBN 978-1-907307-05-8