

# PLAYS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

A PARTNERSHIP OF SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE AND CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY-MINNEAPOLIS

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## *The Biggest Little House in the Forest*

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Based on the Book by  
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Music by  
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### **Cast List:**

- Narrator
- Bernice (the butterfly)
- Millie (the mouse)
- Fred (the frog)
- Rudy (the rooster)
- Richie (the rabbit)
- Bartholomew (the bear)

**Note:** One actor performed all roles (with the animals featured as puppets) in the original production of *The Biggest Little House in the Forest* at Children's Theatre Company in 2010.

NARRATOR

It was a beautiful day in the forest. When, all of a sudden ...

*Narrator discovers a cocoon. The cocoon opens and Bernice the butterfly starts stretching her wings. An arpeggio accompanies the action.*

NARRATOR

A butterfly!

BERNICE

I am Bernice, the butterfly.

*Bernice flies, dreamy, studied, 'I am a dancer'. A House appears.*

BERNICE

Look at that! A little house! A perfect pretty little house!

*Bernice tiptoes to the house.*

I wonder who lives here?

*Bernice peeks inside.*

NARRATOR

She peeked in and saw no one lived there.

BERNICE

So many weeds!

*The house is clearly abandoned. Bernice removes the weeds.*

It's a perfect little house for a butterfly.

*Bernice pushes the door open, cautiously. It's a dusty house, messy.*

BERNICE

Oh, messy.

*Bernice walks around, sneezing because of the dust.*

BERNICE

A-aaa-aachoo!...Excuse me. A little...hmn...dusty...I'll clean it up!

*Bernice starts cleaning the house, humming to herself.  
Bernice sings "I'll Make My Little House"*

*I found a little house  
A perfect little house for a butterfly  
It's where I want to be  
A perfect little house  
That's just for me  
Sweep the floor. Tra-la-la-la  
aaachooo!  
Dust the walls. Tra-la-la-la  
aaachooo! aaachooo!  
Cleaning, sweeping, washing, dusting.  
Cleaning, sweeping, washing, dusting.  
Cleaning, sweeping washing, dusting. (break into a sneezing fit) Excuse me.  
How nice, so nice to have a clean house.  
So very nice  
tra- la-la-la-l- la  
Just for me.*

BERNICE

Perfect! It will be... a perfect little house for a butterfly.

*Bernice settles down in a cozy rocker. The fireplace is lit.  
The house is shiny and clean and everything is just in the right place. It's so cozy.  
Then lights go out on the house.*

*A noisemaker sound (discretely manipulated by the Narrator) announces the arrival of  
Millie the mouse. The Narrator looks around, searching. The Narrator finds Millie in her  
pocket.*

NARRATOR

A mouse!

*Millie the mouse plays running over the Narrator's head and shoulders. Millie discovers  
the house and looks in through the window.*

MILLIE

Oh, a nice little house! A perfect little house! I wonder who lives here!

*Millie rings the doorbell. Bernice peeks from the upstairs window.  
Bernice opens the door.*

MILLIE

Hi! I am Millie the Mouse.

BERNICE

I am Bernice the butterfly.

MILLIE

I'm wondering...could I live with you in this little house?

BERNICE

Well . . . Alright Millie, you're welcome to stay.

MILLIE

Oh, thank you!

*Bernice begins to enter her cozy house.*

*Millie opens wide the pocket of her apron, to show the contents.*

MILLIE

Wait, I have seeds! Want to plant a garden?

BERNICE

Yes! Thank you.

MILLIE

Let's get to work!

*Bernice and Millie find a patch of ground.*

MILLIE

Right here. *(a beat)*

Shovel.

*Narrator provides a shovel.*

MILLIE

Thank you.

*Bernice and Millie dig.*

Seeds.

*Millie puts a handful in her mouth then spits them out; planting the seeds in little holes on stage.*

MILLIE

Watering can.

*Narrator provides a watering can.*

BERNICE

I'll do that.

*Bernice waters the seeds while Millie watches. The vegetables start popping up.*

MILLIE

Carrots! Let's eat!

*Millie and Bernice gather their crops and enter the house.*

NARRATOR

And the two of them set up house together.

*A noisemaker sound (discretely manipulated by the Narrator) announces the arrival of Fred the frog. The Narrator looks around, searching. Fred, dressed in a nice suit, peeks out. Fred plays peek-a-boo with the Narrator.*

FRED

Ribbit. Ribbit. Ribbit.

*Fred jumps and hides.*

NARRATOR

A frog! Tickle. Tickle. Tickle.

*The Narrator puts a hand out trying to coax Fred out.*

Please.

*Fred hops onto the Narrator's outstretched palm.*

*(To the kids in the audience)*

He's very good at hopping.

*Fred discovers the house.*

FRED

Ribbit! Ribbit! Look at that! A perfect little house! Who lives in this little house?

*Bernice peeks from the upper window.*

*Fred rings the doorbell. Millie tiptoes behind Bernice who goes to open the window.*

BERNICE

I am Bernice the butterfly and I live here with Millie the mouse. Who are you?

FRED

I am a frog and my name is Fred, can I stay with you?

BERNICE

Welcome, two of us is good but three together is even better.

FRED

Thank you!

*Fred hops in.*

BERNICE

Step right in!

*Bernice enters the house behind Fred.*

NARRATOR

And the three of them started to live together.

Bedtime!

*A Murphy bed pops out.*

MILLIE

No! No! Not bedtime! Not yet! I'm not tired.

NARRATOR

Bedtime! Everybody in. Bedtime. *(Lifts the blanket)*

*The animals get into bed.*

NARRATOR

Shhh, night-night.

*Silence. Then Millie begins to giggle. Millie picks up a pillow and hits Fred.*

MILLIE

Pillow fight!

FRED

Pillow fight!

MILLIE

Hey Bernice!

*Fred and Millie throw their pillows at Bernice.*

BERNICE

Pillow fight!

*Bernice grabs a pillow.*

NARRATOR

What?!

*Bernice hits the Narrator with her pillow. Pink feathers go flying everywhere. The pillow fight continues through the audience leaving a trail of pink feathers.*

*The Narrator and Bernice return to the bed.*

NARRATOR

Everybody go to sleep! Nighty-night.

*Sings "Night night, Time to Close Your Eyes".*

*Night night,  
Time to close your eyes  
The stars are in the skies  
It's time to rest  
Cozy in your nest  
Have a sweet dream  
Of pie and whipped cream  
Night night,  
Time to close your eyes*

*Everybody yawns. Lights out.*

*Then the Narrator yanks the covers off the animals.*

NARRATOR

Morning! The sun is up! Everybody up.

*Everybody gets up ( 'I slept great. How about you?' 'Great' ) Everybody says 'Good Morning!'.*

FRED

I will make pancakes for breakfast!

NARRATOR

Everybody sit down!

*Fred starts making pancakes. A skillet appears*

FRED

Mix. Mix. Mix. Mix. Mix. Mix. Mix!!!

*Fred's overzealous mixing results in the frying pan's contents (baby powder?) being thrown into the Narrator's face.*

*As Fred sings, completed pancakes appear.*

*Fred sings "Pancake Song".*

*Time for a pancake pancake pancake.  
Pancake! Pancake! Paaan-caaake!!!*

*A noisemaker sound (discretely manipulated by the Narrator) announces the arrival of Rudy the Rooster. The Narrator looks around, searching. The Narrator finds him in the weeds.*

NARRATOR

It's a rooster!

*Rudy begins pecking.*

He's so noisy!

*The rooster stops seeing the little house. Goes toward the door.  
His neck elongates to be able to pick inside through the window.*

*Rudy struts to the door.*

*Rudy positions himself in front of the door, with great style. Clears his throat and he knocks with his beak.*

RUDY

Cock-a-doodle-doo! Who lives in this little house?

*Bernice peeks from the window.*

BERNICE

I am Bernice the butterfly. I live here with Millie the mouse and Fred the frog. And who are you?

*Rudy struts a bit, with self importance.*

RUDY

Cock-a-doodle-doo! I am a rooster, my name is Rudy. I would like to live with you.

BERNICE

And we would like you to live with us too!

*Bernice and Fred look at each other.*

RUDY

*(Bows)*

Oh thank you!

BERNICE

Step right in!

*Rudy goes inside.*

NARRATOR

And all four of them started to live together.