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…hm…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-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

Fred jumps and hides.

NARRATOR

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

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.