

PLAYS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

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

2400 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55404
612-872-5108
FAX 612-874-8119

The Big Magic

By
Brendan Murray

The Big Magic was first presented by Polka Theatre, UK, in 2002

The license issued in connection with PYA perusal scripts is a limited license, and is issued for the sole purpose of reviewing the script for a potential future performance. All other rights regarding perusal scripts are expressly reserved by Plays for Young Audiences, including, but not limited to, the rights to distribute, perform, copy or alter scripts. This limited license does not convey any performance rights of any kind with this material. By accepting any perusal script(s), Licensee agrees to and is bound by these terms.

INTRODUCTION

This is a play about the world stopping turning and the desperate, dangerous search to find what will make it start again: the Big Magic that makes the world go round. Its themes are massive, mythic and monumental and if the characters and their language sometimes seem anything but, every effort should be made to keep the cosy at bay. The play should be fun, funny and frightening at times but should anyone find it remotely cute, things have gone seriously wrong.

It might interest people to know that our visual starting and reference point was work of the painter Marc Chagall.

THANKS

For their patience, advice, encouragement and support, my thanks go to Richard Shannon, Director of New Writing; Vicky Ireland, Artistic Director and Roman Stefanski, Associate Director and all at Polka Theatre For Children.

DEDICATION

For Cindy, Simon, Joe and Eddie - four of the biggest magicians I know.

CHARACTERS

BOMBO

THE MOON

A DOG, A BIRD AND A FISH IN A BUCKET

A TINKER

ANIMAL

DARKNESS

SILENCE

ACT ONE: ADVENT

A GARDEN. SOMEWHERE LIKE A GARDEN. BUT ALSO LIKE SOME OTHER PLACE: A CIRCUS RING... A DREAM... AN OLD APPLE TREE WITH THREE APPLES. IN THE FAR DISTANCE, THREE PINE TREES. SUNSET. THE SKY ABLAZE. MUSIC SOMEWHERE, FAR OFF. THE MOON APPEARS. SHE HAS HER KNITTING WITH HER.

MOON Will you look at that sky! Gorgeous or what? I'll say this for the Sun, he knows how to make an exit. Such colours! It's enough to make you green with envy. Still, he'll be away now till the Spring. Oh, yes. That's how things are just here and hereabouts. Well, isn't it the longest night of the year? Indeed it is. And doesn't it last all winter through? Indeed it does. The longest, coldest night you could ever imagine; dark so you wouldn't believe, and quiet enough to hear a fish break wind.

WE HEAR THAT VERY THING.

FISH [OFF] Pardon.

MOON What did I tell you? But do we mind about any of that? [BEAT] We do not. And why's that? Because as long as the World keeps turning, won't the Sun be back in the morning and with him all the warmth of Spring? [BEAT] Indeed he will. So no worries there. And in the meantime, I'm on duty: me, the old Moon. It's up to me to keep an eye on things; see nothing happens to Bombo and the animals. Speaking of which, where are they all, I wonder?

THE DISTANT MUSIC GROWS LOUDER.

MOON What am I thinking of? If it's sunset on the longest night of the year - and it is - won't they be saying their good-byes to the Sun with a fine old song? Ah! Will you listen to that!

A TERRIBLE CACOPHONY OF WOOFs, CAWS AND SPLASHES.

MOON All right, so it's not exactly La Scala but for a mangy dog, an old bird and fish in a bucket, I'd say that was going some. And they mean well. And they're enjoying themselves. So where's the harm?

But hold on, now... Dog... Bird... Fishinabucket... I'm one short.
Where's Bombo? [CALLING] Bombo! Bombo!! You haven't seen
him, have you? He's a... Well, he's a bit like a... you know with a hat
and... Oh, don't say I've lost him already. Aren't I always losing
things? Bombo! Bombo..!

FOR SOME TIME THERE HAS BEEN THE SOUND OF AN AXE HITTING WOOD.
NOW WE HEAR A VOICE IN THE DISTANCE.

BOMBO [OFF] Timber!

ONE OF THE PINE TREES VANISHES.

MOON Did you see that?

THE SOUND OF SAWING AND BANGING.

MOON And what..?

AGAIN THE SOUND OF AN AXE ON WOOD.

BOMBO [OFF] Timber!

A SECOND PINE TREE VANISHES.

MOON There goes another!

MORE SAWING AND BANGING.

MOON I wonder what -

AND AGAIN THE SOUND OF THE AXE.

BOMBO [OFF] Timber!

THE THIRD PINE TREE VANISHES.

MOON Did you ever -

YET MORE SAWING AND BANGING.

MOON Sounds like -

BOMBO [OFF] Ow!

MOON Just a - [CALLING] Bombo? Bombo!

BOMBO ENTERS. HE IS SMALL AND ROUND AND WEARS A TOP HAT. AND HE CARRIES A SECTION OF WOODEN FENCING. HE WALKS STRAIGHT PAST THE MOON WITHOUT SPEAKING AND POSITIONS THE FENCING. MOON OPENS HER MOUTH TO SPEAK JUST AS BOMBO STARTS TO HAMMER THE FENCE INTO PLACE. HE EXITS.

MOON Shouldn't I have guessed?

BOMBO RETURNS WITH ANOTHER SECTION OF FENCING. AGAIN MOON OPENS HER MOUTH TO SPEAK AND AGAIN BOMBO STARTS TO HAMMER. HE EXITS.

MOON Another of his hair-brained ideas!

BOMBO RETURNS WITH A THIRD SECTION OF FENCING. MOON GETS IN QUICK:

MOON Now, just a minute there!

BOMBO [NOT LOOKING UP] Hello there, Moon. Can't stop. Too busy.

BOMBO HAMMERS.

MOON Too busy, is it? Too busy! [RAISING HER VOICE] Too busy doing what, may I ask?

BOMBO What does it look like?

MOON Like you're cutting down all the trees.

BOMBO Yes well, fences don't build themselves, you know.

MOON Oh, they don't? You do surprise me. And what would you be wanting with a fence?

BOMBO You haven't heard, then?

MOON If I had, would I be asking?

BOMBO There's trouble coming.

MOON Trouble?

BOMBO Yes.

MOON What sort of trouble?

BOMBO Big.

MOON How big?

BOMBO The biggest.

MOON Are you sure?

BOMBO I read it in the paper.

MOON Did you?

BOMBO LIFTS THE LID OF A NEARBY DUSTBIN.

NEWSBOY Read all about it! Big Trouble coming!

HE REPLACES THE LID.

MOON So you did. But -

BOMBO I heard it on the news.

MOON And when was that?

BOMBO LIFTS THE DUSTBIN LID AGAIN.

NEWSCASTER And now the Six-O-Clock News: There's Big Trouble coming.

MOON I see. But -

BOMBO Everyone's talking about it.

MOON Are they?

ONCE MORE BOMBO LIFTS THE DUSTBIN LID: A THOUSAND VOICES MUTTER ABOUT BIG TROUBLE.

MOON Mm... Well, it does sound like -

BOMBO Hence the fence.

MOON Right. And this Big Trouble...

BOMBO Yes?

MOON I mean, what exactly will it be?

BOMBO Well, that's just it: no-one really knows.

MOON They don't?

BOMBO Could be anything.

MOON It could?

BOMBO Oh yes, it could be... Or maybe... Or even... But anyway, it's coming. Everyone's agreed on that.

MOON But if no-one knows what it is, how will you know when it gets here?

BOMBO Honestly, Moon! Don't you think I'll know Big Trouble when I see it?

MOON Well...

BOMBO Do you think I'm stupid or something?

MOON No, it's just... Tell me again why you're building that fence.

BOMBO To keep us safe when Big Trouble comes.

MOON Keep who safe?

BOMBO Me; the animals; the trees...

MOON The trees?

BOMBO Yes, the trees!

MOON And what's the fence made out of?

BOMBO Wood, of course!

MOON And where does wood come from?

BOMBO Trees!

MOON So you...

BOMBO Cut down the trees to get the wood to build the fence to protect the...

MOON And you wanted to know if I thought you were stupid.

BOMBO [BEAT] Anyway, I didn't cut down all the trees.

MOON So you didn't; you left the old apple tree.

BOMBO That's right.

MOON Well, that's something I suppose.

BOMBO GETS ON WITH BUILDING THE FENCE. WE CAN HEAR THE ANIMALS DRAWING NEAR AND EVIDENTLY OUTRAGED.

DOG It's an outrage!

FISH Disgraceful!

BIRD Something should be done!

MOON Evening all.

DOG You'll never guess what, Moon.

MOON No?

FISH Some idiot -

MOON Yes?

BIRD Has only gone and cut down all the trees!

MOON Is that right?

THE MOON COUGHS IN THE DIRECTION OF BOMBO.

DOG What's going on?

MOON Well...

FISH What's he doing?

MOON You see...

BIRD Is he mad or what?

MOON The thing is...

BOMBO [HITTING HIS THUMB] Ow!

MOON He's building a fence.

DOG A fence?

MOON A fence.

FISH A fence?

MOON A fence.

BIRD A fence?

MOON A fence, a fence! For heaven's sake! How many more times?

DOG All right.

FISH Keep your hair on!

BIRD Pardon me for breathing!

MOON Well, can't you see for yourselves it's a fence he's building?

THE ANIMALS INSPECT THE FENCE.

DOG What's he want with a fence?

MOON Apparently there's Big Trouble coming.

FISH I'll give him Big Trouble!

MOON He read it in the paper.

BIRD Cutting down the trees!

MOON He heard it on the news.

DOG Well, let's see if he can hear this!

FISH Ready?

BIRD Steady?

THE ANIMALS MAKE A LOT A NOISE. BOMBO LOOKS UP.

BOMBO What's all the noise about?

MOON Don't they want to know what's going on?

DOG That's right.

FISH Let's hear it.

BIRD This had better be good.

BOMBO How can you tell what they're saying?

MOON It's called listening.

BOMBO Just sounds like a lot of barking, squawking and splashing to me.

DOG What?

FISH Ha!

BIRD Do you hear him?

BOMBO They won't understand.

MOON Just tell them, will you?

BOMBO Oh, all right. [TO THE ANIMALS] You see, there's Big Trouble coming - Big Trouble - so I thought it would be a good idea to -

DOG Cut down all the trees.

BOMBO Protect us all from danger and so I decided to -

FISH Cut down all the trees.

BOMBO Build a fence. And, obviously, I needed something to build the fence with and so I -

BIRD Cut down all the trees -

BOMBO Cut down the trees... to build the fence to keep us safe.

DOG Are you mad?

FISH Bonkers?

BIRD Off your head?

BOMBO That's right! So, you see, thanks to me you've nothing to worry about.

DOG Nothing to worry about? The trees are where I play, not to mention...

MOON What? Oh, yes.

FISH And they keep my water cool in Summer and sheltered in Winter.

MOON So they do. Did.

BIRD And where am I supposed to build my nest?

MOON Good point.

BOMBO [TO THE MOON] Told you they wouldn't get it.

MOON Oh, I'd say they got it all right.

BOMBO Yes? Oh! Good! So... [TO THE ANIMALS] You coming in, then?

DOG Coming in?

FISH In there?

BIRD With you?

BOMBO Yes?

DOG When you've cut down my playground?

FISH My shelter?

BIRD My home?

BOMBO Come on!

DOG [TO THE MOON] You can tell him from us -

FISH To take his fence -

BIRD And stick it -

MOON Yes - I'll tell him.

BOMBO [TO THE MOON] So are they coming in or not?

DOG No.

FISH Not.

BIRD Never.

BOMBO Well?

DOG If this is how he's going to carry on, I'm off.

FISH Me too.

BIRD And me.

THE ANIMALS START TO LEAVE.

BOMBO What's going on?

MOON What's it look like?

BOMBO Where are they going?

MOON Where do you think?

BOMBO They don't understand.

MOON You think so?
BOMBO I'm not doing this just for me, you know.

DOG Ha!

FISH Hmph!

BIRD Pah!

BOMBO I'm doing this for everyone; for all of us.

THE ANIMALS ARE GOING...

BOMBO There's Big Trouble coming.

GOING...

BOMBO Big Trouble.

GONE.

BOMBO Big... All right, then, go. Go! See if I care! I don't care! Don't need you anyway. Who needs a dog, a bird or a fish in a bucket when there's Big Trouble coming? Not me. I've got a fence.

MOON So you have.

BOMBO Animals! What do they know? Nothing. They don't understand, you see. How can they? Only animals. Anyway, I'm glad they've gone. I am, I'm glad. Cos now there'll be more for me. See: three apples. Three apples on the tree and now they're mine.

MOON So they are.

BOMBO [PICKING APPLES] All mine.

MOON So now what?

BOMBO What?

MOON So now what'll you do?

BOMBO Well, now I'll sit here.

MOON Oh. And?

BOMBO And... wait.

MOON Right. [BEAT] Right you are.

PAUSE. THE MOON KNITS.

BOMBO It's a bit dark.

MOON What? Yes, well because it's night-time.

PAUSE. THE MOON KNITS.

BOMBO And it's a bit cold.

MOON What? Yes, well that's because it's winter.

PAUSE. AGAIN THE MOON KNITS.

BOMBO And it's a bit lonely.

MOON Yes, well, that's because someone cut down the trees and drove the animals away! [PAUSE] Still, nil desperandum, eh? I mean, I'm here.

BOMBO You! What can you do?

MOON You'd be surprised.

BOMBO Go on, then: surprise me.

MOON Well, I can beam, can't I?

BOMBO I said, surprise me! Moonbeams! What use are they?

MOON Well...

BOMBO No warmth in them.

MOON No, well...

BOMBO Not even very bright.

MOON Listen, if we're talking brightness: who was it cut down all the trees?

BOMBO I didn't cut -

MOON I know, I know: you didn't cut down all, the trees.

BOMBO That's it!

MOON And there's Big Trouble coming.

BOMBO Of course!

MOON As you never tire of telling us.

BOMBO Don't know why I didn't think of it before.

MOON So where is it, I'd like to know?

BOMBO I'll make a fire!

MOON What?

BOMBO A fire!

MOON What!

BOMBO Yes, I'll cut down this old apple tree and use the wood to make a fire.

BOMBO STARTS TO CUT DOWN THE TREE.

MOON Now don't be rushing into things...

BOMBO A lovely big fire...

MOON You know what you're like...

BOMBO To keep me warm.

MOON When you get an idea in your head.

BOMBO Timber!

MOON Have you not the sense you were born with?

BOMBO BUILDS A FIRE.

MOON Of all the stubborn, pig-headed...

BOMBO LIGHTS THE FIRE. IT FLARES UP.

BOMBO There! See: all bright and warm!

THE FIRE SPLUTTERS AND GOES OUT.

BOMBO Oh.

MOON Ah.

BOMBO Er...

MOON Mm...

BOMBO Don't say -

MOON Never said a word.

PAUSE. BOMBO STARTS TO SHIVER. THE MOON SHAKES HER HEAD AND THEN PRODUCES A PARCEL.

MOON Here.

BOMBO What?

MOON It was going to be for your birthday but you might as well –

BOMBO What is it?

MOON What does it look like?

BOMBO If I knew would I be asking?

MOON So open it and find out.

BOMBO OPENS THE PARCEL AND TAKES OUT A SCARF. A VERY LONG SCARF.

BOMBO Did you -

MOON I did. I knitted it myself.

BOMBO So you did.

BOMBO TAKES OUT AN ENORMOUS PAIR OF GLOVES.

BOMBO And -

MOON Those too. What do you think?

BOMBO Oh, they're very...

MOON Very..?

BOMBO Very.

MOON Aren't they?

BOMBO Oh, they are.

MOON I thought so. I know they might seem on the big side just now -

BOMBO [PUTTING THEM ON] No, really...

MOON But they'll last you a lifetime and you've a deal of growing to do before you're done.

BOMBO Tghkf pui mghd.

MOON You what?

BOMBO [EMERGING FROM THE SCARF] I said: thanks very much.

MOON Sure, it's nothing. And they'll keep you warm at any rate.

BOMBO That's right, they will.

MOON I could do you some matching socks if you like.

BOMBO No..... Thanks all the same.

MOON So now you're all set.

BOMBO Yes.

MOON Ready for trouble big or small.

BOMBO Yes.

MOON With your apples and your scarf and your fine new fence.

PAUSE.

MOON It's definitely coming, is it?

BOMBO Definitely.

PAUSE. BOMBO LOOKS UNEASY.

MOON You're absolutely -

BOMBO Absolutely.

PAUSE. THE MOON WHISTLES.

MOON You don't think maybe -

BOMBO Listen!

FROM FAR AWAY, THE SOUND OF APPROACHING FEET. THE SOUND GETS NEARER. AND LOUDER. [BOMBO CLOSSES HIS EYES TIGHT] AND NEARER AND LOUDER. ANDNEARERANDLOUDER. [THE MOON CLOSSES HERS] IT'S VERY NEAR NOW. AND VERY LOUD. AND...A TINKER APPEARS. THE MOON OPENS HER EYES

MOON Bombo, look!

BOMBO No thanks.

MOON But you don't know what it is.

BOMBO And I don't want to.

MOON Sure it's just a... Well, he's a... Ach, will you just look?

BOMBO PEERS OVER THE FENCE AND COMES FACE TO FACE WITH THE TINKER. BOMBO JUMPS.

BOMBO Who are you?

THE TINKER SMILES.

BOMBO What do you want?

THE TINKER RUBS HIS TUMMY AND HOLDS OUT HIS HAND.

BOMBO What? What is it?

MOON Can you not see?

THE TINKER REPEATS HIS ACTIONS.

BOMBO What?

MOON Isn't he hungry?

THE TINKER NODS.

BOMBO Well, I haven't got anything.

MOON And what about your apples?

BOMBO I've only got three.

THE TINKER HOLDS UP ONE FINGER.

MOON Sure, he's only after the one.

THE TINKER NODS.

BOMBO But then I'll only have two.

MOON That's true enough.

BOMBO I can't go giving away my apples: they're all I've got.

THE TINKER HAS AN IDEA. HE PRODUCES A VIOLIN AND PLAYS A TUNE. THE MOON AND BOMBO CAN'T HELP SINGING ALONG. THE MUSIC OVER, THE TINKER SMILES AND LOOKS HOPEFUL.

BOMBO What?

MOON An apple for a song... It's a fair exchange.

BOMBO What use is a song when you're hungry? [TO THE TINKER] No; I'm sorry. I need all my apples: there's Big Trouble coming.

THE WORLD SHAKES AND QUAKES.

BOMBO What was that?

MOON I don't know...

BOMBO SHIVERS.

BOMBO It's getting colder.

MOON You're right there.

THE TINKER SHIVERS. HE BLOWS ON HIS HANDS, RUBS THEM TOGETHER AND HOLDS OUT HIS HAND.

BOMBO What is it now?

MOON Can you not hear?

THE TINKER'S TEETH CHATTER LOUDLY.

BOMBO What?

MOON Isn't he cold?

THE TINKER NODS.

BOMBO Well, I haven't got anything.

MOON And what about your scarf and gloves?

BOMBO They were a present, weren't they?

THE TINKER RUBS HIS HANDS TOGETHER.

MOON Sure, just the gloves'd do.

THE TINKER NODS.

BOMBO But if he's warmer, I'll be colder.

MOON You can't argue with that.

BOMBO I can't go giving away my warm clothes: they're all I've got.

THE TINKER HAS AN IDEA. HE DANCES. THE MOON AND BOMBO CAN'T HELP JIGGING ALONG. THE DANCE OVER, THE TINKER SMILES AND LOOKS HOPEFUL.

BOMBO What?

MOON A dance for a bit of heat... Well, how about it?

BOMBO What use is a dance when the fire's gone out? [TO THE TINKER]
No, I'm very sorry but I need my scarf and gloves: there's Big Trouble coming.

THE WORLD SHUDDERS AND JUDDERS.

BOMBO What was that?

MOON You don't think...

BOMBO LOOKS OVER HIS SHOULDER.

BOMBO It's getting darker.

MOON You're not wrong.

THE TINKER LOOKS OVER HIS SHOULDER AND KNOCKS ON THE FENCE.

BOMBO What do you want?

MOON Are you thick or what?

BOMBO No!

MOON Well, isn't he frightened?

THE TINKER NODS.

BOMBO We're all frightened.

MOON He's only after coming in.

THE TINKER NODS AND GETS AN IDEA.

BOMBO I built the fence to keep people out - that's what fences are for!

MOON I know but - Oh, will you look at that?

AND THE TINKER CONJURES A RAINBOW BETWEEN HIS HANDS. THE MOON AND BOMBO STARE WIDE-EYED. THE TINKER SMILES AND LOOKS HOPEFUL.

MOON What more could you ask for?

BOMBO What use are rainbows when there's Big Trouble coming? [TO THE TINKER] I'm really very sorry but you can't come in. Understand?

THE TINKER HOLDS OUT HIS HAND.

BOMBO [TO THE MOON] He doesn't understand.

MOON That makes two of us.

BOMBO Don't look at me like that.

MOON Like what?

BOMBO There must be somewhere else he can go. [TO THE TINKER] Yes?

THE TINKER SHAKES HIS HEAD. BOMBO LOOKS AT THE MOON.

BOMBO Well, what about friends? He must have friends. [TO THE TINKER] Friends?

THE TINKER SHAKES HIS HEAD.

MOON Bombo -

BOMBO No, I'm sorry; very sorry; really very sorry but I don't know who he is or where you're from or anything and there's Big Trouble coming so no. No. I'm sorry. No.

THE WORLD SHAKES AND QUAKES AND SHUDDERS AND JUDDERS AND GRINDS TO A HALT. BOMBO AND THE TINKER ARE THROWN TO THE GROUND.

BOMBO What was that?

MOON Hasn't the world stopped turning?

BOMBO Has it?

MOON It surely has. And if the World has stopped turning won't the Winter Night last for ever?

BOMBO You mean..?

MOON No more Sun.

BOMBO You mean..?

MOON No more morning.

BOMBO You mean..?

MOON No more Spring.

BOMBO You mean..?

MOON This is it.

BOMBO You mean..?

MOON Big Trouble.

BOMBO Told you.

MOON So you did.

PAUSE.

BOMBO What do we do now?

THE TINKER KNOCKS ON THE FENCE.

BOMBO Go away! Can't you see we're in Big Trouble?

MOON There's only one thing for it.

BOMBO What's that?

MOON Magic, of course.

BOMBO Magic?

MOON Yes.

BOMBO What sort?

MOON Big.

BOMBO How big?

MOON The biggest.

BOMBO The sort that makes the World go round?

MOON Exactly.

BOMBO And where is it?

THE TINKER KNOCKS ON THE FENCE.

BOMBO Will you go away?

MOON Don't I have it all written down on a piece of paper?

BOMBO Do you?

MOON Of course I do, the exact location, just here in my bag... [SHE LOOKS] Somewhere here... [SHE LOOKS] Don't say I've lost it!

BOMBO What!

MOON Well, it was here the last time I looked.

BOMBO And when was that?

MOON Oh, it must have been... You know, I can't remember.

BOMBO Well, can you remember what it said?

MOON Now isn't that the big question?

BOMBO Yes. And what's the big answer?

THE TINKER KNOCKS ON THE FENCE.

BOMBO For the last time, will you go away?

MOON There's no need to shout at the poor fella.

BOMBO No need? Probably his fault in the first place.

MOON And how do you work that one out?

BOMBO Were we in Big Trouble before he came?

MOON Well...

BOMBO No. And are we in Big Trouble now?

MOON Well...

BOMBO Yes. We are. Along he comes - out of the blue and from who knows where - wanting this, that and the other and before you know it the World has stopped turning and we're in Big Trouble!

MOON We surely are.

BOMBO So?

MOON So what?

BOMBO Can you remember where the Big Magic is or not?

MOON ...No. It's gone.

BOMBO Right! That's it!

BOMBO PREPARES TO LEAVE. HE PUTS HIS APPLES IN HIS BAG AND PUTS ON HIS SCARF AND GLOVES.

MOON What are you doing?

BOMBO What does it look like?

MOON If I knew would I be asking?

BOMBO I'm going to find it.

MOON The Big Magic?

BOMBO Someone's got to.

MOON But you don't know where it is.

BOMBO Well, it's not here is it?

THE TINKER TURNS ROUND.

BOMBO Which means it must be somewhere else.

MOON Will you be wanting me to come too?

BOMBO You? What use will you be?

MOON Well, I could help you look for it.

BOMBO You can't even find a piece of paper!

MOON Is that my fault?

BOMBO Well, it's not mine.

MOON For a change.

BOMBO Right!

BOMBO OPENS THE GATE AND CLOSSES IT BEHIND HIM.

BOMBO [TO THE TINKER] And don't you look at me like that: I'm not doing this just for me, you know. [TO THE MOON] Well, aren't you going to wish me luck?

MOON Luck? Ha! You'll need more than luck!

BOMBO Be like that, then!

MOON I will!

BOMBO Right!.

MOON Good!

BOMBO Right!

BOMBO GOES.

MOON Of all the..! Did you ever know such a stubborn, pigheaded... [BEAT] But the world can be dark and dangerous... And he's never been out on his own before... [IT STARTS TO SNOW.] And now the snow! Isn't it always the way? [BEAT] I suppose I'd best go after him; make sure he's all right. If only I could find that piece of paper. Or remember what it said... Oh, haven't I a head like an old Swiss cheese? Full of holes!

THE TINKER OPENS HIS MOUTH AND RAISES HIS FINGER.

MOON Now, where did he get to? [CALLING] Bombo..! Bombo....!

THE MOON GOES. THE TINKER STANDS MOTIONLESS AS THE SNOW BEGINS TO SETTLE ON HIM AND THE LIGHTS FADE.

END OF ACT ONE.

NOTE: IN THE ORIGINAL PRODUCTION THERE WAS AN INTERVAL AT THIS POINT BUT I THINK THE PLAY MIGHT WORK BETTER WITHOUT ONE.