

PLAYS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

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The Monkey King

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The Monkey King was first presented by The Children's Theatre Company in the 2004-05 season.

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Characters:

- **Jade Emperor**
- **Empress**
- **Oversee**
- **Overhear**
- **Major Domo**
- **Dragon King**
- **Lord of the Dead**
- Sun Wu Kong (The Monkey King)
- **Ancient Sage**
- Bodhisattva Guanyin
- Monk Tang
- Ba-jie (half man/half pig)
- **Cun-Lan (bride)**
- Sha Sen (water ghou)l
- **Old Abbot**
- White Skeleton
- **Vizier**
- **Queen of the Women's Nation**
- **Monk Tang B**
- **Iron Fan Princess**
- **Bull King**
- **Jade Fox**
- **Local Leader of the People**

Doubling can occur with characters in **bold**.

Buddha and The Bat are played by puppet/shadow.

Ensemble includes: immortal creatures, bandits, wedding guests, water imps, monks, demons, little monkeys, maids of honor, mountain elves, attendant.

Time: . Long, long ago

Place: The Heavenly Palace in the Realm of Immortals

PROLOGUE: BIRTH OF THE MONKEY KING

Clouds. Celestial music. The cloud opens to reveal the Jade Emperor and the Empress sitting high above in the middle of the Heavenly Court. The immortal courtiers line up on each side. A Banquet table is laid. Music. Fanfare

Two strange creatures appear onstage. They are OVERSEE and OVERHEAR.

Oversee/Overhear: Your Majesty! - Emperor! - Highness!

Major Domo: Halt, you two! Who comes to this, the Banquet Hall of the Heavens and disrupts the Emperor's banquet?

Overhear: We bring news!

Oversee: Flash!

Overhear: A Stone Monkey.. .

Oversee: . . . has burst forth today.. .

Overhear: from a rock.. .

Oversee: .. on the Flower-Fruit Mountain!

Overhear: . . .atop an island.. .

Oversee: . . . in the Eastern Seas!

Overhear: It seems, Your Majesty, that this Stone Monkey has somehow learned some mystical powers and has become King of the Mountain!

Oversee: And all the other monkeys of the island are following him!

Emperor: Really? How peculiar. But he's just a little monkey! How bad can it be?

The Palace shocks violently The Emperor and the Empress, as well as all the immortal courtiers, can hardly keep their seats. Much dance movement.

Emperor: Here, now, what--?!

Oversee/Overhear: IT'S THE MONKEY!!!

Overhear: Bulletin!

Oversee: Stone Monkey Made King by Fellow Apes!

Overhear: Goes to Dragon King in Eastern Sea and steals Mystic Pillar!

Emperor: He stole the Mystic Pillar?! But that weighs 30,648 pounds!

Oversee: Yeah, well, he's a Monkey King now. (ALL ACT IMPRESSED)

Overhear: More coming in! Monkey King Turns Mystic Pillar into Gold Hoop Shape- Shifting Rod!

Empress: A Gold Shape-Shifting Rod? Why would he do that?

Overhear: He seems to be using the Rod as a kind of TOY!!

Emperor: A TOY?!! This will not stand! Call for the Lord of the Dead and have him deal with this monkey boy!!

Dragon King enters at top speed and skids to a stop.

Dragon King: Majesty! Some sort of Monkey King has stolen my mystic pillar!
(STAMPS HIS FOOT)

Emperor: Worry not, Dragon King. The Lord of the Dead has it all in hand.

The Lord of the Dead runs in.

Lord of the Dead: Your Imperial Highness! Lord of the Dead reporting! I carried out your orders and arrested the Stone Monkey!

ALL: HOORAY!

Lord of the Dead: But he got away!

Emperor: But HOW? You're LORD OF THE DEAD! !

Lord of the Dead: I was just about to take hold of him when he looked down and saw the Book of Life and Death, in which the birth and death dates of all souls are writ! He found his own name in it and erased the death date!

Emperor: Meaning?

Lord of the Dead: He's immortal now!

Emperor: Oh, dear. General!

General: Yes, Emperor?

Emperor: Summon your army and arrest this Monkey!!

Outburst of drumming that shakes heaven and earth. Black clouds overwhelm the stage. Through casual lights can be seen banners shading the Sun. The Heavenly Host, beating their drums, shouting war cries, ship rapidly amidst the clouds. The whole stage is covered by smoke and fog that grow thicker and thicker.

Sun Wu-Kong: (Puppet. A beam shoots on him.) Woo-ha! Whoop! Whoopee! Yeehaw! Yip! Yip! Ha! Ha! Ha!

He disappears in smoke. Sound of battle. Soldiers run away.

Emperor: My army is vanquished! Where's my High Priest?!

Ancient Sage: Here, Emperor!

Emperor: Use your sacred magic!

Ancient Sage: Fear not, emperor! (CLAPS) Bring forth the Magic Stove!!

The Stove is carried to the front just as Puppet Sun Wu-Kong comes on stage.

Ancient Sage: Open the doors!

Sun Wu-Kong is sucked into the stove as soon as the door of the Stove opens.

Ancient Sage: Gentlemen and ladies, the Heavens have nothing more to fear. The Monkey King is trapped inside my magic stove. In moments now, he will be ashes!

Sits down and begins to read his magic spell. Flames in the Stove leap high into miraculous lights. The immortals are pacified and sing words of congratulations to one another. The Ancient Sage gives the command in relief.

Ancient Sage: Bring forth the charred remains!

The door opens. Just when the Immortals are about to come up and look inside, a very strong golden beam shoots forth and the actor Sun Wu-Kong leaps out of the Stove.

Sun Wu-Kong: HAKKAHAH! Royal Emperor, I am shocked! Shocked to discover you have been trying to cook me!

Emperor: Er, well-

Sun Wu-Kong: Don't try to apologize! It's too late for that. For I am now ... THE MONKEY KING! Immortal and un-killable to all my foes! Yep, shoot me, hit me, blow me up, I just keep comin' back for more!

Emperor: This is a nightmare!

Sun Wu-Kong: Emperor, old pal, we couldda had a good thing goin'. But not now. Now.. .it's personal! Watch out, I'm packin' a rod!

Speaking, he begins to brandish his Gold-hoop Rod. The Immortals are frightened that they scatter in all directions. Encouraged by their cowardice, Sun Wu-Kong becomes more vehement. He upturns the Stove with one kick, which starts a conflagration all over the Court. Following a terrible explosion, the clouds disperse to show the Palace has already been down to a pile of ruins. PUPPET Sun Wu-Kong alone sits on top of the ruins dangling in satisfaction.

Buddha: (Voice) Stone Monkey!

Sun Wu-Kong: (STARTS) Who's that?!

Buddha: I am Buddha! You, Stone Monkey, have caused great upset here in the Heavenly Kingdom.

Sun Wu-Kong: Well, they started it!

Buddha: Stone Monkey.. .You have proved yourself Now it is time to go home.

Sun Wu-Kong: Home?! No way, Fat Man!

He lifts his Rod and strikes it toward the direction where the voice comes. But the voice "Go home!" "Go home!" keeps reverberating all over: As if he were fighting against the air, Sun Wu-Kong fights in vain everywhere.

Arise myriads of colors miraculous beams. It can be seen vaguely on the back curtain the image of Buddha - only his bust - sitting on his Lotus Throne amidst clouds of all colors.

Sun Wu-Kong: Aha! Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain!

Buddha: Stone Monkey, what do you want here in the heavens?

Sun Wu-Kong: "Want?" "WANT?" (BEAT) Actually, I have no idea. To date I've been too busy causing trouble and wreaking havoc, but, hey ... that's who I am, You know this throne ain't a bad place to crash.

Emperor: He's sitting on my throne! His monkey bee-hind is on my throne!

Buddha: Are you not satisfied with the fact you are already The Stone Monkey, also known as The Monkey King, also known as The King on the Flower-Fruit Mountain?

Sun Wu-Kong: I dunno. It could be fun to be the Emperor.

Emperor: Could be fun--?! ! Why, I oughtta—

Buddha: Monkey King. Let us make.. .a bet.

Sun Wu-Kong: Oo, yeah, I like bets. (*Leaps up into Buddha's palm.*)

Buddha: If you can get out of my palm with one of your somersaults, then the Throne of the Emperor is yours forever.

Sun Wu-Kong: Kid stuff. Okay! Here I go!

PUPPET SUN WU KONG leaps up and flies in the sky. Clouds recede rapidly. Though, at the same time, Buddha's hand grows larger and larger. Finally only his five fingers can be seen standing there as five pinkish pillars. After a short interval, Sun Wu-Kong lands himself in front of the enormous fingers. He inspects them carefully and feels very proud of himself.

Sun Wu-Kong: Hm, these look to be the legendary pillars of the border of heaven! But what happened to the Buddha guy? I better leave a sign to prove I got here. Mark my territory, knowwhatImean? (TURNS BACK TO AUDIENCE) Hee-hee! Back in a wiz! (SOMERSAULTS BACKWARDS AND LANDS IN Buddha's palm. He shouts.) Yo, Blubber! I did it! I somersaulted out of your palm and landed on the throne! I'm the Emperor now! (PACINO ' "SCENT" SOUND) Hoowah!

Buddha: Really.

Sun-Wu-Kong: Got right to the border of Heaven and back before lunch.

Buddha: Uh-huhhh. Say, Monkey? Would you happen to know the origins of that distinct and pungent odor I smell?

Sun Wu-Kong: Odor? Why, it's-- WO! MONKEY TINKLE!! I thought I'd spun away to the ends of the earth only to find I hadn't gone beyond the Buddha's hand! What a metaphor! And I whizzed on it! Man, am I in trouble! And you know what? I DON'T CARE! !!
HAHAHAHHAH!

Sun Wu-Kong tries to take to his heels. A violent clash. He is dumped under the palm, which turns into a hill. Stark black. All turns into absolute silence.

Emperor: Oversee and Overhear?

Oversee/Overhear: Sire?

Emperor: What's going on?

Oversee: Looks like Sun Wu-Kong was picked up in Buddha's palm and then.. .

Overhear: . . .and then he was thrown down into the volcano of the Hill of Five Elements.

Emperor: Buddha stuck him in a volcano?

Oversee: He sealed the lid and trapped him inside!

Overhear: Poor baby. I think he just needs to learn to behave.

Oversee: I know! What if he were given a test!

Overhear: Yeah, a series of challenges, a journey, that kind of thing...

Overhear: Something to make the monkey boy grow up.

Buddha appears again.

Buddha: GOOD IDEA! Bodhisattva Guanyin?

A dance brings in Guanyin standing on her Lotus Throne.

Guanyin: Yes, Great Buddha?

Buddha: We have a monk currently en route to the Spirit Hill of the West, yes?

Guanyin: Monk Tang. The most illustrious monk of the Tang Empire.

Buddha: Strong of spirit, brave in heart?

Guanyin: Yes.

Buddha: Order him to stop by the Hill under which this Monkey Boy is trapped and free him.

Guanyin: But Great Buddha, Monk Tang's assignment is of the utmost importance to our civilization and the world. Do you think it is wise to put a Monkey on his back?

Buddha: The Monkey Boy needs a lesson, and Monk Tang - though he does not know it - will need a helper.

Guanyin: You're the Buddha.

Lights fade.

SCENE ONE: A HAPPY JOINING

Puppet Silhouette: A steep rocky hill in the distance. A human figure is climbing it with all his might. We see OVERSEE and OVERHEAR.

Oversee: So? You see him?

Overhear: Yeah. It's Monk Tang!

Sun Wu Kong: *(As Monk Tang struggles up the mountain.)* Watch out! Careful! Don't fall! You're almost there! Take care!

Oversee: What's Monk Tang doing now?

Overhear: He's trying to remove the seal on top of the volcano!

Overhear: Tell him to turn the lid so the little mows line up.

Sun Wu Kong: *(ad libs)* --Turn to the Right! No, right! -- Now, left! Right, left, right, left!

The MONK frees the seal and Sun Wu-Kong pops out.

Sun Wu-Kong: Look out, it's gonna blow! Run away! Farther! Run!

The volcano explodes. Actor Sun Wu-Kong jumps into Monk Tang's arms.

Sun Wu-Kong: Wow! You saved me! I was suffocating inside that mountain! And me being claustrophobic! Thankyouthankyouthankyouthankyou!

Jumps into his arms, kisses him.

Monk Tang: (LAUGHS) Hey! Hey, calm down. You're a frisky little fella, aren't you? Now listen, I have things to tell you: I have been assigned to seek the Sacred Scrolls from the Spirit Hill of the West, and you are to join me on my journey.

Sun Wu-Kong: Who says?!

Monk Tang: Great Buddha and the Bodhisattva Guanyin.

Sun Wu-Kong: Do you have paperwork on that? No, seriously, man, lemme see the memo.

Monk Tang: We are to travel many thousands of miles, encountering all kinds of demons, fiends and monsters along the way. You shall be my guard. It is Buddha's wish that you be given the opportunity to improve yourself.

Sun Wu-Kong: A guard! Oh, man, this is great! Can I start fights and kill adversaries along the way?!

Monk Tang: No.

Sun Wu-Kong: NO? Aren't these scrolls important?

Monk Tang: They contain the teachings upon which our entire civilization is founded.

Sun Wu-Kong: Then I gotta wreak some havoc, man! Meet your new guard. (SCOTTISH ACCENT, 007 POSE) My name's Monkey. STONE Monkey.

Monk Tang: (BOWS) And I am Monk Tang.

Sun Wu-Kong: "Monkey and the Monk." This Fall on ABC!

Monk Tang: Before we begin the journey you will need a name. A real name. What about.. . Sun Wu-Kong.

Sun Wu-Kong: Thank you, thank you Master! I got a name! I've never had a name. Before this it was all Monkey, See! Monkey do!, Okay, Master, hop on my back! One somersault of mine, and we'll be at Spirit Hill before you can say-

Monk Tang: Wu Kong. We travel.. . as would any peasant. . .

Sun Wu-Kong: But that'll take YEARS?! !

Monk Tang: I don't care if it takes my whole life.

Sun Wu-Kong: Yeah, but what about MY WHOLE LEE? Well, look, peasants have horses, right?

Monk Tang: Some.. .

Sun Wu Kong: Then watch this!

Sun Wu Kong makes a horse appear for Tang to ride.

Monk Tang: What a beautiful animal! Thank you, Wu Kong.

Monk Tang mounts the horse. Wu Kong leads the horse by the reins.

Sun Wu Kong: Master, why struggle and suffer to get the scrolls if there's a faster and more efficient method?!

Monk Tang: Suffering is part of the journey. Without suffering and struggle, how will we learn the ways of life?

Sun Wu-Kong: Is there going to be a lot of this kind of talk?

Monk Tang: (SMILES) You know.. . I like you.

Sun Wu Kong: (OVERCOME) He likes me! He really likes me!

Sun Wu-Kong scampers around pointing things out to Tang, running ahead, running back; etc He sees a peach tree, runs off to pick a peach and returns with one. Monk Tang scolds him gently for running off. Wu Kong offers him the peach and Monk Tang takes it with a smile. Thinking that the horse is trotting too slowly, Sun becomes impatient. One pat with his hand the horse is

sent galloping wildly. Monk Tang is greatly frightened, while Sun is nowhere to be seen. He turns up only when Tang is falling of the saddle, but just in time to catch Monk Tang in his arms.

Sun Wu Kong hears a tiger roar offstage.

Monk Tang: What's that?

Sun Wu Kong: A tiger! Never fear, Master! I'll take care of it!

Monk Tang: Wu Kong, no--!

He runs off and the sound of battle with the tiger is heard. Sun Wu Kong runs back on, triumphantly bearing a tiger skin.

Monk Tang: Wu Kong, what have you done?

Sun Wu Kong: I killed the tiger!

Monk Tang: You can't do that!

Sun Wu-Kong: But he was about to jump on you!

Monk Tang: And killing was your only choice?

Sun Wu-Kong: Well, I considered the choice where the Tiger eats you and tears your flesh to pieces while you're still conscious, but, yes, you're right, I guess I went pretty quickly straight to killing the Tiger.

Monk Tang: Take off the Tiger Skin.

Sun Wu -Kong: No, I won it fair and square!

Monk Tang: Wu Kong!

Sun Wu Kong: I just wanted to have some clothes like you!

Monk Tang: Do I wear Tiger skin?

Sun Wu Kong: No, but I'm more style conscious.

Monk Tang: Remove the Tiger Skin!

Sun Wu Kong: But . . .GRRRR! All right. Turn around, though, I'm shy.

Monk Tang: Let's get on the road. It'll be dawn in a few hours, and we don't wish to become prey for bandits.

Sun Wu-Kong: Uh-huh. A THANK YOU would have sufficed!

Monk Tang: Here. (*hands him a robe*)

Sun Wu Kong: What's this?

Monk Tang: One of my robes. Wear it with humility.

Sun Wu Kong: Oh, I will.

Monk Tang goes off. Sun Wu Kong changes as... a group of bandits creep up from behind. Martial arts battle. Sun Wu Kong kills three bandits. Bandit 4 falls to his knees.

Bandit 4: Mercy, Valiant Monkey! Mercy for a poor man who turned only at last resort to banditry!

Bandit 4 pulls a knife. Sun Wu Kong kills Bandit 4.

Monk Tang: (*TURNS IN TIME TO SEE THE KILLING*) Wu-Kong! Can't I leave you alone for even a minute?

Sun Wu Kong: But these bandits came in and they –

Monk Tang: -- were Human beings!! That last one, he begged you for mercy!

Sun Wu Kong: But the guy had a kni-

Monk Tang: Mercy is the foundation of our Buddhist teachings. I'd rather die than kill others.

Sun-Wu-Kong: How can you get back the True Sacred Scrolls if you're dead?

Monk Tang: If the path to our goal is marked by death, what will be the value of what we've gained?

Sun Wu-Kong: GRRR! . . . I used to be a King you know. . . .used to kill people by the dozens.. . I was a cool dude...

Sun Wu-Kong walks and pouts. Monk Tang walks the other way and looks up.

Monk Tang: Oh, great Buddha, this little monkey is like a child! I do not know if I can handle him. Great Buddha.. .I need some help!

Suddenly an OLD DAME shows up from behind the edge of the cliff. Seeing Monk Tang, the old dame puts down the basket in her hand and offers a cup of fresh water to Monk Tang. Monk Tang receives the cup and gulps down the water. In fact, Sun Wu-Kong is aware of the arrival of the old dame as soon as she shows up. Seeing that she is whispering with Monk Tang on one side, he gets up to his feet lightly and, in curiosity; he tries to turn the things in the basket.

Sun Wu Kong: Well, who's this? Hmm. An ancient crone. You'll note she doesn't offer ME -any water. No, just Monk Wonderful. Hey. What's that coming outta there? It looks like.. . yeahhhh.. . A CROWN! Hee-heel This'll show him. I'm a Monkey King, I deserve a crown. I'll just put this on and.. . . ATIIEEEEEE!

He finds something emitting glistening golden rays, naughtily puts it on his head and goes to mirror himself in the spring. Just as he feels satisfied with himself Monk Tang starts reciting the Tight Fillet Spell. Sun is struck by a sudden fit of terrible headache. The headache stops when Monk Tang stops reciting. So Sun Wu-Kong finds the headache comes from Monk Tang. He is so angry that, brandishing his Rod, he aims a strike at Tang. Monk Tang resumes his Spell. The headache is so powerful that Sun rolls on the ground. He can't help but to beg for mercy, though he grinds his teeth in anger. Just at this moment, the old dame shows her original shape as Bodhisattva Guanyin. Monk Tang stops his recitation.

Guanyin: Sun Wu Kong, that is a Crown, true. But it is a Crown of Control. Whenever you become violent, Monk Tang here will recite the Crown of Control Spell.

Sun Wu Kong: Crown of Control. Spell? ..Who thinks up this stuff??

Guanyin: The more you fight, the tighter the crown will become. And it will not come off until I say so.

Sun Wu Kong: (Fumes) Grrr.. . !

Guanyin: Do your best with full faith and a happy outcome awaits you.

Sun Wu-Kong: Put it in a cookie.

Guanyin: Now, Monkey, pledge to Monk Tang you will make all efforts to behave.

Sun Wu Kong: Will it get the crown off my head?

Guanyin: Not until I say so.

Sun Wu Kong: But--! Oh, all right.
"I hereby pledge to do my best,
to do my duty,
to be a good monkey,
to guard my master,
to obey Buddha's Laws,
to get those scrolls,
and. be home by dinner! HUT!!"

Guanyin: You had best get back on the road. I will command all local deities and mountain elves throughout your journey to offer you help.

Sun Wu-Kong: Oo. Mountain Elves. We're safe now.

Guanyin: And ... if you come across something really difficult, I may even drop by myself. Now...(Plucks a leaf from the willow band in her Pure Vase and hands it to Sun Wu-Kong.) This is a willow leaf. It has great powers which will be of great use to you when you come to some really difficult occasion.

Sun Wu Kong: What's it do?

Guanyin: I won't tell you.

Guanyin exits. Sun Wu-Kong receives the leaf and plants it behind his neck Monk Tang mounts his horses and they 'Ride.'

Monk Tang: Wu-Kong, I'm sorry we tricked you into wearing that crown. It was the only way.

Sun Wu Kong: Yeah, I bet you thought long and hard on that one. (SWEET VOICE) "What is the best way to help poor little monkey? (EVIL VOICE) I KNOW: WE'LL PUT A CROWN ON HIS HEAD THAT CRUSHES HIS SKULL EVERY TIME HE MISBEHAVES!!"

Monk Tang: It won't be so bad, So Ba!

SCENE TWO: CONVERSION OF BA-JIE THE HOG

Amidst joyous ceremonial music, the wedding ceremony starts. Big Dance. Everyone presents gifts. Ba-jie the bridegroom leads Cun-Lan the bride out. After the ceremony, the bridegroom and the bride seat themselves at the feast. "Cheers!" "Cheers!" The guests laugh, roar and crack all kinds of jokes. Excited, Ba-jie leaves the table and shows his skill in playing a large urn. The guests are surprised by his strength. Ba-jie is invited to drink from the urn, and he refuses no challenge from whomsoever. He drinks so much that he, drunken and over-excited, loses control of himself and shows his original shape as a hog. The guests are so scared that they all run for their lives in great confusion. Seeing that something serious might be oncoming Ba-jie takes to his heels, pulling the bride after him.

Cun-Lan: Daddy! Daddy! (Pulled offstage.)

FATHER: My daughter! Cun-Lan!

Monk Tang: Quick, Wu Kong!

Sun Wu Kong: I could kill him! (IN PAIN) YOWWWW! Okay, I won't kill him! (RELIEF) Whew!

THEY EXIT.

Pulling Cun-Lan after him, Ba-jie runs in confusion. He is too tired to keep his breath. Seeing that Cun-Lan can hardly run any farther; he makes her sit on a large rock to take a short respite. He turns his head to look if there is anyone after them. Just at this moment, Sun Wu-Kong shows up by Cun-Lan's side.

Cun-Lan: Help, I --!

Sun Wu-Kong: Quiet!

Cun-Lan: But –

Sun Wu Kong: Leave this to me! I'm a professional. *(In Cun-Lan's voice.)* I'm he-e-e-e-re!

Ba-jie: Huh?

Sun-Wu-Kong: *(In Cun-Lan's voice.)* Cun-Lan I'm frightened.

Ba-jie: Fear not! Ba-jie will come get you!

Sun Wu-Kong: *(In Cun-Lan's voice.)* My legs are so weak I cannot stand!

Ba-jie: Worry not, blushing girl! I'll carry you on my back!

Ba-jie goes round the rock and carries Sun Wu-Kong in Cun-Lan's shape out on his back and resumes his way.

Ba-jie: To tell you the truth, my original shape was that of Admiral of the Galactic Navy in Heaven before I came down to earth.

Sun Wu-Kong: Uh-huh. *(In Cun-Lan's shape and voice.)* Why are you so out of shape, now?

Ba-jie: It's a long story.

Sun Wu-Kong: Tell your blushing girl.

Ba-jie: Well, see, when I was cast out of the heavens down to the Earth, I accidentally got myself put into a pig's belly.

Sun Wu-Kong: *(REPULSED)* Uh-huh.

Ba-jie: Yeah, that was a big surprise for everyone. Anyway, when I was born, I came out like this, half-man, half-pig. I try to work out, but nature binds me to the trough. I'll be very good to you.

Sun Wu-Kong: *(In Cun-Lan's shape and voice.)* But my father has hired a very strong, very handsome bounty hunter to find us and bring me back.

Ba-jie: Is he a pig or an admiral?

Sun Wu-Kong: He's a Stone Monkey.

Ba-jie: What, you mean Sun Wu Kong? That little Nut-Case who got into heaven and then was imprisoned inside a hill?

Sun Wu-Kong: Nut-case?! Oh-kay, Swine Boy!

Sun Wu-Kong recovers his own shape and grips Ba-jie by the ear, starting battering the latter. Enters Senior Gao, supported by Monk Tang, and leads his wife behind them. The real Cun-Lan runs out from behind the rock and throws herself toward her father. Her parents bow to Monk Tang to show their gratitude.

Ba-jie: Help! Help!

Monk Tang waves his hand hurriedly at Sun Wu-Kong to stop the beating.

Monk Tang: Wu Kong!

Ba-jie: Wu Kong?! As in SUN Wu Kong? You mean..you're YOU? I did not mean to insult you. Matter of fact.. . can I get your autograph?

Sun Wu Kong: Yeah, I'll write it on your snout, you big tub of-

Guanyin: *(Voice in the air.)* Enough, Wu-Kong. Monk Tang?

Monk Tang: Yes,, Guanyin?

Guanyin: This Ba-jie creature used to be Admiral of the Galactic Navy. He was exiled to the Earth because of crimes committed against the Emperor. As you can see, he obviously he has much to learn. You shall take him on as your second pupil.

Sun Wu-Kong: But, master, he's a pig!

Ba-jie: Half pig, on my mother's side.

Monk Tang: I'm sure Ba-jie will be very helpful to us.

Ba-jie: I'm hungry, do you have any food?

Sun Wu Kong: I can't believe this-

Ba-jie: I'll eat anything: steak, fish, garbage, coal-

Sun Wu Kong: (*GIVES HIM FOOD*) Listen, I'm the number one number two around here, so from now on you're my number two and his number three, got it?

Ba-jie: Arithmetic makes me hungry.. ..(*GOBBLES FOOD*)

Monk Tang: Quiet, you two. So ba!

SCENE THREE:-SHA SENG THE CARP PAYS OBEISANCE

Monk Tang: The river. Look at it. How will we ever cross it? (*BAJIE KNEELS AND SLURPS LOUDLY*)

Sun Wu Kong: I'll see if there's a bridge nearby

FABRIC DANCE as overwhelming water runs up from the pit and floods the stage. In the waves, Sha-seng can be seen commanding his water imps making hops, rolls or somersaults in the water, practicing martial arts.

Sun WU Kong: WO! Get a load of that Water Ghoul! Master! Run to higher ground! I'll take care of this.

Ba-jie: I can do it! A water ghouls nothing to an ex Galactic Navy Admiral.. . . .on the other hand, he's got water imps!

Sun Wu-Kong: All you have to do is get that Ghoul up on shore. I'll take care of the rest.

Ba-jie fights with the water imps first. Later when he sees Sha-seng himself come to the front, Ba-jie pretends to be scared and runs back on shore, luring Sha Seng out of the water Wu Kong, impatient, attacks too soon and Sha Shen escapes.

Ba-jie: Ahhh! Couldn't you wait? Now we've lost him!

Monk Tang: *(Running in)* Enough fighting. The problem is that there is no bridge, and the river is blocking our way to the Sacred Scrolls on the Spirit Hill in the West. *(SHA SEN APPEARS AGAIN, RUNS ON. BAJIE AND WU KONG COWER.)*

Sha Sen: The Scared Scrolls?! Master Tang! My name is Sha-sen. I was originally a general of Royal Guards in Heaven, exiled to the Earth because I carelessly broke the crystal bowl of the Heavenly Empress.

Sun Wu-Kong: You broke the crystal bowl?

Ba-jie: Clumsy Oaf.

Monk Tang: So how did you end up a Water Ghoul?

Sha-seng: Bodhisattva Guanyin sent me here to wait for the Sacred Scroll seeker and guard him to acquire the True Sacred Scrolls from the Spirit Hill in the West.

Ba-jie: Master Tang needs no more protection!

Sun Wu-Kong: That's right! He has me! And -to a lesser extent -him!

Guanyin: This is the third pupil I have assigned to your Master.

Monk Tang: So be it. Wu Kong. Ba-jie, meet Brother Sha Shen

Sun Wu Kong: Well, look, pal, as I explained to El Lardo here, I'm the number one number two, and he's the number two number two, making him number three thereby making you the number three number two, or the number two number three, otherwise known as four.

Sha Sen: Er ...

Sun Wu Kong: You can carry the rice bowls.

She Sen: Oh no! I dropped a bowl in the heavenly kingdom, and now I am...
bowlaphobic!

Monk Tang: You can do this

Sha Sen: Master, you need to cross these waters, yes?

Monk Tang: Yes.

Sha Seng: Then

Sha-seng waves his hand to give command. The water imps support Monk Tang and the rest to cross the river. The Master and his three pupils go on their way.

Monk Tang: You see, Wu Kong? A talent after all. So ba!

SCENE FOUR: VANITY CAUSES TROUBLE

Over-casting snow. Hungry, thirsty and exhausted Monk Tang and his pupils trudge on their way. Suddenly they catch sight of a monastery. All are delighted. Monk Tang alights and shows his gratitude to divine help.

Sun Wu Kong: Look. A monastery. (DISMOUNTS)

Monk Tang bows to show his gratitude to divine help.

Ba-jie: (Impatiently.) Great, they probably have cheese!

Sun Wu Kong: HEY! YOU MONKS IN THERE! OFF YER KNEES AND OPEN
THE GATES !!

Monk A: This monastery does not receive visitors! Go away!

Sun Wu-Kong: Say, I thought monks were supposed to be welcoming! (*Starts to break down the door*)

Monk Tang: Wu Kong, please! Good sirs! We are monks from the Tang Empire, on our way to the Spirit Hill in the West. We beg of you, let us spend the night here.

Monk A: (*Head pops out of a narrow gap between the gates.*) You are from Tang? Just a minute.

A Bell and drum sound out abruptly. The gates are thrown widely open. Glorious sights inside. The old Abbot leads the monks to welcome them very warmly.

Old Abbot: (*Appraising Monk Tang.*) Welcome, Noble Monk from the WEALTHY Empire of Tang! Where is your luggage?

Monkey Tang: Honorable sir, we carry none. As a fellow Monk, you know a true believer needs no material possessions. This small parcel is all we have—a simple change of clothes.

Monk B (*To the Abbott*) Poor Monks! What good are they then, (*To travelers*) Go!

Sun Wu Kong: Sounds like these guys need to reread their vows of poverty.

Monk Tang: Hush, Wu Kong –

Sun Wu Kong: Master, these guys give Monks a bad name. Watch me teach 'em a lesson. (*To Abbott*) Great Monk, you mock us for our poverty, but here inside this parcel is a treasure. It is most valuable Monk's robe in the whole world! (*Monks and Abbott chuckle*)

Monk C: What you obviously didn't know, Ape Boy, is that the Grand Master of this Monastery is the Number One Monk's Robe Collector in this whole region!

Sun Wu-Kong: No kiddin'!

Monk A: Why, we have the most precious monk's robes in the world here on display.

Old Abbot: Look and be chagrined.

Waves his hand. DANCE SEQUENCE. The doors of his wardrobe become widely open. Monks march out in line, carrying all kinds of beautiful cassocks in their hands. Cassocks decorated with gold, silver or precious stones. The monks start dancing with the cassocks. The old Abbot is also intoxicated with delight and joins the dance, displaying his collection.

Sun Wu-Kong: You call these ROBES? Why, I wouldn't wipe my monkey tail on these!

Old Abbot: *(Stops them.)* You insult our robes?!

Sun Wu-Kong: Yup.

Old About: And you would put your own poor garb up against this vast collection?

Sun Wu-Kong: Step back, Jack.

Monk Tang is about to stop him when he has already opened the parcel and put the cassock on his back. In a moment the room is filled with brilliant red light. Sun Wu-Kong takes all kinds of valuables and curiosities from inside the cassock, which stuns every one of the monks.

Old Abbot: Such a wondrous robe! Monkey, I beg of you, trade your fine robe for all of these we have collected lo these many years!

Sun Wu-Kong: Oh, gee, I don't know-- *(Puts the cassock back into the parcel.)*

Old Abbot: *(Two young monks cart out a scepter on their shoulders.)* I'll throw in this precious gold scepter.

Sun Wu-Kong: Boring.

Old Abbot: *(Waves his hand again. One young monk brings out a VASE.)* And this vase. More beautiful even than the vase of Guanyin.

Ba-jie: *(TO SHA SENG)* He insults Guanyin!

Sun Wu-Kong: Uh! Uh!

Old Abbot: Okay! My last offer! You give me that robe ...and you get this whole monastery!

Monk Tang: Pupils, prepare to leave this monastery at once.

Old Abbot: Oh, no! (*Embraces Monk Tang.*) Forgive a poor, demented monk! All these years, locked up in here with THEM! (*Boxes his own ears.*) I'm a BAD, BAD ABBOTT! Forget I said anything! (*To the monks.*) Hurry, tidy up, a room for our guests! And no more talk of.. .precious robes!

Monk Tang: Thank you. Then we will stay.

The monk humbly invites Monk Tang and his followers into an inner cabinet. A young monk takes over the rein and Zeds the horse inward to the stable. The Old Abbot cannot take his eyes off the parcel. Sun Wu-Kong puts on a face of innocence. He hides the parcel onto a high altar; but rather than concealing his movements, he does this in a way to make everybody to see what he is doing. The Old Abbot also puts on a face of innocence and locks up the door. They leave the room together.

Some time passes. Strikes the curfew. Monks A, B, C, the Old Abbot and Sun Wu-Kong enter one after another. Monk A stealthily prizes the door open, gets inside the room and climbs up the altar. When he is probing about, he bumps into Monk B. In their fight in the darkness, Monk B kills Monk A. He bumps into Monk C when he is feeling for the parcel all over the floor. They also fight in the darkness. Monk B kills C. He is greatly frightened when he comes across the Old Abbot as he is going out of the door. No sooner than he expresses that he wants to present the cassock to the Abbot with one fierce stroke of his saber, the Old Abbot slays Monk B and grabs the parcel.

Old Abbot: (Laughs.) Ha-ha! The robe is mine! (*On second thought.*) But, wait! What if those stupid travelers ask me for the parcel in the morning? Just to be safe I'd better burn down the whole monastery. With them in it! As long as I have my lovely, precious, magical robe, what else in this wicked world matters? HAHKAHAHA!

Sun Wu-Kong: (Sees that the Old Abbot is going to light the fire with the candle in his hand.) Hey, ABbbbotttt!

Old Abbott: Monkey! !

The Old Abbot pulls a sword. FIGHT SEQUENCE. Sun Wu Kong knocks the Old Abbot dead with one plunge of his fist. Monk Tang enters.

Monk Tang: Wu-Kong ! You killed the Abbot! !

Sun Wu-Kong: He was gonna steal your robe and burn down the monastery with us in it!

Monk Tang: That doesn't excuse what you've done!

Sun Wu-Kong: It DOESN'T?! Gee, if I thought anything WOULD!

Monk Tang: So many dead!

Sun Wu-Kong: Well, I didn't kill ALL of them!

Monk Tang: That is no excuse! (*He starts to recite the Crown of Control spell*)

Ba-jie: (*In defense of Sun*) Master, those really were bad guys.

Sha Shen: Yes, Master, it wasn't all Wu Kong's fault. They killed each other!

Monk Tang: And you know this because you were witnesses?

Ba-jie: Well, no, I was asleep.

Sha Shen: And it was keepin' my eyes on the bowl.

Monk Tang: Then don't defend him! If Wu Kong had not tricked them, these misguided Monks would not have acted on their greed. We could have gone on our way and no lives would have been lost. Wu Kong, you're behavior flies in the face of the Sacred Teachings.

Sun Wu Kong: Oooooooooo... ..Okay, okay, okay. I guess you're right.

Monk Tang: All right, Sun Wu Kong. This is your last warning. Now let us bury these wayward men.. .and move on. (*MONK TANG EXITS*)

SCENE FNE: TRIPLE STRIKES AT WHITE SKELETON DEMON

Horse movement. As this happens, a gaggle of demons and a bat hover above.

Demons A, B & C: "Look, look, look below
Standing in the winter snow.
If we are not mad or drunk,
We say we do see a Monk!

The Bat: Mistress?! (WHITE SKELETON APPEARS)

White Skeleton: Yes, my darling demons?

The Bat, A, B & C: (*Simultaneously*) Monk Tang is here!

White Skeleton: Well, well. I have heard of his many battles and adventures. What should WE do with him?

Demon A: Mistress, it is said that whoever eats a morsel of a Tang Monk's flesh shall achieve immortality. And since it is soon your mother's birthday and she is old, why don't you make her a gift of him?

Demon B: Oh, yes!

Demon C: Everybody loves Monk Tang for birthdays!

White Skeleton: True, but getting that piece of flesh will be the tricky part.

Demon A: Why, is he invincible?

Demon B: A great warrior?

White Skeleton: Not at all. But his pupil Sun Wu-Kong could be a problem. He is not so stupid as he looks.

All: !

White Skeleton: Don't be pessimistic, my darkest darlings. Everyone has his weakness; it's just a question of understanding what Tang's is. He is honorable. He is kind. He always sees the good in others...That's it!

ALL: WHAT?

White Skeleton: Sun Wu Kong shall be disposed of. And I shall not have to do a thing.

ALL: BUT HOW?

White Skeleton turns into the shape of a young peasant woman. DANCE. A blow of breath from his mouth. A storm brews. White Skeleton and others disappear. The travelers fight against the wind. The wind and rain cease abruptly.

Ba-jie: Well, that was wacky. One minute sun, the next a stormy, storm-like storm.

Sun Wu Kong: Something's fishy here.

Ba-jie: There's fish? I have tartar sauce.

Sha-Sen: Quiet! You almost made me drop the bowl.

Sun Wu Kong: Ba-jie, you go and let us how the lay of the land here.

Ba-jie: All right. *(Ba-jie unwillingly departs. Sun Wu Kong follows.)* Trudge and march all day long and look who they send out to do some scouting! Nothing but mountains for miles and miles.. .. Ah, they won't mind if I take a little nap. ' *(Stretches himself and gives a big yawn -stops himself.)* Better not. If Master Tang found out I was sleeping on the job-*(Imitates Monk Tang.)* Ba-jie, what's the mountain ahead called?. *(As himself)* Oh, er, it's called the Mountain of the Big Rocks. *(Imitates Monk Tang again.)* Any caves? *(Himself)* Yeah, Big Rock Caves. *(In Tang's voice again.)* Anything in the cave? *(Himself)* Big Rocks. *(Sun Wu Kong giggles. He runs off.)* Ah, I better get back. *(Tums)* Master, I'm back.

Monk Tang: So soon?

Ba-jie: I feared our Master might be waiting, so I ran all the way.

Monk Tang: So, Ba-jie...what's that mountain ahead called?

Ba-jie: The Mountain of the Big Rocks.

Monk Tang: Any caves?

Ba-jie: Yeah.

Sun Wu-Kong: What the cave called?

Ba-jie: . . .Big Rock Cave.

Sun Wu-Kong: Anything in the cave?

Ba-Jie: Er, well-

Sun Wu-Kong/Monk Tang: BIG ROCKS. Ha-ha!

Ba-jie: Hey, how'd you know I--?

Sun Wu-Kong: WAHAHHAHHA!

Ba-jie: I'm sorry, Master! I was just so cold and tired that.. .

Monk Tang: That you decided to lie?

Ba-jie: ...(LITTLE BOY VOICE) ...yes. (BEAT, STARTS OFF) I'll go again!

Monk Tang: No, you won't.

Sun Wu-Kong: (SING SONG) HA-HA!

Monk Tang: Wu-Kong, you go.

Sun Wu-Kong: What?! !

Ba-jie: And try to find some food!

Sun Wu-Kong: (SEETHES AT BA-JIE) Yes, Master. (One somersault and he is gone.)

Monk Tang, Ba-jie and Sha-seng sit down in Buddhists 'posture of meditation. White Skeleton Demon turns up at once in the shape of a young peasant woman. SEQUENCE OF OFFERING FOOD IS MIMED. BAJIE holds out his hand to get at the basket. Sun Wu Kong enters.

White Skeleton Demon: Pig Man! Some food from a kindly lady?

Sun Wu-Kong: DON'T TOUCH IT! Stop! Take this, demon chick!

Strikes at White Skeleton Demon. The latter turns into a draft of smoke and escapes.

Ba-jie: What're you doing?! That kindly lady kindly brought us a meal, and you try to whack her to death?

Monk Tang: That's it, Wu-Kong! ! You have killed your last!

Sun Wu-Kong: But it was a demon!

Ba-jie: You're in trouble now, boy!

Monk Tang: Wu-Kong!

Sun Wu-Kong: . . . Yes, master?

Monk Tang: I shall have no pupil like you! I hereby —

Sha-sen: Master! Surely Brother Monkey only wished to keep you safe from harm. . . . (PAUSE)

Monk Tang: . . . All right! I forgive you this one last time.

Sun Wu Kong: Thank you, master. (JUMPS IN HIS ARMS, KISSES HIM)

Monk Tang: All right, all right!

Ba-jie: Yeah, let's get going.

Before they have covered some distance when they hear a kid crying nearby.

Monk Tang: What's that?

Ba-jie: It sounds like a baby!

Monk Tang: Ba-jie! Go have a look.

Ba-jie: Yes, master. (Exit. Enters with a PUPPET BABY another embodiment of White Skeleton Demon, in his arms.) Hey, look! It is a little boy! He was freezing and shuddering all over.

Monk Tang: Hurry, put him on the horse.

Puts the kid on the back of the horse. DANCE OF THE OUT OF CONTROL HORSE. The horse gallops away with Monk Tang on its back. A moment of stupefaction, then Sun Wu-Kong, Ba-jie and Sha-seng dash forward to pursue.

Sun Wu Kong: Hey! That's no baby!

Enters Monk Tang still on the back of the galloping horse. Sun Wu-Kong tries to stop the horse and give it the rein. Several times he lifts his Rod to aim a stroke at the kid, but every time he is thwarted by Monk Tang. He is so furious that he pushes Monk Tang off from the saddle. At the same moment he grasps the kid and throws him down the cliff The real mite Skeleton Demon again turns into a shaft of light smoke and makes her escape.

Sun Wu-Kong: You won't get away from me this time! (Runs after it.)

Ba-jie and Sha-seng run up in pursuit. Seeing Monk Tang on the ground, they hurry up to help Monk Tang to his feet. Pointing to the direction Sun Wu-Kong leaves. Monk Tang is in such a huff that he can hardly utter a word.

Monk Tang: Wu Kong, what are--?! !

White Skeleton enters as an old man.

White Skeleton: You Evil Monk! What have you done with my beloved grandson?!

Monk Tang: Old sir, please forgive my pupil, he—

Sun Wu-Kong: Get back, Master! It's another trick!

White Skeleton: Evil, evil Monk! I send my daughter to give you our last morsels of food.. . and you kill her!

Monk Tang: Sir, I pray thee, forgive us—

White Skeleton: My grandson is heartbroken so he chases after her, and you kill him too!

Sun Wu Kong: Don't buy it, Master, these are demons!

Monk Tang: Nonsense! This is an old gentleman!

White Skeleton: *(Grabs Monk Tang by the robe.)* WIFY, MONK, HAVE YOU COME TO KILL MY FAMILY?! ! GIVE ME BACK MY GRANDSON!

Sun Wu-Kong: Back off, you fake oldster! *(Strikes.)*

The Demon runs around Monk Tang, Zhu Ba-jie and Sha-seng to escape Sun's strokes. Zhu Ba-jie and Sha-seng try to stop Sun Wu-Kong with all their might.

Monk Tang: *(RECITES)* AHNAHAHHAHA.

Sun Wu Kong: *(Grabs head)* YOOWOWOOOWOOWO!

White Skeleton Demon again turns into a draft of light smoke and escapes. Sun Wu-Kong intends to keep on his pursuit, but with Monk Tang's recitation going on more and more powerfully, in the end Sun is in such suffering that he falls to the ground.

Monk Tang: Wu Kong! !

Sun Wu-Kong: Master, you can't see the difference between humans and demons! I can! The woman, the baby, the old man, they were all the same!

Monk Tang: I thought I could teach you, Wu-Kong. But I see I was wrong! I should never have released you from the Hill of Five Elements.

Sun Wu-Kong: Are you so good, so pure that you can't see evil?! Sometimes I think you're not even human!

Monk Tang: SILENCE!! It is time you realize once and for all that actions have consequences! . . . I regret this, Wu Kong. But this is my order: you will go back to your Flower-Fruit Mountain. Our time together is at an end. (*Whips the horse and leaves.*)

Ba-jie But Master --!

Sha Sen: Master –

Monk Tang: Go, Wu Kong, Go.

They are silenced. They are sad. Sun Wu-Kong climbs up a high hill and looks into the distance. Seeing that Monk Tang is already far away, he falls to his knees and kowtows in Monk Tang's direction, with tears rolling in his eyes. Curtain.