

Plays for Young Audiences

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Nicky Somewhere Else

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Puppet Characters:
Nicky & Noel
Rabbit
Their mother
Their grandmother
Their grandfather
Duck and duckling
Santa Claus

‘Angel’ Characters:
(actors/puppeteers)
Micha (MI)
Lucy (LU)
Gaby (GA)
Ralph (interpreter ASL)
Muriel (clarinettist) (MU)

Two Stagehand Angels

The set is a landscape of clouds, painted on a slope floor: Somewhere Else. The floor has trapdoors, where the angels can go up and down. There is one cut-out corner in the floor that represents Somewhere Here. There is a table, where the scenes Somewhere Here are played.

INTRODUCTION

Coming from the public entrances Angels appear, coming down from the stairs to the stage, one by one on music of Shostakovich (Chamber Symphony op.110a Allegretto (nr. 3)

Scene 1 - Somewhere Else

*Music starts (**OPENING I**, see score)*

Muriel enters. Then Lucy enters, is looking for the others, she searches with plunger, opens a trapdoor in the floor, music stops (stop 1).

Lucy searches further, opens another trapdoor (stop 2). Little wings appear.

*When she closes trapdoor (work)music starts again after 2 tones Muriel together with **MD 2**, she searches with plunger, opens a trapdoor. When this trapdoor opens, music stops (stop 3) and we hear a aeroplane (**MD 3**)*

*Music goes on after 2 tones Muriel (**MD 4**); Lucy searches further, pulls out Micha, music stops (stop 4),*

*Start **MD 5** after 2 tones Muriel when Ralph enters. Gaby enters, sliding over the floor. They start working ('angel' work, making wings)*

Gaby pulls out a cat. Music stops (stop 5), when Lucy cries out:

LUCY Oh Gaby, not again! It's always the same story with you.

Micha comes near, curious

MICHA What is it? What is it? What does she have? What have you got?

LUCY What do you think? If it's fluffy with little furry ears there's no stopping her...

Micha takes the cat

MICHA What happened?

Gaby explains in sign language and charade: the cat was climbing too high, then it fell to the ground.

GABY Boom (*to the others*)

She lets herself fall down, she lies still like she's dead.

LUCY Funny isn't it - cats always land on their feet, but when Gaby's around...

MICHA What a honey!

LUCY Well, this honey got a helping hand; she was the one who threw it off the roof - yeah, yeah, I've been watching you, don't try playing all innocent.

Lucy takes the cat from Micha

LUCY You can't do this, Gaby, it's not his time yet. This one's going back.

Lucy throws the cat back

GABY Miauw!!

MICHA Those are the rules, you know.

LUCY Exactly, those are the rules. Back to work.

They pick up their tools and go back to work. Music (MD 6) getting faster and faster. Micha spots something.

MICHA Gaby!

The music stops.

MICHA Gaby, come here. I've got a surprise for you. Soft fluffy fur, little whiskers and two long velvety ears. Come have a look.

GABY Rabbit!! It's Rabbit!

MICHA I thought he looked familiar...

GABY Come on Lucy, have a look

LUCY Okay, but we look with our eyes, understand?

All three of them peer into the hole. Lights fade, the scene changes to earth, somewhere here

Scene 2 - Nicky's house, Somewhere Here

Lights up on Nicky and Rabbit. They are manipulated by Muriel and Ralph. Voices are done by Micha and Lucy.

Nicky's mother is writing a letter. So is Nicky. He has his toy rabbit with him

NICKY (MI) Look Rabbit, my name!
 Mummy!

He shows his writing

MOTHER (L) N..I..C..K..Y ...Nicky. There!

NICKY (MI) What are you writing?

MOTHER (L) A letter to grandma. Because it's nearly your birthday.

NICKY (MI) What are you saying?

MOTHER (L) hmmm..... Well, I'm asking if she'll come and see us.

NICKY (MI) Of course she'll come, Rabbit. She always comes, and grandpa doesn't, does he mum?

MOTHER (L) hmmm..... What did you say? Grandpa?No.

NICKY (MI) Grandpa isn't here anymore.

MOTHER (L) No, Nicky, Grandpa isn't here anymore.

NICKY (MI) No, Rabbit, Grandpa isn't here anymore. Grandpa's dead.
(*makes a swing with its rabbit and throws it down*) D...ea...ea...ead! BOOM!

MOTHER (L) Nicky !! Go and play now, or I won't be able to finish the letter.

NICKY (MI) Where' re my coloured pencils, Mum. I can't find them

MOTHER (L) Nicky, I told you, if you can't find something

NICKY (MI) Yeah, yeah, I know mum, I know....

Nicky leaves stage, forgets the Rabbit. Lucy orders Muriel and Ralph

LUCY Back to work! Back to work!!

*The working music begins again after 1st tone Muriel (MD 7).
Lights change to Somewhere Else*

Scene 3 - Somewhere else

Micha and Gaby are still looking. Lucy chases off Micha to work. Gaby disappears below. Lucy pulls her out - she's holding Rabbit.

LUCY Gaby! Not again!!!!

The music stops. Gaby clutches Rabbit defiantly.

LUCY Put him back immediately. He doesn't belong here. Come on, the little boy 'll be looking for him later.

MICHA It's Nicky's rabbit.

LUCY Exactly.

GABY And Noel's too, so actually he does belong here after all.

LUCY But not yet, Gaby. All in good time, those are the rules.

MICHA Well, we could change the rules and make everybody happy. Think about Noel! He's been waiting so long. It was a promise.

LUCY Promise? Oh, Noel will have forgotten all about it by now. And anyway, Nicky's much too young.

GABY He's six. Well, almost. In a few days anyway.

LUCY You can't just steal Nicky's rabbit. He can't manage without him yet. He needs him.

Lucy takes the rabbit and throws him back down the hole. (Stagehand) angel puts the box on the table and let Rabbit land on the box.

LUCY Oh no! The box!
There - you see! You get distracted for half a second and look what happens. What a mess.

She opens the trapdoor and crawls underground. Micha and Gaby watch.

LUCY (*underground*) We have to take action. Things are going wrong.

MICHA Wrong? Wrong? Things are going just fine. Things are working out perfectly, just as they should. Come on, Gaby. Come on Ralph

Lights change to

Scene 4 - Nicky's house, Somewhere Here

A box is lying on the table, and the rabbit on top of it. Lucy enters and removes the box. Micha, Muriel, Ralph and Gaby approach, Lucy hides the box behind her back.

GABY The Rabbit (*Stagehand Angel throws the Rabbit to her*)

MICHA The box....

Gaby waves the rabbit in front of Lucy who becomes distracted and tries to snatch it - Micha grabs the box, Muriel and Micha and Ralph and Stagehand Angel throw it over and Lucy tries to get it. She gives up. Stagehand Angel puts the box back in place

LUCY There's no need for him to find it yet.

MICHA Why? He'll only find it later. He'll find it one day whatever happens.

LUCY One day, yes, but not todaaaaaay -

*Micha pushes down Lucy. Gaby closes trapdoor. **Music II The BOX** (Muriel alone) Micha descends to earth. Enters with Nicky. Nicky picks up Rabbit*

NICKY (MI) Where 've you been?

He sees the box

NICKY (MI) What have you got? A present.

Throws down the Rabbit

My birthday present.

He opens the box and starts taking things out

NICKY (MI) *(A rattle) A rattle.??....But I'm too big for this.....(throws it back and takes out a silver spoon with an N engraved).... But... I've already got one of these....(throws it back too and then grabs out:)*
A picture! This is me, Rabbit. Or is that me? How strange. But if that's me, then who's this? Mom!

Lucy appears again, whispers:

LUCY It's not too late - we could make him fall asleep. He'll think he dreamt it all.

MICHA There's nothing to be afraid of Lucy.

LUCY He doesn't know that.

MICHA Then we'll tell him everything.

LUCY Everything?

MICHA Why not? Why should we keep all these secrets? Just exactly why are we being so secretive?

LUCY Because some things should be secret. What you're doing is very dangerous Micha. You know what kids are like, they're never satisfied. They always want more. *(to Gaby)* Just like you!

GABY Just like you?

LUCY No, just like you!

GABY Yes, just like you

Lucy takes Mother

LUCY And what about her?

MICHA She'll have to tell him one day.

Scene 5, Nicky's House, Somewhere Here

Ralph signs for Lucy and Mother, Gaby signs for Micha and Nicky.

NICKY (MI) Mom! Mom! Mommy!

Lucy quickly takes the letter Mama wrote and puts it in its envelope, waves it in front of Nicky

MOTHER (L) There - that's for the mailman.

Micha pushes it softly away and shows her the photo

NICKY (MI) Mommy - is that me? Is that me twice?

MOTHER (L) Where did you get that? You're not supposed to touch that box.

NICKY (MI) But I thought - My birthday present -.

MOTHER (L) It's not your present. It's... an old picture.

NICKY (MI) Isn't this me?

MOTHER (L) Yes.

NICKY (MI) But who's that?

MOTHER (L) That....
that's Noel.

NICKY (MI) He looks just like me.

MOTHER (L) He's your brother.

NICKY (MI) My brother?

MOTHER (L) Your twin brother. You were born on the same day.

NICKY (MI) A twin brother. Have I got a twin brother? Where is he?

MOTHER (L) He isn't here any more.

NICKY (MI) Oh ...
Like Grandpa?

MOTHER (L) Yes, just like grandpa. I keep his things in that box - it's Noel's box. And Nicky....I don't want you to play with it any more.

NICKY (MI) But where is he now? He can't be gone just like that.

MOTHER (L) He's... somewhere else.

NICKY (MI) Somewhere else?

MOTHER (L) Yes, somewhere else.

NICKY (MI) But...

LUCY Are you happy now? She's crying and he's confused.

Lucy exits angrily with the Mother doll and puts her away. Micha takes a piece of paper and starts writing with Nicky.

LUCY What's he doing?

MICHA He's writing a letter. A letter to his brother.

NICKY (MI) Dear Noel. It's nearly my....no,.... It's nearly our birthday. Come back home.

LUCY That's not possible.

NICKY (MI) I'll be waiting for you. Nicky.

LUCY I don't want anything to do with this.

NICKY (MI) To Noel. Somewhere Else.

MICHA Psst...Airmail.

Gaby takes the letter

Music MAIL III (MD 8). Gaby exits with the letter. Nicky waits ('waiting' music, Muriel alone).

Scene 6

LUCY He's been waiting two whole days now. Poor little thing - shouldn't we do something?

MICHA I thought you didn't want anything to do with it.

LUCY Well, we can't just leave him waiting like that ...all for nothing.

MICHA Leave it to chance.

Gaby's head appears at a trap door.

LUCY Chance!?! (looks around puzzled)
Where's Gaby by the way?

Other music. (Muriel goes on after 'Where is Gaby') Gaby enters with a letter behind her back which she gives to Micha. Music end.

LUCY Chance....!

Nicky takes the letter

NICKY (MI) Dear Nicky.

LUCY Dear Nicky?

GABY Ssssh!

NICKY (MI) I can't come...

LUCY *(relieved)* There!

NICKY (MI) Why don't you come visit me?

LUCY What?!

NICKY (MI) Just close your eyes, think of me, and it'll happen.
From Noel. Somewhere Else.

LUCY That's not allowed.

MICHA Well, look - that's what it says: come and visit me.

LUCY It doesn't say that. It says: it can't happen and it won't happen. It says whatever you want it to say.

MICHA He wants it to say: come and visit me. He wants to see his brother.

LUCY Oh please can't we just tell a different story?
Something about, something about...Yes, about that little girl...eh that little girl with that funny little red riding hood, She's going into the woods with her basket stuffed with cookies. Don't go off the path, mummy says, the wolf will eat you, if you do. But then Little Red Riding Hood sees this beautiful flower, and she picks it for her granny and then she sees another one and another one and..

*While she tells the story Gaby and the others mime her story very exaggerated, a little childish, they ridicule her. Lucy suddenly is aware of this and walks away angry. They all laugh. Micha takes Nicky. **Music (Muriel alone FLYING).***

NICKY (MI) I close my eyes, think of Noel and it'll happen.....
He closes his eyes and starts floating to the other place with Gaby. Music of Muriel is directly followed by MD 9. Muriel and Micha join Gaby. Ralph has Rabbit and makes a field of flowers. Lucy tries to sabotage the others but eventually fails. Ralph throws Rabbit to play with them. Nicky and Rabbit land in the midst of the flowers, lie down.

Scene 7 - Somewhere Else

Rabbit sits up straight and looks about him. The he sees Nicky.He wakes up Nicky. Nicky picks Rabbit up. Rabbit is talking Dutch and English (Red = translation)

RABBIT (G) Au! Laat me los! Laat me los! PUT - ME - DOWN!
(Ow !, let go of me, let go of me)

Nicky lets the rabbit go, astonished. He falls on the ground.

RABBIT (G) Au!! (*wipes himself off*) Hmm! Je wordt bedankt!
(Ow!) (Thank you very much!)

NICKY (MI) Hmm?

RABBIT (G) Thank you very much!

NICKY (MI) You can talk!

RABBIT (G) Ja. I can talk. If I want
(Yes).

NICKY (MI) But you talk ...funny

RABBIT (G) Funny? Isn't funny at all. It's Dutch.

NICKY (MI) Dutch?

RABBIT (G) Dutch wool you see. Dutch wool, Dutch language

Nicky picks Rabbit up again.

NICKY (MI) You're mine!

Rabbit tries to struggle free.

RABBIT (G) Nee nee nee nee NEE! Keep your hands off me.
(No, no, no, no, NO)

Nicky lets him go again and Rabbit falls again

RABBIT (G) Au!
(Ow !) You did it again!

NICKY (MI) Sorry - it was an accident.

RABBIT (G) Ja ja, an accident. It's not the first time buddy you've thrown me on to the
(Yeah, yeah) ground. I've had an awful lot of accidents

NICKY (MI) I have to meet somebody.

RABBIT (G) Me too. Noel's waiting. Kom, kom
(Come, hurry up)

NICKY (MI) Noel! You know Noel too?

RABBIT (G) Of course, just as long as I've known you. I belonged to both of you. Hurry up...
Kom kom and don't ask so many questions. It's a long way and
(hurry up) Noel's waiting. Come on, there's nothing to be scared of.

They start their journey. The Rabbit takes big bounds. Music V Jumping, together with MD 10

NICKY (MI) Wait for me - I can't keep up.

Rabbit looks round.

RABBIT (G) Spring, spring Nicky.. .. Jump... Why don't you jump, like me?
(jump, jump)

Nicky looks at the rabbit, then at his feet and has a go. It works.

RABBIT (G) See. Nothing to be scared of.

They bound about to the music. Lucy tries to grab hold of Nicky but falls down a hole. Music River MD 11 fades in, Lucy and Stagehand Angel enter with the river, Lucy swimming on the water. Lucy sings along with tape:

LUCY and tape:

The water is wide
I can not get over
And neither have I wings to fly
Give me a boat
That will carry two
And both shall go
My love and I

There is a ship
And she sails the sea
She sails so deep
As deep can be
But not so deep
As the love I'm in
I know not how
To sink or swim

Good Morning... *(with her sweetest voice)*

She gets off and stands at the other side of the river, that is now between her and Nicky and Rabbit

LUCY Ha! You won't be able to cross this.

RABBIT (G) Oh je Oh je! I'd forgotten all about this. De rivier.
(Oh oh) (The river)

NICKY (MI) De rivier???

LUCY De rivier???

RABBIT (G) The river. We have to go up the river.

NICKY (MI) That's OK - I can swim.

Nicky goes to the river's edge and feels the water

NICKY (MI) The water's nice - not too hot, not too cold. Come on, there's nothing to be scared of.

Rabbit dips a paw into the water

RABBIT (G) Au! Au! Wet - much too wet. I hate wet water.
(Ow, ow!)

NICKY (MI) Water is always wet

RABBIT (G) Not where I come from.
I hate to make my feet wet, it makes them smelly and slack

NICKY (MI) Do we really have to go up this river?

RABBIT (G) Ja, we do
(Yes)

NICKY (MI) How do you know all this?

RABBIT (G) I've been here before.
With Noel.

NICKY (MI) With Noel?

RABBIT (G) Yes. This is the place where we said goodbye, this is the place where I made a him a promise.

NICKY (MI) A promise? What promise?

RABBIT (G) Well, I promised that, whenever I will come back and meet Noel again I will ...

A loud bang (A trapdoor flies open) followed by sound of fladdering duck (MD 12), feathers flutter about. They're all taken aback. Lucy goes off. She fishes a duck out of the hole by its legs.

DUCK (L) My quack....I quan't find my quegg..... I quan't find my quegg....

NICKY (MI) She can't find something. What can't you find?

DUCK (L) My queeeegg...!

NICKY (MI) My quegg???

LUCY Her egg..

RABBIT (G) Her egg! She can't find her egg.

The Duck nods with little sobs

DUCK (L) Ques!

NICKY (MI) Well, if you can't find something you have to think really hard about everywhere you've been, and what happened just before you lost it.

DUCK (L) Well, I was, I was quietly quitting on my quest..

NICKY (MI) Your quest?

RABBIT (G) Her nest

DUCK (L) Quite, quitting on my quegg, and I heard a queer quacket

RABBIT (G) I think Quacket means racket, din, ding dong, bam, bem, boem
(just sounds)

LUCY Quiet!

DUCK (L) I quept quiet on my quest, quivering, and really really quill
NICKY (MI) Quill?

LUCY She means she kept still.

DUCK (L) And then I queard a quick bang, and quall of a sudden I was quere and my quegg was quone, quone !!..... my quegg.... my quegg....

NICKY (MI) Look at her head, right between the eyes

RABBIT (G) Ja ja. A dead shot
(Yeah, yeah) You're somewhere else now, ducky
You have to go up the river.

NICKY (MI) Rabbit, we have to go too.

The duck cries, Lucy comforts her. Micha takes the Duck

LUCY Oh, no! What -

MICHA You heard. She has to go up the river.

*Nicky and Rabbit sit on the Duck's back.
Music VI Duck (folkdance)*

LUCY But...

Micha takes hold of Lucy and starts dancing with her

LUCY What are you doing? What am I doing? I don't want -

Micha kisses Lucy

LUCY You go too far, Micha, much too far. Just like those two. They have to -

A kiss

LUCY ...go back, they have to go back. Stop it! I don't want you to -

A big kiss. Lucy passes out, Micha runs off, gives a small kiss to Muriel who helped him. The Duck disappears

LUCY Where is she now? *(repeated teasing by clarinet)*
Where 'd she go? *(repeated teasing by clarinet)*
Where are you? *(repeated teasing by clarinet)*

Rattling trapdoors. After Rattling 2nd trapdoor MD 13 Trapdoors start moving, a ballet of trapdoors begins, they snap open and shut again, turning of trapdoors, finally some stay open. Music stops. They chase Lucy away

ALL Kss

Lucy starts singing a stupid children song, the others follow

ALL Kss

Lucy who is very puzzled and scared by all this flees finally with the flowers. Mountains appear. MD 14