

Plays for Young Audiences

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

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Rumplestiltskin

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Rumplestiltskin

Preshow. Boasts by the villagers.

DORA: I ate 15 chicken pies in one day.

AIDEN I ate 20 partridge pies in one afternoon

SHAUN I went out the town and into the forest

DORA: No way, fibber!

AIDEN No one goes into the forest.

SHAUN I did. I did.

DORA: What was it like then?

SHAUN: Well, well, it was big and there were creatures behind the trees.

CAMERON: Liar liar pants on fire.

AIDEN: I have a cow that produces enough milk to fill 10 tin baths

DORA: My dog has won the village pet competition for 3 years running, for setting himself on fire

SHAUN He's a hot dog

CAMERON: I have a horse that can run so fast it when it runs past, it's just a blur.

AIDEN: My grandma lives up a tree

CAMERON: My dad can ride 3 horses at one time.

SHAUN: My brother, Eric Bloodaxe, broke a man's nose with his little finger

CAMERON: My brother threw a boulder all the way across the river with his big toe.

DORA My uncle can balance 4 boulders on his head.

Rumplestiltskin

SHAUN: My wife saw the king in his carriage and when he threw a penny out, SHE caught it.

CAMERON: I have enough money for an all inclusive package holiday to Tenerife.

DORA: I have enough money for an all inclusive package holiday to eleven- erife.

CAMERON: My mum caught a flying bat with her teeth.

CAMERON My uncle caught a cold

DORA My brother caught chicken pox

CAMERON My sister caught her husband with the priest.

SHAUN: My uncle swam up the waterfall with the salmon.

CAMERON: I have a donkey that can carry a double bed.

THE MILLER: I have crossed a pig with a chicken.
I call it a picken.
It has a curly tail and little feathery wings... It lays eggs.

CAMERON: No way.

MILLER: Eggs that taste of bacon.
My daughter can catch rabbits with her bare hands.
My daughter can put her hands in the stream and tickle the fish then pull them out and fry them in a pan.
My daughter can fix a roof and build walls and cut hair and mill my flour and shoe twenty horses a day. And she can spin-

SHAWN: Spin what? Like a spinning top?

(Laughs)

DORA: Like this? Like this?

He spins round, and they all do.

MILLER: No, listen listen! My daughter can spin straw into gold
Silence.

MILLER: My daughter can spin straw into gold.

Whispers run through the town.

- 1: The miller's daughter sandwich is filled with mould
- 2: The miller's daughter has a terrible cold
- 3: The miller's daughter has made a lovely jam roll
- 4: The miller's daughter has gone completely bold
- 5: The miller's daughter has verrucas and she's been to the doctors for some cream and he gave her some hydrocortisone and even after putting it on her verrucas three times a day it's still not made any difference.
- ALL: No. the Miller's daughter can spin straw into gold.

OPENING SONG

CAST

the wolves go howl howl

gonna tell the owl

gonna tell the owl

what I've been told

prowl prowl

going on the prowl

I'm going on the prowl

to look for gold

oh oh don't believe a word

don't believe a word

don't believe a word that I've been told

oh oh lalalala

she can turn the straw to gold

2

the king goes

roar roar

I wanna see the straw

I wanna the straw

turn into gold

boil boil

it isn't very loyal

it isn't very loyal

to hide that gold

oh high high

my walls are very high

gonna lock her in the tower

and she will die

ay yi

she will die if she doesn't turn straw

to gold

3

ay yi yi yi

yi yi yo yo yo

ay yi yi yi

yi yi yo yo yo

oh oh the wind is very cold
but heart is filled with shiny gold
oh oh the wind is very cold
gonna turn that straw to gold

4

the wolves go
how howl
gonna tell the owl
I'm gonna tell the owl
what I've been told

prowl prowl
going on the prowl
I'm going on the prowl
to look for gold

oh oh don't believe a word
I don't believe a word
but I've been told

oh oh lalalala
she can turn the straw to gold
ay yi yi yi
yi yi yo yo yo

ay yi yi yi

yi yi yo yo yo

CODA

shiny shiny shiny shiny

it's all miney mine

the miller's daughter's turning straw to gold

KING: The Miller's daughter can spin straw into gold. Tell the miller to bring his daughter here. Now

The Miller's Daughter is fixing a roof. The Miller arrives.

GIRL: So there I was, fixing the roof. And I see my Dad coming across the yard. And I can tell by the look on his face that he's done something stupid. Again.

MILLER: Great news, daughter.

GIRL: That means not great news. I decide to get on with the roof.
Pass me that hammer Dad...

MILLER: Come down.

GIRL: I'm putting new slates on; cos the rain's getting in; cos you knocked the old ones off when you were jumping up and down on your bed trying to invent the indoor trampoline and you head went through the ceiling.

MILLER: True, but-

GIRL: Did you get the pig feed from the market?

MILLER: No. I er got distracted.

GIRL: What about the sacks?

MILLER: What sacks?

GIRL: The flour sacks. For the flour.

MILLER: Yeah.

GIRL: You got them?

MILLER: No. I got misled.

GIRL: Pass me that hammer; I'll finish this, then I'll go get the pig feed then I'll go get the sacks. Hammer please.

MILLER: Come down for it. Me and ladders don't mix.

GIRL: Dad, you need to get over your fear of heights.

She comes down. He holds her.

MILLER: Forget the roof. We're going on a ... little trip.

GIRL: Dad, what's gone wrong?

MILLER: Nothing. It's just... today is a special day. Like a day off. Yes, today's a day off day.

GIRL: What have you done? Have you been talking about your mad idea of the chicken crossed with a pig?

MILLER: No.

GIRL: Or your organic beer, water mixed with mud and brewed in a trough.

MILLER: No.

GIRL: Or your wig collection made from abandoned birds' nests?

MILLER: No! Enough! This plan is going to work.

GIRL: Dad none of your plans work.

MILLER: Actually it's more than a plan; it's an adventure.

GIRL: My stomach went tight. I thought I was going to be sick.

MILLER: We're going to the palace!

Beat.

MILLER: Yeah. We're going to see the king.

GIRL: The King?

MILLER: Yeah. The King. The king wants something doing. And. The King wants YOU to do it.

GIRL: Me?

MILLER: He wants you to... spin something.

GIRL: But I haven't done spinning since school; I haven't got a wheel.

MILLER: He'll have one; he's got all sorts of things up in that big palace of his. So off we go then...

GIRL: Now? I'm covered in dirt.

MILLER: The king won't mind a bit of dirt.

GIRL: But...

MILLER: And I'll look after you; remember when you were a kid and you had nightmares about wolves in the dark dark forest.

GIRL: I'm not a kid.

MILLER: Who brought you a cup of warm milk after to cheer you up?

GIRL: You did.

MILLER: And who took you down the river on Sundays.

GIRL: you did.

MILLER: And who taught you to swim?

GIRL: You did.

MILLER: I held you didn't I? On top of the water. Did I let you drown?

GIRL: Well there was that time-

MILLER: (Cutting her off) And. And. And then we'd come home-

GIRL: And we'd have a fire and get warm and eat dinner and you'd sing, sing like a crow.

BOTH: Craaaaagh, craaaaaagh!!

(They laugh)

GIRL: But, this is different. Dad, the king, he's...

MILLER: He's the King. Full stop. And what the king wants the king gets. And I'm your dad, and you will do as I say. 'Cos I know best and everything will be all right. Trust me. Trust me.

.....

In the castle. The king plays with the guard. he plays with children's toys, like a child.

The bell rings. 'Ping pong'.

The king sits on his throne.

KING: Come in.

The Miller and his daughter enter.

The Miller bows very low.

MILLER: Your Majesty .

The king is interested in the girl, who stands there unsure what to do.

He walks around her as if she was a specimen.

The king laughs with delight.

KING: How long has she been doing this, this trick?

MILLER: Well your majesty, I erm...the thing is... your majesty...

KING: (To her) How long? Girl. This spinning. Tell me.

MILLER: Since school, sir.

KING: Incredible! You are incredible.

GIRL: I'm all right.

KING: 'All right'? (Laughs)... all right, I like all right.

MILLER: Yes, she's very good Your Highness.. But the thing is there's a slight possibility...

KING: Possibility. I like that word possibility.

Do you like that word, spinning girl? Spinny spinny pinny spinny spinning girl?

MILLER: Yes Sir. But can I just say-

KING: Do you, spinning girl?

GIRL: Yes sir.

KING: I like a spinning girl that says yes sir. When you have finished I'll let you have a go on my scooter.

GIRL: Thank you sir (unsure)

KING: My special spinning girl. We could really do with a girl like you in my Kingdom, Do you like it here?

MILLER: Yes sir, we love it but the thing is there may have been a slight misunderstanding....

KING: Do you like it here?

GIRL: Yes sir.

KING: Tell me...could you spin here?

GIRL: Yes. I can do it anywhere.

King laughs with glee.

GIRL: As long as there is a spinning wheel...

KING: Anywhere anywhere, spinny-spinny spinnywhere.

He runs around the space like a plane.

The Miller laughs.

MILLER: Very good your majesty; now about this spinning. It's true she is very capable for a Miller's Daughter...she spun me a lovely woollen jumper one time...

KING: (Sudden change) Quiet! (To her) And you want to help your king don't you?

MILLER: Yes, she does but-

KING: Miller if you don't shut up, I will tell the guard to stick his pointy thing into you and they will carry you like a fish on a stick to the dark dark forest and sling you in

and all that will be left of you will be bones.
Understand?!

MILLER: Yes Sir.

KING: (To the girl) How long does it take?

GIRL: Depends how much you want doing your Majesty?

The king laughs with delight.

KING: Could you do it now?

GIRL: Now?

KING: Now, we'll get rid of this Miller Man and you'll stay here
in my Kingdom and do your spinning.

GIRL: Well, the thing is...I've got a roof to fix, my father was
just passing me the hammer when we came here, and
I've got the pigs to feed, see I really should look in on
Mrs Quiggins on the corner....how about next Tuesday ?

I'M THE KING

King

When you're the king

When you're the king
you have a duty

To do exactly as you please

It's like a lemon that you squeeze

and it's called royal

I'm feeling bored

I said I'm bored

So entertain me

and make me laugh and jump and weep

Put all my worries back to sleep

And that's called loyal

King when I was born
 They said I was commanding
 And so my subjects all began to swoon
 so I quickly learnt
 to be demanding
 on a wintry afternoon
 noon noon noon

CHORUS silver spoon spoon

 1
King lalala lalala
 I'm the King
 I can do I can
 do anything
 lalala lalala
 I'm the King
 I can do I can
 do anything
 I'm so kingly I'm so kingly!

 2
Chorus lalalalalala
 he's the king
 he can do he can do
 anything

lalalalalala
he's the king
he can do he can do
he's so kingly oh so kingly

Chorus underneath

3

King I can tell you to smile
I can tell you to frown
I can give you a pinch
I can give you a pinch
While you're acting the clown
So start acting the clown

Chorus oh He wants us to clown

(Chorus beneath)

King I can stick out my tongue! (12)
I can give you a poke! (12)
I can lock you away
For ten years and a day
While I'm cracking a joke

CHORUS Oh hahahaha!

King You see how they laugh

CHORUS Oh Hee hee hee hee!

King You're not laughing at me?

Chorus Oh no no no no

(CHORUS BACKING)

5

King

I'm so regal

Oh so regal

Say I'm regal

Like an eagle

CHORUS

Like an eagle

You are regal

Chorus lalas etc beneath

6

KING

So you see all this straw?

this straw on the floor

and furthermore

I was told

You could turn all this straw into gold

so is it true?

Well it better be true

Yes it better be true

CODA

I don't care if you're hungry

I don't care if you get cold

You will do as I say

You will do as you're told

So I'm locking this door
till you've turned all this straw into...
gold

They arrive in the tower.

KING: First thing. Throw this fool out. Throw him long way!

The guard and the miller go.

KING: (Shouts off) And don't come back.
So... wheel... plus straw... plus magic girl... equals gold.

GIRL: I'm not a magic girl. The thing is your majesty -

KING: No, this is the thing. This is the spinning thing. And you
are the spinning girl.

He mimes how the spinning will work.

GIRL: But what if I can't.

KING: (He grabs her hand, like a hand-shake) By the morning
you will spin this straw into gold.

GIRL: But what if I can't do it. You are hurting my hand.

KING: And you are hurting my brain.

He pretends he has a head ache.

KING: So if you don't turn this, by the morning, into goldy
goldy gold, you will be executed. That's a big grown up
word for dead.

He goes.

.....

She brings the two - the straw and the wheel - together.

Girl It could be worse.

I could be at home cutting dad's toenails. ...
I could be fixing the roof and the lightning comes down
in a great fork and hits me. ...
I could be lost in the dark dark forest. ...

Or I could be locked in a tower in a palace by a cruel king...
and the door locked and being made to do something impossible...
and then have to spin straw into gold before the morning or I'll be dead.

Yeah, could be worse.

She call

She bangs.

Bangs reply.

She bangs.

Bangs reply

She bangs.

No reply.

She looks for where the noise came from.

Enter Rumplestiltskin unseen by her.

He looks at her, mimicking her.

At last she sees him.

GIRL: Who are you?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Who are you?

GIRL: What do you want?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: What do you want?

GIRL: How did you get in?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: How did I get in?...In the forest the birds sit cross legged on the trees, waiting for the night to come and the moon to rise and do you take sugar in your tea. I don't.

GIRL: Who are you?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: I am not
the type

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who'd lock a girl in a tower, (he mimes a key in a lock and a door slamming) Phoooo... creeeee.... Shuck. (lock noise)

GIRL: When I called, you heard me.

He does something physical.

GIRL: Do you live in the palace?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: I'd rather live in a bucket of ear-wax.

He looks at the straw.

GIRL: I have to spin it into gold
Before morning.
Or I'll be executed.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Tricky. Very tricky.

GIRL: Help me.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: if I do, what'll you do for me?

GIRL: anything.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: ANYTHING!? You sure? That's a big thing, anything.

GIRL: If you don't, I die.

He dies.

GIRL: Stop playing. Can you do it?

...

GIRL: You got in here when the door is locked.

He looks out the window

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Long way down isn't it.

She turns her back on him.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: I can do it, you know. The straw thing. The gold thing.
But what will you give me in return. There is always...
something in return.

GIRL: I only have my ring and my necklace; they were my
Mum's.

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RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Bye bye.

He goes to go.

GIRL: Wait. Take the ring.

He takes it runs away.

Sniffs it, tests it.

GIRL: Well?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: It's all right.

GIRL: Who are you?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Who are you?

GIRL: The miller's daughter

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: And I am the miller's daughter's helper. Watch this.

He dances and dances. He dances and dances.

Towards the end, she copies him a little... and he runs to the wheel and the gold comes.

And she falls.

He looks over her.

Then jumps into the audience, says to someone.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: So that's it then. Hive five. I like your hair.

He goes.

.....

King enters

KING: Wake up, it's morning.

GIRL: I've had the strangest dream.

KING: Well? Are you dead or alive?

Rumplestiltskin

She stands between him and gold

GIRL: I am sorry. I tried. I did. I did my best.

He sees the gold.

KING: Yes this is best, very best.
I see what you were doing. Crafty little monkey. (He runs the gold through his fingers.) Look at this.

GIRL: (Not quite believing it) Yes yes.

KING: Clever girl. And so... I have a larger room... a medium sized room. And we will put in more straw. And you can turn that into gold. Follow me.

She and the guard follow.

KING: Quickly!
(To the housekeeper) You. Fetch more straw and take it to the medium room.

HOUSEKEEPER: Yes your majesty

KING: Follow me.

They continue to travel.

The housekeeper and the guard are alone.

HOUSEKEEPER: Conrad, the king has ordered no one talk to her. Her dad is banned, told him not never nohow to not come within 10 miles of the palace.
How terrible, all on her lonesome.
I say you can keep your gold and your money, keep your jewels and bank accounts. It's the other stuff that counts, isn't it Conrad. You aren't very talkative, Conrad, but I don't care. I like your strong silence; I dream of it when I go home; and I think of you wrapping around me like a snugly buggly blanket. I love you Conrad.

HOUSEKEEPER SONG

Why are you always on your guard?

Don't I mean anything to you?

Silence is golden

But it can break your heart

When I think of the things not done

We could have had so much fun

But somehow you always deny me

And honestly it's so hard

Why are you always on your guard?

Why can't you see what I'm feeling

you leave me reeling

And I just fall apart

When I think of the years gone by

And oh how it makes me sigh

I sigh for the days I remember

oh why make it all so hard?

we both hate these walls so high

we both love the summer summer sky

so won't you please try to remember?

when you weren't on your guard

HOUSEKEEPER: Conrad, I have to take her the straw. Bye!

She goes. Guard goes.

The girl is in the tower.

The HK takes her the straw.

GIRL: The king, he likes gold doesn't he.
Has he executed many people?

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My father, the miller, will you tell him I'm all right.

The HK leaves.

HOUSEKEEPER: Tears stains on her cheek like little slug trails.
Just her and the straw and the wheel.

I've got an old spinning wheel at home and I'll get some straw from the farm and I'll do the spinning and Conrad and I will make a fresh start away from the king and his bossing bossing bossing. Me and Conrad will get out of here: Conrad will be free, won't have to stand there like a statue. Maybe we can set up little bed and breakfast business on the Wirral. I'll just have a teeny tiny peek through the keyhole just to see how she does it
Come on then miller's daughter do your stuff.

Looks through again.

And Rumplestiltskin enters and puts his finger in the key hole. The HK gets it in the eye and backs off.

We see the girl give R her necklace, and then he spins the straw into gold. Over this we hear:

HOUSEKEEPER: - and the word spreads round the kingdom in a million whispers: the girl, the magic girl, can spin straw into gold.

And in the morning...

She looks back through the keyhole.

Enter the king, who pulls the HK out of the way, and goes into the room.

KING: Good girl good girl

GIRL: Your majesty; that's twice I've done what you asked.

KING: Yes, and I have an even bigger room.

GIRL: More straw?

KING: More gold.

GIRL: This is the last time. Last time.

The king exits.

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HOUSEKEEPER: And so it's the third night, again locked in - in the biggest room in the tall tower... with even more straw.

The HK looks through the key hole.

Enter R. he blows through the key-hole, and the HK floats away.

The girl is waiting for him this time.

GIRL: I have nothing left to give you.
Nothing.
Spin the straw.
One last time.
...
Please.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Bye bye.

GIRL: (Running in front of him) Stop! (Grabbing him) Whoever you are, whatever you are, you're my only chance.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: But you have nothing left to give; you can't bargain with nothing silly.

GIRL: I can-

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: What?
Squeeze yourself through the keyhole?
Become invisible?
Turn into mist and creep under the door.

GIRL: I can cook, I can clean, I can fix.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: No thank you.

GIRL: You've had my ring; you've had my necklace.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Oh dear oh dear oh dear oh dear oh dear.
Oh, there is one thing you could give me.

GIRL: What?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: A little thing.

GIRL: What?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: A very little thing.

GIRL: What is it?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Sometimes a pretty thing.

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Sometimes an ugly thing.

GIRL: Is it money?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: You humans always think of money.

GIRL: What is it?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Sometimes it's a quiet thing.
Sometimes a loud thing.

GIRL: And? And?

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: It's so small it doesn't even exist.

GIRL: Well if it doesn't even exist, yes, I'll give it, you can have it.

He changes his mind

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: No I couldn't.

GIRL: Yes you could, please please! I'll give you anything, anything.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: The quiet, loud, little, ugly, pretty thing?

GIRL: Yes.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Promise?

GIRL: Yes, yes.

They shake hands.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Place your hand on your heart.

She does.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: And spit.

She does.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: Will you bow to it?

GIRL: Yes

They bow to it.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN: (Offering his hand) Your highness.

KING: Stand still.

Everyone freezes - like a game.

KING: This is the ceremony, and this is how we are going to do it.
We need someone to conduct this ceremony
You.

Beckons them out

HOUSEKEEPER: Repeat after me
Do you king
take millers daughter
to be your wife

KING: I do

HOUSEKEEPER: Do you millers daughter

HOUSEKEEPER: Take the king

GIRL: Where's my dad.

KING: Quiet!
Ask again.

HOUSEKEEPER: Do you millers daughter
Take the king

HOUSEKEEPER: To be your husband

KING: She does.
And now we all say
You are husband and wife.

The audience says that.

KING: All together. And louder!

They say it again.

KING: Done. Thank you. Be seated.
Now you. The girl who spinned the gold. Do not leave the palace; do not make a fuss; do not forget how lucky you are; do not play with my toys; do not make a noise; do not speak unless you are spoken to; do not eat any of my sweets; do not talk to strangers; do not forget to wash your hands after going for a wee; and do not do

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not do not forget who is the kingiest king of them all.
Me. ... and then everyone will be happy ever after.

He goes, followed by the Housekeeper.

GIRL: The roof is leaking and the rain is pouring in.

Bells and confetti.

Interval