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Dramatic Publishing



A MUSICAL PLAY

FROGGIE WENT A 'COURTIN'

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THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY



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Printed in the United States of America
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(FROGGIE WENT A 'COURTIN')

ISBN 0-87129-638-1

FROGGIE WENT A' COURTIN'
A Musical Play

Six Men, Three Women - Small Parts
and Extras

CHARACTERS

OLD TOM. a cat
DYNAMITE DAN. a black fly
BLOODY EDDIE. a horse fly
FROG. who goes a' courting
MISS MOUSE. a mouse of quality
UNCLE RAT. an old man (rat)
GOOSE. a friend of Frog
OLD MISS RAT. a seamstress
TURTLE. the best man

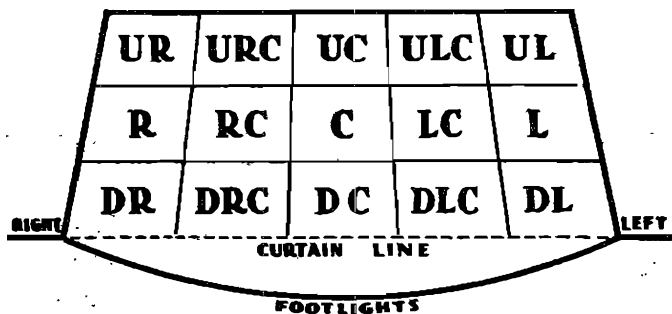
ANIMAL FRIENDS

TOAD	BUMBLEBEE
WORM	FLEA
MOTH	ANT #1
BLACK BUG	ANT #2
COON	SHOE PIE FLY
SNAKE	CHICK

PLACE: A woodland community.

TIME: One summer.

CHART OF STAGE POSITIONS



STAGE POSITIONS

Upstage means away from the footlights, *downstage* means toward the footlights, and *right* and *left* are used with reference to the actor as he faces the audience. R means *right*, L means *left*, U means *up*, D means *down*, C means *center*, and these abbreviations are used in combination, as: UR for *up right*, RC for *right center*, DLC for *down left center*, etc. A territory designated on the stage refers to a general area, rather than to a given point.

NOTE: Before starting rehearsals, chalk off your stage or rehearsal space as indicated above in the *Chart of Stage Positions*. Then teach your actors the meanings and positions of these fundamental terms of stage movement by having them walk from one position to another until they are familiar with them. The use of these abbreviated terms in directing the play saves time, speeds up rehearsals, and reduces the amount of explanation the director has to give to his actors.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND SONGS

Scene One: Basement corner of Old Tom's house.

"What a Pickle I'm In" OLD TOM

Scene Two: In front of Frog's house.

"A Mouse of Quality" FROG

"Courtin' Bell" FROG'S FRIENDS

Scene Three: Miss Mouse's house.

"Beautifully Bad" DAN

"I Cannot Marry You Today" MISS MOUSE

"A Mouse of Quality" (Reprise). FROG

Scene Four: Miss Mouse's house.

"Love Song" MISS MOUSE

Scene Five: The Woods, and at Frog's house.

"Pass the Word" FROG

"Froggie Went A' Courtin'" FROG'S FRIENDS

"Have You Seen Miss Mouse?" UNCLE RAT

Scene Six: Basement of Old Tom's house.

"I'm a Nice Guy" EDDIE

"What a Pickle I'm In" (Reprise) OLD TOM

Scene Seven: Basement of Old Tom's house.

Scene Eight: The Woods.

"Froggie Went A' Courtin'"

(Reprise). FROG'S FRIENDS

"I Warn You" UNCLE RAT

Scene Nine: Miss Mouse's house and Frog's house.

"What Shall I Wear?" MISS MOUSE, TURTLE
and FROG

Scene Ten: At the Hollow Tree.

"Froggie Went A' Courtin'"

(Reprise). FROG'S FRIENDS

PROPERTIES

GENERAL

Scene Two: Cakes, balloons, and other party items.

Scene Four: Rocking chair, lighted candle on table, lamp, matches.

Scene Six: Chair, ropes and gag to tie Miss Mouse.

Scene Ten: Picnic table, flower-covered trelis, wedding cake. Optional: items as mentioned in title song.

PERSONAL

DAN: Charts, graphs, pencils, ropes, sack.

GOOSE: Piece of paper.

FLEA: Sword (for Frog).

SHOE PIE FLY: Large bell.

FROG: Hobby horse, bucket of water.

OLD TOM: Club, rope. (For Scene 10, tie white ribbon on club.)

OLD MISS RAT: Materials, ribbons, laces, pins, etc., to make wedding gown.

Scene 1

(The curtain opens on a corner of the basement in Old Tom's home. OLD TOM is seen at C mulling unhappily over his problem.)

OLD TOM. Woe is me! Oh. . . woe-o is me.
What a pickle I'm in. (Crosses to apron.)
You just won't believe my tale - (Swishes tail.) -
of woe. I'm sad, and cats should never be sad.
(Lies down, crosses paws and rests chin on
them, and looks out over audience.) I'm in love
with a M-O-U-S-E! (Weeping, embarrassed.)
A M-O-U-S-E. Oh, I'd give eight of my nine
lives to be like all my friends and find a nice
little alley cat to love. But, no. I'm in love
with a - (Whisper.) - m-o-u-s-e. . . . What a
pickle I'm in!

(Song: "WHAT A PICKLE I'M IN")

OLD TOM.

They brought me to this house
to kill off every mouse
because I was mean -
My reputation spread,
my master always said
I was half cat, half fiend.

I'd kill an army of mice, of moths, of flies.
Some people said you could hear their cries

from the cellar where
I would catch them there.
But then I met her under the sink one day.
Her eyes were golden, her coat was gray.
Her nose was pink and her tail so thin.
I'm in love with a mouse - what a pickle I'm in!

I cannot eat or sleep
or even earn my keep.
 I'm half here, half there -
I never thought that I
could get to like a fly
 but I find that I care.

I find I care about them - the moths, the mice.
Even that little frog is nice.
Do you know that I
let them pass on by.
But since I met her under the sink that day
and saw her sitting all soft and gray,
I fell down flat on my manly chin.
I'm in love with a mouse - what a pickle I'm in!

(BLACK FLY/DAN) and HORSE FLY/EDDIE/ENTER.
They are two very ornery critters, caped and masked.
They cross over to OLD TOM and look disgustedly at
him.)

DAN. Look at him, Bloody Eddie, would ya! The
biggest guy on the block and he's lyin' here cryin'!
EDDIE. Yeh, Dynamite Dan! For flyin' out crowd -
er. . . er. . . I mean crowdin' out fly - er - er -
I mean cryin' out loud! Yeh! That's what I mean.
DAN. Hey, cat! Get off it, will ya? We've got the
news ya asked us to get ya.

EDDIE. Yeh! We got the wooz - I mean the booz.
The news!

OLD TOM (excitedly). The news! Oh, you brought
the news! (Jumps up.) The news. At last, the
news. At last. After all this time - the news
----(Pause.) What news?

DAN. Heh! Heh! Heh! Listen to him, Eddie.
What news----Like a fox he is. Clever. Shrewd.
Heh. Heh. Heh. What news. . .

EDDIE. Yeh. Heh. Heh. . . what news. . . heh.
Heh. Heh.

DAN. Heh. Heh. Heh.

EDDIE. Heh. Heh. Heh. Heh----heh----(Pause -
then questions:) What news?

DAN (whispering, as he looks around). That ru-
mor about Frog----(Whispers.) About Frog.
(Yells!) F-R-O-G. (Whispers.) Frog!

EDDIE. Ohhhhh----(Loudly.) The rumor about
Frog and Miss Mouse!

DAN (jumping on him, clapping his hands over
Eddie's mouth). Shhhhhh! Quiet, Bloody Ed-
die! The whole world'll hear you!

EDDIE. Yeh - Dynamite----O.K. Shhhh----

OLD TOM (tail swishing very evilly). What about -
(Looks R, then L.) - Frog! (DAN tiptoes over
to OLD TOM.)

DAN (leaning way over and whispering). He is
goin' a' courtin'. To Miss Mouse's house! To-
day!

OLD TOM (sitting up). No!

DAN. Yes!

EDDIE. To Miss House's Mouse! I mean Touse's
Mouse! Er. Mouse's House. Courtin' there.
Yeh!

OLD TOM. Never! My Miss Mouse! Frog shall
never have her while there is a life left in my
breath.

DAN (boastfully). Don't worry - I have a plan. . . .

EDDIE. Yeh, a Dynamite plan Dan; I mean a Dynamite Dan plan - a plan. . . .

(The following dialogue almost overlaps, with Eddie's repeating Dan's words.)

DAN. --to help you----

EDDIE. Yeh, to help you----

DAN. --win Miss Mouse----

EDDIE. Yeh, win Miss Mouse----

DAN. --by hook or crook----

EDDIE. Yeh, crook or hook----

DAN. --away from----

EDDIE. Crook or hook? Hook or crook! Yeh, that's it - hook or crook. (DAN stops, turns, and stares at EDDIE. Then he yells:)

DAN. QUIET! (Crosses back, looking at EDDIE.) Away from Frog. (Turns to OLD TOM.) Now here's what we have to do----(DAN starts talking to himself; pulls out charts and graphs and pencils. While he jabbers on incoherently, OLD TOM moves away and very sadly sings a reprise to----)

(Song: "WHAT A PICKLE I'M IN"[Reprise])

OLD TOM.

But since I met her under the sink that day
And saw her sitting all soft and gray,
I fell down flat on my manly chin.
I'm in love with a mouse - what a pickle I'm in!

DAN (as EDDIE holds the charts, etc.). You'll notice on this graph the distance to Miss Mouse's house is one and a half times the equilateral angle of the sum of these squares. Here you see the two charts to show the weather forecast with

storm clouds gathering along the highest low pressure area in the low that is racing between these two highs. Given equal forces of latitude, the forest edge will be fogbound at half the distance to Miss Mousie's housie - I mean house. Now adding the sum of these squares - thusly - we have two times the normal dry rainfall that - no - that can't be right----Subtracting these two sums we find - let's see - oh, yes - adding and subtracting we get - mmm - now - add those squares to these cubes - mmmm - no, that isn't right - Sand storms? - Let me start over---- Here is the distance to Miss Mouse's house's - I mean house.

(Lights fade as DAN is talking and come up UL on:)

Scene 2

(Froggie's House. Clustered in front of the house, around the doorway, are all of Frog's friends: TOAD, WORM, GOOSE, MOTH, BLACK BUG, COON, SNAKE, BUMBLEBEE, FLEA, ANTS, SHOE PIE FLY, CHICK. At stage L is a beautiful hobby horse - rarin' to go. SHOE PIE FLY carries a large bell.)

CHICK. Is he ready yet?

MOTH. Almost!

GOOSE. How splendid he'll look!

BUMBLEBEE. Is Applejack, his horse, ready?

TOAD. Did you bring the balloons?

COON. And the signs?

WORM. Where is the cake?

SNAKE. I've got the lemonade----

BLACK BUG. I just love courtin' parties.

FLEA. I've got the present!

MOTH. Shhh - here he comes. Quick, everybody,
hide!

(Everyone scatters and simply kneels and covers head with hands to hide. Door opens and out comes FROG, splendidly dressed with leather boots, cap with feather, leather belt and pistol. He stands in doorway, takes a deep breath, and - croaks! He crosses down as one after another of his friends giggles, but he doesn't notice them - or does he? Downstage he sings:)

(Song: "A MOUSE OF QUALITY")

FROG.

I'm in love with a mouse of quality!
A little gray mouse who waits for me,
Two brown eyes that tell me she
Will say "yes" and marry me.

(As he ends the fourth line, everyone jumps up with surprise - surprise - surprise. FROGGIE pretends great surprise.)

(Song: "COURTIN' BELL")

ALL (sung as a round).

Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!
Time to sing a courtin' song!
All is ready, all is well,
When you hear the courtin' bell.

Ring out! Sing out!
Everybody dance and shout!
Time to bid our friend farewell
When you hear the courtin' bell.

Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!
Oh, it won't be very long.
All is ready, all is well.
Ring the good old courtin' bell!

(At end of song and dance, there is much applause and GOOSE steps forward with much urging and pushing by others.)

GOOSE (very bashful). I - eh - er - I - we - well,
I mean us - we all get together - ha, ha - I mean -
got together and wanted to give you a goin' away -
goin' away----

MOTH (whispering). Present!

GOOSE. Present - so you - ah, you----

COON. Won't forget----

GOOSE. Won't forget - ah, er - won't forget----

CHICK. Us!

GOOSE. Us. So we - ah----

BLACK BUG (to FLEA). Get the present!

BUMBLEBEE (to FLEA). Get the present! (FLEA
drags out a beautiful sword and with help from
the others, straps it on Frog's belt.)

GOOSE. We got you a present - so - ah----(She
continues talking to herself as the rest begin
to sing "Courtin' Bell" again, as soon as FLEA
straps sword on Frog's belt. This speech con-
tinues while FROG speaks.) We - ah - we all
thought that you - ah - that you, knowing you
and how, ah - how you always needed - ah -
needed - oh, my. Let me see. (Takes out
paper with speech notes on it. She turns it in
a circle as she reads around the edges.) Yes -
we thought that you needed a gift to set off your
boots and cap and leather ball----Leather ball?
Oh, my goodness! Let me see. Oh, yes -
leather belt! A gift to set off your leather belt.

So we - that is, your friends, all put our heads together and agreed to present you, our dear Frog, friend to us all, as we are all your friends - to present you with this lovely - s'ward which is just a token. (Pause.) A token? (Looks at sheet.) A token of our friendship. Ah, yes - so it gives me great pleasure to present you - (Looks around.) - to present you----Mr. Frog? Oh, dear! (She sees FROG already has the present.)

FROG (in the meantime, raising hands to stop the singing). Friends. The happiness you have showered on me today shall remain with me always. (GOOSE talks right through Frog's speech.) In the midst of deeds, great and small, my hand shall go to my side to grasp this sword of friendship - a lasting token of your esteem. On my journey to Miss Mouse's, it shall offer me that needed encouragement as I offer her my hand in matrimonial - marriage. And your hands shall be on my hand, my friends, as I ask Miss Mouse to marry me. (Cheers. GOOSE thinks cheers are for her. She is very proud.) And if she says yes, there will be a wedding. And you will all be there. (Cheers.) She will say yes, my friends, because I love her - as you will love her. (Cheers. GOOSE continues her speech; she basks in the cheers.) Thank you for this sword. I will not soon forget this moment. (Cheers.)

(Farewells - back slapping - cake comes out - balloons - a party - and then:)

FROG. I must go now, but it won't be long before I come back on Applejack with Miss Mouse's reply. (He mounts horse. All begin the song "Courtin' Bell." Lights dim down with spot on

FROGGIE and Applejack as chorus continues song.)

(Song: "COURTIN' BELL" [Reprise])

ALL (sung as a round).

Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!
Time to sing a courtin' song!
All is ready, all is well,
When you hear the courtin' bell.

Ring out! Sing out!
Everybody dance and shout!
Time to bid our friend farewell
When you hear the courtin' bell.

Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!
Oh, it won't be very long.
All is ready, all is well.
Ring the good old courtin' bell!

(Spotlight out, at end of song.)