

Excerpt terms and conditions



This excerpt is available to assist you in the play selection process.

You may view, print and download any of our excerpts for perusal purposes.

Excerpts are not intended for performance, classroom or other academic use. In any of these cases you will need to purchase playbooks via our website or by phone, fax or mail.

A short excerpt is not always indicative of the entire work, and we strongly suggest reading the whole play before planning a production or ordering a cast quantity.

Dramatic Publishing

Dot and Tot of Merryland

Based on the book by L. Frank Baum

By

JENNIFER KIRKEBY

Music and Lyrics by

MICHAEL PRETASKY



Dramatic Publishing

Woodstock, Illinois • England • Australia • New Zealand

*** NOTICE ***

The amateur and stock acting rights to this work are controlled exclusively by THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be given. Royalty must be paid every time a play is performed whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged. A play is performed any time it is acted before an audience. Current royalty rates, applications and restrictions may be found at our Web site: www.dramaticpublishing.com, or we may be contacted by mail at: DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, P.O. Box 129, Woodstock IL 60098.

COPYRIGHT LAW GIVES THE AUTHOR OR THE AUTHOR'S AGENT THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO MAKE COPIES. This law provides authors with a fair return for their creative efforts. Authors earn their living from the royalties they receive from book sales and from the performance of their work. Conscientious observance of copyright law is not only ethical, it encourages authors to continue their creative work. This work is fully protected by copyright. No alterations, deletions or substitutions may be made in the work without the prior written consent of the publisher. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, videotape, film, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. It may not be performed either by professionals or amateurs without payment of royalty. All rights, including but not limited to the professional, motion picture, radio, television, videotape, foreign language, tabloid, recitation, lecturing, publication and reading, are reserved.

©MMIV

Book by JENNIFER KIRKEBY
Music and lyrics by MICHAEL PRETASKY

Printed in the United States of America
All Rights Reserved
(DOT AND TOT OF MERRYLAND)

ISBN: 1-58342-237-4

Dr. Stephen J. Teller of the *Baum Bugle* said that *Dot and Tot of Merryland* was: “Delightful. Baum would have approved.”

Lakeshore Weekly News, Minnetonka, Minn.

* * * *

IMPORTANT BILLING AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

All producers of DOT AND TOT OF MERRYLAND *must* give credit to the Author and Composer of the Musical in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the Musical and in all instances in which the title of the Musical appears for purposes of advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the Musical and/or a production. The name of the Author and Composer *must* also appear on a separate line, on which no other name appears, immediately following the title, and *must* appear in size of type not less than fifty percent the size of the title type. Biographical information on the Author and Composer, if included in the playbook, may be used in all programs. *In all programs this notice must appear:*

“Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois”

Dot and Tot of Merryland was commissioned and first produced by Stages Theatre Company; artistic director, Steve Barberio. It premiered July 11, 2003, at Stages Theatre Company in Hopkins, Minnesota, with the following:

CAST

Dot Freeland ALISON MCCARTAN
Tot Thompson RYAN STRAND
Watchdog of Merryland / Troll DUSTIN VALENTA
Mr. Right Split / Clown. KEVIN SCHNIEPP
Mr. Left Split / Clown. CRAIG ANDERSON
Twinkle SARAH HAYES
Queen of Merryland JENN SCUDERI
Flippity Flop / Doll / Toy. DAVID GAMACHE
Bippity Bop / Doll LEAH GRUBER
Bonkers / Doll. LAURA OTREMBE
Soldier #1 / Alligator ALYSSA HAWKINSON
Soldier #2 / Bear ZAKIYA EDWARDS
Scollops LINDSAY RATHERT
Doll / Clown / Horse. MADDY WEISNER

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director MARILEE MAHLER
Associate Director / Dramaturg JERRY SEIFERT
Music Director / Vocal Coach. SHIRLEY MIER
Choreographer SHARON BACH
Stage Manager. JENIFER GITZEN
Scenic Design TOM BARRETT
Light Design GRETCHEN KATT
Prop Design. MELANIE SALMON-PETERSON
Costume & Make-up Design PAULA LEE

DOT AND TOT OF MERRYLAND

A Musical in One Act

For 1 male, 7 females and 6 males or females, extras*

(*see production notes p. 73)

CHARACTERS

1. DOT FREELAND (f): The only child of a wealthy banker. Her mother died many years ago. She has been raised to be very proper and is now looking for an adventure. Her father bought a beautiful house in Roselawn for Dot to spend the summer in while he is away on business. 12-14 years old.
2. TOT THOMPSON (m): The young son of the gardener of Roselawn. He has a wonderful imagination and is also looking for an adventure so he can prove to himself that he is as brave as a pirate. He befriends Dot. 8-10 years old.
3. WATCHDOG OF MERRYLAND (can double as Troll, m or f): A funny character with a very long beard who watches over the entrance to Merryland. He passes his time by counting his many whiskers.

TROLL (m or f): An angry but very witty fellow who wants Merryland back for himself. He regains his powers that he once lost when Dot and Tot enter Merryland.
4. MR. RIGHT SPLIT (m or f): The right side of a wooden man who splits himself in half in order to get all

of his work done. He is in charge of repairing and winding up all of the toys in his valley.

5. MR. LEFT SPLIT (m or f): The left side of a wooden man who splits himself in half in order to get all of his work done. He is in charge of repairing and winding up all of the toys in his valley.
6. TWINKLE (f): A Raggedy Ann-like doll, maid to the Queen of Merryland.
7. QUEEN OF MERRYLAND (f): A beautiful doll who is the head of Merryland. She took Merryland from the troll who was making everyone work nonstop for him. All of the characters of Merryland love her dearly for she is kind and loving.
8. FLIPPITY FLOP (can double as a Doll, m or f): The Prince of the Clowns. He welcomes Dot and Tot to his valley. Should move well.
9. BIPPITY BOP (can double as a Doll, m or f): Flippity Flop's Clown assistant. He teaches Dot and Tot how to be Clowns. Should move well.
10. BONKERS (can double as a Doll, m or f): He is very scatterbrained and usually gets all of his orders wrong. He teaches Dot and Tot how to be Clowns.
11. SOLDIER #1 (can double as Alligator, m or f): Wooden soldier who guards Merryland.

ALLIGATOR (m or f): A toy who lives in the Valley of Mr. Split.

12. SOLDIER #2 (can double as Bear, m or f): Wooden soldier who guards Merryland.

BEAR (m or f): A toy who lives in the Valley of Mr. Split.
13. DOLL #1 (f): A ballerina doll who lives in Merryland. Should move well.
14. DOLL #2 (f): A Spanish doll who lives in Merryland. Should move well.
15. DOLL #3 (m or f): A German marionette doll who lives in Merryland. Should move well.
16. DOLL #4 (f): A Hawaiian doll who lives in Merryland. Should move well.
17. SCOLLOPS (f): A Raggedy Andy-like doll who works for the queen.
18. CLOWN / DOLL / TIGER (m or f)
19. CLOWN / DOLL / HORSE (m or f)
20. CLOWN / DOLL / TOY (as many as desired, m or f)

SONGS

1. Adventure Waiting There Dot & Tot
2. So That's What It's Like to Be a Clown . . . Bippity Bop,
Bonkers, Flippity Flop , all Clowns, Dot & Tot
3. All the World's a Melody Twinkle & Dot
4. The Coronation. Queen
5. We Can Hear the Music Dolls
6. I'm Tired. Mr. Right & Mr. Left Split
7. The Land of the Lost Queen
8. I'm a Mean Old Troll Troll
9. This Fascinating Land Queen, Mervin, Mr. Split,
Twinkle & Scollops
10. We Can Hear the Music (reprise). Dolls & All

DOT AND TOT OF MERRYLAND

OVERTURE

SCENE 1: ROSELAWN

(A summer vacation estate for DOT. We see a bench and a suggestion of trees. There is a boat on the other side of the stage which we don't see until the lights come up on it. The boat is tied to a tree. It is noon.)

Lights up on the bench. DOT enters with a picnic basket. TOT enters carrying two fishing poles and a can.)

TOT. Hi Dot! Ready for our picnic? I brought the worms!

DOT. Oh no.

TOT. Do you want me to teach you how to hook them now, or later?

DOT. Later. Definitely later.

TOT. 'K. What's for lunch? *(TOT tries to peek into the picnic basket. DOT pulls it away.)*

DOT. Just a minute, Tot. We need to find just the right place to eat.

TOT. 'K. *(DOT begins to walk around. TOT follows closely trying to peek into the basket.)* I sure am hungry.

DOT. Those trees over there would be nice because then we'd have shade.

TOT. *Very hungry. (He gets closer to the basket and reaches for it.)*

DOT. Let's get closer to the water! We could make sand castles and skip rocks and...

TOT *(interrupting)*. I'm soooo... *(TOT lifts the lid on the basket and tries to grab something inside.)*

DOT. Tot! I *know* that you're hungry! But first we need to find just the perfect place for our picnic!

(SONG #1: ADVENTURE WAITING THERE)

(DOT walks briskly around looking for a place to eat. TOT follows her like a shadow.)

DOT *(to herself)*. Oh, I wish...I wish...

TOT. What do you wish?

DOT *(coming out of her daydream)*. What do you mean, Tot?

TOT. I mean, if you could have *anything*...what would it be?

DOT.

**THAT'S A SILLY QUESTION, TOT. WHAT A
SILLY THOUGHT.
I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED AND EVERY-
THING I WANT...
EXCEPT MAYBE SOME TIME, SOME TIME
THAT'S ONLY MINE,
TIME AWAY FROM BEING PROPER, PERFECT
OR REFINED.**

**YOU SEE IT'S JUST MY DAD AND I, MY
MOTHER PASSED AWAY.**

I KNOW THAT HE IS DOING HIS BEST, BUT HE'S
GONE MOST EVERYDAY.
YET HE'S MADE IT VERY CLEAR, EVEN
THOUGH HE CAN'T BE HERE,
HIS RULES FOR SITTING, WALKING, PLAYING,
TALKING, NEVER DISAPPEAR.

AND SOMEDAY MAYBE LUCK WILL HAVE ITS
WAY,
AND I WILL GET TO TRAVEL FAR AWAY.
I'D MOST CERTAINLY GO ANYWHERE.

HEART PULSATING ANTICIPATING
ADVENTURE WAITING THERE,
ADVENTURE WAITING THERE.

(DANCE.)

TOT *(solo)*.

I WOULD LIKE TO BE THE CAPTAIN OF A
SAILING SHIP.
OR A PIRATE WHO COMMANDS HIS CREW A
SCABBARD AT HIS HIP.
AND THERE I'LL BE OUT ON THE SEA,
CRASHING THROUGH THE WAVES.
AND EVERYONE WHO'S HEARD OF ME WILL
KNOW THAT I AM BRAVE.

SO IF BY CHANCE A SEA MONSTER CAUGHT US
IN HIS GRIP,
WITH SNAPPING JAWS AND TENTACLES
PREPARED TO CRUSH MY SHIP.
I WOULD DRAW MY SWORD AND WITH A
MIGHTY SWING,

12 DOT AND TOT OF MERRYLAND

**I'D FREE THE SHIP FROM END TO END AND
SLAY THE VICIOUS THING.
AND THEN I WOULD BE A HERO OF THE SEA.**

DOT (*duet with TOT*).

**AND SOMEDAY MAYBE LUCK WILL HAVE ITS
WAY,
AND I WILL GET TO TRAVEL FAR AWAY.
I'D MOST CERTAINLY GO ANYWHERE.**

**HEART PULSATING ANTICIPATING
ADVENTURE WAITING THERE,
ADVENTURE WAITING THERE.**

TOT (*duet with DOT*).

**IF YOU WANTED YOU COULD STOW AWAY.
AND I WOULD PROVE TO YOU THAT I AM
BRAVE.
WE COULD GO ANYWHERE.**

**HEART PULSATING ANTICIPATING
ADVENTURE WAITING THERE.
ADVENTURE WAITING THERE.**

(Lights up on boat.)

TOT. Hey look! A boat! Let's eat there, and then we can play pirates!

DOT. I suppose that would be all right. Here, take my hand and I'll help you in. I'm not sure about playing pirates, though. I don't know how. (*DOT and TOT get into the boat. As the children are discussing the following, the*

boat becomes untied from the tree and begins to float away from the shore. The children don't notice.)

(Lights shift. Travel Music "Floating Away" begins as boat starts to move.)

TOT. That's OK. I'll teach ya.

DOT. I would probably enjoy that better than putting worms on a hook.

TOT. I'm ready for a cupcake now!

DOT. It's for dessert.

TOT. I want it now!

DOT. Tot! You need to learn some manners!

TOT. Why?

DOT. Because it's important to be polite!

TOT. Fine. May I *please* have a cupcake NOW!!!!

DOT (*trying to stay calm*). We will start with a sandwich.

TOT (*takes a bite*). Yum! This is really good!

DOT. Yes it is. Father was right about Miss Bombien's picnics.

TOT. Miss Bonbon?

DOT. Miss *Bombien*. My nanny.

TOT. Look!

DOT. What?

TOT. We're in the water.

DOT. Of course we're in the water. We're in a boat, aren't we?

TOT. *Now* we can play pirates! (*He stands up in the boat.*)

DOT (*realizing that they are no longer tied to the tree*).

Tot! Sit down! We're in the river!

TOT. Told ya.

(They each take an oar and try to row. They end up going in circles. TOT laughs. The boat moves by itself. They come upon an archway. The scenery changes to a very stony area. There are boulders and rocks all around.)

DOT. The boat is moving by itself!

TOT *(pointing to the archway)*. Look at that!

DOT. It's an archway. What a strange and wonderful place this is!

TOT. I wonder who lives here.

DOT. It doesn't look like anyone does. I don't see any houses.

TOT. Me either.

(Watchdog Theme 1 music begins.)

The children come upon the WATCHDOG. He is a funny-looking old man with a very long white beard and hair. He tends to scratch himself quite a bit, as he is so hairy. He is holding some of his hair and looks at it intently. The children duck down in the boat.)

TOT *(whispering)*. Uh-oh. What's that?

DOT. It looks like an old man.

TOT. More like a bear.

DOT. I never saw a bear that looked like that!

TOT. Maybe he's a hairy monster! *(He sits up.)*

DOT. He isn't a monster. Stay down, Tot.

TOT *(stands up in the boat and pretends that he has a sword)*. Pirates wouldn't be afraid!

WATCHDOG. Ahem. *Watchdog*, if you please. About, uh, now let me think...ten, twenty, one hundred...two hundred... three hundred and thirty-three years, I think. Of course, I could have lost track of the exact time.

TOT. You're old!

WATCHDOG. Well I, ah, I *am*? I *have* been stationed here for quite a while. Most of the time I watch, as it is my duty to do. Sometimes I watch in this direction, and bark like so: Rrrruuuufffff! (*He points like a dog each time he demonstrates this.*) And sometimes I watch in that direction, and I howl like so: Owwwww! (*He points in a different direction and children look.*) and when I'm not watching, I count my whiskers.

TOT. You've sure got a lot of 'em!

WATCHDOG. There are either eighty-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-six, or eighty-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-eight. (*Children react.*) I was counting them when you arrived, so I missed a count I think. If you would like to wait, I could begin counting again.

DOT. How long will it take?

WATCHDOG. About four months.

TOT. Four months! That's almost a year!

DOT. Oh, we couldn't possibly wait that long! Mr. Watchdog, we really aren't strangers now that we have spent some time with you.

WATCHDOG. Perhaps you are right. I have enjoyed your company. It gets very lonely out here all by myself.

DOT. Thank you, sir. We really should be going now.

WATCHDOG. Where will you go?

TOT. Home!

DOT. No, Tot! Our adventure has just begun! (*To WATCHDOG.*) The only problem is, our boat will only take us downstream.

WATCHDOG. Well, since you aren't strangers anymore, I suppose the queen *could* ask her Thinking Machine what to do.

DOT & TOT. Thinking Machine?

WATCHDOG. Oh yes. She never makes an important decision without it. Why don't you ask her to help you?

TOT. Is she scary?

WATCHDOG. Goodness no! Why the queen is the most loved creature in all of Merryland! Rrrrruff. (*WATCHDOG looks around to be sure nobody can hear him.*)

However, there is something that I should tell you.

DOT & TOT. What?

(Lights shift. Troll 1 music begins.)

WATCHDOG. A long time ago, before I took command of this archway, there was a troll who lived here. This troll was very mean and powerful.

TOT. Uh-oh...

WATCHDOG. He cast a spell on everyone who lived in the valleys. They became his minions.

TOT. He turned them into fish?

DOT. No, Tot. A minion is a servant.

WATCHDOG. Quite right.

DOT. Except I don't think these people wanted to be servants.

WATCHDOG. They certainly did not! They were forced to work day and night. When the Queen of Merryland arrived, the Troll was furious! The Queen was kind, and

all who lived in the valleys loved her. Her joy and happiness proved to be stronger than the evil troll's. Soon, the spell was broken, and the troll lost all of his powers. He went away, but promised to return when his powers grew strong again.

DOT. How long ago did he leave?

WATCHDOG. Oh, it was ten, twenty, fifty...maybe several hundred years ago.

DOT. If it has been so long, why would he suddenly show up?

WATCHDOG. It is said that when the troll senses change in the valleys, he will regain all of his powers. I'm afraid that your arrival may be just the change that he has been waiting for. Turning children into his minions would bring him great joy. *(Pause)* But I wouldn't worry dear children! The queen will be close by! Rrrruuuufffff!

(Troll 1 music stops.)

TOT. We need to get home, Dot!

DOT. Shhhh!

WATCHDOG. I'm afraid that the only way for you to get home again will be for you to see the queen.

DOT. Where is the queen?

WATCHDOG. In Merryland, of course.

TOT. Where's that?

WATCHDOG *(points as before)*. I believe Merryland is in the second valley. You see, there are four valleys here. They are connected by archways, and the river flows through all of them.

DOT. What's beyond the fourth valley?

WATCHDOG. No one knows except those who pass through, and those who pass through never return to tell.

TOT. I want my mommy.

DOT. It's all right, Tot. We had better be on our way!

(DOT takes TOT'S hand and leads him to the boat. Watchdog Theme 2 music begins.)

WATCHDOG. Children. Before you leave, could you do me a favor?

DOT. What?

WATCHDOG. There's a spot on my back that I just can't reach. Would you mind? *(He leans over to be scratched.)*

DOT. Of course. *(DOT and TOT scratch WATCHDOG'S back. WATCHDOG shakes his leg as dogs do.)*

WATCHDOG. Oh thank you! That hit the spot!

TOT. You're welcome. *(DOT and TOT start to leave.)*

WATCHDOG. Have a safe journey, children. Please give my regards to the queen!

DOT. Goodbye, Mr. Watchdog! You can go back to your counting now!

TOT. Bye!

WATCHDOG. One...two...three...Rrrrrruuuuuuuffffff!
Four....five....six....seven... *(Howl.)* ...eight...nine...
(Etc. The children get into the boat and travel through the archway.)

(Lights shift. Watchdog Theme 2 music continues through scene change.)