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# **THE TIGER TURNED PINK**

**A Play for Children**  
by  
**ANGELA RANDAZZO**



**Dramatic Publishing**  
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**With love to my twin sons, Billy and Andy,  
and to PETA  
(People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals)  
an international non-profit organization dedicated to  
defending the rights of animals**

*The Tiger Turned Pink* was first produced in April 1997 and ran for nine months at the Bitter Truth Theatre in North Hollywood, Calif. As director, Angela Randazzo received the 1997 ADA for “best director of a children’s show.”

The play was produced by Playwright Productions in association with the Bitter Truth Theater. The playwright would like to thank Leslie de Beauvais and David A. Cox, the theatre’s executive producers, for their support, and all cast and crew members.

Toby ..... JULIE DAVIS  
Zelda ..... JONNA SALLINEN  
Gerard ..... FRANCESCA FREE  
J.G.E. Gorilla ..... JAMES ANDREW OSTER  
Humpert. .... LARRY ROBERTS  
Hughes. .... GARY LYNN COLLIER

Lights. .... JARED A. SAYEG  
Sound. .... ANDREW BOWKER

# THE TIGER TURNED PINK

A Play for Children

For 6 or more actors

(parts may be played by adult or child actors of either sex)

## CHARACTERS

TOBY ..... an adorable tiger  
ZELDA ..... a sassy zebra  
GERARD ..... a fun-loving giraffe  
PROFESSOR J.G.E. GORILLA ..... a smart gorilla  
HUMPERT and HUGHES ..... two despicable hunters  
TURTLE/GROOM\*  
TURTLE DOVE/BRIDE\*

\* For a small cast, two stuffed toys (or other creations like puppets) can be used for Turtle/Groom and Turtle Dove/Bride. For a large cast, actors play the Turtle and Turtle Dove—and additional animals such as lions, alligators and monkeys—in “Animal Parade.”

PLACE: A jungle and the circus.

TIME: The present.

SET: Three free-standing cages. (More elaborate sets: Jungle and circus backgrounds.)

Approximate running time: 45 minutes.

*Program Note: Tigers are native to the jungles of Asia. Zebras, giraffes and gorillas are native to Africa.*

# THE TIGER TURNED PINK

## SCENE ONE

*Note: Those monologues indicated will be enhanced by adding music. Preshow, select music that reflects the splendor of Africa.*

**AT RISE:** *The jungle. ZELDA and GERARD enter, GERARD goes R. ZELDA goes L.*

*(Music: Upbeat—jungle rhythm.)*

**GERARD & ZELDA.**

Deep in the jungle  
where bumble bees bumble  
where it's always spring  
and the lion's king,  
it's the place to be.  
You just follow me.

**ZELDA.**

Deep in the jungle  
where elephants rumble  
where the hippos sing  
and the monkeys swing,  
it's the place to be.

GERARD & ZELDA.

You just follow me.  
On a stupendous, adventurous,  
animal safari.

GERARD.

Deep in the jungle  
where bumble bees bumble...

ZELDA. Wait a minute. This isn't a story about lions or elephants or bumble bees...

GERARD. or hippotomooses... hippotomeeses... hippypot-tymices... hip... you know, hippos.

ZELDA. No, this is a story about a tiger.

GERARD. A tiger?

ZELDA. A very special tiger.

GERARD. What's so special about a tiger? Just a lot of silly stripes. Now a giraffe on the other hand...

ZELDA. What's so silly about stripes, Gerard?

GERARD. Whoops! Sorry, Zelda.

ZELDA. As I was saying, this is a story about a tiger named Toby... Oh look, here comes Toby now.

*(ZELDA and GERARD look L. TOBY sticks his head out and then pulls back.)*

ZELDA. Come on out, Toby. Don't be shy.

*(TOBY comes onstage, hiding behind bushes.)*

ZELDA. Boys and girls, will you help me get Toby to come out? Call his name. Say, "Toby, come on out.

Come on out, Toby." (*The audience calls for TOBY. To audience:*) Louder. "Toby, come on out!" (*Audience calls again for TOBY. To audience:*) Louder. "Toby, come on out!"

*(TOBY comes into view, standing by animals.)*

ZELDA. There. That isn't so bad, is it?

TOBY. I guess not.

GERARD. He doesn't look so special to me. He looks like every other tiger I've ever seen.

ZELDA.

This tiger caused quite a stir  
and all because of his fur.

TOBY.

Oh dear me, that's very true.  
What in the world am I to do?

ZELDA. Tell him, Toby.

TOBY.

I'm just a tiger as normal as can be  
like any tiger you would ever see.  
But believe me, I'm not.

GERARD & ZELDA. What?

TOBY. Not!

You see, my fur looks very tan.  
my whiskers flare out like a fan.

Claws as sharp as a thumbnail tack.  
And plain black stripes run down my back.

A plain old tail long as a whip  
with a puff of fur on its tip.  
I'm a tiger as normal as can be  
like any tiger you would ever see.  
But believe me, I'm not.

GERARD & ZELDA. What?

TOBY. Not!

From childhood, it was understood  
although I can't tell you why,  
that I am terribly, horribly, dreadfully,  
shy, shy, shy!

You see, though I, look plain to the eye,  
I'm not what you would think.  
When I turn terribly, horribly, dreadfully,  
Pink! Pink! Pink!

GERARD. Pink?

TOBY.

Whenever I get embarrassed  
I blush and turn pink.  
It's embarrassing. Don't you think.  
I mean really, pink!

ZELDA.

I don't care  
if you're pink or green.  
You're the cutest tiger  
I've ever seen.

*(ZELDA hugs TOBY. TOBY blushes. Pink spotlight on.)*

TOBY. Oh no, I'm turning pink. *(Wiggles as if he's being tickled.)*

ZELDA. He turned pink in a wink!

*(Spotlight out. TOBY gives a shake. He's back to normal.)*

TOBY.

It's not as neat as everyone thinks.  
I mean, it really stinks!

ZELDA. Don't feel bad Toby. We like you any way you are.

*(Music: Upbeat—peppy.)*

Oh, Mr. Tiger, I'd like to be your friend.  
Oh, Mr. Tiger, I'll say it again.  
Oh, Mr. Tiger, I'd like to be your friend.  
You just tell me when.

GERARD.

Oh, Mr. Tiger, how 'bout a giraffe?  
Oh, Mr. Tiger, I can make you laugh.  
Oh, Mr. Tiger, I'll be your friend  
to the very end.

GERARD, TOBY, ZELDA.

Together, we'll be pals.

Together, we'll wag our tails.

*(They turn and wag their tails, then turn back to audience.)*

Forever, you'll be my chum.

Dum-dee-dum-dee-dum.

Dum-dee-dum-dee-dum!

ZELDA. I like your bow tie. Is it new?

TOBY. Yes, I bought it for the wedding. The wedding! I almost forgot. I'll be late.

GERARD. What wedding?

TOBY. Don't tell me you haven't heard about it? The jungle drums were beating all night long, spreading the news.

GERARD. So that's what all that pounding was about. It kept me awake all night.

TOBY. A turtle and his turtle dove are going to be married. I'm the best man. All the animals are invited.

ZELDA. Then let's go. *(They start to exit L, then hear a booming voice offstage R and stop.)*

PROFESSOR *(offstage)*.

Watches, jungle clocks,

tick tocks, tick tocks.

*(PROFESSOR J.G.E. GORILLA enters R carrying a briefcase.)*

PROFESSOR. Allow me to introduce myself.

I am Professor J.G.E. Gorilla.

Professor of Thinkology.

Doctor of Mindology

Bachelor of Brainology

and all around one smart ape.

also: salesman, watchmaker, chief of police

plumber, baker, justice of the peace.

*(He opens the briefcase. It's filled with clocks and watches, set to different times.)*

I've got clocks that tell time

or I'll give you a shine.

Or do you want to find

what goes on in your mind?

TOBY. What time is it?

PROFESSOR. I have no idea. All my clocks are set to a different time. So I imagine it's any time you want it to be.

ZELDA. We'd better hurry anyway. We don't want to be late for the wedding.

PROFESSOR. Why that's exactly where I'm headed. I'm performing the marriage ceremony.

TOBY. It's going to be a wonderful party.

PROFESSOR. Indeed.

*(As the PROFESSOR talks, TOBY, ZELDA and GERARD act out the different animals. [Or, for a large cast, the animals enter—lions, alligators, rabbits, monkeys gazelles—forming a parade].)*

*(Music: Regal or march—not too fast.)*

PROFESSOR.

No doubt all the animals will turn out.

No doubt all the animals will shout.  
For this is to be, to be no doubt,  
the biggest social event of the year.

*(Music interlude between each line for choreography.)*

The lions dressed in their royal best,  
a tall silk hat and solid-gold vest.  
The alligators will buy new shoes.  
The rabbits will come in two by twos.

There's sure to be plenty chimpanzees.  
Gazelles will join the festivities.  
From early morn 'til the evening shade,  
it's sure to be an animal parade.

*(The parade winds around the stage exiting L. HUMPERT and HUGHES enter R.)*

HUMPERT. I'm Humpert.

HUGHES. I'm Hughes.

BOTH.

Two hunters are we.  
Collecting critters is our specialty.  
We've come to this jungle to catch a few  
and lock them in cages inside the zoo.

HUMPERT.

Lions and tigers and big grizzly bears,  
All of these critters we'll catch in our snares.  
Hippos and zebras and orangutan,  
None of these critters are glad that we came.

HUGHES.

Panthers and pandas will fall in our traps.  
Animals are just a big bunch of saps.  
Monkeys and tigers we never abuse.  
We lock them in cages inside of zoos.

HUMPERT. I'm Humpert.

HUGHES. I'm Hughes.

BOTH.

How evil are we.  
Collecting critters is our specialty.  
We've come to this jungle to catch a few  
and lock them in cages inside the zoo.  
Then maybe we'll capture  
(*Points to audience.*) you, you or you!

HUMPERT. I say, old bean, did you hear what that gorilla said?

HUGHES. What gorilla?

HUMPERT. The gorilla wearing the top hat and monocle.

HUGHES. A gorilla wearing the top hat and monocle! The very idea. Gorillas don't wear top hats and monocles. I only saw a tiger wearing a bow tie.

HUMPERT. Well, the gorilla was telling the tiger about the wedding.

HUGHES. No. The zebra was telling the tiger about the wedding.

HUMPERT. Gorilla.

HUGHES. Zebra.

HUMPERT. Gorilla.

HUGHES. Zebra.

HUMPERT. Gorilla.

HUGHES. Zebra.

HUMPERT. Gorilla.

HUGHES. Zebra.

HUMPERT. Giraffe.

HUGHES. Giraffe?

HUMPERT. Yes. The gorilla was telling the giraffe about the wedding, too.

HUGHES. What wedding?

HUMPERT. The wedding all the animals are going to.

HUGHES. All?

HUMPERT. All. Come on, we'll catch the whole bunch.

*(They run off L. Upbeat music plays. TOBY, ZELDA, GERARD, PROFESSOR J.G.E. enter R. [Or, for a large cast, all animals enter.] The animals dance around, then exit L. HUMPERT and HUGHES enter R.)*

HUMPERT. I told you we should have zigged when we zagged.

HUGHES. And I told you we should have zagged when we zigged.

HUMPERT. Zigged when we zagged.

HUGHES. Zagged when we zigged.

HUMPERT. Zigged.

HUGHES. Zagged.

HUMPERT. Zigged.

HUGHES. Zagged.

HUMPERT. Hold it. Do you hear music?

HUGHES. Come on. Let's follow the sound.

*(They exit L. The animals enter R, dancing.)*

PROFESSOR. Gather around. Gather around.

*(The music stops. TOBY, ZELDA and GERARD gather around PROFESSOR. [Or—large cast—animals make an aisle. PROFESSOR at the point.] Wedding music plays. PROFESSOR holds a stuffed toy Turtle and Turtle dove. [Large cast—TURTLE groom and TURTLE DOVE enter, walking down the aisle.] )*

PROFESSOR. On this grand occasion it is my duty. It is my honor. It is my pleasure. It is my joy. My exaltation ...

ANIMALS. Get on with it.

PROFESSOR. To pronounce this turtle and his turtle dove hitched.

GERARD & ZELDA. Oh look they're kissing, Isn't that cute. *(Etc.)*

*(The TURTLE and TURTLE DOVE kiss. TOBY blushes. Pink spotlight on.)*

TOBY. They're kissing! Oh no, I'm turning pink!

*(TOBY wiggles as if he's being tickled. HUMPERT and HUGHES enter R with butterfly nets.)*

HUMPERT. What is that?

HUGHES. I can't believe my eyes.

HUMPERT. What a find.

BOTH. A tiger that glows like a neon sign!