



A Creativity Institute Adaptation for the Puppet Stage

The Lion and the Mouse

An Aesop's Fable

SCRIPT USES TWO PUPPETS: A LION AND A MOUSE. WHEN THE SCENE OPENS, THE LION IS ASLEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF STAGE. (LION IS RESTING HIS HEAD ON THE FRONT OF THE STAGE IN A WAY THAT HIS OPEN EYES DO NOT SHOW.)

(DIRECTOR'S HINT: THE LION ACTOR CAN MAKE SNORING SOUND EFFECTS, EVEN COMICAL SNORING, TO HELP THE AUDIENCE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LION IS SLEEPING.)

NARRATOR: A long time ago in a forest far, far away, lived a great Lion. One day, when the Lion was asleep, a little Mouse began running up and down upon him.

MOUSE ENTERS AND RUNS UP AND DOWN THE LION. (MOUSE PUPPET MAKES LITTLE BOUNCE STEPS FROM ONE SIDE OF THE RESTING LION TO THE OTHER.)

MOUSE: Hey, Look at me! I'm running up and down on a Lion. Weeeee! I'm so brave. Weeeeeeee!

NARRATOR: But, soon this awakened the Lion, who jumped upon the Mouse.

THIS LAST TIME THE MOUSE CROSSES OVER THE LION, THE LION SHOULD JUMP AND MOVE NEXT TO THE MOUSE, AS IF TO "CATCH" IT.

LION: Excuse me?

MOUSE, FREEZES, LOOKING STRAIGHT AT THE AUDIENCE, NOT THE LION: Oops. That's not good.

MOUSE SLOWLY TURNS TO FACE THE LION AND SCREAMS WITH FRIGHT: Ahggggg!

NARRATOR: And then the Lion opened his big mouth to swallow the Mouse.

LION OPENS MOUTH AND SLOWLY MOVES TOWARD THE MOUSE.

MOUSE (FACING THE LION, SOUNDING SCARED): Oh, Pardon me, O King of Beasts, O great and powerful Lion, uh, Sir, Uh, Sirloin. Uh, Sir Lion. Pleeeeease forgive

me this time and I shall never forget it. Who knows, but I may be able to do you a favor one of these days!

WHILE THE NARRATOR SPEAKS, THE LION TURNS TO THE AUDIENCE, AS IF HE IS THINKING ABOUT WHAT THE MOUSE SAID.

NARRATOR: The Lion was so tickled at the idea of the Mouse being able to help him, that the Lion let the Mouse go.

LION: Mouse, you tickle me so much, I think I'll let you go. I don't think you'd be much of a meal anyway.

LION LETS THE MOUSE GO, AND THE MOUSE BACKS OFF THE STAGE, BOWING TOWARD THE LION AND THANKING HIM OVER AND OVER.

MOUSE: Oh, thank you, Sir Lion. Thank you, thank you.

WHEN THE MOUSE IS GONE, THE LION LEAVES THE STAGE IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. AS SOON AS THE LION IS OFF-STAGE, LOOSELY WRAP SOME THIN ROPE OR TWINE AROUND HIM TWO OR THREE TIMES TO INDICATE THAT HE HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY HUNTERS. LEAVE THE ROPE LOOSE ENOUGH THAT THE MOUSE CAN EASILY REMOVE IT DURING THE SCENE.

NARRATOR: Time passed, but one day, the Lion got caught in a trap. The hunters who caught him tied him up and left him alone while they went off to find a wagon to put him in to bring him to the King.

THE TIED-UP LION ENTERS, STUMBLING AND STRUGGLING WITH THE ROPE THAT IS WOUND AROUND HIM.

LION: Help! Help! Somebody get me out of this! Help!

NARRATOR: Just then, the same little Mouse happened to pass by and saw the Lion all tied up. The Mouse walked over to the Lion.

MOUSE: Don't I know you?

LION: Please, please help me before the hunters return!

MOUSE: I was going to ask you to play, but looks like you're tied up.

(MOUSE COULD HAM UP THIS LINE BY TURNING TO THE AUDIENCE AND OPENING ITS MOUTH AS IF SILENTLY LAUGHING.)

LION: Please, help me before the hunters return. Help me get loose.

MOUSE STARTS PULLING ON THE STRING WITH ITS MOUTH UNTIL THE LION IS COMPLETELY UNTIED.

NARRATOR: So the mouse gnawed away and loosened the ropes that bound the Lion and set it free.

WHEN THE LION IS FREE, THE TWO STEP BACK AND FACE EACH OTHER.

MOUSE: Well, wasn't I right? Huh, huh? I did you a favor in return, just like I told you I would.

LION: You sure did, little buddy. How about an ice cream? My treat.

MOUSE: Sounds good to me.

THE TWO PUPPETS WALK AWAY TOGETHER, VERY HAPPY.

MOUSE: You like Chunky Monkey?

NARRATOR: And the morale to the story is that even the littlest pal may prove to be a great friend.

CURTAIN.