

The Magic Machine

Book and lyrics by Sidney Berger

Music by Rob Landes

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Calvin is a slight youngster who can't compete with the more athletically-inclined kids in the neighborhood. A wise magician lends him an old "Magic Machine." Through its erratic powers Calvin, his best friend Jenny, and a lost dragon drop into odd versions of three fairy tales. In *The Three Little Bears* Calvin stops the bears from eating them for dinner and teaches the bears how to be happy. In *Rumpelstiltskin*, Calvin helps the miller's daughter by shouting out the evil little man's name, and in the third story, *Alice in Wonderland*, Calvin stops the court from capturing the three of them by the smart use of his yo-yo! Finally the dragon gets to return to Camelot and Calvin and Jenny find themselves back on the street where they first found the Magic Machine. Calvin now realizes that his own gifts are equally important as physical prowess. About 70 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

"The Magic Machine" was originally produced by the Children's Theatre Festival of Houston at the University of Houston from June 7 - 23, 1993. It was directed and choreographed by Chelsey Santoro Krohn. Scenic Design by Jay Jagim. Costumes by Claremarie Verheyen. Lighting by John Gow, sound by Kelly Babb. The original cast was as follows: Calvin -- Aaron Krohn; Jenny -- Allison Lane Keith; Magician -- Rick Walter; Dragon -- Daniel Dreyer; Mama Bear -- Michelle Britton; Papa Bear -- Jeff Baldwin; Baby Bear -- Donna A. McDonald; Constance -- Marla Locke; Rumpelstiltskin -- Noel Saxon Bowers; King of Hearts -- Jeff Baldwin; Queen Of Hearts -- Michelle Britton; Herald -- Steven McDowell; Mad Hatter -- Steve Salzman; Father -- Steven McDowell; Mother -- Marla Locke; Kids - - Jeff Baldwin, Noel Saxon Bowers, Michelle; Britton, Donna A. McDonald, Steve Salzman.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(Widely flexible cast. Approx. 6 m, 5 w, 6 flexible, extras;
much doubling possible)*

CALVIN

JENNY

RED *(Can double as Herald)*

BOBBY *(Can double as Mad Hatter)*

MAGICIAN *(Flexible, can double as Rumpelstiltskin)*

DRAGON *(Flexible)*

MOTHER *(Can double as Mama Bear, Queen of Hearts)*

FATHER *(Can double as Papa Bear, King of Hearts)*

MAMA BEAR

PAPA BEAR

BABY BEAR *(Flexible)*

CONSTANCE

RUMPELSTILTSKIN *(Flexible)*

KING OF HEARTS

QUEEN OF HEARTS

HERALD *(Flexible)*

MAD HATTER *(Flexible)*

KIDS 1-5

EXTRAS: Other members of the neighborhood and the
Court of Wonderland

SYNOPSIS OF MUSICAL NUMBERS

#1 OVERTURE	Orchestra
#1A OPENING	Kids
#2 BEING DIFFERENT	Jenny & Calvin
#3 PARENT'S PATTERN	Parents
#3A MAGIC SHOW UNDERSCORE	Orchestra
#4 MAKING MAGIC	Magician & Calvin
#5 I'M SOMEBODY!.....	Calvin
#6 I WANNA GO HOME	Dragon
#7 TRAVEL MUSIC.....	Orchestra
#8 WE'RE BEARS.....	The Three Bears
#8A BEAR CHASE.....	Orchestra
#9 WHENEVER YOU SMILE.....	Calvin, Jenny, Dragon & Bears
#10 THE NAME SONG	Constance
#11 THE TART SONG	Herald, Queen, King
#11A MAD HATTER #1	Orchestra
#11B UNDERSCORE #1	Orchestra
#12 THE SILLY SONG	Herald, King, Mad Hatter & Cast
#12A UNDERSCORE #2	Orchestra
#12B CARD CHASE	Orchestra
#13 SILLY (<i>Reprise.</i>).....	Calvin
#13A MAD HATTER #2	Orchestra
#14 FINALE.....	Entire Company
#15 BOWS	Orchestra

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MUSICAL #1 - OVERTURE

(AT RISE: A city street. A group of BOYS race on, ad-libbing.)

KID #1: Let's go! Bobby's up!

(THEY stream out, cheering and jeering. BOBBY gets up to bat. CALVIN, a slight boy, appears.)

CALVIN: Hi, guys. *(THEY ignore HIM.)* Can I play?

(Sounds of dismay.)

RED: No way. Gettatahere!

KID #2: Hold on, Red, we're one short.

RED: Awright, awright! You want him, you got him!

(The KIDS on Red's team razz the OTHERS.)

BOBBY: *(Now not sure he's done the right thing.)* Awright, Calvin, right field by the fence. And no daydreaming!

CALVIN: Hey, thanks, I'll do good, you'll see! Look! *(Holds up a tattered paperback.)* "The Theory and Practice of Baseball"!

RED: *(To BOBBY, laughing.)* Boy, are you in trouble!

(THEY laugh and start to play.)

MUSICAL #1A - OPENING

KIDS:

GET IT CALVIN! CATCH THAT BALL!
NET IT CALVIN! HEY, DON'T FALL!
IT'S BEHIND YOU! CALVIN, RUN!
NOW HE'S LOST IT IN THE SUN!
HE AIN'T GOT IT. IT'S NO USE
WATCH HIM WADDLE LIKE A GOOSE

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KIDS: *(Cont'd.)*

HE'S GOT FOUR EYES WE GOT TWO
LOOKS JUST LIKE A KANGAROO
WHEN WE ALL GO OUT TO PLAY
HE'S THE LAST ONE WE WOULD CHOOSE
ONE THING'S SURE AND IT AIN'T NEWS
JUST PICK CALVIN AND YOU'LL LOSE!
CATCH IT! GRAB IT!
CHASE IT! NAB IT!
BE A HERO. NOT A RABBIT!

JENNY:

HERE IT COMES
OH, HALLELUJAH!
YOU CAN HEAR IT
COMIN' TO YA!

CALVIN: I got it! I got it! *(The ball drops in front of him.)*

(A collective moan.)

KID #1: Oh, great, Calvin!

CALVIN: I...I couldn't see it...the sun got in my eyes.

KID #2: It's cloudy.

CALVIN: The clouds got in my eyes.

KID #3: It was easy!

KID #4: A pop-up!

KID #5: Can't you do anything right!?!?!

JENNY: *(One of them takes off a cap to reveal a girl.)* Oh,
leave him alone!

KID #1: Great. Some team - a girl and Calvin!

JENNY: *(Pugnacious.)* Can anybody bat better'n me?

(KIDS mutter unhappily.)

JENNY: *(Cont'd.)* Can anybody field better'n me? *(Same embarrassed reaction.)* Can anybody run faster'n me?

RED: Aw, go home to yer dolls!

JENNY: *(Nose to nose with HIM.)* Oh, yeah!

CALVIN: Don't!

RED: Hey, look at the big hero! *(Turning to JENNY.)* 'N you ain't no good neither! You're the worst!

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JENNY: Well, you can't pitch and you can't even talk right!

RED: *(Infuriated.)* You...you...

JENNY: Yeah?

RED: You know what's wrong with you?

JENNY: What?

RED: You're a girl!

JENNY: Then why don't you pitch to me, mister big shot.

Let's see how good you are!

KIDS: Oh, yeah...pitch to a girrrll... That's a laugh.

JENNY: Scared?

RED: Ain't nuthin' I'm scared of! C'mon! *(Gets ready to pitch one very macho-in-motion.)*

JENNY: Calvin, you catch.

CALVIN: I'm not sure I can...

JENNY: Go on, Calvin, you won't have to catch anything.

(THEY all take positions around the stage. CALVIN moves reluctantly behind the plate. They all cheer RED. SFX: "Whack!" JENNY smashes it and in a wild dance, races the bases, upending and otherwise making fools of the kids.)

RED: Lucky hit.

KID #3: *(In awe.)* Gee, Red, you let a girl hit off ya...

RED: *(Muttering.)* Aw, shaddup!

(The KIDS wander off.)

CALVIN: I'm sorry.

JENNY: About what?

CALVIN: Makin' you stand up for me.

JENNY: Against those dumb guys? Come on, Calvin, hitting a ball or catching one isn't everything.

CALVIN: Sure seems that way.

JENNY: Come on, Calvin, you can do things they can't do.

CALVIN: Like what?

JENNY: Well, like read those big books you're always telling me about and imagining great things. All those stories you read me...I mean they're wonderful.

End of Freeview

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