

Clowning Around

Drama 1: Bye bye Bobo

Characters:

Bobo the clown

Tina Tightrope

Tricky Trapeze

Mickey Muscle

Scene: Backstage at the circus

Voice: Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, welcome to the world famous 'Silly Bart's' Circus! The thrill of the trapeze, the terror of the tightrope, the sensation of the strongman, and of course, the most popular act of all, the calamity of Coco the clown! All the circus acts are getting ready for the big show tonight, but wait! Something is not right! It seems that Coco the clown has got the flu and can't get out of bed! His son, Bobo the clown has just been to visit him.

(Off stage sound of sneezing. Bobo enters)

Bobo: Ok father, OK. You stay there, I'll do my best, my very best. (walks to middle of stage talking to himself) Not that my best is very good. (He sits down with a sigh)

(Tina enters)

Tina: Ah Bobo, I've been looking for you. Are you looking forward to the show tonight?

Bobo: (very depressed) No, not really Tina.

Tina: But why not Bobo, you're always so funny with your Dad. Coco the clown is the funniest clown ever, but since you joined the act it's been even funnier. I mean, that bit when the custard pie hits you while you are on that funny little bike, it's.. (starts to laugh) it's, it's hilarious!

Bobo: Oh yes Tina, hilarious, really hilarious. But it won't be so hilarious tonight!

Tina: But why not Bobo? Have you run out of custard pies or something? I'm sure my Mum would whip up a bit of custard for you quickly if you like.

Bobo: No Tina, it's not custard that's missing, it's my Dad.

Tina: (with sound of panic) what Coco? He's missing? Where is he? This is terrible, he's the star of the show! The Circus will be a disaster without him.

Bobo: No Tina, he's not missing, he's ill. He's got the flu - listen.

(Sound effect of sneezing off stage)

Tina: Oh yes, I see what you mean.

Bobo: Well he's in bed and he can't get up and he says that I'll have to do the clown act tonight – all on my own!

Tina: So what's wrong with that Bobo?

Bobo: What's wrong with that! Come off it Tina, you know exactly what is wrong with that! I'm a terrible clown! I'm only good if I'm with Dad. He's the funny one not me. No it'll be a disaster, a complete disaster!

Tina: But that's not true Bobo. I think you're funny. In fact I think you're very funny. After all you are the son of the great Coco, the funniest Clown ever. You were born to be a clown!

Bobo: That's alright for you to say Tina. I mean you skip along your tightrope high up in the air as if you were running in the park. You never wobble let alone fall off. You're brilliant, but being a clown is different. You've got to feel funny to be funny, and.. and ... (starts to snuffle) and ... I just don't feel funny (starts to cry. Pulls out a very large handkerchief and blows his nose)

Tina: Oh come on Bobo, you're just nervous. People will love you, they always love a clown. Look, why not try a few jokes on these nice children here, they'll tell you how funny you are!

Bobo: But....

Tina: Oh come on Bobo, they're really nice children!

Bobo: Ok, err I say I say I say. What do Clowns wear while they eat their breakfast?

Tina: Oh I don't know Bobo, what do Clowns wear when they eat their breakfast?

Bobo: Cherie Clothes! (hoots twice)

Tina: (Laughing) Hey that's good Bobo, Cherie Clothes. That's really good! Tell us another.

Bobo: err... What did the Doctor say to the clown who was always sad?

Tina: I don't know Bobo. What did the Doctor say to the Clown who was always sad?

Bobo: You're just a 'Clown in the dumps!' (hoots twice)

Tina: (Laughing) O that's brilliant Bobo, brilliant. Come on, let's go and think of a load more. You'll be the funniest Clown ever tonight.

Bobo: Do you think so Tina?

Tina: Of course I think so Bobo. Now come on, we've got lots of work to do!

(They exit)

Voice: Meanwhile, Tricky Trapeze and Mickey Muscle are having a conversation.

(Enter Tricky and Mickey)

Tric: You know Mickey it's not fair, not fair at all.

Mic: You're dead right Tricky, dead right. It's not fair.

Tric: I mean, I fly through the air every night high above everyone's heads. I need split second timing and enormous courage. I could fall off and crash to the ground at any moment with just one second's lapse of concentration!

Mic: And I bend great iron bars and pick up cars and throw that great rock across the ring.

Tric: We do all of that and who do they cheer the most eh? Who do they call the 'star of the show!?' That ridiculous bald-headed clown with his big red nose and a load of silly paint on his face!

Mic: too right Tricky, too right. It's not fair, not fair at all!

Tric: If only we could do one show with no clowns, just one. Then people would see who the real stars of this circus are.

Mic: We need to make a plan Tricky.

Tric: a plan Mickey, what sort of plan?

Mic: We need to make a plan to stop Coco appearing. We need to find a way of making sure that he can't do his act - so we can be the stars of the show!

Tric: Well that's easy to say Mickey, but Coco is very clever you know. He's always got a trick up his sleeve and I bet we'll be the ones with egg on our faces if we tried to pull a trick like that!

Voice: Attention please all circus performers. Unfortunately Coco has got the flu and cannot perform tonight. Bobo will perform the clown act on his own. Thank you.

Tric: Did you hear that Mickey!

Mic: I certainly did Tricky.

Tric: Coco is very clever, but his son Bobo, well he's another matter all together!

Mic: Too right Tricky. Remember the time when we told him that Tina had been squashed by one of the Elephants and he was the only one who could save her by blowing down that hosepipe?

Tric: I certainly do Mickey! He blew down that pipe for 2 hours before Tina came along and asked him what he was doing! It was hilarious!

Mic: Or that time you put pepper in one of their custard pies and Bobo couldn't stop sneezing right through the act!

Tric: Well yes that was funny. Only problem was that the audience thought it was funny as well. They laughed even louder at their stupid little clown act!

Mic: But it was funny when he was still sneezing at 3 o'clock in the morning!