

Circus Spectacular.

Drama 1: Stephano The Strong.

Characters:

Voice: off stage.

Stephano the Strong - the strongman.

Bernado the Brave - the lion tamer.

Nina the Nimble - the tightrope walker.

Francisco the Funny - the clown.

Paula Polini - the clumsy ringmaster.

Joshua - the circus hand.

Props:

Bendable Iron Bar.

Dumbbells with 1000kgs written on them.

A Bible.

Voice: Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls. Welcome to the greatest show on earth.

Welcome to Pedro Polini's Circus Spectacular, the most exciting, the most
nail biting, the most amazing show you will ever see.

So Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, give a rousing welcome to tonight's
performers:

Stephano the strong.

Bernado the brave,

Nina the nimble,

and, Francisco the funny!

(All enter to music, waving etc)

Voice: But today is a sad day at Pedro Polini's Circus. (Silence). Because yesterday the
great Pedro, founder of this wonderful circus, died.

(Performers cry on each other's shoulders)

Voice: But he has left his Circus to his daughter, Paula Polini, who hopes to follow in her
fathers' footsteps as the greatest ringmaster there has ever been.

Steph: Oh no, Oh no, this is a disaster. Old Pedro is gone and the circus is doomed,
doomed!

Bern: What are we going to do? The Circus will close, we'll be out of a job, my lions will
have to go, and there's not much call for a lion tamer without any lions.

Nina: Well I have to say that although I should stick up for my fellow women, in this case
there is nothing I can say, nothing at all. Paula is nothing like Pedro. He was big
and strong, and he had a moustache, but Paula? Well, with her as ringmaster we
might as well go home now.

Fran: (bursts into tears and takes out a large hanky and blows his nose. Struggles to say). I can never be funny again!

Steph: Well I don't know what we are going to do. For some strange reason I really don't feel very strong today. In fact my arms feel like jelly!

Bern: But, the show starts in 5 minutes, and you're right, for some reason I'm feeling really frightened. So frightened that I really don't want to go into a cage with a man eating hungry lion. In fact all I want to do is to run away.....

(Bern goes to run but Steph catches him)

Steph: Don't do that! Whatever happens, we must stick together.

Nina: You know I'm feeling strangely wobbly today (staggers slightly). In fact I'm not sure that I could walk in a straight line on the floor, let alone walk on a tightrope!

Fran: (bursts into tears and blows his nose). And...(Blow nose).... And (Blow nose) and I don't think that I can ever be funny again. (Lots of crying).

Steph: Well, what are we going to do?

Bern: Well whatever it is we've only got 3 minutes now.

Nina: Well we'd better go and think of something then hadn't we. Come on.

Fran: (Bursts into tears and blows his nose)

(They all exit)

(Joshua enters with broom, sweeping the floor)

Josh: Well did you hear that then. They're not very happy are they? They think that because old Pedro is gone, the Circus will close. They think that without old Pedro telling them what to do everything will go wrong. I wish I could help them somehow, but what could I do? After all I'm just the boy who sweeps the floor and feeds the animals, they wouldn't listen to me anyway. (Sweeps a bit, then looks up) Hang on a minute, maybe I could tell them some of my stories. Well actually they're not my stories, but they are stories I read whenever I have something difficult to do, or whenever I feel sad, or actually when I feel happy as well.. They're all in this book (takes out a bible and flicks through the pages). Look here's my favourite one. It's about a boy who had his packed lunch with him, 5 bread rolls and 2 fish, but when he met a man called Jesus, his little packed lunch managed to feed five thousand people. Just imagine that! I wish I had been that boy. But every time I read that story it tells me that although I might be small, I can do great things if I just trust Jesus as well. I wonder if any of my stories could help the others and even save the circus? I think I'd better go and look.

(Josh leaves stage)

(Paula enters) looking very nervous. She has a whip that she tries to crack unsuccessfully)

Paula: (very nervous) Oh dear, Oh dear. What shall I do? I can't be a ring master; I can't even crack my whip! Everyone is going to laugh at me, and no one is going to come and see the Circus. What shall I do?

(Sound effect: Drum roll and symbol)

Voice: Well ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, it's time for the show to start. So please put your hands together and welcome your ringmaster today, Paula Polini.

(Music, Applause etc)

Paula: (Walks across stage and trips over. Tries to crack whip but drops it. Bends down and her hat falls off). Oh dear! Oh dear! Errr... Well...err... ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, our first act is St.. St... St... Stephano the St... St... St... Strong!

(Music)

(Enter Stephano looking decidedly unenthusiastic. He struggles to pick up a large bar with IRON written on it and tries to bend it unsuccessfully - making suitable grunting noises etc. He then tries to pick up dumbbells with 1000kgs written on them, cannot do this, - makes suitable grunting noises etc. After a short time boos are heard and Stephano flops to the ground in tears)

Steph: It's no good, it's no good, I just can't do it any more. I've lost all my strength. I'm no longer Stephano the strong, but Stephano the Stupid! (Boohoo crying).

(Enter: Bern, Nina and Fran)

Paula: But..... But... But without a strong man we can't have a circus!

Steph: But I've lost my strength. I'm not sure I could even break a match stick, let alone bend an iron bar!

(Bern, Nina, Fran all cry)

Paula: Well you'll have to find it again!

Steph: But it's gone, it's gone for ever.

(Bern, Nina, Fran all cry more)

(Josh enters)

Josh: I've found it, I've found it!

Paula: Found what Josh... And if it's not Stephano's strength I don't want to know!

Josh: I've found a story, just the story we need.

Paula: Oh Josh, go away will you. We don't want one of your stories now, what we need is Stephano's strength.

Josh: Yes I know, and that's what I mean. I've found a story to get Stephano's strength back.

All: A STORY!!

Steph: How's that going to help?

Bern: What's a story going to do?

Nina: We haven't got time for this!

Fran: (cries and blows nose).

Josh: Well ... Have you got any other ideas?!

(All look at each other and shrug shoulders, saying: No not really etc)

Josh: OK, it won't take long any way. Look ... Stephano, you're called Samson, Nina, you're called Delilah, and Bern and Fran, and Paula you're soldiers, alright? Err hem. Now Samson was the strongest man in the world!

Steph: But...

Josh: Just pretend!

Steph: With a sigh, struggles to feet and flexes muscles very half-heartedly.

Josh: But there was a secret to his strength. It was because he had never had his haircut not since he was a little baby. Oh yes I forgot, (takes out a long wig and hands to Steph).

Steph: You must be kidding.

Nina: Oh just put it on Stephano and get this ridiculous story over with.

Josh: Now Samson fell in love with Delilah.

Steph & Nina: But...

Josh: Oh just pretend!

(Steph and Nina stand awkwardly next to each other)

Josh: That's good.... But secretly Delilah was a spy for the Philistine soldiers who wanted to capture Samson. Delilah would cuddle up beside Samson and ask him to tell her the secret of his great strength. (Pauses and looks at both of them ...) Well go on then.

Nina: But...

Josh: But what?

Nina: (Stage whisper to Josh. He's got smelly armpits)

Bern: Oh just get on with it!

Nina: (Grimaces, Puts her head on Steph's shoulder) Samson darling, tell me the secret of your great strength? (hold nose) pooh!

Josh: Samson told her several things that were not true, but eventually she asked so much that he gave in and told her(Looks at Steph ...) Well go on then.

Steph: Go on what ?

Josh: Tell her about your hair.

Steph: But this is stupid!

All: Oh just do it!

Steph: (sighs) Darling Delilah. My strength is in my long hair.

Josh: That night Delilah cut off all of Samson's hair!

Nina: (Whips off the wig) Take that sucker!

Josh) That's more like it.... and when the soldiers came along, Samson had no strength, he was just like a little lamb! So they took him away.

(Bern and Fran march Steph around the stage)

Josh: and tied him to a large pillar.

Bern & Fran: What!?

Nina: Well that's a really good story. That's really going to get his strength back isn't it?

Josh: Hang on, it's not over yet. Samson was stuck, try as he might he was too weak to escape. The Philistine's started to tease him.... (looks at Bern and Fran)... Well go on then.

Bern: What?

Josh: Oh for goodness sake, tease him!

Bern: Oh ...err.... Here Samson, hold this fifty p. Oh no sorry it's too heavy for you isn't it.
Steph: Hey that's not fair!
Fran: err.. I'd challenge you to a wrestling match, but I think you better fight my Granny, it would be fairer!
Steph: (getting angry) Grrrr.... how dare you, no one's ever spoken to me like that before!!!
Bern: Errrr... Hey Samson, how about a tug of war against my pet rabbit!
Steph: GRRRRRRR... now you're making me really angry!!!!
Fran: errr... Oh Samson could you hold this pile of books ... Oh sorry I forgot, here's a magazine instead!
Steph: GRRRRRRR ... RRRRRR.... RRRRRRRRHow dare you! I'll show you how strong I am.
Josh: And Samson prayed to God: Oh God! Give me my strength back!
Steph: (Picking up iron bar) Oh God, give me my strength back. (Bends Iron bar with suitable grunt)
Paula: Stephano, Stephano, you did it, you did it! You're not Stephano the Stupid, but you are... Stephano the Strong!
Steph: (Looks at iron bar), Wow! Wow! I did it. I really did it!
All: Hurray!
Steph: But no, it's not me, it's Josh and his amazing story ... it's... It's ... it's a miracle!
All: Hurray!

(Drum roll and cymbal)

Voice: Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and Girls, we present... Stephano the Strong.

(Steph steps forward and picks up dumbbells and jerks them over his head. All cheer as music plays. All leave the stage).

Voice: Come back tomorrow to see more of Pedro Polinis' sensational Circus!