

Circus Spectacular.

Drama 4: Francisco The Funny.

Characters:

Voice: off stage.

Stephano the Strong - the strongman.

Bernardo 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.

Large wicker basket or box.

Hooter,

Large handkerchief.

Props for Clown act.

Scene: Center back stage is a large wicker basket or box.

Paula: (off stage) Francisco! Francisco! Where are you?

(Paula enters)

Paula: Where can that clown have got to? He's on next and I just can't find him anywhere!

(Looks at audience). You haven't seen him have you?

Aud: (No ... etc).

Paula: Well I better go and look some more, but if you see him don't forget to call me. Just shout Gotcha, OK? Gotcha, then I'll know.

(She exits)

(Fran comes on slowly, as audience start to shout he waves his arms and shushes them)

Fran: No, no, don't say anything, please don't say anything. I don't want her to find me. You see I'm the next act, and .. well.. I'm not really feeling very funny today. So I've got to keep out of sight. So don't say a word, promise?

(Fran has short conversation with audience as they promise to keep quiet)

Paula: (Off stage) Coming, coming.

Fran: Oh no, its Paula, what shall I do?

(Fran runs around in a panic and then jumps in the basket/box and closes lid over him)
(enter Paula)

Paula: Where is he then? I'm sure I heard you shout Gotcha, but he's not here, are you messing me around?

4.1

Fran: (sneezes and makes hooter sound).

Paula: What was that?

Fran: (sneezes and makes hooter sound).

Paula: It sounds like a clown to me, but where is he.

(Paula walks round the stage and round the box then comes back to front)

Paula: Well he's not here, but I'm sure I heard him.

Fran: (sneezes and makes hooter sound).

Paula: But

Voice: Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, take your seats as we continue with
Pedro Polini's Circus Spectacular.

(Enter Steph, Bern and Nina)

Nina: Who's next then Paula,

Bern: The audience are waiting,

Steph: I think they need something to make them laugh, after all the drama so far.

Paula: Yes Stephano, I agree, and I've been looking for Francisco, but I can't find him
anywhere. Although strangely, I'm sure I can hear him somewhere close.

Fran: (sneezes and makes hooter sound).

Nina: you're right, that does sound like Francisco.

(They all look around)

Bern: But he's not here,

Steph: Maybe he's made himself invisible.

(enter Josh)

Josh: Come on Paula, who's next? I need to get things ready for the next act.

Paula: Well it's Francisco, but we can't find him.

Nina: We've looked everywhere.

Bern: We can't find him anywhere.

Paula: but we can hear him.

Steph: He's made himself invisible!

Fran: (sneezes and makes hooter sound).

All: (talk together), see what we mean; there he is again; he must be invisible, etc.

(Josh looks around)

Josh: Shush...

(Josh moves to behind basket and listens)

Fran: (sneezes and makes hooter sound).

Josh: (Quickly opening basket) BOO!

4.2

Fran: Ahhhh!

Paula: Francisco, what are you doing in there? You're on in just a minute, come on, you need to get ready.

Bern: Yes come on old baggy pants, we need a good laugh.

(Fran stands up in the basket)

Fran: (beginning to cry) But I can't...

Paula: What, another one? Why not?

Fran: I just... I just ... I just don't .. don't feel ... don't feel funny anymore. (cries)

Steph: Well you certainly look funny, very funny.

Bern: And no amount of clown make up is going to change that!

Steph and Bern: (Laugh.)

Fran: (Bursts into tears and blows nose).

Paula: Oh shut up you two. You're making things worse. What do you think Nina?

Nina: Well there is only one thing to try isn't there.

Paula: What?

Nina: Oh come on this is day four of playscheme, you should know by now.

Paula: Err....

Nina: One of Joshua's stories stupid, what else.

Paula: Oh yes, of course. Why didn't I think of that?

Fran: Oh no! It's all right, there's no need. I'll just go and....

(He tries to get out of the basket but Bern and Steph push him back)

Bern: Not so fast funny man.

Steph: (menacingly) you're not going nowhere mate!

Fran: (Bursts into tears and blows nose.)

Paula: Well Joshua, have you got a story for Francisco? A quick one!

Josh: I've got just the one, right here.

Paula: Well hurry up, there's not much time.

Josh: Francisco, you're Joseph. Stephano and Bernado, you're Joseph's brothers.

Steph: But we can't be his brothers.

Bern: We don't look anything like him!

Paula: Oh shut up and listen!

Josh: Paula, you're the King, called Pharaoh, and Nina, you're Pharaoh's servant.
Alright.

Nina: Oh but why can't I be the King? I've never been King.

Paula: You were the Queen yesterday, be happy with that! Now Joshua, get on with it.

Josh: Now Joseph's dad made him a coat, a special coat. A coat of many colours.
Joseph was very proud of his coat.

(Fran mimes showing off his coat)

Josh: But Joseph's brothers were jealous. They thought he looked like a clown.

Fran: And what's wrong with that?

Paula: Oh Francisco, just listen to the story!

Josh: Joseph's brothers grumbled about his coat. (Looks at Steph and Bern), Well go on then.

4.3

Steph and Bern: What?

Paula: Grumble you idiots. It's what you do most of the time.

Steph: Oh .. err That's a really stupid coat.

Fran: (snivels)

Bern: It makes him look like a stick of seaside rock.

Fran: (more snivels).

Steph: It couldn't look any more stupid if I got my 2 year old to paint it!

Fran: (more snivels).

Bern: He looks like someone has poured baked beans and tomato soup all over him!

Fran: (Bursts into tears and blows nose).

Paula: Joshua, are you sure this will work?

Josh: Wait and see. Joseph's brothers got so jealous of Joseph's coat that they decided that Joseph must go! So they threw him into a big hole in the ground.

(Steph and Bern push Fran down into the basket and put the lid on. Steph sits on the lid)

Fran: Ahhhhh! Help! Help!

Josh: That's right, that's just what Joseph said.

Fran: No really, HELP, HELP!

Paula: Get off the basket Stephano, you're squashing him!

(Steph gets off and takes off the lid. Fran appears panting)

Fran: Phew ... that was nasty, very nasty.

Josh: But then along came the servant of Pharaoh and offered to buy Joseph as a slave. The brothers sold him and he was taken off to Egypt. (Looks at Nina) Go on then.

Nina: Go on what?

Josh: Take him to Egypt.

Nina: Huh!

(Pulls Fran out of the basket and walks him round the stage and back to Pharaoh)

Fran: (Cries saying) But I don't want to go to Egypt; I don't want to be a slave!

Paula: Joshua, you're making him worse. This isn't working at all.

Josh: Just wait and see. The first person that Joseph was a slave to didn't like him, and had him thrown into prison.

Fran: (sob)

Paula: What are you doing to him? This is supposed to make him funny.

Josh: But then Pharaoh's servant was thrown into prison as well.

Fran: (tearfully) well at least I'm not alone (blows nose).

Nina: What did I do then?

Josh: That doesn't matter, but what does matter is that in prison Pharaoh's servant met Joseph.

Nina: (shaking Fran's hand) how do you do.

Fran: Pleased to meet you.

Josh: And the servant discovered that Joseph could tell him what all of his dreams meant.

Nina: Wow! That's clever.

4.4

Josh: Joseph just prayed to God, listened to the dream, and then he knew what to say.
And everything Joseph said came true! Even when he said the servant would soon be back with Pharaoh.
Fran: (Bursts into tears).
Paula: But that's good, so what's wrong now?
Fran: I'm all alone again, and I'm still in prison.
Paula: Joshua, this isn't working.
Josh: Just wait and see! One day Pharaoh had a dream. (Looks at Paula) ... go on then.
Paula: Oh I've had a dream.
Josh: And the servant told him all about Joseph. Pharaoh sent for Joseph straight away.
Paula: (very half-hearted) Fetch Joseph straight away.
Josh: Joseph prayed to God.

(Fran gets down on knees and puts hands together)

Josh: He listened to the dream, and Joseph told Pharaoh exactly what his dream meant.
Pharaoh was happy.
Paula: I'm happy, but I want Francisco, err.. I mean Joseph to be happy.
Josh: And that is exactly what he was when Pharaoh made him assistant King. The second most important person in the whole land!
Fran: Oh wow, now I am happy, assistant King, thank you, thank you.
Steph: Him! Assistant King!
Bern: Pigs would be more likely to fly!
Paula: Shush ... it's beginning to work.
Josh: Later, two strangers arrived in the land, they were looking for food, and they were Joseph's brothers. They were taken to see Joseph, but they didn't recognise him.
They bowed low before him.
Fran: Oh I'm going to enjoy this bit, really enjoy this bit!
Josh: (Looks at Steph and Bern) Go on then.
Steph: Go on what?
Josh: Bow down.
Bern: You've got to be joking mate.
Steph: Us bow down to .. to . to him.
Bern: To old baggy pants?
Steph: To old hooter nose?
Bern: You've got to be...
Paula: (very angry) Oh just do it .. NOW!

(They both fall to the floor and bow before Fran)

Fran: (Jumping up and down) Yes! Yes! Yes! Oh that's just what I needed. Just what I needed! I feel much better now, much better. I feel ... feel ... I feel funny again!

Voice: Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, the next act is about to start.

Paula: Quick, let's get ready, everyone off.

Voice: So please welcome your ringmaster, Paula Pollini!

4.5

(Paula enters, tries to crack whip but fails, walks on, trips, drops whip, bends down to pick it up and loses hat)

Paula: Oh no not again, I'll never be any good at this. Err... Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, errr...please welcome our next act. It's errr... Francisco the Funny!

(Music Plays)

(Fran enters and performs a short Clown routine. Leaves stage to cheers and applause)

Voice: Come back tomorrow for more excitement with Pedro Polini's Circus Spectacular.

(music).

