

Circus Spectacular.

Drama 5: Paula Polini.

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.

Scene:

Nina's rope will need to be laid out on the floor.

Voice: Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. Please take your seats for the grand finale of tonight's show, which will be starting in just a few minutes.

(enter Paula)

Paula: Oh I really must get it right this time. I really must. I've made a complete fool of myself so far. So I must get it right this time or the others will never forgive me. I think I'd better practice.

(Paula walks across the stage, tries to crack her whip unsuccessfully, trips up, drops whip, bends down and loses her hat)

Paula: (angrily) Oh, I'll never do it, never. I'm just no good! I'll never be a ringmaster. I might as well give up now and just close the circus. My Father should never have left it to me in the first place. I was bound to just let him down.

(flops to floor and starts to sob)

(Enter Nina)

Nina: Paula, Paula, come on it's time for the grand finale. This is the best bit for all of us.

Paula: (quiet sobbing noise).

Nina: Paula, come on.

Paula: (Quiet sobbing noise).

(Enter Steph)

Steph: It's time for the grand finale. We need Paula to start things off.

Nina: I know but

Paula: (Quiet sobbing noise).

Nina: There seems to be something wrong.

Paula: (Quiet Sobbing noise).

Steph: Wrong?! What's wrong. Come on Paula, we need you.

Paula: (Quiet sobbing noise).

Nina: Maybe she's lost her voice? She hasn't said a word since I arrived.

Paula: (Louder sobbing noise and waves hands to say no).

(Enter Bern)

Bern: The audience are waiting. We need to start the grand finale. What's wrong?

Nina: Paula has lost her voice.

Paula: (Sobs and waves arms again)

Steph: No, she keeps waving her arms. Maybe she injured one of them. Yes that must be the problem. She's injured her arm.

Paula: (Louder sobs and more arm waving).

Bern: Well no, it looks to me like she's hurt her leg. Why else would she be lying on the floor?

Paula: (Louder sobs, waves arms and kicks legs as well).

(enter Fran)

Fran: The audience are getting restless. Why haven't we started the grand finale yet?

Nina: 'Cause Paula's lost her voice.

Steph: And injured her arm.

Bern: And hurt her leg.

Paula: (loud sobs with arm waving and leg kicking)

Fran: Oh I don't think so, it looks more like

Paula: (jumps to her feet shouting) Oh shut up you lot, shut up. I haven't lost my voice.

Nina: Well that's obvious.

Paula: Or hurt my arm. (shakes a fist at Steph).

Steph: (Stepping back) well that's obvious too,

Paula: Or hurt my leg! (gives Bern a kick).

Bern: Ouch, so you haven't.

Fran: So what's wrong then?

Paula: I'm just a useless Ringmaster. I'm no good at it. I'm stupid, and I'm giving up.
(starts to walk off).

Nina: But what about the grand finale?

Steph: What about the crowd?

Bern: What about all those disappointed boys and girls?

Fran: What about us as well?

(Paula turns toward them)

(Enter Josh behind Paula)

Paula: But I can't do it!

Josh: Oh no, not another one! This is the maddest circus I've ever worked in!

Voice: Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, please be patient, the grand finale will begin shortly.

Nina, Steph, Bern, Fran: (Crowd around Josh and say), do something, help us Joshua, tell us a story, etc etc. (in confused conversation.)

Paula: (sobs).

Josh: I'll take that as a yes.

Steph: But hurry up, we haven't got long.

Josh: Ok, Francisco, you're called Peter, OK? Bern, you can be someone called Pilate.

Bern: Oh great (runs around with arms outstretched making airplane noises).

Josh: No, not a Pilot, someone called Pilate.

Bern: Oh that's not so much fun.

Nina: Oh just listen will you Bernado.

Josh: Stephano and Nina, you are members of the crowd.

Steph: Oh but that's not fair, Bernado has got a ...

Nina: (gives Steph a sharp poke). Just listen.

Josh: and Paula, you are someone called Jesus, OK. Now Jesus' Dad had given him a really important job to do.

Nina: Wow, just like Pedro has given Paula the circus to run.

Josh: Well sort of, only Jesus' Dad was none other than God.

Nina, Steph, Bern and Fran: God!

Nina: You mean God up there? (points above)

Josh: yes.

Steph: You mean, God who made everything?

Josh: errr... yes.

Bern: You mean God who knows everything?

Josh: errr... yes.

Fran: You mean God the most powerful thing ever?

Josh: errr... yes.

Nina, Steph, Bern and Fran: Wow!

Josh: And God had sent Jesus off with a really important job to do.

Paula: (worried) What?

Josh: to sort out the whole world.

Nina: What!, just one man?

Steph: Sort out the whole world?

Bern: Put everything right?

Fran: Make everyone happy?

Josh: Err... yes, that's right.

Nina: Err...(dubiously) errr... carry on then.

Josh: Well Jesus did lots of good things. He helped people, he was kind to people, he showed people how to be better people. Things seemed to be going really well, till one day the crowds decided they had had enough of this Jesus.

Steph: But why? If he was so good.

Josh: Well you see some people were jealous of Jesus. They told lies about him, and the crowd believed them.

Steph: Oh, I see.

Josh: The crowd took Jesus away (looks at Nina and Steph).

Nina: (Pauses) Oh, err. yes.

Nina and Steph march Paula round the stage)

Josh: And they took him to Pilate.

(March Paula to Bern)

Josh: Pilate was the sort of King, and the people told him that they wanted to get rid of Jesus.

Nina: We don't want him anymore.

Steph: He's getting on our nerves. Get rid of him.

Josh: Now Jesus had a special friend called Peter.

Fran: Do I rush in and rescue him!?

Josh: Err.. no. Peter was scared, very scared. First he pretended he didn't know Jesus, and then he ran away!

Fran: But I wouldn't do that to any of my friends.

Nina: But obviously Peter did, so just do it.

Fran: (runs to one side saying) I'm frightened.

Nina: Well who's going to rescue Jesus then? After all he's got to put the world right yet.

Josh: Well errr... it didn't happen quite like that. You see Pilate said. If you want to get rid of him, take him away and kill him, and that's what they did.

Paula: (loud sobs).

Nina: Oh great.

Steph: Well that's really helped.

Bern: You're supposed to make her better, not worse.

Fran: No, no, wait a minute, there must be more. There was in all the other stories, there must be more. Eh Josh?

Josh: Oh yes there is much much more. You see all of Jesus' friends were sad.

Fran: (Starts to cry quietly).

Josh: No, very very very sad.

Fran: (loud sobbing, takes out large hanky, blows nose, etc)

Josh: But a few days later something amazing happened.

Fran: I knew there must be something! What happened?

Josh: Well suddenly Jesus' friends started to see him again. He talked with them, he went for a walk with them, he even had a meal with them and went fishing with them. He was alive, not dead, but alive again! And he even forgave Peter for running away so they could be friends again!

Fran: Wow!

Nina: Cor!

Steph: Amazing!

Bern: Incredible!!!

Paula: And so he carried on doing his job of putting the world right?

Josh: Sure did, and he's still doing it today.

Paula: But but ...

Nina: Yes?

Paula: But.... but ... that means ...means.

Steph: Means?

Paula: Means ... means.... that I ... I ...

Bern: Means that you?

Paula: I .. I can be a good ... a good ...

Fran: A good?

Paula: A good ringmaster! Because Jesus can put things right.

All: Hurray.

Josh: All you've got to do is ask him, and he will help you.

Voice: Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, we present the grand finale!

Paula: Come on, let's do it!

(music plays)

(Paula enters. Walks across the stage and confidently cracks her whip)

Paula: (confidently), Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, please welcome your performers this evening for the grand finale. Stephano the strong.

(enter Steph with dumbbells above his head)

Paula: Bernado the brave.

(enter Bernado backing onto the stage with sound of roaring lions in the background)

Paula: Nina the nimble.

(Enter Nina with balance bar and walk along rope on the floor)

Paula: and Francisco the Funny.

(Enter Fran and do something clowny)

Paula: So thank you to all our performers this evening. And thank you for coming to see Pedro Polini's Circus Spectacular.

(music, all exit, applause etc)

(enter Paula, Nina, Steph, Bern and Fran)

Paula: Well what a performance.

Nina: We were great.

Steph: We were awesome.

Fran: We were hilarious.

Bern: Old Pedro would have been really proud of us.

Paula: But we couldn't have done it without Joshua now could we.

Nina: No that's true, His stories are amazing.

Steph: Talking of Joshua, where is he?

Bern: I haven't seen him since we started the finale.

Fran: No, nor have I.

Paula: I'll go and get him.

(Paula exits)

Nina: Well who'd have thought we could have done it.

Steph: and without old Pedro.

Bern: Well it was just good we had Joshua around.

Fran: Without him it would have been a disaster.

(Paula returns, she stands in silence, they all look at her)

Paula: He's gone.

Others: Gone.

Paula: Packed and gone.

Nina: But?

Bern: What?

Steph: Why?

Fran: When?

Paula: He left a note.

Nina: What does it say?

Paula: (Opening paper) Dear Nina, Stephano, Bernado, Francisco and Paula. Thank you for listening to my stories. You are all great performers. Remember that always, and remember my stories. Love Joshua.

Nina: Well,....

Steph: Well... he's right.

Bern: We are great performers.

Fran: And as long as we remember Joshua's stories, we always will be.

Paula: Come on then. Lets get ready for tomorrow's performance.

(music - all exit)