

DANDELION

A ten-minute play for young audiences by
Wysteria Edwards

Adapted from the book by
Don Freeman

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

DANDELION, a lion.

LOU KANGAROO

RABBIT

THEODORE THE TAILOR

HAPPY CRANE

JENNIFER GIRAFFE

(The sun is coming up on a small bedroom. We HEAR the song "Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World" by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole. There is a brass bed, small dresser, a stool with an alarm clock, and a framed picture of a lion wearing a crown with the word "FATHER" underneath it. DANDELION, a lion, wakes up. He stretches, yawns and jumps out of bed. He is dressed in white pajamas with orange stripes. Excitedly, he does his daily exercises.)

DANDELION: I wonder if the mail has come?

(He puts on his sweater and hurries outside to the mailbox. There is a letter, written in fancy, gold ink. The initials J.G. are written on the back. Reading the letter to the audience:)

"Dear Dandelion, You are invited to my tea-and-taffy party on Saturday afternoon at half-past three. Come as you are. Sincerely, Jennifer Giraffe." *(Beat.)* Why, that's today! It's a good thing I planned to get a haircut!

(He comically and quickly eats his breakfast, and washes/wipes the dishes.)

(Counting the wipes on the dishes:) 1, 2, 3.

(Placing the dish in the drying rack. He makes his bed nice and neat, and runs off to the barbershop to see LOU KANGAROO. A barber chair is waiting for him. First, Lou trims Dandelion's hair with exceptionally large scissors. Next he "shampoos," placing a large bubble cap on him. RABBIT sits down on a stool to give him a manicure.)

LOU KANGAROO: So, what's the occasion?

DANDELION: Jennifer Giraffe is having a tea-and-taffy party today at half past three.

RABBIT: We're invited too! I just love tea-and-taffy parties, don't you?

LOU KANGAROO: We'll have to give you a new hair-do for the occasion!

RABBIT: Oh, yes. Maybe a wave would help.

(Lou holds up a magazine that shows a picture of a distinguished lion with a curled mane.)

LOU KANGAROO: It's what all the well-dressed lions are wearing this year!

DANDELION: Then it's exactly what I need!

LOU KANGAROO: Let's get that mane curled.

(The song "Steppin' Out With My Baby" by Fred Astaire begins to play. The lights transition...there is a drum-roll. In the dark, an extremely curly wig is placed on Dandelion. Lights up. Lou Kangaroo spins the chair around to face the audience.)

Ta da!

DANDELION: I look magnificent.

RABBIT: Now you need a new outfit!

DANDELION: I really should wear something more elegant than a sweater to the party.

(He makes his way to the tailor shop. There is a black and white checkered jacket next to a sign that reads, "READY TO WEAR." THEODORE THE TAILOR greets him. He is a bear. Taking the jacket off the form, he helps Dandelion put it on.)

THEODORE THE TAILOR: This jacket is the very newest style, and it just fits you. All you need now is a cap and a cane. Happy Crane will be glad to help you.

DANDELION: *(Admiring himself to the audience:)* What a dapper dandy I've become!

(HAPPY CRANE has a sign on an easel that says, "LET HAPPY MAKE YOU LOOK SNAPPY." He hands Dandelion a cane and places a top hat on his head.)

(To Crane:) Dapper?

HAPPY CRANE: Dandy. For sure.

(Dandelion looks at his watch.)

DANDELION: It's nearly half past three! I've just time to get something for my hostess. A bouquet of dandelions would be perfect.

(He is handed a bouquet by Happy Crane from a vase in the shop.)

HAPPY CRANE: Here, take these!

(A tall door emerges with several steps in front of it.)

DANDELION: *(To the audience:)* I bet you are thinking, "That is quite a gigantic door!" But have you ever lived with a giraffe? They take up a great deal of space! I better knock before it's too late.

(He knocks on the door and it opens to reveal an 18-foot giraffe puppet, JENNIFER GIRAFFE. There is a long string of pearls around her neck, and she is wearing lipstick. Her long eyelashes are curled, and there is a bow in her hair.)

JENNIFER GIRAFFE: Yes? What can I do for you?

DANDELION: *(Confused:)* Why, I've come for your tea-and-taffy party.

JENNIFER GIRAFFE: Oh, I'm sorry, sir, but you are not anyone I know. You must have come to the wrong address.

(She closed the door on Dandelion's face. He knocks again and again.)

DANDELION: I'm Dandelion! You've made a mighty mistake!

(He lets out a loud roar and then sits down on the steps.)

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