

Jessica

by

Mickey Bolmer

(1 act, 5-8, children's comedy)

Story Time
with Mrs. Mac
and Banana Phone!
famous children's book author Jessica Gordon
taken by her father
3 months old
back at her library
with her wedding dress
sharing
stories

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Characters

Jessica, 25-35
Mrs. Mac, children's librarian
Mike, Jessica's father
Lucy, Jessica's mother
1 to 3 more actors for character parts

(Note: Actors may take roles in the stories as needed. Of course, puppets might be wonderful for one or more stories. If being done by children, each part could be taken by a child. Should the company wish it, children and parents from the audience could fill out the reading and story time audiences.)

Set

an open stage with a chair, center, for Mrs. Mac., and some chairs, child and adult, for story time. Three spaces are needed: library, memory, and story. These can be marked with set, lights, and/or sound.

Jessica by Mickey Bolmer © June 2004

Jessica

MRS. MAC

(Jessica watches through the door.)

Welcome, welcome! Hello, I'm Mrs. Mac. Welcome to story time here at the Phoenixville Children's Library! Hands up high, Come on everybody!, yes everybody out in the audience, Hands up high! Hands down low. Hide those hands. Where did they go? Out comes one. Then comes two. Give a little clap. Lay them in your lap. Are we through? Creep them, creep them to your little chin. Open wide! Don't let them in! Come in, come in, we've just gotten started. Everybody, this is Jane, she's three months old, today, and her mother went back to work today. Say hello to Jane.

EVERYBODY

Hello Jane!

MRS. MAC

And this is Jane's father, Mr. Brock

TOM

Tom, please.

MRS. MAC

BRRRRRINGGG, BRRRRRINGGG, excuse me Mr. Brock, it's Banana Phone, BRRRRRINGGG, BRRRRRINGGG, please sit right over there with our other Dad, Mr. Nissle and his daughter Leah. BRRRRRINGGG, BRRRRRINGGG, YES Banana Phone, I'm coming.

(She picks up a stuffed banana)

Hello, Banana Phone! Yes, it's Mrs. Mac. No Banana Phone, I can't talk with you. It's Story Time. Yes, Jane just came in, and here's, Tara, Laurie, Danner, yes, Bob.

(If the names of some of the children in the audience can be known, please use them.)

Yes Banana Phone! Banana Phone wants me to say 'hello' to everybody! Hello from Banana Phone!

EVERYBODY

Hello, Banana Phone!

MRS. MAC

Now, Banana Phone, I must go. What? Banana Phone, they've heard that a hundred times. It's your favorite? Well, all right, I'll ask them. Good bye, Banana Phone.

(She "hangs up" the banana.)

Banana Phone suggests that I tell you Goldilocks and the Three Bears, but I told him that you all had heard that a hundred times. Do you really want to hear that old story?

(Jessica enters carrying her wedding dress in a dress carrier. She puts it down on a table.)

JESSICA

Hello, Mrs. Mac

MRS. MAC

Why Jessica! BRRRING BRRRING BRRRING!

JESSICA

It's just like the first time we came.

MRS. MAC

Excuse me, Jessica. You must remember how rude Banana Phone is. BRRRRINGGGG BRINNGGGG. Banana Phone, we are very busy here. Yes, your Jessica, the now famous author of children's books, Jessica Gordon. What? Yes, the Jessica who first came here when she was three months old, just like Jane. Banana Phone wants to know if you remember the first time you came.

JESSICA

Of course. My father brought me.

(switch to memory space)

MIKE

I was getting some things at the grocery store.

MRS. MAC

Hello Jessica! Hello Mr. Gordon! Please, it's time to bring Jessica to story time; 2:00 PM this afternoon, at the library. I'm Mrs. Mac, the children's librarian.

MIKE

But she's just three months old, today.

MRS. MAC

"Happy Birthday to you," Jessica. And your mother back to work today.

MIKE

Yes, how did you know? Already it's been

MRS. MAC

Bring her to story time. Mr. Gordon, the sooner they come, the longer they stay.

(switch to library space)

BRRRRRING! Excuse me. Banana Phone asks if you will read us "Little Lamb." What? Oh, yes, by Jessica Gordon. What? You want to speak to Jessica. Well I'll ask her. Will you speak to Banana Phone? So insistent.

JESSICA

I'd be honored. Hello Banana Phone. Why thank you very much. You think we should start with a song? Good idea. What song? Oh, yes. Everybody, Banana Phone would like us to sing "Mary had a little lamb." Would you sing with me?

MRS. MAC

Of course, dear. Then will you read us "Little Lamb?"

JESSICA

Won't you read for us, please, Mrs. Mac? Thank you.

JESSICA, MRS. MAC,
and EVERYBODY

(this will let them set up for "Little Lamb" and let Jessica become little Jessica)

Come on everybody, you know this! "Mary had a little lamb, little lamb, little lamb, Mary had a little lamb whose fleece was white as snow. And everywhere that Mary went, Mary went, Mary went, and everywhere that Mary went that lamb was sure to go."

Mrs. Mac

"Little Lamb" by Jessica Gordon.

(story space)

MIKE

Jessica, time for us to go to Gym Tots. Remember, today you're supposed to bring your favorite stuffed animal.

(he picks up a cow)

JESSICA

No, no, no

MIKE

Jessica, it's time to get ready. We have to start now, or we'll be late.

JESSICA

Am, am, am!

(Father sees that she wants Little Lamb and gives it to her.)

Ah

(Father packs diapers and snacks. They don sweatshirts and backpacks.)

MRS. MAC

(reading; Jessica and Little Lamb moving)

They headed out. Once there, Little Lamb hopped through the lobby, rushed into the gym, and log rolled right into Tim. Little Lamb walked on the beam, jumped on the

MRS. MAC (cont.)

trampoline, and played run around with Ranine. Little Lamb climbed over a vault, swung on a rope, and seesawed with Hope. Little Lamb crawled, marched with a flute, and ran under a parachute. During Circle Time, Little Lamb sang. Come on everybody, you'll know these.

MRS. MAC, JESSICA, OTHER CHILDREN, MIKE

(done with Little Lamb)

The itsybitsy spider went up the water spout. Down came the rain and washed that spider out. Out came the sun and dried up all the rain. And the itsybitsy spider went up the spout again. Old MacDonald had a farm, Ei, Ei OH, and on that farm he had a Jessica?

(Jessica holds up Little Lamb)

Little Lamb Ei, Ei, OH, with a Baaa baa here and a baa baa there, here a baa, there a baaa, everywhere a baabaa, Old MacDonald had a farm, Ei, Ei, Oh. If you're happy and you know it clap your hands! If you're happy and you know it clap your hands! If you're happy and you know it, then your face will really show it, if you're happy and you know it jump up and clap your hands!

MIKE

Jessica and Little Lamb slept all the way home.

(library space)

MRS. MAC

Sing with me, softly, "It followed her to school one day, school one day, school one day, It followed her to school one day, which was against the rules. It made the children laugh and play, laugh and play, it made the children laugh and play to see a lamb at school." Here's the hive, but where are the bees? Hiding inside, count them please. One, two, three, four, five, bzzzzzz.

(her hands rush behind her back)

Now with me please: Here's the hive, but where are the bees? Hiding inside, count them please. One, two, three, four, five, bzzzzzz. Jessica do you remember the time you asked for funny books?

(memory space)

JESSICA

Uny.

MRS. MAC

(Mrs. Mac goes zip, zipping around the library pulling out books.)

I do so love a funny book. So does my third daughter, a little wild but she makes us laugh. On the troop ship over to Germany, it was so crowded some soldiers had to live on the stairwells. Well, when it came time for the children to go up on deck for exercise, the soldiers would pass the children from hand to hand up the stairs. My third daughter seemed to rise on a bubble of laughter.