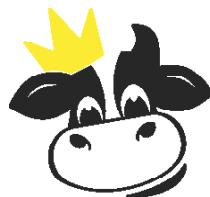




**Goldilocks & the
Three Bears**
by Dave Crump

Panto Scripts Perusal

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Characters:

Gorgeous George: (F) Principal Boy. The circus lion tamer and a typical panto hero.

Goldilocks: (F) Principal Girl. A sweet girl who gets lost in the woods, but who is also a champion for doing what's right.

Nora Bone: (M) Dame. The circus cook and bottle washer, a man eating but kind hearted battleaxe.

Ivor Blackheart: (M/F) The Ringmaster of Blackheart's Circus and the villain of our story, determined to capture the three bears and force them to perform in the circus.

Mayor Bogsprocket: (M) Goldilocks father and a public figure in Gigglewick who has booked the circus to try to bribe the town folk into voting for him.

Colin the Clown: (M/F) The comic and audience participation character. A daft, loveable clown who dreams of being a lion tamer one day.

Daddy Bear: (M) The father figure in our trio of bears. He is grumpy and considers himself in charge but always does what Mommy Bear tells him. Daddy bear is a Grizzley Bear.

Mommy Bear: (F) The mommy in our trio. She is lovable and cuddly but doesn't stand any nonsense. Mommy bear is a Panda Bear.

Baby Bear: (M/F) A cute addition to our trio Baby Bear is full of fun. Could be played by a juvenile or for added comedy value a very tall adult or someone obviously older than Daddy and Mommy. Baby bear is a Polar bear.

Lily of the Valley: (F) A magical forest Nymph who protects all the creatures of the forest and helps protect the Bears and Goldilocks from Blackheart.

Madame Seyoncée: (F) The circus fortune teller and hypnotist, older female. Can be played as an old crone or as a mysterious gypsy type. Blackheart's stupid sidekick.

4 F, 3 M, 3 (M/F)

Juvenile dancers, circus performers, villagers, etc. etc.

Some lines will require tweaking if parts are female (they are written on the basis of male options generally) but these should be easy to do.

Synopsis of Scenes:

ACT 1:

Prologue

Scene 1: Gigglewick Village Square

Scene 2: On the Way to the Forest

Scene 3: Inside the Big Top.

Scene 4: Somewhere in the Forest

Scene 5: Inside the Big Top.

ACT 2:

Prologue

Scene 1: In the Forest

Scene 2: The Three Bears' Cottage

Scene 3: In the Forest

Scene 4: Inside the Big Top

Scene 5: Community song

Walkdown

Musical Numbers: Suggestions

ACT 1

1. I Got A Feeling – Company
2. I Wanna Dance With Somebody – George
3. Teddy Bear’s Picnic – Three Bears
4. No Business Like Showbusiness – Company
5. Symphony - George and Goldilocks
6. One Way or Another – Blackheart and Seyonce
7. (Let me be your) Teddy Bear - Nora and Daddy Bear
8. Something About This Night – Blackheart and Company

ACT 2

1. Once Upon a Time (from Brooklyn) - Lily
2. Ain’t No Mountain High Enough – George and Company
3. Somebody That I Used to Know - Goldilocks
4. I’ll Be There For You – George, Goldilocks and Friends
5. I Put a Spell on You (Hocus Pocus version) – Seyonce
6. Bare Footin’ – Baby Bear and Company
7. The Lion Sleeps Tonight – Seyonce and Company
8. I Will Survive – Colin and Company
9. Community Song – Teddy Bear’s Picnic
10. Finale reprise – I’ll Be There For You

The above song choices are just suggestions and can be changed to suit the company with minor rewrites to suit as required. However watch out for references in the script which relate to the songs – for instance George noting that he’s looking for a girl who likes to dance. The song Colin sings when he’s scared (in the above list ‘I Will Survive’) obviously needs to be song 8 in act 2. The Lion Sleeps Tonight is a must though as the hypnotised characters all react to specific words in the song for the number which usually brings the house down.

The Prologue

Lily appears s.r.

Lily: Hello boys and girls, what on earth are you doing in this part of the forest? I was just about to go up the wooden hill to bed, and then I heard you all coming in, rustling your sweet wrappers and hoping you'd have an empty seat next to you for your coat. Oh, I should introduce myself – I am Lily of the Valley, I'm a woodland sprite who lives here in Gigglewick Woods. I look after all the creatures of the forest and help to keep them safe from all sorts of things that can do them harm - storms, fire, flood....

Blackheart enters

Blackheart: Evil circus ringmasters...

Lily: Evil circus ringmas... wait, what?

Blackheart: Sorry to interrupt your little meet and greet, but I felt an irresistible urge to shut you up.

Lily: That's not very nice. Who are you?

Blackheart: Blackheart, Ivor Blackheart.

Lily: (To audience) This doesn't sound good kids.

Blackheart: It's not good. Not for you at any rate. I'm heading to town with my travelling circus, it's the best, the biggest, the brightest, and the...

Lily: Smelliest?

Blackheart: Smelliest... (realising what he's said) Bah! It's the greatest show on earth.

Lily: What about other planets?

Blackheart: But you know, little fairy. I can't help thinking that there's something missing.

Lily: Charisma?

Blackheart: No, no, I have that in spades – I mean look at me (does a pose, audience boo) Oh boo all you like, I'll soon wipe those smirks off your faces.

Lily: So what is it you're after?

Blackheart: Animals my dear. Over the last few months all of my performing animals have mysteriously disappeared or escaped.

Lily: Good for them.

Blackheart: But not good for me! I've only got one left – a bad tempered lion who's too old to run away. Losing my group of lions has left me at rock bottom.

Lily: Is that what they call pride before a fall?

Blackheart: Now I need replacements. I reckon this forest might have a few I can grab.

Lily: You can't take the animals of this forest they are all free!

Blackheart: Exactly! I won't have to pay for any of them! Soon they'll be working to earn their keep - for me, ha! And there's nothing you, or these horrible little kiddies can do to stop me! Is there?

Audience: Oh yes there is!

Blackheart: Oh no there isn't (*etc*) Oh shut up.

Lily: Just who do you think you are?

Blackheart: Ivor Blackheart – by name and by nature! Ha ha ha!! (*Exits*)

Lily: Oh no boys and girls. This is terrible. All the creatures of the forest are my friends. We have to save them – will you help me? (*Audience respond*) You will? Great. Time for me to mess up Blackheart's plan. See you later!

(*Blackout*)

Scene 1: The Village Square, Gigglewick.

A village marketplace with a small podium centre stage with a banner which reads 'HB for Mayor'. People go about their business. Goldilocks steps up onto the podium.

Goldy: Ladies and gentlemen. Please, your attention folks. (*They ignore her*). Oi! (*They stop what they're doing and listen reluctantly*) Thank you. As you know, next month will be the elections for Gigglewick Mayor, and my father will be once again asking for your vote.

Villagers: (*Ad lib*) Boo! He's rubbish.

Goldy: So without further ado, please welcome Gigglewick's most popular dairy farmer and your Mayor: Hubert Bogsprocket!

(Goldilocks steps aside clapping enthusiastically. Mayor steps up. There is a very muted ripple of applause. Someone throws a cabbage which bounces off his head)

Mayor: Thank you, thank you. People of Gigglewick, thank you for that warm hand on my entrance.

Villagers: (*Ad lib*) Get out of it, you're useless, etc.

Mayor: Now, now. I know some of you feel that my mayorship has not been a complete success.

Villagers: (*Ad lib*) You can say that again, not half! etc. (*More veg is thrown*)

Mayor: Be fair, it was not my fault that at the village fete we had an outbreak of Tombola.

Woman: Why can't you be more like the last mayor?

Mayor: But the last mayor is dead.

Woman: Exactly!

(Audience all laugh and jeer).

Mayor: Listen, listen. I have some good news. Next week is election day, so this weekend I've lined up a special treat. I am delighted to announce that Blackheart's Circus is in town and they open tonight!

Villagers: (*Suddenly much happier*) Hooray!

MUSIC 1: I've Got A Feeling - Company

(During the song the Mayor should take a lead on the vocal at the podium mic and impress the audience with his 'dancing')

Mayor: Now that's what I call Christmas wrapping (*delete this gag if it's not a December panto!*) Thank you, thank you. Now I know it's exciting, but the main thing is to remember that it was me who organised this treat for you, when you decide who to vote for in the election.

Goldy: (*Stepping back up to the mic*) And I have some discount circus tickets for anyone who's willing to commit to voting for dad in advance. Walk this way to sign up!

(*She waves the vouchers in the air as she and Mayor exit s.r. followed by the excited crowd. Blackheart enters s.l.*).

Blackheart: Another day, another grotty village (*Audience probably boos*) Ha! I see you're full of booze already. (*They boo again*) Oh shut up – you seem to be confusing me with someone who cares. The circus is getting set up and all I need is a few new acts – of the four legged variety. Ah, and here's Madame Seyoncée, the very girl!

(*Seyoncée enters*)

Seyoncée: I gather you wanted to speak to me?

Blackheart: How did you know?

Seyoncée: I am a physic, a clairvoyant, a hypnotist. I see faces in the ether and hear voices in the wind, I can tell your fortune by looking in your eyes and predict your fate by tickling your...

Blackheart: Yes alright.

Seyoncée: And I got your note.

Blackheart: I see.

Seyoncée: Now what is it that I can help you with my master?

Blackheart: I need your help to find some new animal acts. Unsupervised pets, dogs, cats, elephants, you know the kind of thing, then meet me in the forest at noon.

Seyoncée: (*Matter-of-factly*) Right you are.

Blackheart: Right you are?

Seyoncée: Oh sorry. (*Mystically*) Yes oh master – it shall be done (*she sweeps off dramatically*).

Blackheart: Heaven preserve us. (*To audience*) Soon my circus will have its animals again, and thanks to Seyoncée's hypnosis they can go straight into the show! And there's nothing you lot can do about it! Ha ha! (*exit s.l.*).

(Colin enters carrying a roll of posters for the circus)

Colin: (*Singing a few notes of the opening number*). So this is Gigglewick. Looks like it might be a laugh. Now, where to put these posters. (*He sticks one up somewhere on the proscenium*) There we go (*noticing the audience*). Oh hello! (*Audience respond*) oh dear, it's going to be like that is it? I said hello! (*Audience respond*) that's better. I'm Colin, Colin the Clown from Blackheart's Circus. I took over from my father when he passed away, he was a very famous clown, so they were big shoes to fill. Ooh, what a smashing audience, I wish our audiences in the circus were as lovely looking as you. I mean last weekend we had the ugliest woman I've ever seen gurning up at me from the front row – honestly, she had a smile like a crack in a septic tank. I've never seen such a miserable old... (*noticing woman in front row*) oh hello madame. Nice to see you again. (*Moves to the other side of the stage still talking to the audience*) I should say that although I'm a clown, we have to do all the jobs around the circus. Like putting up posters (*indicating the roll*). Of course, I'm not going to be a clown forever – oh no, I'm going to be a lion tamer. That way all the girls will think I'm brave and heroic. I'm a bit lonely you see. (*Audience – Ah!*) Eh, I know – would you be my friends? You will? You don't seem very sure. I said will you be my friends? (*Audience respond*) That's lovely. When I come on will you shout – Eh Up Colin! And then I'll know you haven't dropped off. Shall we try it? (*Business running on and off until the audience are shouting 'Eh Up Colin' with enthusiasm*) That's brilliant, thanks.

(George enters carrying poster)

George: I've put posters up just about everywhere (*puts a poster up as Colin continues to talk to the audience*).

Colin: This is Gorgeous George – our current lion tamer. He's going to give me lessons – first one's this morning. Can't wait!

George: (*Finishes sticking up the poster*) Let's hope these draw a crowd or Blackheart won't be happy.

Colin: He's never happy. What with the animals escaping, the juggler throwing up...

George: Don't all jugglers throw up?

Colin: And the human cannonball being fired

George: Just as his career was taking off.

Colin: It's hard to find acts of that calibre.

George: I heard he's got us some new tightrope walkers.

Colin: Funny flavour for a packet of crisps.

George: And he's still got us.

Colin: A clown, and a lion tamer with one lion.

George: Not just any lion: 'Chunky' – the most ferocious lion in Sutton Coldfield (*local place*).

Colin: Where do you think all the other animals went?

George: (*Looking guilty*) I can't imagine, but honestly Colin I don't think circuses are the right place for animals anyway. We can find better ways to entertain folk.

Colin: But what about Chunky?

George: He's a bit different. I rescued him as a cub so he sees me as his family, he wouldn't want to be in the wild even if I let him go and believe me, I've tried.

Colin: Have you?

George: (*Changing subject quickly*) Talking of which, ready for your first lesson?

Colin: Not half. Nothing scares me...

Nora: (*Off stage*) Yoo hoo!

Colin: Except this...

(*Nora enters*)

Nora: There you are you useless lump. Honestly if laziness was an Olympic sport you'd come fourth so you didn't have to climb the podium (*Clips Colin round the ear, then notices George and changes immediately to a flirty sweetheart*) Oh Gorgeous George – I didn't notice you there behind the idiot.

Colin: Mom!

George: Morning Mrs Bone.

Nora: How many times, call me Nora.

Colin: (*Still rubbing his head*) Call me an ambulance.

Nora: Oh stop moaning.

Colin: You're late mom, you were supposed to help us.

Nora: I can explain. You know how when you're sitting on the toilet and you realise there's no loo roll left so you have to do that silly walk with your pants around your ankles to get some more?

Colin: Like a penguin?

Nora: Yes. Well I had to do that.

George: That's a visual image I never want again.

Nora: Fortunately there was a Tesco Express on the corner.

George: That must have been embarrassing.

Nora: Oh I'm not easily embarrassed.

Colin: As you can see from that dress.

Nora: Although, it did make me realise I could do with losing a bit of weight.

Colin: Only a bit?

Nora: Because when my pants were round my ankles, my bum was still in them.

George: Anyway....you're here now Mrs...Nora.

Nora: Yes, I'm here to butter up the locals and I've bought some sweeties by way of bribery.

George: Do you think the villagers will be tempted?

Colin: Let's ask them.

Nora: Who? Where are they?

Colin: Out there – in the gloom.

Nora: (*Noticing the audience*) Oh yes. (*Stares at the audience*) Do you know I can always tell what an audience is going to be like just by looking at them. Well goodnight.

(*Nora starts to exit, Colin pulls her back*)

Colin: Come back mom!

Nora: Only joking. Trouble is I was put off by this woman in the front row in tears. (*pointing to front row*) Look.

George: It might be tears of joy.

Nora: Is that her name? Oh Joy, what's the matter, why are you crying? Is it because of your haircut?

Colin: Be nice and introduce yourself.

Nora: Oh yes. I am Nora Bone, I run the main attraction at Blackheart's circus.

Colin: The burger van in the car park.

George: Award winning burger van...

Nora: Oh yes, it's got four Michelin tyres.

Colin: And you also have responsibility for the tent.

Nora: Yes, when we get to a new town I oversee all aspects of the erection... there's nothing I don't know about a big top.

George: Stands to reason.

Nora: Talking of big tops, you will see that I am wearing my new American bra today.

Colin: American bra?

Nora: Yes, one Yank and it's off.

Colin: Come on mom share the sweeties with the boys and girls.

Nora: All right you can have some, but only if you come and see the circus later – will you do that? (*Audience respond*) Oh you're so much better than last night. All right then, here you are.

(*They throw sweets out into the audience*).

George: That's it, this is the last one.

Nora: Right, better get back to it. Ladies and gentlemen do we have a show for you tonight (*into the wings*) Do we have a show for them tonight? Yes? Oh good. Better get on with it then – come on.

Colin: Coming George?

George: Yep, I'll just put these last couple of posters up.

Colin: OK, don't be long. Bye boys and girls!

(*Colin exits*).

George: Do you want to know a secret boys and girls? It was me that let all the animals escape. All except Chunky the lion – he just won't leave. He's as soft as a kitten with me, but ferocious with anyone else. So we put on a show for the audience and Blackheart is none the wiser. And once Colin is trained up, Blackheart will have someone else to do his dirty work and me and Chunky can go off and find some new adventures – maybe even settle down, or better still appear on Strictly

(current dancing programme), or both! Find someone I can dance into the sunset with! (Adapt these lines to suit song choice)

MUSIC 2: I Wanna Dance With Somebody - George

(Lily enters as George busies himself putting up a poster)

Lily: (To audience) Seems to me that here's just the sort of hero we need to help keep the animals of Gigglewick Wood safe from Ivor Blackheart – what do you think boys and girls? (Audience shout yes). Right then, let's start by giving him a reason to stick around. With a little wave of my wand, we'll sprinkle some Lily of the Valley on his aspirations...

She waves her wand and exits as Goldilocks enters.

Goldy: Good morning. You must be from the circus.

George: You're right, was it my dashing good looks, obvious charm, or the heroic lion taming square cut jaw?

Goldy: No. I saw you putting the poster up.

George: Oh, well then yes. I am from the circus – George.

Goldy: (They shake hands) Fanny Bogsprocket.

George: That's not a name you hear every day.

Goldy: I do... Although most people call me Goldilocks.

George: I can see why. If you don't mind me saying, you're very pretty Miss Bogsprocket.

Goldy: I know.

George: Oh.

Goldy: It's a curse. I'm just a milk maid on the farm but I want to follow my father into politics when I'm older. Trouble is people just think of me as a blonde bimbo with no brains and low morals.

George: But those are the perfect qualifications.

Goldy: Come off it, who would want to hear me make a speech?

George: I'd be delighted to see your hustings.

Goldy: Oh George, you might be the first man who's taken me seriously.

George: I take falling in love very seriously indeed. I don't suppose you'd like to see me in action?

Goldy: That's rather forward of you.

George: I mean at the circus tonight. I'm the star of the show!

Goldy: If you say so yourself. I'll make my own mind up, when I come to see you later, bye!

(Goldilocks exits)

George: Blimey – isn't she lovely boys and girls? (*Audience respond*). And I bet she can dance too! Right, better go – I promised Colin his first lion taming lesson - wish me luck!

(George exits with a slap of the thigh. Seyoncee enters and Mayor enters op. side, they meet centre.)

Seyoncee: Good morning, are you villagers?

Mayor: Well, not all of them no. There's Bill and Albert, quite a few of us really.

Seyoncee: I am from the circus.

Mayor: Ah yes of course – the bearded lady I presume?

Seyoncee: No.

Mayor: Well it was just the, er... never mind. I am Mayor Hubert Bogsprocket and it was me who booked you to come to Gigglewick.

Seyoncee: Then you can help me. Where might I find some animals around town? Is there a pet shop?

Mayor: There used to be – specialised in exotic pets, mostly spiders. But it went bust.

Seyoncee: Why?

Mayor: People were just getting them off the web.

Seyoncee: I was thinking something a little larger.

Mayor: Gilbert Codwalloper has a goldfish for sale.

Seyoncee: We need something different, spectacular, unbelievable.

Mayor: It's quite a big goldfish.

Seyoncee: No fish.

Mayor: I suppose, there is the story of the magical bears...

Seyoncee: Tell me more.

Mayor: No, no, it's just silly superstition. I don't want to spread gossip if I can't prove it to be true.

Seyoncee: What sort of politician are you? Don't worry I have ways of making you talk. I'm a hypnotist.

(Seyoncee proceeds to wave her arms mysteriously as she hypnotises him).

Mayor: Oh I don't believe in all that...

Seyoncee: Look into my eyes, not around the eyes, look into my eyes, you are feeling sleepy. And...

Mayor: (Slightly dazed) Load of old mumbo jumbo... (Goes into a trance).

Seyoncee: ... You're under. (Mayor looks rigidly ahead) Now what about these magic bears?

Mayor: Legend tells of the bears deep in Gigglewick Wood, who can walk and talk and sing and dance...

Seyoncee: This is more like it!

Mayor: But beware! For no-one has ever seen the bears and lived to tell the tale.

Seyoncee: I'll bear that in mind. Thanks for the info – but since you said that hypnotism doesn't work, and because we might all get a laugh out of it – from now on every time someone says the word 'village' you will think you are a chicken, until someone shouts out the name of er... oh I know – the thing you love the most. (She clicks her fingers) And you're back in the room.

(Mayor awakes from his trance).

Mayor: ... So you'll not get anything out of me on that score I'm afraid I've had amnesia for as long as I can remember.

Seyoncee: All right – forget I mentioned it.

Mayor: Mentioned what?

Seyoncee: Hypnotism.

Mayor: Ah yes, we don't want any of that nonsense around here thank you – good day to you! (exits)

Seyoncee: Idiot. Performing bears eh? My master will be pleased ha ha ha! (*She cackles to the heavens and there is thunder and lightning.*)

Blackout.

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Scene 2: On the Way to the Forest

Front Tabs – woodland scene. Nora and Colin enter.

Colin: Hello folks!

Audience: Ey up Colin!

Nora: Never mind all that, where's George? Did you tell him to hurry up with them posters?

Colin: He was too busy chatting up a young lady – so I left him to it.

Nora: Lucky girl. No doubt that'll be another free ticket he's given away....

Colin: It's all about bums on seats.

Nora: Yes it is (*to audience*) tell your friends. (*To Colin*) Ooh one look at Gorgeous George with that man eating lion tonight she'll be butter in his hands.

Colin: Don't you mean putty in his hands?

Nora: Oh yes, I always get them two mixed up.

Colin: No wonder your sandwiches taste terrible.

Nora: And me windows fell out. You see I always relied on your late father to find out how to do jobs around the house.

Colin: Why?

Nora: He was DIY curious.

Colin: Mom, how did you know Dad had passed away?

Nora: The doctor pronounced him dead.

Colin: Oh no! I've been pronouncing it Dad all this time!

Nora: Come on you idiot.

(She drags him off by the ear and they exit. Daddy and Mommy Bear enter op. side, she is carrying a picnic basket).

Daddy: Every year at the picnic it's the same – salmon and honey.

Mommy: Those are the bear essentials.

Daddy: Makes a change from porridge I suppose.

Mommy: Really? And what else would you like?

Daddy: I've always wanted to try baked bean pie.

Mommy: Bean pie!

Daddy: Yes, I mean porridge for every meal, is very hard to swallow.

(Baby Bear enters.)

Baby: I love porridge mommy. And I love picnics!

Mommy: There you are Baby Bear – keep up dear.

Baby: You and Daddy aren't arguing again are you Mommy?

Daddy: Of course not Baby Bear.

Baby: Only this morning you had a big row about how long to leave the tea bag in the cup.

Mommy: That had been brewing for ages.

Daddy: Male and female are just different that's all.

Baby: Like when?

Mommy: For instance, when a woman says smell this, it usually smells nice.

Daddy: Opposites attract Baby Bear. I mean, me and your mother are as different as chalk and cheese.

Mommy: Although whoever coined the phrase as different as chalk and cheese had clearly never tasted Aldi Cheddar.

Baby: Give me an example.

Daddy: I like watching Grizzly Adams.

Mommy: A ridiculous programme about a bear and his pet man.

Daddy: Whereas your mom would prefer us to watch Strictly (*or some popular talent show*).

Baby: So who got knocked out this week Daddy?

Mommy: But Baby Bear, it's the differences between us that make life interesting. I am a Panda bear all friendly and happy, whereas Daddy is a Grizzly bear all grumpy and miserable and you are a Polar bear.

Baby: But how?

Daddy: When she was pregnant, you're mom had a craving for Glacier Mints.

Baby: Are you sure I'm a polar bear Mommy?

Daddy: Of course you are.

Baby: But are you really sure I'm a polar bear?

Mommy: Yes, yes you're a polar bear.

Baby: Are you really really sure I'm a polar bear?

Daddy: Yes, why?

Baby: 'Cause I am really cold.

Mommy: (*Wrapping a blanket around him*) Here – have the picnic blanket.

Daddy: That reminds me, the picnic – it'll be starting soon!

MUSIC 3: Teddy Bear's Picnic – Three Bears

(*Lily enters*)

Lily: Hello! Oh I'm so glad I've found you.

Baby: Hello Lily. Are you coming to the Teddy Bear's picnic?

Lily: It's been cancelled.

Daddy: Cancelled!

Lily: You see Ivor Blackheart...

Mommy: Don't be silly dear – you've a lovely kind heart.

Lily: No, the owner of Blackheart's circus. He's hunting for animals to force into performing, and what with you being talking bears...

Mommy: I was just saying Daddy Bear needed a job.

Daddy: The circus would be no good for me.

Lily: Why not?

Daddy: I'm a plasterer.

Lily: No you don't understand. You'd be kept in terrible conditions, work late into the evening for no pay, and made to sing and dance for the entertainment of the crowd.

Daddy: Sounds like amateur dramatics.

Lily: I'm telling all the animals to run and hide while they can.

Baby: Don't worry mom – I got this.

(Baby bear starts dancing around)

Daddy: Why are you doing that dance Baby Bear?

Baby: It's to keep the baddies away.

Mommy: But there are no baddies here.

Baby: It's working!

(Mommy stops him dancing with a paw on his shoulder)

Lily: Don't worry. I'll weave a magic spell to make the trees around your cottage grow deep and dark – they'll not find it easily.

Baby: Then how will I know where it is?

Lily: Don't worry Baby bear – those with a heart that's honest and true will be still able to find it.

Daddy: And I'll keep on patrol and scare away anyone who gets too close.

Mommy: We'd better get back then. Thanks for the warning Lily.

(The three bears exit).

Lily: *(To audience)* Let's hope my spell is strong enough to protect them. Oh oh here they come!

(Lily exits s.r., Blackheart enters s.l.)

Blackheart: Oh boo all you like, I'm used to it – I used to play for West Bromwich Albion *(Local team)*.

(Seyoncee enters s.r)

Seyoncee: I have news master.

Blackheart: What is it?

Seyoncee: It's a nightly bulletin of current affairs.

Blackheart: Sometimes I wonder why you're even in this show.

Seyoncee: Me too, I was supposed to be at the psychics' convention in Blackpool this week, but it was cancelled.

Blackheart: Why?

Seyoncee: Unforeseen circumstances.

Blackheart: Get on with it!

Seyoncee: Somewhere in this forest there is a rare creature, almost extinct, not seen for decades about whom the locals barely dare speak for fear of ridicule ...

Blackheart: Conservative voters? (*or some topical or local reference*).

Seyoncee: Bears, master. Talking, singing, dancing, bears.

Blackheart: Perfect! Now all we have to do is find them. Have you ever hunted bear?

Seyoncee: No, but I once went fishing in just me pants

Blackheart: Excellent – we'll head deeper into the woods later. First I have to check everything is in hand for opening night.

(*Blackout*)

Scene 3: Inside the Big Top.

The interior of the big top. Performers are milling about, clowns, jugglers, acrobats, etc. Colin enters, he is carrying a chair the legs of which have been chewed away. One of his trouser legs is tattered and torn.

Colin: Hello folks!

Audience: Ey up Colin!

Colin: I've just had my first lion taming lesson, (*indicating his trouser leg*) although it was mostly mucking out lion poop.

(A performer crosses, perhaps juggling or other circus skills, and take the chair from Colin as they pass)

Performer: Shovelling lion poop Colin? Why don't you just quit?

Colin: What, and give up showbusiness?

MUSIC 4: No Business Like Showbusiness – Colin and Company

Colin: Yep, I love the circus life. The roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd. Although I'm not sure I'll ever be able to tame that lion.

(Seyoncee enters.)

Seyoncee: That's because you're a snivelling coward.

Colin: You're not wrong.

Seyoncee: Yes, I can tell a lot about a person by what they're like.

Colin: Trouble is I can't move quickly enough. The doctor says I've got fluid on the knee.

Seyoncee: Then you're not aiming straight.

Colin: At least Chunky is safe inside a cage. I'd never make it as a big game hunter in the real jungle.

Seyoncee: Here – try this, my very special potion of courage.

(She hands him a potion bottle, Colin drinks it)

Colin: Argh! That tastes disgusting!

Seyoncee: It will do - you're supposed to rub it in.

Colin: Oh this is hopeless.

Seyoncee: I could hypnotise you if you like? Convince you that you're brave.

Colin: Hypnotism is only for people with weak minds.

Seyoncee: Exactly – you're perfect.

Colin: I don't believe in all that...

Seyoncee: Look into the eyes, not around the eyes. (*hypnotises him*) You're under. Don't believe in hypnosis eh? Want to be brave eh? I'll show you. From now on every time you see a scary creature you'll burst into song. Oh and to make it even more fun when you hear the word 'jungle' you'll think you're a monkey. My enchantment will not be broken until someone shouts out the name of the thing you love most! And (*clicks fingers*) you're back in the room.

Colin: Mumbo jumbo. But thanks anyway.

Seyoncee: Please yourself. Ha ha ha!

(She exits laughing hysterically – there is thunder and lighting).

Colin: What a funny woman – and such an overactor!

(George enters)

George: So Colin, one lesson down and I think Chunky likes you.

Colin: Does he?

George: He let you keep the leg didn't he?

Colin: This might be the single worst thing I've done.

George: Nonsense, I'm sure there are lots of other things you're terrible at.

Colin: Like what?

George: All right, tell me something beginning with A that you're bad at.

Colin: Spelling.

(Nora enters).

Nora: What are you two up to?

Colin: Argh! You made me jump mom.

Nora: There's nothing to be afraid of love, just your old mom. Come on give us a kiss.

Colin: (Sings – *I Will Survive*) ‘Once I was afraid I was petrified’!

George: What was that?

Colin: I don’t know I just felt the urge to burst into song.

Nora: Well feel the urge to get some work done we’ve got a circus to set up...

George: I have been showing him the ropes.

Nora: Oh yes, are you having any trouble with the lion taming lessons?

Colin: Yes.

Nora: What troubles you the most?

Colin: The lion.

George: I didn’t realise that Colin hadn’t been near a lion until today.

Colin: That’s because mom would never take me to the zoo.

Nora: Colin, if the zoo want you they’ll come and get you.

(*Goldilocks enters. Meets George at centre*)

Goldy: Hello again. George isn’t it? Have you seen Mr Blackheart around?

George: Miss Bogsprocket, we meet again.

Goldy: Please, call me Goldilocks – everyone else does on account of my long, totally natural blonde locks. All except my hairdresser that is. (*Aside to audience*) She knows the truth.

Colin: (Into a cough) Extensions.

Nora: I went to my hairdresser and asked him what cut would make me look better.

Colin: What did he say?

Nora: Power cut.

George: Goldilocks, this is Nora and her son Colin.

Goldy: How lovely to have a mother and son working together. Are you close?

Colin: Yes sometimes I stand right next to her (*he does*).

George: They’ve been with the circus man and boy.