

# Monologue Mania!

## Bigger Than Life

by Cynthia Mercati

**MALE / 20s to 50s / Present day**

**About the Play:** Tall tales, folktales, talking tales, noodles, whoppers, windies, stretchers — everyone has a different name for these stories. Whatever you call them, America’s legends come to life in this play. When P.T. Barnum arrives in town with his traveling troupe, the mayor isn’t so sure Barnum’s on the level. So the master showman agrees to give a sample of his wares. What follows is some of the best loved characters in American folklore come to life to show us their stories.

**About the Scene:** Pecos Bill describes how he created the Grand Canyon.

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**PECOS BILL:**

I don’t mind tellin’ ya that for the first time in my life, I was a mite scared. Now you might be a-askin’ yourself, just what did I do to get over it.

[...]

I gave myself a talkin’ to, that’s what I did. “Bill,” I said, that bein’ my name, “Bill, you never met nothin’ yet that’s got the best of you! And you’re not gonna let some squint-eyed, bow legged, maggoty varmint tell you any different!” So I climbed aboard that cyclone’s back. And away we went! We were back flippin’ and side windin’, knockin’ down mountains, blowin’ holes outta the ground and tyin’ rivers in knots!! But in Arizona it nearly got me! It tossed and I turned! It threw me so high I had to duck to let the moon go by! “Bill,” I said, that bein’ my name, “Bill, just hang on!” And sure enough, I did! I thumbed that cyclone in the withers. I flopped it across the ears with my hat just like it was my favorite hoss! And when it finally set me down, I took a look around. And dad gummed if we hadn’t cut out the Grand Canyon!!