

Monologue Mania!

The Selfish Giant

Adapted by Michelle Van Loon

Any gender / Ageless / Timeless

About the play: Oscar Wilde's classic religious themed children's story about a Selfish Giant who wouldn't share his beautiful garden becomes a joyous play that touches on themes of friendship and heart-changing faith. *The Selfish Giant* comes home from a long trip to find children playing in his garden. He kicks them out, threatening to bring them to justice for trespassing. But a harsh winter—in the form of comic characters Frost, Snow, Hail, and North Wind—brings the realization to the giant that the children who used to trespass in his garden implanted friendship in this special place. The Giant's heart melts in a life-changing moment, and spring, along with the children, returns to his garden.

About the scene: Frost, Hail, and Snow all sit in the Giant's garden, conjuring winter to take over the garden bit by bit. North Wind enters, talking up a storm and touting his achievements of the past. Frost, Hail, and Snow are not impressed with his resume of destruction, but North Wind insists on his capabilities, causing devastation wherever he goes. *(Note: [...] indicates where another character interrupts the monologue to speak. The monologue should continue as if the character has heard the other person or people respond and react.)*

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NORTH WIND:

Hi, how are y'all? Fabulous to see you. *(High-fives HAIL.)* Hail, Hail! *(Grabs FROST for a giant bearhug, but FROST promptly wiggles out of it.)* Frost, you haven't changed a bit since I last saw you. *(Wanders around, inspecting the garden.)* Nice work, Snow. Great place, guys. Love what you've done with it. I wouldn't change a thing. *(As he continues, he moves props and "white stuff" from place to place. All they can do is stare at him, dumb-founded.)* You wouldn't believe where I was last. Antarctica! Everything points North from there. I was in my glory,

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(continued)

being North Wind and all. Get it, North... North Wind? Beautiful place here. It ain't Antarctica, but no place is. Here, every tree looks like it's been decorated for a party. Well, let the party begin. I'm here. Let's order a pizza. This is gonna be great, just great. *(Gives them ALL a big bear hug. They stand, arms at their sides, not returning his affection.)* It's gonna be like old times. Yeah, remember the winter of '93? Did we have a time! One big blow-out after another. I made your work look good, if I do say so myself. Don't you agree?

[...]

People say it all the time. They say, "Would you look at the way the wind has rearranged our roof?"

[...]

Tornado? Well... yes, if you insist on splitting hairs. I like to think that we work in tandem, he and I. We're sort of a team. *(Grabs the unwitting HAIL conspiratorially.)* I'll let you in on a secret—I taught him everything he knows. All the basics, anyway. He started lifting weights, bulking up... did that on his own. But all the basics he learned from me. Just watch this. *(Grabs them ALL by the hands and yells.)* Red Rover, Red Rover, let Winter come over!