Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Prince?

By Craig Sodaro

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WHO’S AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD PRINCE?

By CRAIG SODARO

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(In Order of Speaking)

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<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>PAISY</td>
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<td>called upon to find out why Charming is not… well, charming</td>
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<td>Snow White’s stepmother; no long wicked, but still bossy</td>
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<td>KING PYNN</td>
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<td>36</td>
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<td>STEPMOTHER</td>
<td>surprisingly helpful, but put off by Prince’s change in attitude</td>
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<td>kills giants and a pest expert</td>
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<td>water expert</td>
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<td>Snow White’s brash dwarf friend</td>
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<td>BEAUTY</td>
<td>cares for Beast; cares not for the “new” prince</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEAST</td>
<td>always has an appetite</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOLDILOCKS</td>
<td>keeps her eye on the Big Bad Wolf</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIG BAD WOLF</td>
<td>rehabilitated; more card shark than man-eater</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>HANSEL</td>
<td>beneficiary of Gretel’s renowned cooking skills</td>
<td>4</td>
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SETTING
Time: A modern-day once upon a time.
Place: A land neighboring the Kingdom of Pynndrop.

SET DESCRIPTION
All but one scene take place in the castle of Prince Charming and Cinderella, which has a table and at least one chair UP CENTER. Other royal trappings and decorations such as thrones, banners, columns, flowers, or art can be added to create a more regal feel.

ACT TWO, Scene One takes place in Snow White’s kitchen, played before the curtain with no required set pieces.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE
Scene One: Prince Charming and Cinderella’s castle, next to the Kingdom of Pynndrop. It is early afternoon the day before the engagement party for Queen Foraday and King Pynn.

Scene Two: Prince Charming and Cinderella’s castle, the following morning. It is the day of Queen and King’s engagement party.

ACT TWO
Scene One: Snow White’s kitchen, a short time later.

Scene Two: Prince Charming and Cinderella’s castle, that evening.
WHO’S AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD PRINCE?

ACT ONE
Scene One

1 AT RISE: The castle of Prince Charming and Cinderella, early afternoon. SNOW WHITE sits at the table checking names off a list as CINDERELLA paces DOWNSTAGE.

SNOW WHITE: Red’s coming, and so is Beauty. I hope she brings Beast. He’s always so much fun! And... that about does it. (Stands and moves to CINDERELLA.) Guest list is all set, Cinderella. (CINDERELLA doesn’t respond.) Cinderella? Are you all right?

CINDERELLA: (Continues to pace, distracted.) Huh? Oh, yeah, sure. Couldn’t be better.

SNOW WHITE: I said the guest list is all set.

CINDERELLA: That’s great. You always know how to throw a party, Snow White.

SNOW WHITE: I’m not throwing it, Cinderella. You are. Remember?

CINDERELLA: Oh, yeah, sure. It’s one of your little friends’ birthday, right? Whose is it? Squeezy’s? Blissful’s?

SNOW WHITE: No, it’s my stepmother’s engagement party.

CINDERELLA: Oh, yeah. The wicked Queen is marrying one of your little friends.

SNOW WHITE: No! She’s no longer “wicked.” We dropped that, remember? She’s just Queen Foraday. And she’s getting engaged to King Pynn, who rules the Kingdom of Pynndrop, which is the kingdom neighboring yours.

CINDERELLA: Of course, I remember everything. You’ve got to forgive me. I... haven’t had my morning coffee.

SNOW WHITE: It’s one in the afternoon.

CINDERELLA: Then I’d better get a cup! Right away.

SNOW WHITE: Well, I’ve got to run and get some balloons and streamers, and a couple of party games like “Pin the Tail on the Dragon” and “Bobbing for Gargoyles.” Be back soon. Ciao! (EXITs.)

CINDERELLA: (Pulls out her phone and dials.) Hello? Fairy Godmother? It’s Cinderella. Oh, fine. No, I don’t need another carriage. No, the footman is doing okay. Listen, Godmother, I desperately need your help. No, it’s not Stepmother. Just get over here as fast as you can. Oh, and wear a disguise. No, I can’t tell you. Not over the phone! I’ll tell you when you get here. (Hangs up as MAISY and PAISY SCREAM OFF.)
MAISY: (Runs ON with PAISY.) Oh, Cinderella!
PAISY: Call him off, Sis!
CINDERELLA: Call who off?
MAISY: The Prince!

PRINCE: (Storms ON angrily.) If I’ve told you once, I’ve told you a thousand times—don’t feed Lightning any sugar cubes!
PAISY: But he likes them.
MAISY: He gives us that sad “Lightning needs a treat” look, and we just can’t resist.

PRINCE: Sugar cubes make him fat and lazy.
PAISY: Do you know how many sugar cubes you’d have to give him to make him fat?
PRINCE: I’m the only one who can give him sugar cubes. He’s my horse!
MAISY: Oh, so that’s it. You’re jealous. Well, of all the—

PRINCE: Out! Out! Out! A man’s home is his castle, and I want you out of my castle!
MAISY: Boy, whoever named you Prince Charming must have been off their rocker.

PAISY: We’re going to buy dresses for the party tomorrow, Cinderella. Want to come?
CINDERELLA: No, you go ahead. Charming and I need to have a little talk.

MAISY: Good luck. (EXITS with PAISY.)
PRINCE: (Follows, calling OFF.) And my mother wasn’t off her rocker!

PRINCE: Charming? Are you feeling all right?
PRINCE: (SOUND EFFECT: PHONE RINGS. He pulls out his phone and answers it. The following lines are into the phone but delivered in a way that appears as a response to CINDERELLA.) Yeah, yeah, yeah.
CINDERELLA: You seem to be a bit... nervous.

PRINCE: Sure! Why not?
CINDERELLA: Can I get some tea to calm you down?
PRINCE: No, never!
CINDERELLA: How about... letting me massage your temples? You always say I’ve got magic fingers.

PRINCE: No way, José! (Hangs up in a huff.)
CINDERELLA: Charming, who was that?
PRINCE: My barber. (Beat.)
CINDERELLA: Charming, can we talk?
PRINCE: No need to say another word. Your family’s got to go.
CINDERELLA: What?

PRINCE: Time for them to find some new digs.

CINDERELLA: But, Charming, we’ve got five hundred rooms here, and you’ve fired most of the staff. And tomorrow we’re hosting the big engagement party for Queen Foraday and King Pynn, and... and... (Begins to cry.)

PRINCE: (Whips out a handkerchief. Gently.) Here. (Then, with hostility.) And be sure I get my hanky back! (EXITS.)

GODMOTHER: (ENTERS dressed as a florist. She holds a large bouquet of flowers in front of her face.) Petunia Blossom, here with your order, Cinderella.

CINDERELLA: I... I didn’t order anythin—

GODMOTHER: (Sets flowers on table.) Yes, you did, sweetie.

CINDERELLA: Fairy Godmother! Is it you?

GODMOTHER: (Looks around suspiciously.) Shh! Ms. Blossom to you.

CINDERELLA: Oh, I’m so glad you came!

GODMOTHER: You look awful. What’s going on?

CINDERELLA: Oh, Fairy Godmother, I just don’t know.

GODMOTHER: Now you sit down and tell me all about it.

CINDERELLA: (Sits.) It’s too, too awful.

GODMOTHER: Nothing can be that bad.

CINDERELLA: Oh, Fairy Godmother, Prince Charming has lost his... his... his...

GODMOTHER: Hair?

CINDERELLA: No, I could live with that.

GODMOTHER: His appetite?

CINDERELLA: Nope. He eats like a horse.

GODMOTHER: (Shocked.) Not his teeth?

CINDERELLA: No, Fairy Godmother, he’s lost his... his... his charm!

(GODMOTHER: (Dissolves into tears.)

GODMOTHER: Oh, that’s ridiculous. Prince Charming is the kindest, most generous, compassionate, and caring person I know. He’s charming!

CINDERELLA: He used to be.

GODMOTHER: Are you sure you’re not just sensitive because of the big party?

CINDERELLA: I wish I were. (Calls OFF.) Charming! Charming!

PRINCE: (ENTERS eating a doughnut.) Where’d you get these doughnuts? They’re stale.
CINDERELLA: From Dunkin’ Doughballs, the same place as always.
PRINCE: (Throws his arms up.) Well, don’t get them from there anymore. (Beat.) So why did you call me in here?
CINDERELLA: Oh, um… I just wanted you to see the flowers for tomorrow’s party.
PRINCE: You pulled me away from a Lakers game to look at flowers?
CINDERELLA: Aren’t they pretty?
PRINCE: Flowers are a total waste of money, Cinderella. Do you think I’m made of money?
CINDERELLA: But our florist here has done such a beautiful job.
PRINCE: She ought to go out and get a real job.
GODMOTHER: But, Your Highness, flowers bring joy.
PRINCE: They belong outside! Inside they give us hay fever. (Sneezes.)
CINDERELLA: Bless you.
PRINCE: Forget that. Give me my hanky back! (CINDERELLA hands PRINCE the handkerchief.) Yeesh! Now let me finish watching the game! (SOUND EFFECT: PHONE RINGS. He answers it.) Yeah? Yeah? Yeah? (EXITS.)
GODMOTHER: (Sits.) Oh, my dear! I see what you mean.
CINDERELLA: He doesn’t do much other than play with that phone of his.
GODMOTHER: A new one?
CINDERELLA: The latest iDroidful.
GODMOTHER: I’ve been thinking about getting one. I wonder how he likes it?
CINDERELLA: He loves it.
GODMOTHER: Well, no wonder, with all the apps you can get.
CINDERELLA: Fairy Godmother, this isn’t a phone commercial. I’m desperate! That is not the man who swept me off my feet at that ball five years ago.
GODMOTHER: Yes, you’re right. He certainly acts like he got up on the wrong side of the bed.
CINDERELLA: He got up on the same side as always.
GODMOTHER: That’s it, then! All you have to do is push his bed to the other side of the room so he has to get out on the opposite side.
CINDERELLA: Do you think that will work?
GODMOTHER: It’s the only way to cure. Now, I’ll go take care of that while he’s watching the game.
CINDERELLA: You know where the room is?

GODMOTHER: Of course I do, sweetie. Leave it all to me. (EXITS.)

QUEEN: (ENTERS with KING.) Oh, Cinderella! We thought we’d just let ourselves in since you no longer have a butler.

CINDERELLA: (Curtsies.) Your Majesty.

QUEEN: Oh, come, come, we don’t need to do that anymore.

CINDERELLA: But, Your Majesty—

QUEEN: Stop calling me “Your Majesty.” It makes me sound pretentious. It’s just plain “Queenie.”

CINDERELLA: Yes, Your Maj— I mean, Queenie.

QUEEN: That’s better.

CINDERELLA: If you’re looking for Snow White, she’s not here. She left a little while ago to go get some decorations.

QUEEN: Oh, that sweet girl, doing all this for Kingy and me. Oh! Let me introduce you. Cinderella, this is King Pynn, ruler of the Kingdom of Pynndrop. Kingy, this is Cinderella—she’s the one I told you about. Worked in the kitchen and scrubbed floors and all that until, well, Prince Charming just flipped over her. Now here she is with a castle and everything.

KING: Oh, oh! So you’re the lucky little housemaid.

CINDERELLA: Yes, well...

KING: Nice place you’ve got here. How many rooms?

CINDERELLA: Five hundred.

KING: Not bad! We’ve got six-fifty, but we do tax our peasants a bit more, I think.

QUEEN: Let’s not concern ourselves with taxes, Kingy. (To CINDERELLA.) I just thought I’d show Kingy where our engagement party’s going to be tomorrow night.

CINDERELLA: Well, this is the place! We’ve got almost everything ready. Flowers just came.

QUEEN: Isn’t that lovely, Kingy? (KING stares off, daydreaming.) Kingy?

KING: (Comes to.) Oh, why yes, Queenie! Anything you say, dear.

CINDERELLA: (Points.) And the band will be over there.

PRINCE: (ENTERS.) Band? I’m not paying for a band.

CINDERELLA: Oh, Charming, we have already discussed it, and—

PRINCE: What do you think, I’m made of money?

CINDERELLA: You already said that.

PRINCE: Well, do you think money grows on trees? (CINDERELLA rolls her eyes.)
QUEEN: This, Kingy, is Prince Charming.

PRINCE: Kingy? Oh, are you the guy who owns Burger King? Let me tell you something, buddy—

CINDERELLA: No, Prince! This is King Pynn of the Kingdom of Pynndrop, Charming. We’re hosting the engagement party because he and Queen Foraday are getting married.

PRINCE: Oh, yeah? (Puts his arm around KING and draws him DOWNSTAGE.) You better think twice about that, buddy, or pretty soon it’s going to be all “Yes, dear” and “Whatever you say, dear.”

CINDERELLA: (Admonishingly.) Charming!

QUEEN: Don’t listen to him, Kingy.

KING: Yes, dear.

PRINCE: See what I mean?

QUEEN: Well, Prince Charming, I hope you plan to attend our engagement party tomorrow evening.

PRINCE: I ought to. It’s costing me enough.

KING: Now, young man, if you’re worried about cost, let me chip in.

QUEEN: Yes, the Kingdom of Pynndrop is loaded with diamonds. Right, Kingy?

KING: Well, yes, we do have more diamonds than anywhere else on Earth.

PRINCE: Yeah, well, I’ll send you a bill. (To CINDERELLA.) But still, no band! (Pulls out his phone and marches OFF.)

KING: I think somebody got up on the wrong side of the bed this morning.

CINDERELLA: He’ll be more like himself tomorrow.

KING: I can’t imagine why anybody would have named him Charming.

QUEEN: Well, we can’t all live up to our names. (CINDERELLA bursts into tears and races OFF.)

KING: (To QUEEN.) Maybe we ought to have our party at Olive Garden.

QUEEN: Don’t be silly, Kingy. Cinderella will see to it that everything tomorrow night will be wonderful! Now, let’s get over to Ramon’s dance studio for our lesson. You need a bit more “cha” in your cha-cha-cha.

KING: Whatever you say, dear. (EXITS with QUEEN as LIGHTS FADE to BLACK.)

End of Scene One
ACT ONE
Scene Two

LIGHTS UP on Prince Charming and Cinderella’s castle the following morning. CINDERELLA ENTERS, nervous. She looks OFF RIGHT and OFF LEFT, then pulls out her phone and dials.

CINDERELLA: Hello, is this, uh, Petunia Blossom, the florist? This is Cinderella. I need you here desperately. The flowers have… uh… have… wilted! Yes, yes! They’re worse than ever. So, hurry. Hurry! (Hangs up as PRINCE stomps ON followed by STEPMOTHER, PAISY, and MAISY.)

STEPMOTHER: But, Your Highness, you asked for a stack of blueberry pancakes, and we brought you a stack of blueberry pancakes.

MAISY: (Holds her hands apart.) It was this tall.

PAISY: Slathered with butter and syrup.

PRINCE: I wanted it… (Holds his hands far apart.) …this tall, and I asked for pecan pancakes!

STEPMOTHER: Oh, you’ve become impossible.

MAISY: I don’t know how you can stand it, Cinderella.

PAISY: He used to be like a brother.

PRINCE: To you? No way I could be related to a pair of geese with a turkey for a mother. Gobble, gobble, gobble!

STEPMOTHER: Well, if that’s how you feel, we’ll move out.

CINDERELLA: Oh, no, Stepmother, there’s no need to do that.

STEPMOTHER: Prince Charming just called me a turkey!

CINDERELLA: He’s just joking, right, Charming? Just a friendly joke?

PRINCE: Gobble, gobble, gobble!

STEPMOTHER: Come, girls. (To CINDERELLA.) We may or may not be back for the party.

CINDERELLA: Oh, please, Stepmother. You’ve got to come!

MAISY: Gee, Cinderella, good luck.

PAISY: Yeah, somebody got up on the wrong side of the bed again. (EXITS with STEPMOTHER and MAISY.)

PRINCE: And how come my bed was on the other side of the room last night? I can’t sleep that way.

CINDERELLA: Well, one of the servants must have—

PRINCE: We don’t have any servants anymore! And I want my breakfast.

GODMOTHER: (ENTERS dressed as a chef, with a fake mustache and fake Italian accent.) And-ah Luigi, he make-ah your breakfast just-ah the way you want. Nice, tall-ah stack of how you say? Flapjacks.
1 PRINCE: Pecan pancakes with butter cream syrup.  
   GODMOTHER: My mouth-ah waters just thinking about them.  
   PRINCE: They better be good! (EXITS.)  
   CINDERELLA: Um, who are you?  
5 GODMOTHER: Luigi. (As herself.) Some disguise, huh?  
   CINDERELLA: Oh, Godmother! I’m so glad you came.  
   GODMOTHER: So I guess it doesn’t matter what side of the bed he gets up on.  
   CINDERELLA: He’s getting worse.  
10 GODMOTHER: I sure wish you just needed a new dress or coach or something. That was easy. (Pulls out her phone and dials.)  
   CINDERELLA: Who’d you call?  
   GODMOTHER: (As she waits for the phone to pick up.) Hey, Cindy, baby. This might be hard, but I’m your Fairy Godmother. I can work wonders. (Into phone.) About time you answered! Up the beanstalk? You still go up there? Okay, fine. Can you get over to Cinderella’s castle ASAP? We’ve got a problem. Great! Ciao, baby.  
   CINDERELLA: That’s awful.  
   GODMOTHER: So we ought to check it out, right?  
15 CINDERELLA: Who does that?  
   JACK: (ENTERS with a suitcase labeled “Jack the Giant and Pest Killer.”) Jack the Giant and Pest Killer.  
   GODMOTHER: What kept you?  
   JACK: Fairy Godmother? What’s with the getup? It ain’t Halloween.  
20 GODMOTHER: Look, we’ve got a problem, Jack.  
   JACK: Big problems are my specialty. Two legs, four legs, eight legs—the more the merrier. Say, did I ever tell you about the time I climbed up the beanstalk and found myself face-to-face with a giant?  
25 GODMOTHER: It’s even bigger than that.  
   JACK: Holy smokes! It must be awful.  
   CINDERELLA: It is! Prince Charming’s lost his charm.  
   JACK: No foolin’! Why, that’s powerful sad, Cinderella, but what can I do about it?
GODMOTHER: Check the castle for pests. We might have a bug of some kind.

JACK: Well, let’s see... There’s the bimbo bug, but that makes people dumb. And there’s the jerk beetle—that makes people want to be powerful. Then there’s the grabbito, but that makes folks greedy...

GODMOTHER: This would be some kind of nasty critter that makes a person ornery.

JACK: I’ll do what I can.

CINDERELLA: Just don’t let the prince see you.

JACK: Check.

CINDERELLA: (Sniffles.) Easier said than done.

LITTLE MERMAID: (LITTLE MERMAID ENTERS.) Aurelia, the Little Mermaid! What are you doing here? The party’s not till tonight.

GODMOTHER: From me.

LITTLE MERMAID: (Confused.) Fairy Godmother?

GODMOTHER: Yup. I thought we ought to check the water in the castle. There might be too much fluoride or something in it.

LITTLE MERMAID: Is somebody sick?

CINDERELLA: Oh, not really.

GODMOTHER: But Prince Charming’s lost his charm.

LITTLE MERMAID: Oh, no! That’s hard to believe.

PRINCE: (ENTERS.) Hey! What are you doing dripping water all over the floor?

LITTLE MERMAID: I’m sorry, Your Highness.

CINDERELLA: Aurelia’s stopped by for a visit, Charming.

PRINCE: Yeah? Well, be sure you mop up so you don’t leave water spots everywhere. And, Luigi, I’ll need a couple of fried eggs to go with the pancakes.

GODMOTHER: (As Luigi.) Comin’ right-ah up, Your Highness. (PRINCE EXITS.)

LITTLE MERMAID: Gosh! He’s meaner than an octopus with shin splints.

GODMOTHER: (As herself.) Luigi better whip up some eggs. You check the water, Aurelia. And Cinderella, try to keep from crying. (EXITS.)

CINDERELLA: (Sniffles.) Easier said than done.

LITTLE MERMAID: Now, don’t cry, Cinderella... let’s just go check out your water supply and make sure that there’s nothing in it that could take away the prince’s charm.

End of Script Sample
PRODUCTION NOTES

PROPERTIES ONSTAGE

Table with two chairs.

PROPERTIES BROUGHT ON

ACT ONE

Scene One:
- Pen (or pencil) and paper (SNOW WHITE)
- Phone (CINDERELLA)
- Phone, handkerchief, doughnut (PRINCE)
- Large bouquet of flowers (FAIRY GODMOTHER)

Scene Two:
- Phone (CINDERELLA, PRINCE, FAIRY GODMOTHER)
- Suitcase marked “Jack the Giant and Pest Killer,” large stuffed garbage bag (JACK)
- Water bottle (LITTLE MERMAID)
- Bag of potato chips (GRETEL)
- Bag of groceries (SNOW WHITE)

ACT TWO

Scene One:
- Bag of groceries (SNOW WHITE)
- Cookie (BEAST)
- Phone (QUEEN)

Scene Two:
- Stuffed goose (MOTHER HUBBARD)
- Clutch purse containing phone (QUEEN)
- Cookie (BEAST)
- Rope (BIG BAD WOLF)
- Phone (PRINCE, GODMOTHER, QUEEN)

COSTUMES

Most characters can dress in a mix of modern and medieval fashion, using small accessories to establish a character’s identity. For example, CINDERELLA might wear a sparkling tiara and something light blue. SNOW WHITE could sport a pageboy wig. QUEEN FORADAY might wear a black cape and heavy makeup.

A few characters have specific costume requirements:

FAIRY GODMOTHER needs three different costumes: a flower vendor, a chef, and a disco queen. For laughs, have her basic costume
a traditional fairy godmother dress remain the same. When she is Petunia, she can add a flowery apron. When Luigi, she can don a mustache, a cooking apron, and a chef’s hat. When she’s Disco Dora, she can wear a sparkling vest, a wig, or go-go boots, etc.

CHEEKY wears a Hawaiian shirt and shorts. He sports a long white beard, mustache, and long white hair, perhaps under a typical dwarf cap. Cheeky should be shorter than Snow White.

BEAST can wear a mask since he does not have any lines and just growls and grunts.

BIG BAD WOLF wears a top hat with wolf ears attached. He also wears black pants and a t-shirt with a tux or formal wear printed on it.

SOUND EFFECTS
Phone ring, clap of thunder, door creaking open, tango music, conga music.
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Our affordable scripts offer straightforward costuming, trouble-free props and stage effects, and sets that can be as simple or as elaborate as you desire.

MAINTAIN CONTROL OF YOUR CASTING.
We help you tailor your play for your specific cast size, not the other way around.

BE ORIGINAL.
Get access to fresh, new musicals that let your actors practice true character development instead of simply mimicking Disney or the musicals that are done over and over again.

VIDEOTAPE YOUR SHOW AND POST ONLINE.
With Pioneer, you never have to worry about families wanting to videotape the production or post it on YouTube. In fact, we encourage it and don’t charge you anything extra to do so! And unlimited broadcast rights are available for just one additional royalty fee.