

# THE FAIRY TALE FARCE

## By Michael Bigelow Dixon & Jon Jory

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# THE FAIRY TALE FARCE

*A One-Act Comedy*

**By Michael Bigelow Dixon & Jon Jory**

**SYNOPSIS:** When a mother decides to read to her daughter the forgotten tale of Clumsy Thumbsy and her best friend Pim, the action travels to Fairyland, where Clumsy Thumbsy learns that her story will be read aloud by a human being for the first time in a hundred years. But wait—the Witches in Fairyland have been waiting their turn to star in their own tale, and they claim Clumsy has jumped their place in line. So they require Clumsy to meet three challenges head-on. Working with fairytale icons—Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, Jack, Hansel and Gretel, and Belle—Clumsy must write a text without making any typos, defeat an Ogre at thumb-wrestling, and answer unsolvable riddles posed by the Evil Puzzlemaster. If Thumbsy can overcome being clumsy by the surprising end of this play, she may just become your favorite new fairytale character!

**DURATION:** 35 minutes

**SETTING:** Sally's Bedroom and Fairyland.

**TIME:** Present.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(13 female, 3 male, 10+ any gender)*

MOTHER (f).....	mid-30s, easily recognizable as a mom. <i>(15 lines)</i>
LITTLE SALLY BLUEJAY (f).....	a child of 6 or 7 played by a 16 or 17-year-old actress. <i>(13 lines)</i>
PATSY PIM (f).....	best friend to Clumsy Thumbsy, dresses simply. <i>(33 lines)</i>
CLUMSY THUMBSY (f) .....	exuberant personality; when first seen, she wears a red dress with yellow polka-dots, or the opposite. She has a giant red bow in her hair and on her right hand a baseball glove. <i>(66 lines)</i>
WITCH 1 (f) .....	traditional witch. <i>(38 lines)</i>

- WITCH 2 (f) ..... traditional witch. (35 lines)
- WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST (f)..... walked right out of *The Wizard of Oz* film. (57 lines)
- LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD (f)..... recognizable as fairytale character, red coat, child-like. (22 lines)
- CINDERELLA (f)..... all dressed up to go to the ball, young woman. (25 lines)
- BELLE (f) ..... fashionable dresser. (22 lines)
- SNOW WHITE (f)..... young woman, wears white dress, later will change into demonic red shoes. (17 lines)
- JACK (m)..... young man, dressed to fit into eternal Fairyland (not contemporary clothing.) (18 lines)
- WITCH 3/STAGE MANAGER (m/f) ..... something odd about this witch, who doesn't quite fit with other witches. (1 line)
- SORCERESS (f) ..... showy personality. (38 lines)
- HANSEL (m)..... young man, dressed in something like lederhosen. (12 lines)
- GRETEL (f) ..... young woman, dressed in something like a dirndl. (13 line)
- FIGHT ANNOUNCER (m/f)..... dressed in formal business outfit—suit, tie, etc. (4 lines)
- OGRE (m)..... physically intimidating but not real bright. (6 lines)
- 3 CHEERLEADERS (m/f) ..... immediately recognizable as cheerleaders from Fairyland. (1 line)
- THE EVIL PUZZLEMASTER (m/f)..... the brainy type dressed in a suit, black shoes and bright bow tie. (18 lines)

MARCHING BAND (m/f) ..... a drummer and several horn players, don't have to be excellent musicians, in fact, it might be better if they weren't.

**SET:** Long white wall, 5 red doors

**COSTUMES:** Could range from contemporary with Fairyland pieces to full Fairyland.

**SOUND:** Simple

### PRODUCTION NOTE

Since this is a farce, timing is really important, especially with character entrances and exits so that the action keeps flowing and the story stays ahead of the audience.

### STAGE SETTING AND DIRECTION

The set consists of a long white wall that features five identical red doors evenly spaced across the wall.

It will greatly facilitate the actors' pace if each door is opened and closed by a backstage stagehand, so that characters can walk through doorways—entering and exiting—without pausing.

The sound system should be used selectively to enhance a few moments, such as Snow White in the red shoes dance, entrances of the Sorceress and Ogre, and celebratory music near the end. Sounds should not slow down the action.

**PROPS**

- fairytale books
- baseball glove
- handkerchief
- musical instruments (drum, horns, cymbal)
- pumpkin pie
- 2 bags of Cheetos
- basket for Red Riding Hood
- note (in basket)
- cellphone (for texting)
- cauldron
- animal masks
- microphone (working or not, Fight Announcer)
- small red table
- 2 yellow bentwood chairs
- tuna fishhead
- confetti
- balloons
- rocking chair

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**AT START:** *A long white wall across the back with five red doors in it. Centerstage in a rocking chair sits MOTHER, and on the floor beside her sits LITTLE SALLY BLUEJAY, a child of six or seven played by a 16 or 17-year-old actress. MOTHER is just finishing reading a book.*

**MOTHER:** *(Reading.)* "...and when tired at last, he sat upon the bank, while the river still chattered on to him, a babbling procession of the best stories in the world, sent from the heart of the earth to be told at last to the insatiable sea." The end.

**LITTLE SALLY:** *(Unhappy the book has ended.)* No, no, no, no, no.

**MOTHER:** Now Little Sally Bluejay...

**LITTLE SALLY:** No, no, no, no, no.

**MOTHER:** I'll read you one fairy tale and then...

**LITTLE SALLY:** Three.

**MOTHER:** The moon wants to say good night to you.

**LITTLE SALLY:** More.

**MOTHER:** Now I know you love Little Red Riding Hood.

*RED RIDING HOOD appears in door 3.*

**LITTLE SALLY:** Sally Bluejay hates Red Riding Hood.

**RED RIDING HOOD:** Eat spoiled bananas, you little twit.

*RED RIDING HOOD exits. Door closes.*

**MOTHER:** Then how about Jack and the Beanstalk?

*Door 1 opens revealing JACK.*

**LITTLE SALLY:** It's dumb to climb up a dumb beanstalk.

**JACK:** Hater.

*JACK exits. Door closes.*

**MOTHER:** Now I know you love Cinderella.

*CINDERELLA appears in Door 4.*

**LITTLE SALLY:** We always read stupid Cinder Face.

**MOTHER:** Not always, Little Sally Bluejay.

**LITTLE SALLY:** I hope she gets stuck in her pumpkin and starves.

**CINDERELLA:** I hope you get thistles in your spoiled little butt.

*CINDERELLA exits. Door closes.*

**MOTHER:** Well, I know a story you've never heard.

**LITTLE SALLY:** I know all the stories.

**MOTHER:** Not this one. It's in an old, old book we've never read.

**LITTLE SALLY:** (*Suspicious.*) What story?

**MOTHER:** A fairy tale only my grandmother knew: Clumsy Thumbsy.

**LITTLE SALLY:** Very, very bad title.

**MOTHER:** But it's a very, very good story. But first we need to take our bath, brush our teeth, and put on our jammies.

**LITTLE SALLY:** (*After a brief pause.*) I'll give it a shot.

**MOTHER:** Wonderful. Now, take my hand and we'll skip all the way to the bathroom!

**LITTLE SALLY:** Don't patronize me.

*LITTLE SALLY exits through door 2. MOTHER looks after her.*

**MOTHER:** I sometimes wonder about motherhood.

*MOTHER exits through door 2. Doors 1 and 5 open, revealing CLUMSY THUMBSY and her best friend PIM.*

**CLUMSY:** Patsy Pim?

**PIM:** Yes, Clumsy Thumbsy?

**CLUMSY:** Guess what, guess what, guess what?

**PIM:** What?

**CLUMSY:** No, but guess what?

**PIM:** I don't know, Clumsy Thumbsy, I have no idea.

**CLUMSY:** But guess what?

**PIM:** This is not good dialogue, Clumsy Thumbsy.

**CLUMSY:** Yeah, but guess what?

**PIM:** You won a rhinestone rhinoceros in a zoo contest?

**CLUMSY:** No! For the first time in a hundred years my fairy tale has been chosen by a child instead of all those dreary old chestnuts like Snow White and those three Bears who kill Goldilocks.

**PIM:** They don't kill her, Clumsy Thumbsy.

**CLUMSY:** Well, they should have, I don't approve of stories about dumb blondes.

**PIM:** If your fairy tale is having its premiere, you better get into your costume.

*CLUMSY is currently wearing a red dress with yellow polka-dots, or the opposite. She has a giant red bow in her hair and on her right hand a baseball glove.*

**CLUMSY:** This is my costume.

**PIM:** (*Doubtful.*) Really?

**CLUMSY:** In the fairytale universe I'm a fashion icon.

**PIM:** (*Doubtful.*) Okay. Umm, I forget what your fairy tale is about?

**CLUMSY:** Well, it's about, well, me Clumsy Thumbsy and I keep tripping over stuff and dropping stuff and running into stuff, and it's a terrific story with dragons and gnomes and pick-up trucks with a surprise ending that features... well, I forget, but I think it has to do with a cowardly possum and a creepy clown maybe.

**PIM:** You don't remember your fairy tale, do you Clumsy Thumbsy?

**CLUMSY:** It's just gathering dust. But the Mother is going to read it to Little Sally Bluejay. It will be its world premiere.

**PIM:** Well, you don't want to mess up. (*Takes CLUMSY'S hand.*) We better go find a copy.

*Just as CLUMSY and PIM turn to go, Doors 1, 3, and 5 open and CLUMSY and PIM are confronted by WITCH 1, WITCH 2, and WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST, all in traditional witch costumes. The one in the center is the WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST – green, of course.*

**ALL 3 WITCHES:** Hold it right there, Clumsy Thumbsy!

**CLUMSY:** You know me?

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** You think you're going to just show up and get yourself a Disney film, right?



**CLUMSY:** Well...

**WITCHES 1 and 2:** (*Wagging their fingers.*) Uh, uh, uh!

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** I've been stuck in a minor supporting role in the Wizard of Oz for a hundred and twenty years.

**WITCH 1:** I've spent decades handing that poisoned apple to Snow White.

**WITCH 2:** I just hang around waiting for Sleeping Beauty to wake up.

**ALL 3 WITCHES:** We want our own fairy tale!

**WITCH 1:** Where we turn into beautiful princesses.

**WITCH 2:** With our own time slot.

**ALL 3 WITCHES:** Like the Kardashians!

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Full of dark beauty...

**WITCH 1:** And moral ambiguity.

**WITCH 2:** And a really ripped Prince Charming!

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** So climb back into your dusty book...

**WITCHES 1 and 2:** And close the cover!

**PIM:** But Little Sally Bluejay wants to hear ...

**CLUMSY:** Clumsy Thumbsy.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Maybe when pigs fly! We already got...

*All 5 Doors open to the Fairytale Characters: RED RIDING HOOD, CINDERELLA, BELLE, SNOW WHITE, and JACK.*

**RED RIDING HOOD:** Little Red Riding Hood.

**CINDERELLA:** Cinderella.

**BELLE:** The Beast's Beauty.

**SNOW WHITE:** Red hot Snow White.

**JACK:** And Big Jack from the Beanstalk.

*As the THREE WITCHES gather up stage left and the Fairytale Characters—along with HANSEL and GRETEL—gather stage right, CLUMSY and PIM sneak offstage.*

**ALL 3 WITCHES:**

We're shapely and we're witchy  
 Some people think we're kitschy.  
 We've got the spells, we've got the charms  
 And when we hold you in our arms  
 You're dead.

**ALL FAIRYTALE CHARACTERS:**

We're fantasy's delusion  
 And to add to the confusion  
 We don't exist, so don't be pissed,  
 'Cause you can't kill an illusion!

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Hey, we just want to be the heroines of our own stories.

**BELLE:** But how would that work exactly?

**WITCH 1:** We just need some teeny tiny rewrites.

**SNOW WHITE:** Such as what?

**WITCH 2:** For instance, I, the evil Queen, give you, Snow White, a poisoned apple—nummy, nummy—you take a bite and sleep for a hundred years and I replace you and get kissed by a passing prince.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Or when the prince is hopelessly going door to door with the glass slippers, it fits my foot, I become a Princess and teach little girls how to do the Princess wave. (*She demonstrates.*) Just a fix here, a change there, and we're in the star's dressing room.

**SNOW WHITE:** Just won't fly.

**BELLE:** Little children would hate it.

**JACK:** Kids want beautiful princesses and dashing Prince Charmings, not walking warthogs.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Well, let us put it this way...

**WITCH 1:** If you don't agree, all your fairy tales will be...

**WITCH 2:** Disappeared.

**WICKED WITH OF THE WEST:** Disintegrated.

**ALL 3 WITCHES:** Gone with the wind!

**RED RIDING HOOD:** You mean...

**WICKED WITH OF THE WEST:** Erased from every fairytale book everywhere.

**ALL 3 WITCHES:** Poof!

**RED RIDING HOOD:** Golly Gumpkins!

**WICKED WITH OF THE WEST:** So, my lovelies, here's your choice...

**ALL 3 WITCHES:** All erased or one replaced!

*Door 3 opens on CLUMSY.*

**CLUMSY:** Hi everybody! It's me, Clumsy Thumbsy! The rockin' new star in the fairytale firmament.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** You have got to be kidding.

**CLUMSY:** I'm hot, I'm now, I'm Little Miss Big!

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** I have a migraine coming on.

**CINDERELLA:** *(To the other Fairytale Characters.)* Let's huddle up.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Hags over here!

*As CLUMSY and PIM look on, both groups huddle up, and from both we hear, "Rutabega, rutabega, rutabega."*

**CLUMSY:** *(To the audience.)* Hi anonymous watchers. I'm running for Fairy Princess. I'm incredibly cute verging on eye-candy...

*Both groups break their huddles with a handclap.*

**CINDERELLA:** All right. As President of the United Fairytale Characters Union, we give you the rights to Clumsy Dumbsy's fairy tale.

**CLUMSY:** Clumsy Thumbsy.

**CINDERELLA:** Whatever. You Witches can be the stars of her story, whatever that is.

**CLUMSY:** No, no, no, I am not giving up my shot.

**PIM:** Not a chance.

**CLUMSY and PIM:** Huh-uh!

**CINDERELLA:** Listen Humpty Dumpty, what exactly is your story?

**PIM:** OMG, it's is the GOAT, big-time salty slick!

**CINDERELLA:** But-what-is-it?

**PIM:** Well...

**CLUMSY:** I got this.

**PIM:** She's got this.

**CLUMSY:** So, it's in process. At this very moment my team of writers is running it by my producers, who are running it by the Studio, which is running it by Walt Disney himself.

**WITCH 2:** Who is dead.

**CLUMSY:** You have a problem with that?

**RED RIDING HOOD:** We're fictitious. What is the difference between dead and fictitious?

**WITCH 1:** Writers can bring fictitious characters back from the dead, but Disney is real so when he's dead, he's dead.

**SNOW WHITE:** Unless a writer brings him back from the dead.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** But then he's not Walt Disney.

**PIM:** He's a fictitious Walt Disney.

**BELLE:** Does everyone think I'm pretty?

**CLUMSY:** OMG! Aren't you Belle from *Beauty and the Beast*?

**BELLE:** And I'm pretty, right?

**CLUMSY:** Oh my gosh and my golly! What is it like kissing a genuine Beast?

**BELLE:** (*Seriously.*) Well, there's a lot of saliva involved.

**CLUMSY:** I'm going to have a Beast in my story too!

**BELLE:** Cool beans.

**CLUMSY:** King Kong! The whole thing opens with me standing in the palm of his hand offering him half of my last cherry popsicle when suddenly Godzilla rises above some nearby palm trees and he wants my popsicle too!

**BELLE:** Oh, that gives me the shivers! A romantic triangle.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Look, Dumpty, all actors want to direct, right? I'll star in it and you direct!

**CLUMSY:** That is so sweet! But I don't think so.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Why not?

**CLUMSY:** Well see, the reason is that I want to be the one who goes on all the talk shows and they don't want directors on those shows because they use big words.

**JACK:** Wait, wait, wait! How about you come over to my fairy tale which has a real big following in rural areas—I mean the whole feel is agricultural—and you become the giant. A Giant Thumbsy! I'm talking forty feet tall! And, and, you'll have this incredible death scene where you plunge screaming off this beanstalk that has broken through the clouds and you try to use your parachute but it

malfunctions and you fall, and you fall, and you fall and you sing a big number while you're falling and then... (*He takes out a handkerchief and wipes his eyes.*) ...and then, thwack, you're impaled on a picket fence, which sticks out from your chest and you switch over to a moody ballad with a country-western feel called: "There's a Picket Fence in My Heart" and we move into an ultra-animated close-up of one single glistening drop of blood falling in slow motion to the earth and as the credits roll, where that drop of blood falls a gardenia bush grows and blossoms as we fade to black.

*A hushed silence.*

**PIM:** That is soooo visual.

**CLUMSY:** Oh, dreary doodles, this is ever so hard for me to say but your fairy tale sucks. I mean, Jack, you're really a cool action star but you're not a "Prince Charming" and there's no fabulous and unparalleled beauty like myself for you to marry and bachelor fairy tales don't last. See, in my fairy tale I marry Kong and we live in the Empire State Building which is a contemporary symbol for a castle. Bingo!

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** All right, all right. Yak-yak-yak. Look, we want to be fair about this...

**WITCH 1:** Give you a sporting chance.

**WITCH 2:** A flip of the coin.

**WITCH 1:** The luck of the draw.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** You know about the "three wishes thing", well this is a "three challenges thing." If you solve all three, you can have your fairy tales and we'll go to Hollywood and do TV.

**WITCH 1:** Bewitched.

**WITCH 2:** Charmed.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Sabrina the Teenage Witch.

**WITCH 1:** His Dark Materials.

**WITCH 2:** Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

**WITCH 1:** Game of Thrones.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** On and on.

**CLUMSY:** I don't like it.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** (*A big smile.*) Oh really?

**CLUMSY:** Really.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** I think you just need motivation. A little drum roll, please.

*A Marching Band drummer enters from door 3 followed by two or three horn players. After about ten seconds of playing, they exit the same way. As the door closes, the music stops.*

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** We're putting a hex on all the props in Fairyland.

*Cymbal crash.*

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** They're either gone or they don't work.

*All the Fairytale Characters rush offstage.*

**ALL FAIRYTALE CHARACTERS:** Nooooooo.

*And they're gone.*

**WITCH 2:** (*Fascinated.*) What happens now?

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Remember how, in the Snow White story, everyone's invited to her wedding but she's forced by a spell to put on red-hot iron shoes and forced to dance?

**WITCHES 1 and 2:** Loved that!

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Well, I've put them on Snow White.

*Door 3 opens and SNOW WHITE enters dancing in red shoes.*

**SNOW WHITE:** (*As she dances.*) Ow! Ouch! Ow, ow, ows ... (*A little scream.*) EEEEE!

*SNOW WHITE keeps on dancing around the stage. CINDERELLA enters carrying a pumpkin pie.*

**CINDERELLA:** My pumpkin coach has turned into a pumpkin pie.

*CINDERELLA rushes down to show the audience and then up to the WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST.*

**CINDERELLA:** It's filled with fried mice.

*CINDERELLA rushes off as SNOW WHITE continues to dance. HANSEL and GRETEL enter, each carrying a bag of Cheetos, which they eat as GRETEL says...*

**GRETEL:** This way, no that way, down this way, over that way. Yum, yum, yum, yum.

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** It's Hansel and Gretel eating the crumbs which they should have used to make a trail to find their way home.

*RED RIDING HOOD skips in carrying a lunch basket she's taking to her grandma.*

**RED RIDING HOOD:** To Grandmother's house, to Grandmother's house, to Grandmother's house we go! Stop!

*All the other Fairytale Characters freeze on stage.*

**RED RIDING HOOD:** My lunch basket feels suspiciously light. (*She opens the basket, taking out a note.*) There's nothing but a note. (*She reads.*) It says ...

*All the other Fairytale Characters lean toward RED RIDING HOOD.*

**RED RIDING HOOD:**

"The only way to undo the hex,  
Is for Clumsy Thumbsy to write out her text!"

*All the Fairytale Characters point at CLUMSY.*

**CLUMSY:** Pim, give me your phone!

*PIM does.*

**CLUMSY:** I can save us! (*Hits the keys with her thumbs feverishly.*)

Wait. On no, no, no. My thumb is hitting the wrong keys!  
Autocorrect is turning my fairy tale to gibberish.

**ALL FAIRYTALE CHARACTERS:**

Thumbsy, Thumbsy

Don't be clumsy.

Type it out.

Type it out.

Type it out.

Rah!

**CLUMSY:** I did it, I did it, I've finished my fairy tale! It's laceratingly funny yet drenched with tears. King Kong and I go to the Caribbean and open a beach bar!

**ALL FAIRYTALE CHARACTERS:** Huzzah!

**ALL 3 WITCHES:** Drat!

**CLUMSY:** And we kiss to the drumbeat of bongos as the sun drops below the horizon.

**ALL FAIRYTALE CHARACTERS:** What's its moral?

**CLUMSY:** Always share your dream with an ape.

**WITCHES 1 and 2:** That's so touching.

**CLUMSY:** I can't wait for my Disney movie!

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Not so fast, Clumsy Dumbly.

**WITCHES 1 and 2:** There are two more challenges.

**CLUMSY and PIM:** Drat!

**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** (*She begins an incantation.*) Hear me, oh you spirits of darkness and despair.

**WITCH 1:** Nicely put.

**WITCH 2:** She was an English teacher.

*Cymbal crash, spooky music. A witch we haven't seen before rushes on with a cauldron and sets it center.*

**WITCH 1:** Who are you?

**WITCH 3/STAGE MANAGER:** I'm the Stage Manager.

*WITCH 3/STAGE MANAGER rushes off.*



**WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST:** Let's rock out!

*The THREE WITCHES dance around the cauldron.*

**ALL 3 WITCHES:**

Round and round the cauldron go  
In the poisoned entrails throw  
Eye of newt and toe of frog  
Wool of bat and tongue of dog  
For a charm of powerful trouble  
Like a hell broth boil and bubble.

*The Fairytale Characters have been getting increasingly uncomfortable.*

**ALL 3 WITCHES:** Sorceress appear!

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