

Felicia and the Jinxed Pinks



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Adapted from fairytale by Madame d'Aulnoy

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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Felicia and the Jinxed Pinks

CLASSIC/COMEDY. Adapted from the fairytale by Madame d'Aulnoy. Felicia and her brother Bruno are penniless and have just two beans and one egg left to eat. Bruno wants to sell Felicia's two prized possessions—a silver ring and a pot of pink flowers—to buy food. But Felicia refuses because she promised her dying father that she would always water the flowers and never part with her ring. When Felicia ventures into the woods to get water for her flowers, she meets the Queen of the Woods, who gives Felicia some food. Grateful for the food, Felicia insists on giving the Queen her silver ring. Suddenly, Felicia's water pitcher magically turns to gold. When Felicia returns home, she discovers that Bruno has stolen her pot of flowers and replaced it with a cabbage. But it turns out that this cabbage isn't an ordinary cabbage...it can talk! And so can the hen! Audiences will love this delightful, charming play.

Performance Time: Approximately 45-60 minutes.



Madame d'Aulnoy (1651-1705). Illustration from "Felicia and the Pot of Pinks" by George Percy Jacomb Lamb.

About the Story

Madame d'Aulnoy (1650-1705) was a French author known for her fairy tales, adventure stories, and historical novels. She was born into a noble family and was married at the age of 15 to the Baron d'Aulnoy, who was 30 years her senior. After she and the Baron were accused of treason, which proved to be false, she retreated from Paris society and spent her time writing. Madame d'Aulnoy is best known for her fairy tales—which were written for adult readers, not children—and was the first author to use the term "fairy tale" to describe her stories, which are notable for their conversational style and complex female characters. "Felicia and the Pot of Pinks" was included in her 1697 collection *Fairy Tales*.

Characters

(5 M, 7 F, 3 flexible, opt. extras)

(With doubling: 4 M, 5 F, 3 flexible)

FELICIA: Impoverished, kindly orphan girl who is really a princess but doesn't know it; wears tattered clothing; female.

BRUNO/BABY BRUNO: Felicia's lazy, cowardly half-brother who wants to sell Felicia's prized silver ring and pot of pink flowers; wears tattered clothing; male.

HOCUS PROVOKUS/RAT (pro-VOKE-us): An evil fairy or witch who wants to get her hands on Felicia's ring and her pot of pink flowers; female.

FATHER: Felicia's adopted father and Bruno's birth father; male.

QUEEN OF THE WOODS: Visits Felicia's father and gives him a silver ring and a pot of pink flowers to give to Felicia; female.

KING OF THE CITY: Has six daughters and demands that his next child must be a son; male.

QUEEN OF THE CITY: Has to give Felicia away to save her from being killed by the King; female.

HEN/MOTHER: A hen puppet; Felicia's adoptive mother who the Queen of the Woods has turned into a hen; female.

POT OF PINKS/PRINCE PINK: Puppet that represents a pot of pink flowers; the son of the Queen of the Woods who was turned into a pot of pink flowers by Hocus Provokus; wears princely clothing with a garland of pink flowers on his head that match pot of pink flowers; male.

CABBAGE/CAPTAIN: A cabbage puppet; a captain in the King's army sent by the King to kill Felicia; the Queen of the Woods has turned him into a cabbage; male.

RATS 1-3: Hokus Provokus's rat helpers; flexible.

HANDMAIDEN 1, 2: Handmaidens to the Queen of the Woods; female.

EXTRAS (opt): As additional Handmaidens and Rats.

Note: On the theater program, do not indicate the true identities of the puppets.

Options for Doubling

KING/FATHER (male)

RAT 1/HANDMAIDEN 1 (female)

RAT 2/HANDMAIDEN 2 (female)

Setting

Felicia and Bruno's cabin in the woods.

Sets

Interior and exterior of Felicia and Bruno's small 2-room cabin in the forest. At SR is a small room with two small cots arranged in an "L" shape with a door to the outside. At SL is another exterior door with a fireplace or wooden stove for cooking and a counter behind which the three puppeteers can hide to operate their puppets—a hen, a head of cabbage, and a pot of pink flowers—on top of the counter. There is also a small table and three chairs.

The woods. A backdrop may be used. There is a stump or boulder large enough to sit on.

Synopsis of Scenes

Scene 1: The cottage.

Scene 2: The woods.

Scene 3: The cottage.

Scene 4: The woods.

Scene 5: The cottage.

Props

Metal or ceramic pitcher
Identical gold-colored pitcher
 encrusted with gems
3 Cups
Plate with two beans on it
2 Forks
1 Knife
Cloth napkin
Axe
Magic wand
Pot of pink flowers, a hand
 puppet (Note: The petals can
 have fringed edges and come in
 many colors, though the basic
 color should be pink.)
Branch used as a sword
Hard-boiled egg with cracked
 shell
Head of cabbage, a puppet
Hen, a puppet
Decorative basket of assorted food
 items
Tablecloth
Pot used for knight's helmet, for
 Bruno
Washboard used for knight's
 armor, for Bruno
Long tree branch used as a lance
Broom

Several pillows
Baby cap, for Bruno
Huge baby blanket, for Bruno
Large baby pacifier, for Bruno
Tattered clothing, for Queen
 of the City
Baby doll wrapped in a baby
 blanket
Black rat (fake)
Royal robe, for Queen of the
 City
Royal handkerchief, for
 Queen of the City
Garland of pink flowers, for
 Prince Pink
Silver ring
Cleaning cloth
Chicken feather
Long wet "grass"
Bruno's clothing now tattered
 with a loose patch of cloth
 that reveals his boxers
 (Note: Clothing is identical
 to previous costume.)
Large plastic fish
Royal blue silk handkerchief
Royal red silk handkerchief
Rat costume, for Hokus
 Provokus

Special Effects

Thunder

Cloud of smoke

Lighting/music to signal flashbacks

Theme music for the Queen of the Woods

Loud crash

Strange music

Pop

Puff of smoke

Lightning

Wilting pink flowers

Pink flowers perking up

Bruno's cot. It faces DS and is arranged so the audience cannot see beneath it. Hidden access to the bed from behind and underneath is necessary. Baby Bruno and Hocus Provokus slide unseen underneath it. Baby Bruno is covered with a blanket but also propped up on pillows so only his face, shoulders, and arms are visible. Hocus Provokus emerges from it as a rat.

Counter. A waist-high (or higher) counter behind which the puppeteers can hide and be heard while manipulating their puppets.

***“I became a hen
the same way
he became a cabbage.”***

—Hen

Scene 1

(AT RISE: *The interior and exterior of a small two-room cabin in the forest. At SR is a small room with two small cots arranged in an "L" shape with a door to the outside. At SL is another exterior door with a fireplace or wooden stove for cooking and a counter behind which the three puppeteers can hide to operate their puppets on top of the counter. There is also a small table and three chairs. The Hen and the Pot of Pinks puppets are visible. A pitcher of water and two cups are on the table. Felicia and Bruno are poorly dressed. She places a plate with two beans on it in the center of the table. Bruno holds a fork in one hand and a knife in the other and has a cloth napkin hanging from his neck or front shirt collar.*)

BRUNO: (*Staring at the beans, angrily.*) Two beans? That's all I get for breakfast? Two beans?

FELICIA: (*Apologetically.*) I'm afraid there isn't much food left, Bruno. If you would go hunting and —

BRUNO: But two beans?!

FELICIA: And bring us back some meat —

BRUNO: Two teeny tiny beans?!

(*Felicia sits.*)

FELICIA: (*Aiming her fork toward one of the beans.*) One bean apiece.

(*Bruno grabs both of the beans, tosses them into his mouth, and swallows. He looks at Felicia. She looks annoyed.*)

BRUNO: Oh. Did you want one?

FELICIA: Bruno!

BRUNO: Sorry. (*Throws off his napkin and stands.*) Guess I need to go outside and, um, chop some wood...or something. (*Moves toward the front door SL.*)

FELICIA: Bruno? (*Stands and picks up the axe.*)

BRUNO: What, Felicia?

FELICIA: You can't chop wood without an axe. *(Holds axe out for him.)*

BRUNO: Oh. *(Doesn't really want axe.)* I forgot. *(Snatches the axe and exits SL. Outside the door, he looks at the axe.)* I don't want this. *(Bruno tosses the axe aside. Thunder and a cloud of smoke appear SR as Hocus Provokus, an evil, ugly fairy, enters the cottage. Felicia is shocked. To himself.)* What was that? *(Turns back to the door to listen and observe.)*

FELICIA: *(To Hocus Provokus, nervously.)* Who...who are you? Where did you come from?

HOCUS PROVOKUS: *(Threateningly.)* My name is Hocus Provokus, and I come from a very dark place.

FELICIA: What do you want?

HOCUS PROVOKUS: Something you have.

BRUNO: *(To himself.)* Ugh. She's ugly. Ugly, ugly, ugly! Uuuuuuglee!

FELICIA: *(To Hocus Provokus.)* But I don't have anything of value.

HOCUS PROVOKUS: Oh, but you do. *(Looks around the room, sees the pot of pink flowers on the counter, and points to them.)* That's what I want! Those pink flowers.

(Hocus Provokus tries to snatch the pot of pinks, but Felicia grabs them first.)

FELICIA: You can't have them! These pinks are mine!

HOCUS PROVOKUS: *(Angrily.)* I want them! Give them to me!

(Hocus Provokus lunges for the pot of pinks, but Felicia steps aside and Hocus Provokus misses.)

BRUNO: *(To himself.)* I should help Felicia. *(Picks up a branch and swings it as if attacking someone.)* But...but-but...I might get hurt. I don't want to get hurt.

FELICIA: *(To Hocus Provokus.)* You can't take my pinks! You can't!

HOCUS PROVOKUS: Oh, no? You think just because you're a princess that you can—

FELICIA: *(Shocked.)* Princess?

BRUNO: *(To himself.)* Princess?

HOCUS PROVOKUS: *(To Felicia.)* You mean you didn't know?

FELICIA: I'm not a princess.

HOCUS PROVOKUS: *(Realizes. Covering.)* Oh. Of course, you're not a princess. Who said you were a princess?

FELICIA: You did.

HOCUS PROVOKUS: *(Angrily.)* Well, you're not! Absolutely not! *(Takes a step toward Felicia.)* So give me the pot of pinks...and that silver ring on your finger...and I'll go.

BRUNO: *(To himself.)* If my sister is a princess, then I must be a...a prince! And a prince has no fear. *(Shouts.)* Noooo feeeear! *(Raises the branch, starts to enter the cottage, hesitates.)*

FELICIA: *(To Hocus Provokus.)* If I'm not a princess, why did you call me that?

HOCUS PROVOKUS: I told you it was a mistake. How could *you* be a princess? Look at this place! You're poor. A leaky roof, a rundown cottage, rags for clothes. A princess doesn't live like this.

BRUNO: *(To himself.)* But, well, I guess I may have a few fears. *(Pause.)* Maybe a lot of fears. *(Lowers the branch.)*

HOCUS PROVOKUS: *(To Felicia.)* For the last time, give me the pinks and the ring!

FELICIA: No! You can't have them!

BRUNO: *(To himself.)* But she's threatening my sister. I've got to be her...her hero! *(Brandishes the branch.)*

FELICIA: *(To Hocus Provokus.)* My father told me to protect them, and I will!

HOCUS PROVOKUS: Very well, girl. If you won't give them to me, I'll take them! *(Waves her magic wand, recites.)*
"Thunder and lightning in the sky,
Without revealing the reasons why,

Flash and crash and cast a jinx
To steal the silver ring and the pot of pinks."

(Thunder and lightning. Felicia begins to shake violently, but she holds the pot tightly. Brandishing the branch, Bruno rushes in.)

BRUNO: *(Terrified, shaking violently.)* Leave my sister alone, you old hag! *(Hocus Provokus shrieks at him. Terrified, Bruno shrieks. Hocus Provokus exits SR. Bruno faints. Thunder and lightning cease. Felicia breaks down in tears and crosses to her cot SR. Bruno groans, opens his eyes, and sits. Seeing no one, he stands with his branch and brushes himself off.)* Well! I guess I took care of her...I guess. *(Tosses the branch on the floor and it hits his foot.)* Ouch! Oh-oh-oh-oooohh! My toe, my toe! It's broken. That sword broke my toe! *(Picks up the branch and tries to break it over his knee, but it doesn't break and he hurts his knee instead. Tosses the branch on the floor. Hysterical.)* Ouch! Oh-oh-oooohh! My knee, my knee! It's broken! My knee is broken! I'm going to die! I know I am! I'm going to die! Right here and now! Felicia! *(Puts his hands to his neck, coughs, and pretends to die.)* Felicia? *(Gasps.)* Fe...li...cia?

(Bruno falls on the floor. Felicia returns and sees Bruno on the floor. Felicia puts the pot of pinks on the counter and runs to Bruno.)

FELICIA: Bruno! Bruno, what are you doing down there on the floor?! Are you in pain? Are you hurt?

(Bruno opens his eyes and sits.)

BRUNO: *(Annoyed.)* No, I'm not hurt. I'm dead! Can't you tell a prince lies dead at your feet?!

FELICIA: A prince? *(Retrieves the pitcher of water from the table.)* Well, let me see if I can revive the "prince."

(Felicia flicks some water from the pitcher on him. Bruno gasps, sits, and screams.)

BRUNO: What are you trying to do...drown me?! I'm your brother *and* a prince. You can't drown a prince! It's bad manners.

FELICIA: I was trying to help you.

BRUNO: Drowning me is not helping me. You're the worst sister I've ever had.

FELICIA: I'm the *only* sister you've ever had.

BRUNO: That's probably the reason you're the worst sister I ever had.

[END OF FREEVIEW]