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BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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*This play is dedicated to
the Marietta City Schools' After-School Programs,
ASP Coordinator Susie Parker,
and the wonderful After-School directors
Vickie Smith, Karen Sudduth, and Maureen Hutchinson.*

*I would also like to thank all the kids from
Dunleith Elementary,
West Side Elementary
and AL Burruss Elementary
who participated and bravely took the stage
to perform and produce this play.*

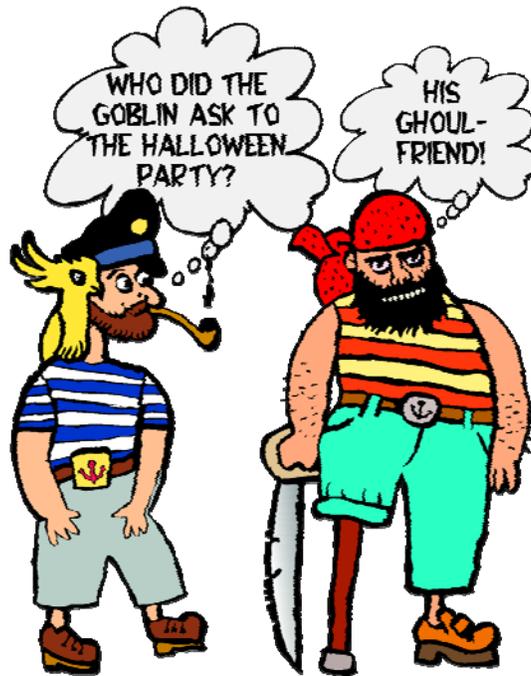
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HA. HA. HALLOWEEN was first produced as part of the Marietta City School System's After-School Program in Marietta, GA at the following schools: Dunleith Elementary, A.L. Burruss Elementary, and West Side Elementary.

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HALLOWEEN SKIT COLLECTION: Why are pirates so funny? They just arrgh! In this hilarious Halloween show, the audience gets to help Captain Cackle choose which pirate has the best (and worst!) joke, learn how the jack-o'-lantern came to be, discover the secret to getting more candy on Halloween, uncover the truth about the candy corn curse, and find out why two huge cockroaches are living in Mrs. Betty's cupboard. Suitable for all ages, these easy-to-produce skits can be either performed as an alternative to a haunted house or can be incorporated into a haunted house experience.

Performance Time: Approximately 30-45 minutes.



CHARACTERS

(6 M, 4 F, 21 flexible)

(Flexible cast. Doubling possible.)

CAPTAIN CACKLE: Pirate captain; flexible.
PEGGY LEGS: Captain Cackle's first mate; flexible.
TINY TWO TOES: Pirate; flexible.
SALTY DOG: Pirate; flexible.
CRUSTY BREAD: Pirate; flexible.
PARROT POLLY: Parrot; flexible.
JOLLY ROGER: Pirate; flexible.
DECORATOR 1, 2, 3: Pumpkin decorators; flexible.
CARVER 1, 2, 3: Pumpkin carvers; flexible.
CHARLIE: Trick-or-treater; wears a Halloween costume; male.
LEE: Trick-or-treater; wears a Halloween costume; male.
JACK: Naughty boy.
GRIM REAPER: Dressed in black and carries a sickle; flexible.
CARRIE: Trick-or-treater; wears a Halloween costume; female.
CASEY: Trick-or-treater; wears a Halloween costume; female.
TRACY: Trick-or-treater; wears a Halloween costume; female.
SAM: Trick-or-treater; wears a Halloween costume; male.
BOBBY: Trick-or-treater; wears a Halloween costume; male
CHRIS: Trick-or-treater; wears a Halloween costume; flexible.
TAYLOR: Trick-or-treater; wears a Halloween costume; flexible.
NARRATOR: Flexible.
MRS. BETTY: Wears an apron and carries a broom.
COCKROACH: Large Madagascar hissing cockroach who likes to eat potato chips; flexible.
MR. BETTY: Mrs. Betty's husband.
JUNIOR BETTY: Mr. and Mrs. Betty's son/daughter.
EL HEFE: Gigantic South-American cockroach who likes to eat burritos; flexible.

SETTING

Halloween night.

SET

One simple set can be used for all skits. There is a simple Halloween backdrop/landscape that includes pumpkins, fall foliage, and a scarecrow. There is a house SR displaying typical Halloween decorations. The front door to the house may be a working door, but this is not required. If there are budget constraints, the play can be staged on a bare stage if need be.

PROPS

Fall foliage	2 Monster masks with candy
Scarecrow	corn teeth
Halloween decorations	Bag of potato chips
3 Carved Pumpkins	Large cupboard
Pumpkin "guts"	Broom
Mop	Treasure chest
Table	Candy
3 Plastic knives	Lantern
Funny sock or shoe, for Casey	2 Sets of maracas (Can be
Trick-or-treat buckets or bags	made with papier-mâché
Monster costume, for Bobby	and dried beans.)
Monster costume, for Sam	

SOUND EFFECTS

Swishing sound

"MAKE A LANTERN
TO LIGHT THE ROAD
THROUGH HALLOW EYES
COMES THE CANDLES GLOW."

SCENE I HEARTY HA! HA!

(AT RISE: Peggy Legs and Captain Cackle enter SL.)

CAPTAIN: Call the crew, Peggy Legs. It's time for the Hearty Ha, Ha joke of the day.

PEGGY LEGS: Aye, aye, Captain Cackle! Ahoy! Pirate Comedy Crew on deck!

(The Pirate Crew enters and forms a line SL in this order: Tiny Two Toes, Salty Dog, Crusty Bread, Parrot Polly, and Jolly Roger. They turn and face the audience.)

CAPTAIN: Ahoy, crew!

CREW: Ahoy, Captain!

CAPTAIN: Shiver me timbers! It's joke time! Let's see which one of you has the best gut-buster today. The loser has to swab the deck! *(Captain approaches Tiny Two Toes.)* Let's start with you, Tiny Two Toes.

TINY TWO TOES: Right, Captain, here's a good one! How much did the pirate pay for new earrings?

CAPTAIN: Arrrgh, I don't know, Tiny Two Toes. How much did the pirate pay for new earrings?

TINY TWO TOES: Arrrrgh, a buc-can-eer!

CAPTAIN: Ha, ha, a Buccaneer! Good one, mate! *(The Captain points to each of his ears, showing the audience.)* A buck an ear! *(The Captain moves down the line to Salty Dog.)* What about you, Salty Dog? Got a good Hearty Ha Ha?

SALTY DOG: Sure do, Captain, it goes like this...where do pirate ghost ships sail?

CAPTAIN: I don't know, my scurvy friend, where do pirate ghost ships sail?

SALTY DOG: The Dead Sea, of course!

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CAPTAIN: Of course! I should've known! Blow me down with the hilarity! *(Captain moves down the line to Crusty Bread.)* It's your turn, Crusty Bread.

CRUSTY BREAD: Right, Captain. How do you mend a broken pirate?

CAPTAIN: I don't know. How do you mend a broken pirate?

CRUSTY BREAD: With an eye patch!

CAPTAIN: So, true, an eye patch will fix a pirate right up! *(Captain moves down the line to Parrot Polly.)* You are next, Parrot Polly.

PARROT POLLY: Squawk! Why couldn't the pirates play cards?

CAPTAIN: Why couldn't the pirates play cards?

PARROT POLLY: They were sitting on the deck! Squawk!

JOLLY ROGER: I've got the best joke today, Captain Cackle. *(Captain moves down the line to Jolly Roger.)* Why are pirates so funny?

CAPTAIN: Why are pirates so funny, Jolly Roger?

JOLLY ROGER: They just *arrrgh!*

CAPTAIN: *(Laughs.)* I think that is the best joke today. So, who was the worst?

PEGGY LEGS: *(Indicates audience.)* Let's ask the prisoners.

CAPTAIN: *(To Audience.)* So, you prisoners decide...who's swabbing the deck? I'll go down the line, and you clap for the pirate who you think should swab the deck because they had the worst joke! *(The Captain gets the mop from Peggy Legs and walks down the line naming the pirates for the audience.)* Should it be Tiny Two Toes? *(Gives the audience time to clap and moves on to the next pirate in line, etc.)* Salty Dog?...Crusty Bread?...Parrot Polly?...Jolly Roger?...The prisoners say that you... *[Insert name of losing pirate]* ...are swabbing the deck today!

[End of freeview]

SCENE 5 JACK OF THE LANTERN

(AT RISE: The pumpkins are still sitting on the table. Lee and Charlie enter SL.)

CHARLIE: *(To Lee.)* Those are some nice jack-o'-lanterns.

LEE: They remind me of a joke. Knock, knock.

CHARLIE: Hey, who's there?

LEE: Jack.

CHARLIE: Jack who?

LEE: Jack-o'-lantern.

CHARLIE: Have you ever heard the story of the jack-o'-lantern?

LEE: No.

CHARLIE: Well, a long time ago in Scotland...

(Jack enters SL, carrying a jack-o'-lantern.)

JACK: There was a guy named Jack.

CHARLIE: *(To Jack.)* Excuse me, who are you?

JACK: I'm Jack. I overheard you telling my story, and I thought I'd jump in and make sure you had your facts straight. Go on.

CHARLIE: Okay...I guess...um...Jack was a really mean trickster who was always playing practical jokes on people.

JACK: That's true, I was very naughty. I teased the girls and made them cry. I tripped the boys as they walked by. I even stole candy from the little kids.

LEE: You were bad.

JACK: Hey, they didn't need all that candy. It rots your teeth.

LEE: Whatever.

CHARLIE: Yeah, Jack was disliked by the whole town but he didn't care and refused to change his wicked ways. Then

one day, his time was up and the Reaper came to collect his soul.

(Grim Reaper enters SL and approaches Jack.)

REAPER: Come on, Jack, it is time to go, and judging from your behavior, I don't think you want to go where I am taking you.

JACK: *(Pleading.)* But I'm not ready. I was going to change my ways. I swear. Give me some time to make amends.

REAPER: You have one year, and then I'll be back. I hope you aren't lying... *(Reaper exits.)*

CHARLIE: So, Jack got a second chance.

JACK: Yeah, but I blew it. I was worse than ever.

CHARLIE: The Reaper wasn't happy when he came to collect Jack the next year.

(Reaper enters and approaches Jack.)

REAPER: I am very disappointed, Jack. Not many people get a second chance.

JACK: Go ahead and take me wherever you want. This last year was worth it. I had a great time. I'm ready.

REAPER: Well, that's a shame. Your behavior and attitude have earned you a fate worse than death.

JACK: And what would that be?

[End of Freeview]

SCENE 6

TRICK OR TREAT, FUNNY FEET

(AT RISE: Tracy, Casey, and Carrie enter SL.)

TRACY: Trick or treat!

CASEY: Funny feet! *(Holds up her foot to show off her funny sock and/or shoe).*

CARRIE: Give us yummy candy eats!

(Sam and Bobby enter SR.)

SAM: Hey, what are you guys doing?

TRACY: We're practicing our trick-or-treating for tonight.

BOBBY: Great, you want a few pointers from the reigning champion neighborhood trick-or-treaters?

CASEY: Maybe. Are you for real?

CARRIE: *(To Bobby.)* Yeah, why would you want to give away your secrets to the competition?

SAM: We are retiring this year. We have too many Halloween parties to attend. We won't have time to trick-or-treat.

CARRIE: Then sure. Tell us all your secrets!

[End of Freeview]

SCENE 7 THE CURSE OF THE CANDY CORN

(AT RISE: Enter Casey, Tracy, and Carrie SL.)

CASEY: I don't think this is a good idea.

TRACY: There's nothing to be afraid of. It's just a house.

CASEY: The 13th house on 13th Street.

CARRIE: The belief that the number 13 is unlucky is just a silly superstition.

CASEY: Well then, what about the curse?

(Chris and Taylor enter SL.)

CHRIS: The Curse of the Candy Corn?

CARRIE: Hey, how do you know about that?

TAYLOR: Everyone knows about it. The legend says that at this house there lives a kid who is normal all year, but on Halloween, that kid turns into a horrible monster with candy-corn teeth and a ravenous hunger for candy. The monster lurks about the house on All Hallow's Eve and scares the trick-or-treaters and takes their candy.

CARRIE: That's silly. Sounds like an urban legend to me.

CHRIS: It's true. My uncle's brother's sister's son had his candy taken by the monster last year.

TAYLOR: Yeah, we're not going to risk it.

CHRIS: We're going on to the next house.

(Chris and Taylor exit SR.)

CASEY: *(Scared.)* Well, that's it. I'm not going.

CARRIE: Oh, yes, you are. We are all going together. I am going to prove to you that there is nothing wrong with that house, and there is no such thing as a curse or monsters with candy-corn teeth. **[End of Freeview]**

SCENE 8 THE COCKROACH HISSED

(AT RISE: The interior of a kitchen. There is a large cupboard. Narrator, Mrs. Betty, and Cockroach enter SL. Narrator remains USL and Mrs. Betty and Cockroach go CS.)

NARRATOR: One day, Mrs. Betty decided to bake a cake.

MRS. BETTY: *(To herself.)* I think I will bake a chocolate cake!

(Mrs. Betty acts out the story in sync with the narration.)

NARRATOR: She went to the cupboard to get the flour, but when she opened the cupboard door... *(Dramatic.)* Daaaah, da, da, dah! There—yes, right there—sitting pretty as you please eating Mr. Betty’s favorite potato chips—was the biggest, scariest cockroach she’d ever seen! The disturbed cockroach looked up and hissed.

(Cockroach hisses loudly and shakes his maracas.)

COCKROACH: Want a chip?! *(Offers her a chip.)*

NARRATOR: Mrs. Betty was not accustomed to finding cockroaches in her cupboard, and she didn’t speak cockroach and could not understand the Cockroach’s generous offer to share a potato chip. So Mrs. Betty did what anyone in this situation would do...Mrs. Betty screamed!

(Mrs. Betty screams loudly.)

MRS. BETTY: *(To audience.)* Oh, yes, I screamed.

(Mrs. Betty repeats her scream.)

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NARRATOR: And the big, raunchy cockroach did what hissing cockroaches do in most cockroach situations...the cockroach hissed!

(Cockroach hisses loudly and shakes maracas.)

COCKROACH: *(To audience.)* Oh, yes, I hissed! *(Hisses and shakes maracas.)*

NARRATOR: Mr. Betty heard Mrs. Betty screaming and came running.

(Alarmed, Mr. Betty rushes in SL.)

[End of Freeview]