

Show and Tell

ACT I

Scene 1

In front of drawn curtain, the nursery crib and toys. Benajamin is getting ready for school.

MOTHER (O.S)

Benjamin, don't forget to bring something for show and tell today!

BENJAMIN

(mutters to himself, then begins talking to audience)

Oh, man! I had a whole month to prepare. I gotta think of something. What do you all think I should bring?

BENJAMIN holds up various items as the audience suggests them.

...My sister? You think I should take my baby sister? That's a great idea!

BENJAMIN picks up baby doll (sister) from the crib and gently puts in backpack.

CURTAINS OPEN, revealing school set. The nursery set is pulled offstage. STUDENTS are frozen in mid-movement. BELL RINGS, lights come up, STUDENTS and TEACHER move and BENJAMIN walks to his desk and sits down.

TEACHER

Okay everyone, settle down! Remember, we have show and tell today! Who wants to go first?

STEPHANIE

Oh, I'll go!

JIMMY

No one cares, Stephanie!

CLASS

Ugly, ugly, very ugly!

Suddenly, wailing can be heard onstage.

TEACHER

Benjamin! Stop making that noise!

BENJAMIN

I'm not!

Wailing grows even louder.

(CONTINUED)

TEACHER

Benjamin, I mean it! Stop it right now!

BENJAMIN

It's really not me!

TEACHER

Benjamin!

BENJAMIN

It's not me, it's my baby sister!

TEACHER

What in the world are you talking about?

BENJAMIN holds up backpack, stands up, and marches over to TEACHER.

BENJAMIN

Look!

TEACHER opens backpack. Shocked and panicked, she pulls out the baby.

TEACHER

BENJAMIN!

BENJAMIN

I told you it wasn't me!

TEACHER

You can't keep a baby in a knapsack!

Baby continues to cry. TEACHER attempts to rock it in a frantic motion, causing the crying to get louder. PRINCIPAL storms in.

PRINCIPAL

Stop making all that noise!

TEACHER

It's not me! Ben brought his baby sister for show and tell, and she won't shut up!

PRINCIPAL

Ah, don't worry! I know how to make kids be quiet.

(SCREAMING) HEY, YOU! BE QUIET!

Baby screams even louder.

What's the matter with this baby? It must be sick! Let's call the doctor!

(CONTINUED)

DOCTOR enters carrying large duffel bag with assistant.

DOCTOR

Oh, my! This baby must be really sick! I'm going to need some more assistants to help me out.

DOCTOR picks out two children from the audience and hands them various objects, asking them to hold them. There is also hidden syringe in audience. Directs one child to give them small needle.

Too small!

Directs next child to give them medium needle.

Too small!

Directs next child to give them large needle.

Too small! I need my BIG needle. I know I put it somewhere. I think one of you have it! Whoever has the big needle next to them, could you please come to the stage and bring it up to me? DOCTOR takes needle.

Just right!

Baby's cries start again, this time even louder.

BENJAMIN

What's the matter with this school? Nobody knows what to do with a baby! STOP!

At the command, audience freezes or pantomimes the continued chaos. BENJAMIN takes phone out of pocket and dials number.

Hey, Mom..everything's okay...there's nothing wrong, don't freak out, but...there's a lady about to put a massive...needle...into Sharon.....Hello? Hello? Mom?

MOTHER

Immediately bursts into classroom. She is furious.

Where is she?!

Baby starts wailing again. MOTHER snatches baby with one hand and slaps DOCTOR with the other multiple times. DOCTOR stumbles back, afraid. MOTHER instantly becomes gentle again, rocking the baby slowly back and forth. Baby sighs and falls asleep.

(CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL

Oh, thank you! Oh, thank you! That baby was making so much noise, it was just making me feel sick!

DOCTOR

Sick? Sick? Did that man say he was sick? He must need a needle!

DOCTOR picks up enormous needle and walks towards PRINCIPAL, holding a finger to their lips to keep the audience quiet. Immediately, DOCTOR jabs PRINCIPAL's backside with needle.

PRINCIPAL

WAAA, WAA, WAAA, WAAA, WAAA, WAAA!

PRINCIPAL runs offstage.

MOTHER

Now. It's time to take this baby home.

BENJAMIN

Right. You can use my knapsack.

MOTHER

What a good idea.

MOTHER carries BENJAMIN on back over to the crib. MOTHER sets down BENJAMIN and places the baby into the crib. As the crib is being pushed offstage, NARRATOR begins.

NARRATOR

As they tucked his little sister back into her crib, BENJAMIN went into his room and loaded up his knapsack, carrying everything in his arms that he could, and went to school. He surprised all of his friends the next day.

As soon as the curtain draws, all cast members from all four tales come out onto the stage for the show and tell. They all stand to address the crowd and bow.