

A Friend for Potato

A comedy for young actors

By
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A Friend for Potato

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DEDICATION

To Stacey, Jack, and Thalia, who have always believed in me more than I believe in myself.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Potato the pig just wants a friend—but doesn't know what that word means. With help from his friend Casey, Potato sets out to find a friend. It's a seemingly simple quest that quickly turns into a house full of scheming cats, energetic dogs, a few friendly bears ... and who invited the Singing Raccoons? Not Casey's parents, that's for sure! Underneath all the wackiness, *A Friend for Potato* is a look at what friendship means, and what it takes to be a good friend.

RUN TIME: 40 minutes.

No specific set requirements.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

A Friend for Potato was first produced on August 2, 2019 by Theater Plus! of Marshfield, MA. Directed by Stacey Shanahan. The premiere cast was:

CASEY: Thalia Leigh Shanahan; POTATO: Charlotte Savage; DAVE: Rémi Jacques; MARTHA: Emily Tobin; JINX: Gabriella Dimitrova; PRINCESS: Lila Muro; LUMPY: Macy Muro; FOO-FOO: Catherine Woods; BOFFO: Trevor Hogan; CHAMP: Sadie Tilden; TRIXIE: Cailleen Consoli; MOOCH: Mirany Cipura; RUDY: Natalie Muro; SNEAK: Maël Jacques; SNACK: Lily Charon; JERRY: Elizabeth Callaghan; GORDON: Angelina Rosales; MIRIAM: Juliet Mamet; JUNIOR: Leo Perreault; SNOWY: Fei Greene; Additional Cats: Anna Anderson, Julia Anderson, Adrienne Colameco, Emerson Hobbs, Mia Myer; Additional Dogs: Logan Brady, Noah Cosgrove, Owen Farhat, Benne Fleury, Jack Savage.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Flexible cast of 20)

CASEY: a boy or girl.
POTATO: a pig.
DAVE: Casey's father.
MARTHA: Casey's mother.
JINX: a cat.
PRINCESS: a cat.
LUMPY: a cat.
FOO-FOO: a cat.
BOFFO: a dog.
CHAMP: a dog.
TRIXIE: a dog.
MOOCH: a dog.
RUDY: a dog.
SNEAK: a singing raccoon.
SNACK: a singing raccoon.
JERRY: a singing raccoon.
GORDON: a bear.
MIRIAM: a bear.
JUNIOR: a baby bear.
SNOWY: an owl.

NOTES: All characters can be played by either gender.
Please update the pronouns as needed. Depending upon your casting needs, you can add or take away animal parts. There can be non-speaking animals who can play with the physical mannerisms and reactions and help to fill the stage, or you can reassign some lines to other animals.

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(AT RISE: CASEY enters and comes center.)

CASEY: I want to tell you about the craziest thing that ever happened at my house. Nobody ever believes me when I tell this story, but honestly, it's all true. And it all started with a pig named Potato.

(POTATO enters and waves to the audience.)

CASEY: Yup. Potato. I know it sounds silly. I named him when I was three, okay? Let's move on. One day, Potato came to me while I was doing my homework and said...

POTATO: Casey, what's a friend?

CASEY: What do you mean?

POTATO: I was watching a show, and one person said to another one, "You're my best friend." It looked like it made them both happy. I think I'd like one. Especially if it makes everybody happy. But I don't know what it is.

CASEY: Well, a friend is someone you like to be around. Someone who likes the things you like. Someone you can tell secrets to, or just have fun with. Someone who's just like you.

POTATO: *(Toward front.)* Mind. Blown.

CASEY: I'm your friend, Potato.

POTATO: You are?

CASEY: Yes. *(Thinking.)* Kind of. I'm one of your owners. And I like you.

POTATO: *(Excited.)* You wanna come roll in the mud with me? And eat some slop?

CASEY: I ... don't do that. I mean, the mud sounds fun, but ...

POTATO: So you don't like the things I like.

CASEY: I guess not.

POTATO: So you're kind of ... not my friend.

CASEY: Gosh, Potato, it's not that simple.

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POTATO: Can I get a friend, Casey? Someone like me? *(With clasped hands, tilted head, and a huge smile.)* Pleeeeeeease?

(POTATO holds that pose.)

CASEY: Ladies and gentlemen, look at this face. Could you resist this face? No, you could not. And neither could I. So I was going to say yes, but first I had to talk to my parents.

(DAVE and MARTHA enter.)

CASEY: This isn't really what my parents look like. My mother is actually a little bit taller. Dad's about right. So I said to them... *(Turning to PARENTS.)* Potato wants a friend.

MARTHA: Potato ... the pig?

(POTATO waves and smiles.)

CASEY: He just found out what friends are, and he'd like one.

DAVE: Your pig wants a friend?

MARTHA: And it told you this?

POTATO: A friend would be AWESOME! Or I think it would. I don't really know.

DAVE: That pig sure oinks a lot.

MARTHA: It's almost like it was answering us!

CASEY: *(To the audience.)* Parents. No imagination, am I right?

DAVE: Now, what kind of "friend" does the pig want?

POTATO: *(Loud, with a big fist pump!)* A BEST FRIEND!

(DAVE and MARTHA jump and shout in surprise.)

MARTHA: Does it have to squeal so loud?

DAVE: I thought it was going to charge!

MARTHA: Why is it even in the house?

DAVE: It was your idea to get Casey a pet pig.

MARTHA: As I recall, we both agreed, thank you!

CASEY: So can we get him a friend?

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DAVE: Another pet?

MARTHA: I don't know, Casey.

(Both CASEY and POTATO make the "Please" face that Potato did earlier, and hold the pose.)

MARTHA: Oh, look! How can you resist that face?

DAVE: You mean on the pig?

MARTHA: Well, yes. How cute is that? Casey, stop that. You look silly.

(CASEY stops. POTATO holds the pose as DAVE and MARTHA exit.)

POTATO: Can I get a friend now?

CASEY: Looks okay with Mom and Dad.

POTATO: Awesome! Then I am off to find a friend! *(POTATO exits.)*

CASEY: Thinking back on it, now I recognize that letting Potato go off on his own to find a friend was my first mistake. But how was I supposed to know? I thought maybe there would be another pig nearby, or Okay, I don't know what I was thinking. But here's what happened.

(CASEY exits. POTATO enters, looking around.)

POTATO: *(Calling out.)* Friends? Hello? Any friends out here? Just a pig looking for friend! Friendly pig here! Anyone? This is a lot harder than I thought it would be. Friends are hard to find! *(Like an amazing thought just happened.)* Maybe they're invisible!

(JINX the cat enters, opposite. Unless noted otherwise, JINX always moves very slowly and deliberately, and talks the same way.)

POTATO: Oooh! That thing looks like a friend. Maybe? I have no idea! Hey! Hey, thing! Hi!

JINX: I'm sorry, did you just call me "thing"?

End of Freeview

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