

Frump Tales

By Burton Bumgarner

Performance Rights

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy this script in any way or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co. Inc. Contact the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information. The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangements with Eldridge Publishing Co."

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY

www.histage.com

© 2007 by Burton Bumgarner

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing

<https://histage.com/frump-tales>

STORY OF THE PLAY

Mega-millionaire Ronald Frump (known as “The Ronald”), a tough businessman, has purchased a company called All the Fairy Tales in the World, Inc., and it isn’t making a profit.

With the assistance of his loyal (and wimpy) secretary, Miss Filposh, he brings in a group of recent college graduates to try and spice up the story of “Little Red Riding Hood.” The graduates use “Macbeth” as the basis of their version and arrive at “Macwolf,” a tragic character in the same moral dilemma as the famous counterpart in Scottish play. Unfortunately Little Red, now a tough Jersey girl, isn’t afraid of anything, and the tale falls flat.

Next, Frump brings in a group of unconventional entrepreneurs, who try and spice up the story of “Cinderella” using characters from Edgar Allen Poe. Cinderella is now a Goth girl, and the ball is a scene from “The Masque of the Red Death.” Other Poe characters appear, including a black cat and bird that says “nevermore.”

Finally, Frump brings in the directors of Barbucks Coffee and their CEO to tell the story of the “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” from a business standpoint. Papa Goat is an investment banker, Mama Goat is a soccer mom and Baby Goat is a spoiled brat.

Frump likes the business version of the fairy tale, but his company falls victim to a hostile takeover and he now has a new set of worries.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

*May be performed by as many as 17 actors, (1 m, 3 w,
13 flexible) or with as few as 7 with doubling*

RONALD FRUMP: "The Ronald," a wealthy businessman.
MISS FILPOSH: Frump's timid secretary.

5 COLLEGE GRADUATES OF MODERATE INTELLIGENCE *(Retell "Little Red Riding Hood" with characters from "Macbeth")*

GRADUATE 1: Narrator.
GRADUATE 2: Big Bad *(the Wolf)*.
GRADUATE 3: A Weird Sister; Little Red (a Jersey Girl).
GRADUATE 4: A Weird Sister, Granny.
GRADUATE 5: A Weird Sister, the Woodcutter.

5 UNCONVENTIONAL ENTREPRENEURS *(Retell "Cinderella" with characters from Edgar Allan Poe)*

ENTREPRENEUR 1: Narrator, Fairy Godmother, Handsome Prince, Red Death.
ENTREPRENEUR 2: Ugly Stepsister 1.
ENTREPRENEUR 3: Ugly Stepsister 2.
ENTREPRENEUR 4: Ugly Stepmother.
ENTREPRENEUR 5: Cinderella.

5 DIRECTORS FROM A MAJOR CORPORATION *(Retell the "Billy Goats Gruff" as a financial success story)*

MELODY TUNE: CEO of a Barbucks Coffee.
DIRECTOR 1: Leonard, plays Papa Billy Goat.
DIRECTOR 2: Edna, plays Mama Billy Goat.
DIRECTOR 3: Baby, plays Baby Billy Goat.
DIRECTOR 4: The Troll.

COSTUMES

Costumes may be as elaborate or simple as the director desires. Frump should wear a business suit and a toupee. Graduates may wear business clothes as one would wear to a job interview. Entrepreneurs should be Goth or skateboarders, or some form of punk. Directors should wear business attire. All carry briefcases on stage containing many of their costumes and props.

Fairy tale characters could be dressed as follows: Little Red with a red cape; Macwolf with wolf ears on a headband; the Weird Sisters in Halloween costumes; Granny in a bathrobe and slippers; Woodcutter in a lumberjack shirt and hat; Cinderella in Goth (dark clothes). The Prince and the Red Death should have Halloween masks. Fairy Godmother should have a magic wand. Billy Goats could wear headbands with goat ears. Leonard could wear his bathrobe and slippers, Edna a stylish casual outfit, and Baby could wear kid's clothes. The Troll could wear ratty clothes and "ugly" makeup.

SETTING

Frump's office consisting of a huge desk and executive chair located DSL. A phone sits on the desk. A backdrop could indicate this is a top-floor office in a luxury high-rise building. Other set pieces may be added as desired.

PROPS

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 briefcases | 5 paperback books |
| 3 witch hats | Small skillet |
| Wooden spoon | Headband with wolf ears |
| Picnic basket | Fake pruning saw or axe |
| Headscarves | Wig |
| Wand | Wizard's hat |
| Crown | Halloween masks |
| Plastic knife on a string | 4 folding chairs |
| Headbands with goat horns | Knitting needles and yarn |
| Hand-held video game | <i>Wall Street Journal</i> |
| 4 cell phones | |

Frump Tales

(AT RISE: MR. FRUMP is seated at the desk talking on the phone.)

FRUMP: *(On phone.)* What do you mean people aren't interested in fairy tales? We're talking about history! Culture! The lost art of storytelling! Not to mention a whole lot of violence! What kind of corporate organization can't market violence? ... I only have one thing to say to you: YOU'RE FIRED! *(Slams down phone. Yells.)* MISS FILPOSH!

(FILPOSH enters left and stands behind the desk, unseen by FRUMP. She is afraid of her boss.)

FRUMP: *(Continued.)* Where is that woman?

(SHE takes a step closer and almost speaks.)

FRUMP: *(Continued.)* I can't trust anybody to do anything! I'm the richest man in America ... *(Bitter.)* except for those computer geeks in California ... and I did it all myself! No help from anyone! ... Except some politicians ... and some banks ... and some friends ... and my mommy. MISS FILPOSH!

(HE stands and walks into FILPOSH, startling her and himself.)

FILPOSH: Yes, Mr. Frump.

FRUMP: What are you doing?

FILPOSH: You called, sir.

FRUMP: You scared me!

FILPOSH: I'm sorry, sir! I won't do it again! I promise! I never meant to scare you, sir! The truth is I scared myself!

FRUMP: Quit groveling!

Frump Tales

- 6 -

FILPOSH: *(Bows head and grovels.)* Yes, sir. I'm very sorry, sir. I'm just a lowly cog in a very important machine. Humble and undeserving. Submissive and menial. Loathsome and slothful.

FRUMP: Quit babbling!

FILPOSH: Yes, sir. I'll quit babbling. Don't know why I babble so much. Must be something wrong with me. I guess I'm just a babbler. I just babble away. Once I get started I can't seem to stop.

FRUMP: STOP TALKING!

FILPOSH: Yes, sir. I'll stop talking. Right now. I won't utter another word. Don't know why I talk so much.

FRUMP: *(Puts HIS hand over HER mouth, and breathes a sigh of relief. Commanding, as a dog.)* Stay! *(He sits.)* March to the front of the desk! *(Filposh marches to the front of the desk.)* Do not speak! *(She shakes her head.)* I have a question. *(She nods and starts to talk, but Frump stops her.)* Wait until I have asked the question, and then speak only the answer. Do you understand? *(She nods.)* Last year I acquired a company called All the Fairy Tales in the World, Incorporated. Are you familiar with this company? Just nod your head. *(She nods.)* I own all of the fairy tales in the world. *(She nods.)* I've owned them for a year, and they aren't making any profit. Here's the part where you get to speak. Are you ready? *(She nods. Frump yells.)* WHY ISN'T THIS STUPID COMPANY MAKING ANY MONEY?

FILPOSH: May I speak now, sir?

FRUMP: Only to answer my question.

FILPOSH: Okay. I've thought and thought and thought. And I have arrived at a conclusion. Are you ready for my conclusion, Mr. Frump?

FRUMP: I would like to hear your conclusion before I get any older, if you don't mind.

FILPOSH: Okay. Here's my conclusion. *(Takes a deep breath.)* I have no idea.

FRUMP: So after all of this thinking and thinking and thinking, that's the best you can do?

FILPOSH: I could go back to my desk and think some more.

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing

<https://histage.com/frump-tales>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!