

Rapunzel and Rumpelstiltskin

by
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Dedication: To Alex Mangen

*There are not enough pages in this book to describe
all the ways you've enriched my life.*

STORY OF THE PLAY

Two fairy tale classics collide in this fast-paced comedy for all ages. Dame Gothel prepares for a ball with the assistance of her magical minions, Rumpelstiltskin and Hob. Her young daughter Rapunzel ruins the festivities when she cuts her own hair. Dame Gothel banishes her to the tower until her hair looks normal again. Hob, after some awkward failures, places a spell on Rapunzel to make her hair grow faster. Her hair keeps growing, but her social-climbing mother keeps finding ridiculous reasons to keep her locked up. Freedom seems out of reach, especially when a spell turns every pair of scissors into lizards! When the King issues a proclamation that whoever can create gold can marry his son, Rumpelstiltskin uses a spinning wheel to turn Rapunzel's hair into the precious metal. But his help comes at a high price. A charade scene with the Prince himself adds tons of laughter—until he's turned into a lump of silver! Will Rapunzel and Hob ever be able to figure out Rumpelstiltskin's name to save the Prince and their future happiness together? (Performance time about an hour.)

Original Production

Rapunzel and Rumpelstiltskin was performed in November 2012 at the Victoria Theatre in Dayton, Ohio. Produced by Zoot Theatre Company. Sydney Lanier directed. The set design was by Eric Moore; the costume design was by Shirley Wasser; and the mask and puppet design was by Tristan Cupp. The stage manager was Dawn Roth Smith. The cast was as follows:

DAME GOTHEL: Shawn Elizabeth Storms

HOB: J. Gary Thompson

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: Eric Arntz

RAPUNZEL: Nicole Tompkins

PRINCE STERLING: Darren Brown

SPECIAL THANKS: Andy Falter, Daniel Cermack, Melanie MacKenzie, Mary Ritchie, Chloe Beck, Emma Crowe

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 M, 2 F, 1 flexible)

DAME GOTHEL: Rapunzel's impossible-to-please mother.

HOB: A bumbling sprite.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: A terrible troll.

RAPUNZEL: Our long-haired heroine.

PRINCE STERLING: The King's sweet son.

Setting

A fairy tale home with a tower, an ornate drawing room, and a garden. Center stage there is a tower, with an upstairs chamber. On one side of the tower is a window which looks out onto a garden. On the other side is a door with stairs leading down to a drawing room.

Suggestions for Rapunzel's Growing Up and Hair-Growing Sequence

Rapunzel's "cut her own hair" wig may include a longer piece of hair in the back that is pinned up and sticking up to create an uneven, chopped off look on top of her head. When Hob casts the final hair-growing spell, Rapunzel complains that her head feels funny. The actor may itch and pull at her head, undoing the hairpins and pulling down the piece to make her hair "grow" onstage. Then, in the next short blackout, a clip or barrette of a curly braid may be attached to this short ponytail base of the wig. In each subsequent blackout, another longer hair clip may be quickly attached to the last hair extension. The hair clips may be preset onstage out of view, hung behind the pillar or another set piece. The actor playing Rapunzel should "age" through her voice and body language. Costume and make-up changes are unnecessary. The goal is to make the blackouts as short as possible. Alternatively, you may choose to cast Rapunzel as multiple actors of increasing ages and wig lengths.

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(AT RISE: DAME GOTHEL stands before HOB and RUMPELSTILTSKIN in the ornate drawing room. She claps her hands.)

DAME GOTHEL: Work your magic, my minions.

HOB: Madam, I believe you would look divine in a peach ball gown with spaghetti straps and a long train.

DAME GOTHEL: Yes, I'm certain I would look divine.

HOB: Then that is exactly what you will have. One peach ball gown with spaghetti straps and a train coming right up. I've got a notion for a potion to make you a gown that will be the talk of the town. *(HOB throws glitter into the air.)*

(FX: LIGHTS flash. Peaches, balls, spaghetti, and a toy train set fall from above. DAME GOTHEL, RUMPELSTILTSKIN, and HOB dive for cover.)

DAME GOTHEL: What a dismal disaster. I only wish I could say I was surprised.

HOB: I just need to tinker with my thinker. If you will—

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: Step aside, you little goblin, and see how a true master of magic does it.

(RAPUNZEL, as a young child, enters timidly.)

DAME GOTHEL: Well, come in, my little doll baby. Let Mommy have a look at you. Oh, my beautiful, beautiful child. You look perfect. Absolutely perfect. Not a hair out of place. What a good girl!

RAPUNZEL: Thank you, Mommy.

DAME GOTHEL: You are ready for your first ball.

RAPUNZEL: Yes, Mommy.

DAME GOTHEL: What are you hiding behind your back, my pet?

RAPUNZEL: *(Bringing forth a doll whose hair has been chopped unevenly.)* Dolly got a haircut too!

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DAME GOTHEL: Oh, no, no, no, you naughty child! You can't cut doll hair. Doll hair doesn't grow back like people hair does. Repeat after me: We don't cut doll hair.

RAPUNZEL: We don't cut doll hair.

DAME GOTHEL: Only people hair.

RAPUNZEL: Only people hair.

DAME GOTHEL: Go to your room and think about what I just said.

RAPUNZEL: Yes, Mommy. (*RAPUNZEL exits.*)

DAME GOTHEL: Well, don't dally, you dopes. We haven't a moment to spare. My guests are due to arrive.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: Allow me, my lady, to make your stunning self even more stunning. Prepare to be dazzled. I shall just take this junk from Hob's latest catastrophe, put it all in this box, shake it up a little and...

(RUMPELSTILTSKIN vigorously rubs his hands together and places them on the box. FX: The box glows. The LIGHTS flash. He lifts a sheet of glittering material out of the box and holds it up to DAME GOTHEL. The LIGHTS flash again. When RUMPELSTILTSKIN drops the sheet, DAME GOTHEL is wearing a magnificent peach ball gown.)

HOB: That's exactly what mine was supposed to look like.

DAME GOTHEL: (*Clapping her hands.*) Mirrors! Mirrors!

(HOB and RUMPELSTILTSKIN hold up mirrors.)

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: I assure you, madam, that you look gorgeous.

DAME GOTHEL: Of course, I look gorgeous, you fool. But do I look gorgeous *enough*?

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: You are beyond gorgeous, my lady. You are exquisite, elegant, radiant, ravishing—

DAME GOTHEL: What would an ugly little man like you know about true beauty?

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: I—

DAME GOTHEL: Make me a better gown.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: But madam—

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DAME GOTHEL: That spoiled servant Cinderella got better results from a pack of common mice. Now make me another dress, you wretched rat!

HOB: Dame Gothel, if I may—

DAME GOTHEL: You may not. Do you realize the importance of this ball? Do you? I demand perfection. Absolute perfection.

(Little RAPUNZEL reenters. She has haphazardly cut her own hair.)

DAME GOTHEL: *(Screams and swoons.)* Rapunzel! Your beautiful golden hair! What have you done?

RAPUNZEL: You said people hair grows back.

HOB: It does, but very, very slowly.

(SFX: A loud knock is heard.)

DAME GOTHEL: My guests! They can't see her looking like that. Quick! Hide her up in the tower.

HOB: The tower? Don't you think that's a little—

RAPUNZEL: Mommy, I don't want to go—

DAME GOTHEL: You will go up in that tower, young lady, and you will stay there until your hair looks normal again.

(To HOB.) Now get that beastly little monster out of my sight.

HOB: But madam—

RAPUNZEL: But Mommy—

(SFX: Another loud knock is heard.)

DAME GOTHEL: Now.

HOB: Yes, my lady.

(RAPUNZEL sobs as HOB leads her away.)

DAME GOTHEL: And it looks like I am stuck sporting this hideous frock. Oh, why do horrible things always happen to me? Me?

End of Freeview

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