Wild Pink

By Margaret Witt

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Dedication

To my husband, Thomas, my son, Chris, my friend, Jane Zupp, and to the 2010 cast and crew of Wild Pink*. Thank you all for your ideas, your talents and your support!*

STORY OF THE PLAY

A hog farmer has three smart sons but absolutely no money to send them to college. A rich, snooty, old maiden aunt has a fortune but years ago she made it clear that she wanted nothing to do with the farmer's family. What to do? The three boys don wigs, dresses, heels and even Wild Pink fingernail polish for a challenging weekend visit with their estranged aunt. Their desperate mission: to convince her she has three beautiful nieces who are worthy of her millions. And worthy they are when the boys discover someone is embezzling their aunt's money. Switching between being their boyish and more "feminine" selves, they set up a trap to catch the thief, never realizing they've been set up as well!

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

This show was produced at the River Valley High School Auditorium in Correctionville, Iowa on March 26 and 27, 2010 under the direction of the playwright.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
8 m, 11 w, 6 flexible, extras.
Also optional children. Doubling possible.

JEBEDIAH: (M) Poor hog farmer. Father of three boys.
ROBERT/ROBERTA: (M) Oldest son. Interested in business.
VICTOR/VICTORIA: (M) Middle son. Wants to be a vet.
PATRICK/PATRICIA: (M) Youngest son. Interested in law.
JILLY: (W) Ditzy young lady. Has a crush on Robert.
JENNY: (W) Jilly's friend.
MISS MILDRED "MILLIE" HARRINGTON: (W) Wealthy, great-aunt to the boys.
OLIVIA: (W) Millie's assistant. Likes Jack Hines.
DENNIS: (M) Millie's young, good-looking butler. Dates Victoria and Patricia. Likes Roberta.
KATRINA: (W) Sultry maid. Works for Millie. Tries to win over Robert.
TONY WESLEY: (M) Lost money due to bad investments. Millie's friend.
SASHA WESLEY: (W) Sultry wife of Mr. Wesley.
DR. SMITH: (M) Millie's high-strung veterinarian.
SCARLETT: (W) Undercover investigator posing as journalist. Likes Robert.
SAM: (W) Photographer. Works with Scarlett.
LIDIA: (W) Eccentric beautician. Talks with a funny accent.
LESLEY: (W) Eccentric beautician.
LACEY: (W) Eccentric beautician.
DAVID SIMS: (M) CEO of Harrington Foundation.
DARTH: (Flex) Scholarship candidate; to study economics.
TERRY: (Flex) Scholarship candidate; to study engineering.
DELANEY: (Flex) Scholarship candidate, pyromaniac.
JO: (Flex) Scholarship candidate; generous.
JACK HINES: (M) Millie's accountant/financial advisor. Likes Olivia.
MS. GAINES: (Flex) Millie's long-time lawyer.

Continued

CAST - *continued*

POLICE OFFICERS: Non-speaking, last scene only.

CHARACTERS IN OPTIONAL SCENE:

SISTER #1: Takes care of orphans.
SISTER #2: Takes care of orphans.
ORPHAN CHILDREN: One or two easy lines.

POSSIBLE DOUBLING: *Jilly and Jenny could double as Scarlett and Sam, Delaney and Jo, Lesley and Lacey or the nuns. Sasha could double as Lidia or a nun.*

SETTINGS

(See last page for drawings.)

Farmhouse Setting

There are five plastic lawn chairs arranged directly in front of a rustic-looking farmhouse. Three chairs are on the left of the stage and two on the right, almost forming a semi-circle. A small wooden table is situated between the two chairs on the right. The house has a single door, located upstage center.

Mansion Setting

A couch sits center stage with a coffee table in front of it. Three fancy chairs are left of couch. Two other matching chairs are situated against the left side wall; separated by a small round table which holds a flower basket. An easy chair and another matching chair are situated on the right of the couch. Another small table on the other side of the stage is used for decoration. There are four entrances to stage. Upstage left is the front door. Upstage center is arched opening to hallway and bedrooms. Upstage right is arched opening and hallway to kitchen. French doors to study take up most of the right wing wall. Although not seen, another door in the study leads outside. On one of the walls is an unattractive, abstract painting.

SFX: Dog barking, doorbell, cellphone rings.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: The farm scene. JEBEDIAH HOLLIS is sitting in the upstage chair by the table reading a newspaper when his three boys, ROBERT, PATRICK, and VICTOR, barefoot and in coveralls, enter from the back of the auditorium. They are pushing and shoving and yelling.)

ROBERT: Give me my money! You lost the bet.
PATRICK: I'm not paying you anything. You cheated!
ROBERT: I did not! I won fair and square.
VICTOR: He did win, Patrick! You should pay up!

(The BOYS stumble on stage, downstage left, and plop down onto the three chairs on the left. JEBEDIAH looks up from his newspaper.)

JEBEDIAH: Afternoon, boys. What are you three arguing over this time?
ROBERT: Pigs, Pa. Patrick and Victor made a bet that I couldn't catch the Patterson's ol' greased pig, but I did it. Now Patrick doesn't want to pay up. I don't see how that's fair. He did make the bet.
JEBEDIAH: What did he bet, Robert?
ROBERT: Patrick and Victor both bet me $20, Pa. Victor's paid his share, but Patrick hasn't. I think you should make Patrick keep his end of the deal.
JEBEDIAH: Did you lose the bet, fair and square, Patrick?
PATRICK: Yes sir, I lost, but I don't know if it was fair or not. I didn't think Robert was gonna coax that ol' pig to come to him by stealing its food. That was just cheatin', in my opinion.
ROBERT: But, Pa, you've always taught me to use my brains…so I did. It's not my fault that ol' pig just sidled up to me. Besides, I sure could use that money to put in my college fund.

JEBEDIAH: I know you've been wanting to go to college, but money has been a bit sparse these last few years. I may have the solution though, if you're interested.

ROBERT: Interested? I've been saving every dime. I want to earn my degree in business someday. What kind of a solution are you talking about?

JEBEDIAH: Well, I got a call from a relative of your mother's today.

ROBERT: How can that help me?

JEBEDIAH: I'm getting to it; just hold your pants on. This relative is your great-aunt. Her name is Miss Mildred Harrington, and she is from the rich side of the family. You know, the side that disowned us when your mother married me. Anyway, dear old Miss Harrington called to let me know that she's been thinking about what she wants to do with her millions when she's not able to manage it anymore, and, as her only remaining relatives, you three have caught her interest.

ROBERT: I don't understand, Pa.

JEBEDIAH: Well, your mom and her aunt weren't exactly close; far from it. In fact, that old broad used to call up your mother just to antagonize her. You see, she knew that your mom was worried about what the future would hold for her three children, and our obvious lack of money was something Harrington took great pleasure in discussing. Your mother tried hard to ignore some of the outrageous things that woman said, but her nastiness still stung. Carolyn had a tender heart, God rest her soul. Believe me, I wanted to tell that old bat more than once where she could stuff her money, but your mom begged me not to. Anyway, now that Miss Harrington is dying, I guess she wants to make amends. Like I said, she doesn't have any other family left but…us, and she wants to sign over her millions to you kids before she passes on.

ROBERT: *(Jumps up and runs over to stand beside his father.)* Are you serious, Pa? You mean we're gonna be rich?

End of Freeview

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