JOOBA GUMBA WONDY

By Andrew M. Frodahl

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DEDICATION

To my wife Ashley. Thank you for handling the daily task of caring for our three boys and being my first reader.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Senior class president Todd is looking forward to the class trip to France…at least he thinks he is. His prim girlfriend, Dailyn, has been planning it for years. At the last minute, Principal Kinkade has another idea. She manipulates Todd into suggesting the remote luxurious island of Jooba Gumba Wondy. With the lure of nightlife, sand, and paradise, Kasey, Lindsey, Duncan and Jared are quick to agree. When they all arrive, however, they find that it's anything but a five-star resort! On a hunting expedition to find breakfast, the teens are separated, attacked by ants, sunk into quicksand, and lost. When only four teens are left, they learn that they will be enough for Ms. Kinkade's dowry – and made into Gumba stew! Can the students figure a way out of the steaming pots? Luckily Jared's nerdy knowledge of ants helps him create an ant army that begins the rescue. Dailyn has some secrets herself, and unexpected backup arrives. This fun-filled play offers a variety of large and small roles, and it runs about an hour.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(6 m, 6 w, 10-16 flexible, doubling possible)

TODD (m): Senior class president and boyfriend of Dailyn.
DAILYN (f): Prim school valedictorian. Goes about everything with the future in mind.
KASEY (f): Party girl who has always had a thing for Todd.
JARED (m): A brainiac whose love of science just might save the lives of his classmates.
LINDSAY (f): School cheerleader who has a secret crush on Jared, but she would never want that info to get out because it's not popular to date nerds.
DUNCAN (m): Typical high school jock.
MS. PEGGY KINKADE (f): Eccentric high school principal. She loves her students, but loves Catubay more.
CATUBAY (m): A Wondian warrior who likes the perfume Ms. Kinkade wears.
POWLI (f): The chieftess and ruler of Jooba Gumba Wondy. She is serious about getting more visitors to the island.
TEAL (f): Powli's daughter, just as deadly as she is beautiful.
PASCAL (m): A young Frenchman who is part of the foreign legion. He is deeply passionate about Dailyn.
PROMO DIRECTOR (m): A director of commercials.
MEL (flex): Camera operator and the promo director's right-hand man or woman.
CUE CARD HOLDER (flex): Can there be a worse job out there in the entertainment industry?
WONDIAN CHEF (flex): No one will believe what this chef's secret ingredient is.
WONDIAN WARRIORS (flex, 4 - 6): Fierce warriors who love Gumba Stew.
FOREIGN LEGION SOLDIERS (flex, 2 - 6): They signed up for the adventure.
ANTS (flex, can be a chorus or one voice): Unseen army ants of Jooba Gumba Wondy.

Doubling: *The roles of Promo Director, Mel and Cue Card Holder can be doubled with Wondian Chef, Pascal, or other Wondian Warriors or Foreign Legion Soldiers.*

SET

Scene 1: A television studio. A couple of stage flats painted blue serve as a "blue screen" backdrop. A television camera for Mel to operate.
Scene 2: Principal's office. A desk and two chairs.
Scene 3: A classroom with a table and six chairs.
Scene 4: The Island of Jooba Gumba Wondy. SR is a crude hut made of twigs and palm leaves. Five stars are on the hut walls. A sign hangs over a door that reads: *The Wondian Wonder Resort.* Next to the hut is a stump with a bell on it, and attached to the stump there is a sign that reads: *Check In* and a ledger and quill. SL is jungle; tropical trees, vines, and volcanic mountains in the distance. This can all be cardboard cutouts or fully realized.
Scene 5: The Wondian Wonder Resort. Five stumps are positioned outside the hut.
Scene 6: SL is a jungle path. The lights are out SR.
Scene 7: Jungle off the beaten path, SL. The quicksand trick happens behind some jungle shrubs. Lindsay fakes sinking and uses the jungle shrubbery and vines to mask the quicksand pit, and she slowly moves her body down to make it look like she is sinking.
Scene 8: The Wondian Wonder Resort, SR. The lights are out SL. A lounge chair joins the stumps beside the hut. The four cooking pots the Wondian Warriors bring onstage can be cauldron, barrels, whatever is easier to carry and for the actors to get in and out of.
Scene 9: The jungle, SL. The lights shift to SL.
Scene 10: The Wondian Wonder Resort, SR. Four cooking pots center stage. When Jared and Lindsay arrive SL is lit.

SOUND EFFECTS

A loud buzzing, drums pounding in the distance, a thousand ant feet standing at attention, and rumbling.

JOOBA GUMBA WONDY

Scene 1

(AT RISE: TEAL, POWLI, and CATUBAY are standing in front of blue flats. The women are wearing war paint and have braided hair with leaves interwoven throughout. POWLI has a necklace with three shrunken heads around her neck. CATUBAY holds a spear. They all are barefoot. POWLI stands with her arms folded and stares at the audience. DS MEL holds a video camera and CUE CARD HOLDER on his knees is flipping through cue cards. POWLI is reading them.)

POWLI: *(Robotic.)* Hello, my name is Powli and I am the chieftess and ruler on the island of Jooba Gumba Wondy. We would…

(PROMO DIRECTOR enters from corner of stage.)

PROMO DIRECTOR: No, no, cut, Mel. Cut! *(To POWLI.)* Powli, first you need to loosen up. You are too rigid. *(Tries to unfold HER arms.)*
CATUBAY: No man is to touch the chieftess. Hands off, please.
PROMO DIRECTOR: I'm sorry, but can you please keep your arms lose? Can we lose the necklace of shrunken heads?
POWLI: No! These are the sacred elders of my people.
PROMO DIRECTOR: Okay, can your bodyguard at least lose the spear? We want this promo to be welcoming, right?
POWLI: Put spear down, Catubay.
CATUBAY: But, Powli, me need spear to fight!
POWLI: Put it down.

(CATUBAY puts it down.)

PROMO DIRECTOR: Perfect, much better. Okay, let's try this again. We ready, Mel?

MEL: Yes.
PROMO DIRECTOR: All right, Powli, now I want you to smile *(POWLI does, but it is more like a scowl.)* Okay, never mind. Just be yourself. And action!
POWLI: Are you looking for a vacation destination? Good, because we want to ask have you ever considered making your next trip be to Jooba Gumba Wondy? My daughter Teal will tell you about some of our offerings.
TEAL: We have beautiful white beaches, handsome men, and fine Wondian cuisine.
CATUBAY: *(Reading.)* Catubay say we have exotic women—
PROMO DIRECTOR: Cut, Mel! Cut! Ugh.
POWLI: What is wrong?
PROMO DIRECTOR: Okay, Catubay.
CATUBAY: What you want, skinny man?
PROMO DIRECTOR: You aren't supposed to read the part that tells you what to do, just the part after. Got it?
POWLI: I do not understand why we are standing in front of blue wall. No one will want to come to our island if it all blue.
PROMO DIRECTOR: Powli, it's a bluescreen. We will fill in pictures of Jooba's beautiful landscape and landmarks later.
CATUBAY: How do you fill in pictures? What kind of magic you using? Are you a witch doctor?
TEAL: What does exotic women mean?
CUE CARD HOLDER: It means you're pretty.
TEAL: No man calls me pretty!

(TEAL swiftly runs over to CUE CARD HOLDER and wraps her arm around his neck and puts him in a headlock.)

PROMO DIRECTOR: Teal! Let him go!
CUE CARD HOLDER: I can't breathe!
TEAL: I am a Wondian Warrior Princess. I've killed more men than teeth in your mouth. I hate English word "pretty."
CUE CARD HOLDER: I'm sorry, it's a compliment. You are beautiful.

End of Freeview

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