Dragon's Lair

By Katie B. Oberlander

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DEDICATION

To Paul Horovitz, Elisa Pitkin and the faculty and staff of Harborlight Montessori School in thanks for their support.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Step onto the set of "Dragon's Lair," a reality television show where fairytale entrepreneurs pitch their new ideas and products to the richest and most powerful business investors in all the land. The Dragons, named for their ruthless business practices, include Rumpelstiltskin, a gold-obsessed goblin who spun his way to riches; Evil Queen, inventor of Magic Mirror and dungeon torture devices; Fairy Godmother, a lifestyle guru and magical matchmaker; and notorious outlaw philanthropist Robin Hood. If the Dragons hear a great idea, they're ready to invest, using their own gold. But, if no one is interested, those who have failed to make a deal will be taken to meet a real fire-breathing dragon, Azriel, the Tormentor. He's a vicious beast who is chained up in his monstrous pit, waiting to offer his own fiery brand of business advice. Whose idea will get an investment? Whose dreams will go up in flames? In the "Dragon's Lair" it's either fly ... or fry. With a running time of just over an hour and a large, extremely flexible cast, this comedy is a satire of the popular reality television show "Shark Tank," set in the world of fairytales. The production features lots of fun parts to perform and versatile humor to entertain children and adults alike.

PREMIER PRODUCTION

"Dragon's Lair" premiered at Gloucester Stage in 2022. It was directed by Katie Oberlander, produced by Christopher Griffith and featured the following cast and crew:

Kailee Barth, Adam Bererhout, Skyler Bickmore, Jonas Coletta, Laura Davidson, Jackson Delorey, Ollie Dichter, Kate Dickman, Karen Goodno-McGuire, Hazel Hauck, Genevieve McHugh, Silas McHugh, Claire Ashley Mooso, Claire Morse, Danielle Murray, Caitlyn Oakley, Emma Oakley, Enzo Orr, Jenna Pario, Jackson Pitkin, Noemi Polverari, Livia Quist, Wesley Robinson, Elaine Rombola Aveni, Hayden Schoenfarber, Finley Schrafft, Diana Norma Shafer, Sue Sullivan, Elin Thomas, Luke Wakeham and Maya Wakeham.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(8 m, 10 w, 19+ flexible, doubling possible)

THE DRAGONS The four powerful, ruthless business leaders who star in the show.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: (M) A gold-obsessed goblin businessman.
FAIRY GODMOTHER: (W) Heads the lucrative lifestyle brand Wishes.
EVIL QUEEN: (W) Successful inventor of Magic Mirror and and dungeon torture devices.
ROBIN HOOD: (M) Professional outlaw and charity philanthropist.

ANNOUNCER: Can be prerecorded or spoken by any character.
HANSEL: (M) Enthusiastic production intern.
GRETEL: (W) Another.
INTERN 1: Production intern.
INTERN 2: Another.

GINGERBREAD MAN: (M) The Goody Basket entrepreneur.
GRANNY: (W) Performs in The Goody Basket pitch.
WALDO: (M) Performs in The Goody Basket pitch.
RED RIDING HOOD: (W) Performs in The Goody Basket pitch.
BIG BAD WOLF: Performs in The Goody Basket and Cry Wolf pitches.
WICKED WITCH: (W) Real estate tycoon who longs to participate in the show.

BOY WHO CRIED WOLF: (M) Cry Wolf entrepreneur.
PIG 1: Performs in the Cry Wolf pitch.
PIG 2: Another.
PIG 3: Another.

GOLDILOCKS: (W) Power Porridge entrepreneur.
BEAR: Performs in Power Porridge pitch.

(Continued)

CINDERELLA: (W) Fashion shoe designer.
STEPMOTHER: (W) Glass slipper model.
STEPSISTER 1: (W) Glass slipper models.
STEPSISTER 2: (W) Another.
MODELS: Any number of sneaker models.

DELIVERY PERSON: Delivers coffee.

PIED PIPER: Pipe Dreams entrepreneur.
RATS: Perform in the Pipe Dreams pitch.

LITTLE JOHN: (M) One of Robin Hood's Merry Men disguised as a child.
FRIAR TUCK: (M) Another.
SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM: Robin Hood's nemesis.
DEPUTIES: Any number of deputies that fight for the Sheriff.

JACK / JACKIE: Giant-Be-Gone entrepreneur.
KENT / KONSTANCE: Method actor who performs in Giant-Be-Gone pitch.
LINDA / LARRY: Kingdom Actor's Guild representative.

PUSS IN BOOTS: Stylish kitten selling one of her lives.
AZRIEL: Nonspeaking walk-on role perfect for a young child.

SET

The set of the reality television show "Dragon's Lair." Each Dragon has a throne themed to their personality. There is a spinning wheel in Rumpelstiltskin's area, a large magic mirror for the Evil Queen, a bow and arrow leaning against Robin Hood's rustic throne and Fairy Godmother's throne is bedazzled. There are piles and sacks of gold and jewels everywhere. An area of the stage designated as a dragon's "pit" can be marked with ropes and signs that say "DANGER," "DO NOT FEED THE DRAGON," and "AZRIEL, THE TORMENTOR."

ACT I

(AT RISE: The set of the reality television show "Dragon's Lair." The four DRAGONS are seated, frozen in power poses on thrones arranged around the set. SFX: Dramatic music plays throughout the following sequence.)

ANNOUNCER: *(Voiceover.)* Who are the Dragons? They're the most powerful, wealthy and dangerous self-made business experts across the kingdom of Happily Ever After.

(A SPOTLIGHT illuminates RUMPELSTILTSKIN, a hideous goblin with a bald head, dressed in a suit and tie. He mimes talking on a cell phone while spinning gold on a wheel.)

Rumpelstiltskin, son of savage goblins, grew up in the swamps of the Deep Dark Woods. He started spinning gold in his hovel and eventually grew his fortune to over 500 million sacks of gold.

(RUMPELSTILTSKIN freezes in a power pose. SPOTLIGHT illuminates FAIRY GODMOTHER, who waves her magic wand elegantly.)

Buttercup Twinkleboots, a fairy godmother, has built a lifestyle empire with her company "Wishes," providing her elite clients with image makeovers, luxury transportation and magical matchmaking.

(FAIRY GODMOTHER freezes with a syrupy smile. A spotlight illuminates EVIL QUEEN signing documents and arguing with an INTERN.)

The Evil Queen Malvina, ruler of the Castle Shopping Network, is an inventor whose top product, Magic Mirror, has disrupted the beauty industry. She holds over one hundred patents on personal care products and dungeon torture devices.

ANNOUNCER: *(Voiceover. Cont'd.)*

(EVIL QUEEN angrily points her wand at the INTERN and freezes with an angry scowl. A SPOTLIGHT illuminates ROBIN HOOD, who is counting his sacks of gold.)

And Robin Hood, notorious high-stakes professional outlaw. He has dedicated his life and fortune to the charity, "Stealing from the Rich, Giving to the Poor."

(ROBIN HOOD poses with his arms crossed. The DRAGONS begin to strut powerfully around the stage silently interacting with each other, miming giving orders to production STAFF, looking through papers, etc. as the voiceover continues.)

Hopeful entrepreneurs from across the kingdom come here to gain powerful partners for their businesses. If the Dragons hear a great idea, they're ready to invest, using their own gold. But, if no one is interested, those who have failed to make a deal will be taken to meet a real fire-breathing dragon: Azriel, the Tormentor, a vicious beast who is chained up in his monstrous pit, waiting to offer his own fiery brand of business advice. Whose idea will get an investment? Whose dreams will go up in flames? In the "Dragon's Lair" it's either fly...or fry.

(SFX: Steam erupts from AZRIEL's pit and the lights flash. A dragon's roar is heard as the DRAGONS face out to the audience and pose with ruthless looks on their faces. LIGHTS change and transition MUSIC plays as the Dragons take their seats. HANSEL and GRETEL enter.)

HANSEL: Hi, Dragons! I'm Hansel!

GRETEL: And I'm Gretel! We're here today hosting this live episode of "Dragon's Lair" because it's intern day! We are part of a group of young people serving as production interns so we can gain knowledge about business from the Dragons!

HANSEL: We are so excited to learn from you all!

RUMPELSTILTSKIN: Great! One of you can get over here and learn how to massage my feet.
FAIRY GODMOTHER: Now, Rumpelstiltskin, don't be such a grump. Welcome to the show, my dears. I'm Buttercup Twinkleboots. It must be very exciting for you to meet a real Fairy Godmother like me. There's no need to thank me! Your faces say it all!
ROBIN HOOD: Greetings, young friends! I, Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest, welcome you. I am the noble one of this bunch, as I unselfishly donate all my riches to charity.
EVIL QUEEN: I am the Evil Queen Malvina, children, and I live up to my name. Consider yourselves warned.
GRETEL: Got it! Thanks, girlfriend! And now, let's meet the rest of our intern team.

(INTERNS enter nervously.)

INTERN 1: Hello, um, Dragons.
INTERN 2: We're glad to be here. My name is—
RUMPELSTILSKIN: Stop. Your names are irrelevant. We shall address you as interns.
INTERNS: Yes, sir.
HANSEL: Hey Gretel, now we've met all the Dragons except Azriel! I bet you can't wait to shake his hand, I mean, wing!
EVIL QUEEN: Azriel, the Tormentor is a monstrous serpent with powerful wings, impenetrable scales, mesmerizing yellow eyes and the breath of a thousand fires. Those who meet him shall not return from the dank, dark pit in which he resides.
GRETEL: He sounds super neat.
HANSEL: Totally!
RUMPELSTILSKIN: Why don't you interns run along and give him a snack? There's a bucket of cow entrails near the entrance to the pit. Just toss them in.
EVIL QUEEN: Watch your fingers! We wouldn't want our sweet little interns to get burned, now would we?

(INTERNS cautiously approach the entrance to the pit. One of them picks up the bucket and tosses the contents in. SFX:

There is a huge roar and steam erupts from the pit. Interns scream and run offstage.)

FAIRY GODMOTHER: Well, I think that's enough chitchat! Let's get on with the show. Send in the first victims, I mean entrepreneurs.

HANSEL: First up into the lair is the Gingerbread Man, with an innovative new meal delivery service.

(HANSEL and GRETEL move offstage. SFX: Dragon's Lair theme music. GINGERBREAD MAN enters and strides to the presentation area, looking confident.)

GINGERBREAD MAN: Hello, Dragons. I'm the Gingerbread Man. I'm seeking one hundred sacks of gold for a five percent stake in my company, The Goody Basket. Dragons, do you sneak little bites of an evil witch's gingerbread house even though you know the candy is drugged? Do you feel cursed after you indulge in a poison candy apple? Traditional goodies can be downright dangerous! But now there is a safe and convenient solution: The Goody Basket.

(The following skit is performed in the style of a melodrama. SFX: Old-fashioned music plays. GRANNY enters, walking with a cane.)

GRANNY: Alas! Here am I, a poor widow living all alone in the deep, dark woods! I am old, frail, and so very sick. *(Breaks out in a coughing fit and then freezes.)*

GINGERBREAD MAN: Do you have some sort of condition, like seasonal allergies to toads, chronic elbow pain or leprosy that even your fairy godmother can't cure? Does it keep you from baking delicious goodies?

GRANNY: *(Unfreezes.)* My illness keeps me from baking delicious goodies. I'm growing weaker by the moment. Luckily, this house is locked as tight as a fortress! *(SFX: There is a knock on the door.)* Come on in! The door's open!

(SFX: "Hero" music plays. WALDO enters and poses dramatically.)

WALDO: It is I, Waldo Woodsman! I heard you were all alone here in the deep, dark woods, and I have come to chop firewood to sustain you through the long winter.
GRANNY: *(Hands clasped to her heart.)* My hero!
WALDO: Uh... well... I was hoping we could just be friends, Granny.
GRANNY: Call me Petunia!
WALDO: No, thank you.
GRANNY: I'm so hungry, Waldo, my dear. Do you know how to bake goodies?
WALDO: No, I get all my sweets from The Goody Basket Corporation. Their home delivery is fast and efficient. Also, their goodies are healthy!

(GRANNY and WALDO freeze.)

GINGERBREAD MAN: The Goody Basket provides delicious goodies made from a healthy blend of all-natural tree bark, cave moss, morning dew and riverbank sediment. They'll keep you regular and satisfied. Hashtag yummy!

(GRANNY and WALDO unfreeze.)

WALDO: Those goodies are the best. Plus, I think they make my muscles look bigger.
GRANNY: A home delivery goody service? Sounds like a fairytale come true!

(SFX: "Heroine" music plays. RED RIDING HOOD enters, carrying a basket of goodies.)

RED RIDING HOOD: It's a beautiful day! I'm delivering The Goody Basket, brimming with love and sweetness! Honest ingredients! And oh, so good tasting!

(RED RIDING HOOD, GRANNY and WALDO freeze.)

GINGERBREAD MAN: *(Cheerfully patting RED RIDING HOOD's head.)* The Goody Basket Corporation is authorized to employ underage children under the Pied Piper Child Labor Act of 1801.

(RED RIDING HOOD, GRANNY and WALDO un-freeze.)

RED RIDING HOOD: Hello, Granny! I'm so pleased to deliver this wonderful goody basket, fresh from the industrial baking ovens of Magic-Corp, a subsidiary of The Goody Basket Corporation.

(SFX: "Villain" music plays. The BIG BAD WOLF enters.)

BIG BAD WOLF: Do I smell the delectable scent of The Goody Basket in this cottage? I haven't had a delivery in weeks. I really, really, really want that goody basket.

(BIG BAD WOLF, GRANNY, RED RIDING HOOD and WALDO freeze.)

GINGERBREAD MAN: Are you addicted to sugar? Goody Basket addictions are stronger! Our goodies are specially formulated with magic unicorn tears that trigger cravings that can't be quashed. You'll just want to eat more and more and more and more from your goody basket.

(BIG BAD WOLF, GRANNY, RED RIDING HOOD and WALDO unfreeze.)

BIG BAD WOLF: I want to eat more, and more, and more, and more from that Goody Basket. I must have it now. Hand it over!

GRANNY: No way! Those goodies are mine!

RED RIDING HOOD: I'm contractually obligated to deliver the basket!

End of Freeview

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