Displaced:
An Animal Adventure

By Bryan Starchman

Performance Rights

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy or reproduce this script in any manner 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 arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company."

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
hiStage.com
© 2018 by Bryan Starchman

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/displaced-an-animal-adventure

DEDICATION

For Luna and Maggie, the real-life puppy heroes who were so brave when they were evacuated during the fire. Thank you for being a man's best friend and for inspiring such a sweet story.

STORY OF THE PLAY

The small town of Mariposa, California is under mandatory evacuation as a huge wild fire threatens the town, its homes, and the surrounding forest. Just as the family is about to leave, their unsuspecting dogs Loony and Max are tricked by Prince, the evil cat. Following the cat's sinister advice, the sweet but gullible dogs disappear to avoid the vet and to find the barbeque sausages, leaving the family no choice but to leave without them. During their big adventure to find their family again, the dogs journey through the forest where they encounter pushy raccoons and hungry coyotes. Luckily, they are joined by the most unlikely hero, Samuel S. Skunk. Will these good dogs, who have never been outside without their humans, escape the fire and be reunited with their family? About 40 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

This play was first produced by Mariposa County High School on March 16-18, 2018 as part of a fire fundraiser for the community of Mariposa, CA. This show was featured on The Today Show on NBC and helped the school's theatre department win a $10,000 grant from NBC, the R.I.S.E. America Project, and the Educational Theatre Foundation. The play was directed by the playwright and included the following cast:

NARRATOR: Dawn Canapary
SAMUEL S. SKUNK: Diego Naranjo
LOONY: Daniel Gilger
MAX: Jazzy Hawley
PRINCE: Aero Collins
CAMERON COYOTE: Sarah "Sherlock" Hull
CARL COYOTE: Flint McGrath
ROCKY RACCOON/BUBBA/FLOWER: Liam Keeton
RAQUEL RACCOON/MOTHER: Dylan Richardson
FIREFIGHTER/FROG/MOTHER SKUNK: Alex Johnson
BETSY/DAUGHTER: Caitlyn Johnson
NEWS REPORTER: Michael Johnson

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(3 m, 1 w, 16 flexible)

NARRATOR: A deer that tells us the story.
SAMUEL S. SKUNK: (M) Our hero.
LOONY: (M) A paranoid and dumb dog.
MAX: A cautious and grumpy dog.
PRINCE: An evil cat.
CAMERON COYOTE: (F) A sweet coyote that Samuel Skunk loves.
CARL COYOTE: (M) A mean alpha coyote.
ROCKY RACCOON: A junk dealing salesman and con artist.
RAQUEL RACCOON: Rocky's partner in crime.
MOTHER or FATHER: Owner of Loony and Max.
DAUGHTER or SON: Owner of Loony and Max.
FIREFIGHTER: Helps to evacuate the humans.
BUBBA: A human who plays with fire.
BETSY: Another human who plays with fire.
MOTHER or FATHER SKUNK: Samuel's mom or dad.
NEWS REPORTER: Played by an actor as an Offstage Voice.
FROG: Bit part.
FLOWER: Bit part.

Many of these roles are gender flexible with a few words changed, and much doubling is possible with quick costume changes. The first production focused on animal hats and t-shirts to suggest the characters, but your costumes can be as elaborate as your resources allow.

A NOTE ON THE SET

In the original production we kept the set very minimal. We used two flats on wheels center stage. One side was painted with rolling hills and the other side was a basic interior with some artwork and a clock. Actors were assigned to turn the flats depending on if it was an interior or exterior scene. Each time the Narrator speaks we would focus on John Deer in a spotlight and lower the lights to suggest the changing of the setting. When the dogs ran out the door we just suggested that there was a door on stage and had them look at the "open door." For the scene at the landfill we filled some black garbage bags with newspaper and threw them on stage along with the small items that the characters find in the landfill. Keep it simple and the focus will be on the dialogue and actions of the characters.

PROPS

Collars for Loony and Max
French book
Paper bag
Hairball
A large firework
Gas can
Match
Book “Forbidden Love,” with skunk and coyote on the cover
Clothespin
Bigger hairball
Piles of trash, trash bags, boxes
Another clothespin
Ironing board
Toilet seat
Pool innertube
Bucket
Crispy Chuck’s Chicken box
Potato
Pool chair
Sunglasses
Reflective board to tan
Baby outfit
Bald cap
Little suitcase

SFX

Skunk spray
A loud explosion, flashing strobe lights, and smoke
Sound of a car driving away
Sound of a cat hissing and scratching, then a skunk spray
Ricocheting gun shots

Displaced: An Animal Adventure

(AT RISE: LIGHTS come up on NARRATOR, a deer. He wanders through the audience, telling the story of the animals and their journey.)

NARRATOR: Howdy! Allow me to introduce myself. I'm John… John Deer. Your local handy dandy narrator and troubadour, here to tell you the story of a very special animal and how he bravely brought the puppies through the inferno, across the treacherous mountains, through the spooky ooky landfill, to the abandoned town, and back to their people in the mysterious village known as Bootjack. But I'm getting ahead of myself. It all started long, long, ago… last summer… when an unlikely hero arrived in Cathey's Valley. I present… Samuel S. Skunk!

(SPOTLIGHT finds SAMUEL S. SKUNK, a shy and sort of puny-looking skunk.)

SAMUEL: *(Shyly waving.)* Hi.

NARRATOR: Alright, I know he doesn't look like much but this was before he became the hero we all love and admire. Back before the puppies were left behind, before the explosion at the lake, before the fire that displaced so many of us. Before all that, he was just a skunk… just a skunk, in love.

(CAMERON COYOTE enters and SAMUEL looks lovingly at her.)

CAMERON: What a beautiful day! The sun is shining! The grass is brown. The air is… *(Sniffs deep.)* …oh. Hi, Samuel.

SAMUEL: Hi, Cameron. Your coat looks especially shiny today.

CAMERON: Um… thanks. The Guentharts switched dog food.

SAMUEL: Well, it shows! *(Giggles nervously.)*
CAMERON: Uh huh…
SAMUEL: Still haven't fixed their gate?
CAMERON: Nope, easiest breakfast in Cathey's Valley!
SAMUEL: I had a toad.
CAMERON: Excuse me?
SAMUEL: For breakfast, I had a toad.
CAMERON: How was it?
SAMUEL: Not great.

(SAMUEL stares at CAMERON, expecting more conversation.)

SAMUEL: *(Cont'd.)* Le Crapaud.
CAMERON: What did you call me?
SAMUEL: It's French… for toad. Le Crapaud!
CAMERON: Uh huh.
SAMUEL: *(Pulling out a French book.)* I've been studying French. The elementary school just got some new books donated. Beautiful language!
CAMERON: Sounds like it. *(Beat.)* How do you say Skunk?
SAMUEL: Moufette!
CAMERON: Ah… and Coyote?
SAMUEL: Coyote!
CAMERON: That's…
SAMUEL: Pretty much the same…
CAMERON: Yeah… Well… it's been… interesting talking to you. As usual.
SAMUEL: Yeah, I should get going. Need to get back over to the elementary school. They just discarded a new pile of old books and if I want to get anything good, I better…
CAMERON: Hop… to it. *(SHE smiles.)*
SAMUEL: What? Oh! Hop to it! Because I had a toad for breakfast! *(Laughing a little too hard.)* You are hilarious!
CAMERON: Thanks…

(Suddenly CARL COYOTE pops up behind SAMUEL.)

CARL: *(Growling.)* BOOOOOO!

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/displaced-an-animal-adventure

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!