

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON

A MUSICAL IN TWO ACTS

Book and Lyrics by Gary P. Cohen

Music by Mark Baron

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SYNOPSIS: Set in the medieval fairytale village of Tea 'N' Crumpet, *The Reluctant Dragon* tells the tale of a young man, Joey Bisfick, whose love of dragons and inquisitive nature forces him to venture off in search of a dragon that has reportedly been terrorizing the countryside, much to the chagrin of his worrying parents. What he finds instead is a sweet old dragon (named Dennis D. Dragon) and three baby all-singing, all-dancing dragonettes, who he quickly befriends. Things seem idyllic until the Mayoress of the village hires a dragon-slaying knight to hunt down Dennis - - then it's up to Joey to secure a "happy ending." With show-stopping numbers and tongue-in-cheek lyrics and dialogue, *The Reluctant Dragon* is campy fun for the entire family, carrying a message of tolerance and friendship.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 MEN, 5 WOMEN, EXTRAS)

STORY LADY (f)Our storyteller, doubles as the MAYORESS.
(18 lines)

JOEY BISFICK (m).....A young man with a large imagination.
(44 lines)

SARAH BISFICK (f).....JOEY's uptight mother. *(25 lines)*

SAUL BISFICK (m).....JOEY's henpecked father. *(17 lines)*

DENNIS (m).....A friendly dragon. *(44 lines)*

MICHELLE (f).....A baby dragon - - one of the DRAGONETTES. MICHELLE doubles as a TOWNIE. *(7 lines)*

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EMMA (f).....A baby dragon - - one of the DRAGONETTES. EMMA doubles as a TOWNIE. (6 lines)

LAURA (f).....A baby dragon - - one of the DRAGONETTES. LAURA can also double as a TOWNIE. (7 lines)

SIR LANCEALITTLE (m).....A brave knight. (12 lines)

TOWNIES (m/f)You may include as many townspeople as you desire. (TOWNIE 1: 4 lines, TOWNIE 2: 4 lines, TOWNIE 3: 4 lines)

SETTING

The town of Tea 'N' Crumpet and its environs.

YEAR: Yester.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE, SCENE 1: The village square.

ACT ONE, SCENE 2: The Bisfick home.

ACT ONE, SCENE 3: On the way to the Dragon's cave.

ACT ONE, SCENE 4: Outside the Dragon's cave.

ACT TWO, SCENE 1: The Bisfick home.

ACT TWO, SCENE 2: The village square.

ACT TWO, SCENE 3: Outside the Dragon's cave.

PRODUCTION NOTES

COSTUMES:

I originally envisioned that the costumes would borrow from an idea utilized by Joseph Papp's creative staff in designing his musical THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA, in which classic Shakespearean costumes were cleverly combined with contemporary clothing, such as jeans and sneakers. At Plays-in-the-Park, *The Reluctant Dragon's* costume design

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was a combination of medieval pieces and contemporary clothing, which gave a period feel to the show while allowing the children to relate to the characters. SIR LANCEALITTLE wore a suit of plastic armor, available from rental houses and on the Internet, with a helmet rigged so that the visor could fall down “on demand”. We created DENNIS and the DRAGONETTES’ costumes out of tights and painted on the scales; this way the performers had the flexibility of movement they needed for the dances. We wanted the DRAGONETTES to be adorable, and we certainly didn’t want DENNIS to frighten anyone.

PROPS:

- 1) Large storybook with the logo RELUCTANT DRAGON on the cover for STORY LADY
- 2) Stuffed dragon’s tail that can be tossed about
- 3) Comic book (or video game magazine) with a dragon on the cover
- 4) Handheld video game player - - can be realistic or fanciful
- 5) Knapsack for JOEY
- 6) Small pad and pencil for DENNIS
- 7) Pocket macro-cassette recorder for DENNIS
- 8) Three large pieces of toast made of foam core/foam rubber or equivalent
- 9) Trick dragon’s nose for DENNIS which can light up on cue, battery operated.
- 10) Framed photo of JOEY and DENNIS, hung on the wall in his room
(*Optional*)
- 11) Podium with TOWN OF TEA ‘N’ CRUMPET emblem on front
- 12) Gavel
- 13) Lance for SIR LANCEALITTLE

FROM THE AUTHOR:

After directing 11 children’s musicals at Plays-in-the-Park (along with choreographer Michelle Massa and musical director/composer Mark Baron) we decided to try our hand at creating something for children that was completely original. While in high school - - back before electricity - - I had written an early draft of *The Reluctant Dragon*, using melodies from Broadway shows but crafting my own lyrics. A mimeographed (!) version of this script still existed at the bottom of a steamer trunk, and I dug it out. We threw most of the plot and lyrics away and, of course, wrote all original

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songs, but the basic concept of inquisitive Dennis, his bickering parents, and a lovable dragon and his dragonettes remained.

The one thing we always loved about doing children's shows were the tongue-in-cheek anachronisms and mischievous theater and movie references we peppered generously into the scripts. Our adult audiences would get just as big a kick out of the shows as would the children, and looked forward to each new musical yearly.

The Reluctant Dragon is full of such playfulness, and while an artistic team staging the show is more than welcome to play the script just as we did in 2004, it is equally as acceptable, and perhaps preferable, to update the anachronisms. Keep in mind that *The Reluctant Dragon* should be fun for the entire family and there is plenty to entertain adults as well as children. We laughed an awful lot at rehearsals; hopefully you will, too. And while you'll want to plant your tongue firmly in your cheek, please encourage the cast to play it seriously. Comedy works best when you believe the plight of the characters.

We'd love to know what you've come up with. If you tape the show, send us a copy, or just keep us posted via e-mail: pipoffice@playsinthepark.com. We'll also be happy to answer any questions you might have.

The authors would like to acknowledge the contribution of Michelle Massa, who went far beyond her choreographic duties to help shape THE RELUCTANT DRAGON when it was a work in progress. Many thanks and love.

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

SONG #1	FANFARE	Instrumental
SONG #2	A DRAGON'S TALE	STORY LADY
SONG #3	SARAH AND SAUL ENTER	Instrumental
SONG #4	GONNA FIND THAT DRAGON	JOEY AND SARAH
SONG #5	GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK	Instrumental
SONG #6	WHICH WAY SHOULD I GO?	JOEY
SONG #7	WHICH WAY PLAYOFF	Instrumental
SONG #8	DRAGONETTES ENTER	Instrumental
SONG #9	A FABULOUS DAY	DENNIS AND THE DRAGONETTES
SONG #10	JOEY FINDS THE CAVE	Instrumental
SONG #11	SWEETHEARTS, LIKE ME	Instrumental
SONG #12	THE DRAGON STOMP	THE DRAGONETTES
SONG #13	DRAGON STOMP REPRISE	Instrumental
SONG #14	END ACT 1	Instrumental

ACT TWO

SONG #15	FANFARE AGAIN	Instrumental
SONG #16	A DRAGON'S TALE REPRISE	STORY LADY
SONG #17	DRAGONS AREN'T HOBBIES	SARAH AND SAUL
SONG #18	ONCE UPON A TIME	JOEY
SONG #19	ONCE UPON A TIME PLAYOFF	Instrumental
SONG #20	THE MAYORESS RAP	STORY LADY
SONG #21	I'M THE GREATEST KNIGHT	SIR LANCEALITTLE
SONG #22	I'M THE GREATEST KNIGHT PLAYOFF	Instrumental
SONG #23	GONNA FIND THAT DRAGON - REPRISE	JOEY
SONG #24	BIG OLD SWEETHEART	Instrumental
SONG #25	FRIENDS AGAIN	ENTIRE CAST
SONG #26	FRIENDS AGAIN PLAYOFF	Instrumental
SONG #27	AFTER FRIENDS AGAIN	Instrumental
SONG #28	A DRAGON'S TALE REPRISE 2	ENTIRE CAST
SONG #29	CURTAIN CALL	ENTIRE CAST

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ACT ONE, SCENE 1

SETTING:

The town square in the village of Tea 'N' Crumpet.

AT RISE:

**SONG #1: FANFARE
(INSTRUMENTAL)**

The STORY LADY enters carrying a large storybook.

STORY LADY: *(Addressing the audience.)* Hello there, boys and girls! We have quite a wonderful story for you this morning! It's a goodie! Today, we bring you the tale of a dragon.

A stuffed dragon's tail is tossed onstage from the wings.

STORY LADY: No, not a dragon's tail! A dragon's story! *(She throws the tail back into the wings.)*

**SONG #2: A DRAGON'S TALE
(STORY LADY)**

STORY LADY:

I'LL TELL YOU A TALE OF ONE MIGHTY DRAGON
WHO LIVES IN A CAVE AND STANDS TWENTY FEET TALL.
AND ALSO A BOY WHO'S CALLED JOEY BISFICK,
WHO LIVES WITH HIS PARENTS NAMED SARAH AND SAUL.

OUR STORY TAKES PLACE IN THE TOWN "TEA 'N' CRUMPET,"
A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN ARTHUR WAS KING,
BACK IN THE DAYS OF DAMSELS AND KNIGHTHOOD
AND GLORIOUS QUESTS AND DRAGONS THAT SING.

STORY LADY: *(Spoken like a newscaster.)* But something was rotten in the town of Tea 'N' Crumpet. Action News and CNN report stories of a vicious dragon loose in the countryside. Film at 11.

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STORY LADY:

EVERYONE SHOOK AT REPORTS OF THIS DRAGON.
WOMENFOLK SCREAMED; KIDS HID UNDER THEIR BEDS.
EXCEPT FOR OUR JOEY, WHO PROVED HE WAS FEARLESS.

"I MUST FIND THAT DRAGON!"
THAT'S JUST WHAT HE SAID.
BUT I'M JUMPING AHEAD, LET'S REWIND A LITTLE.

Mime running the last line backwards.

JOEY KNOWS NOTHING OF THE DANGER AROUND.
HE'S UP IN HIS ROOM, PLAYING HIS GAMEBOY.
ONLY HIS FOLKS KNOW THE PLIGHT OF THE TOWN.

SO HERE IS OUR TALE OF A BOY AND HIS DRAGON.
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT AND STAY IN YOUR SEATS.
NO VIDEO CAMERAS OR PICTURES WITH FLASHES,
SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AND UNWRAP YOUR TREATS.

STORY LADY: (*Spoken.*) It's time to meet our hero, Joey Bisfick.

Joey prides himself on being a dragon guru. That means he has read every book on the subject in the Tea 'N' Public Crumpet - - oops, I mean, the Tea 'N' Shlumpet Rubic - - no, I mean the Tea 'N' Crumpet Public Library, and watches Dragon Tales faithfully every day on PBS. In fact, Joey has been in his room for the past few hours playing his videogames, so he is not aware of the impending danger.

Here come Mr. and Mrs. Bisfick now . . . I wonder what will happen when they tell Joey about the dragon.

ACT ONE, SCENE 2

The Bisfick home.

**SONG #3: SARAH AND SAUL ENTER
(INSTRUMENTAL)**

SARAH: *(Entering with her husband SAUL, standing outside their house.)* Hurry now, Saul, we stayed too long at the town meeting. I've got supper to make. But wait a minute, Saul. I have something to say that I don't wish Joey to hear. I think we should keep this rumor about the dragon from him. You know how he is - - so obsessed with dragons and knights and chivalry.

SAUL goes to the mailbox - - finds a dragon comic and hides it from SARAH'S view.

SARAH: And you know how his imagination will run wild. Always reading those comics and playing "Dungeons and Dragons" on that SuperNintendoPlaystationXBoxGameboy. He'll get all excited and do heaven-knows-what. So, not a word. Keep your big trap shut. Now, let's go inside.

They open up door to JOEY's room. JOEY is playing a videogame.

SARAH: Oh, hello, Joey. What're you doing?

JOEY: Playing a videogame.

SARAH: Oh dear, I bet there are dragons in it. Am I right? The one with dungeons? See, Saul, what did I tell you? Not a word about the you-know-what!

JOEY: What "you-know-what", Mom?

SARAH: Never you mind. Joey, why must you be so preoccupied with dragons? Why not elves and fairies and princesses?

JOEY: Mom, you know elf ears scare me. And I don't believe in fairies. Except maybe Tinker Bell - - but that's another story, isn't it? Besides, dragons are the neatest things in the whole world. All I can think about is to someday meet a real live dragon, up close and personal!

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SARAH: Oh dear, did you hear that, Saul? Just be sure and keep your mouth shut. Lcks-nay on the dragon-slay.

JOEY: Whose-nay on the what-slay?

SARAH: Nothing, Joey, nothing. Now, you boys get ready for dinner.

JOEY: Dad, what were you and Mom doing in town for so long?

SARAH: *(Interrupting SAUL, who tries to speak.)* Oh, we were just talking with the Mayoress . . . nothing for you to concern yourself with. Certainly nothing important, like a fire-breathing dragon.

JOEY AND SAUL: What?

SARAH: Nothing at all. There's absolutely no truth to the rumor that there's a ferocious dragon lurking in the hills outside of Tea 'N' Crumpet.

SAUL: Well, that's certainly letting the bat out of the cave, isn't it?

JOEY: Oh, Dad - - is it true? Is there really a dragon on the loose?

SAUL: That's what everyone's saying . . .

JOEY: Finally - - my dream will come true.

SARAH: No!

**SONG #4: GONNA FIND THAT DRAGON
(JOEY AND SARAH)**

JOEY:

DON'T TRY TO STOP ME, BECAUSE I KNOW
THERE IS ONE PLACE THAT I MUST GO.
I'LL MAKE YOU PROUD, SO I SHOUT OUT LOUD.

I'M GONNA SET OUT, GONNA SEARCH, GONNA FIND ME A DRAGON
AND NOTHING CAN STOP ME, SO STOP YOUR FINGER WAGGIN'.
I'M GONNA FIND OUT,
AND I'M GONNA GO AND FIND IF HE LIVES THERE.
AND WHATEVER HE MAY OR MAY NOT BE,
I'M GONNA TRY BRINGIN' HIM HOME WITH ME.

SARAH:

BUT JOEY, PLEASE . . .

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JOEY:

I'LL FOLLOW HIS TRACKS, WAY UP, WAY UP IN THE HILLS THERE.
AND MAYBE MY DREAMS, MAYBE MY SCHEMES WILL BE FULFILLED
THERE.

IT'S GONNA BE FUN TO FINALLY FIND THE DRAGON OF MY DREAMS.

SO I'M GONNA CLIMB UP, PLEASE DON'T RAVE.

I'M GONNA WALK RIGHT INTO THAT DRAGON'S CAVE,
SO WISH ME GOODBYE AND DON'T YOU CRY.

I'M ON MY WAY.

SARAH:

JOEY, NO, PLEASE DON'T GO.

JOEY, STOP AND LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER.

JOEY, WHOA! 'CAUSE THIS I KNOW,
IF YOU GO, YOU WON'T COME HOME.

JOEY, OOH, WHAT WILL I DO?

THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER SON LIKE YOU.

IF YOU DESERT ME, IT'LL HURT ME.

JOEY:

I'M GONNA SET OUT, GONNA SEARCH, GONNA FIND ME A DRAGON,
AND NOTHING CAN STOP ME, SO STOP YOUR FINGER WAGGIN'.

I'M GONNA FIND OUT, AND I'M GONNA GO AND FIND IF HE LIVES
THERE.

AND WHATEVER HE MAY OR MAY NOT BE, I'M GONNA TRY BRINGIN'
HIM HOME WITH ME.

Overlapping.

JOEY:

I'LL FOLLOW HIS TRACKS,
WAY UP, WAY UP IN THE HILLS
THERE,
AND MAYBE MY DREAMS,
MAYBE MY SCHEMES
WILL BE FULFILLED THERE.
IT'S GONNA BE FUN TO FINALLY
FIND THE DRAGON OF MY
DREAMS.

SARAH:

JOEY, NO, PLEASE DON'T GO.

JOEY, STOP AND LISTEN TO
YOUR MOTHER.

JOEY, WHOA! 'CAUSE THIS I
KNOW,

IF YOU GO, YOU WON'T COME
HOME.

JOEY, OOH, WHAT WILL I DO?

THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER
SON LIKE YOU.

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JOEY:

SO I'M GONNA CLIMB UP, PLEASE DON'T RAVE,
I'M GONNA WALK RIGHT INTO THAT DRAGON'S CAVE.
SO WISH ME GOODBYE AND DON'T YOU CRY,

Grabbing his knapsack, he leaves the house.

I'M ON MY WAY!

JOEY: Bye, Mom! Bye, Dad! Wish me luck!

SARAH AND SAUL: Goodbye and good luck.

**SONG #5: GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK
(INSTRUMENTAL)**

SARAH and SAUL hug each other and wave as JOEY exits.

ACT ONE, SCENE 3

On the way to the dragon's cave.

STORY LADY: And so, ignoring his parents' wishes, Joey trekked up into the hills in pursuit of the dragon. He climbed and walked for hours and before he knew it . . . darkness fell.

The lights abruptly dim.

STORY LADY: Well, what in day seems scenic may be cynic in the night . . .

JOEY: Come again?

STORY LADY: *(To JOEY.)* That's a line from something - - I don't recall just what. *(To the audience.)* Joey lost his way in the darkness, and with only the moonlight to guide him, he tried his best to decide just which way to go.

JOEY wanders about the stage, lit by shafts of moonlight.

SONG #6: WHICH WAY SHOULD I GO?

(JOEY)

JOEY:

WHICH WAY SHOULD I GO? LEFT, RIGHT? UP, DOWN?
I GUESS I JUST DON'T KNOW. DOWN, UP? RIGHT, LEFT?
LEFT, DOWN? UP, RIGHT? DOWN, LEFT? RIGHT, UP?
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO!

WHAT TURN SHOULD I TAKE? THIS? THAT? HERE? THERE?
THROUGH THE WOODS, 'CROSS THE LAKE? THERE? THIS?
HERE? THAT?
THAT, HERE? THERE, THIS? THIS, HERE? THAT, THERE?
I DON'T KNOW WHICH TURN I SHOULD TAKE!

OH, IT'S SCARY BEING LOST WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU
ARE.

I WISH I HAD A NAVIGATOR, LIKE IN MY PAPA'S CAR.
IT'S STARTING TO GET VERY DARK INSIDE THIS CREEPY WOOD.
I THINK I'D RATHER BE BACK HOME, IF I ONLY COULD.

WHICH PATH SHOULD I USE? NORTH? SOUTH? EAST? WEST?
WHAT HAVE I TO LOSE? SOUTH? EAST? NORTH? WEST?
WEST? NORTH? SOUTH? EAST? WEST? EAST? NORTH? SOUTH?
DON'T WANT TO LOSE THE PATH I CHOOSE.

*JOEY, to a musical interlude, starts to walk about the stage, getting
scared at every turn. STORY LADY makes scary animal sounds:
hoots and growls.*

IT'S AWFUL IN THIS NASTY FOREST, FULL OF SCREECHING OWLS.
THERE ARE LIONS AND TIGERS AND GRIZZLY BEARS, WITH THEIR
HOWLS AND GROWLS.
ALTHOUGH I KNOW I WANT TO SEE A DRAGON FACE TO FACE,
I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D REALLY LIVE IN SUCH A SPOOKY PLACE!

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SO WHERE TO GO FROM HERE? FRONT, BACK? SIDE, SIDE?
THERE'S NOTHING MUCH TO FEAR. BACK, SIDE. SIDE, FRONT.
SIDE, FRONT. BACK, SIDE. BACK, FRONT. SIDE, SIDE.
I MUST KEEP REMEMBERING THERE'S NOTHING MUCH TO FEAR.
AND YET, I WANT TO RUN AND HIDE
WITH EVERY SOUND I HEAR.
BE BRAVE, I SAY, AND FACE THE FOE.
WHICH WAY TO GO? I DO NOT KNOW.
THIS? THAT? HERE? THERE? UP, DOWN? LEFT, RIGHT?
FRONT? BACK? SIDE, SIDE?

*The music turns to disco, builds, and JOEY dances until exhausted,
HE lies down.*

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO!

JOEY falls asleep as the lights fade to black.

**SONG #7: WHICH WAY PLAYOFF
(INSTRUMENTAL)**

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ACT ONE, SCENE 4

Outside the dragon's cave.

STORY LADY: *(In an isolated lighting special.)* Exhausted, Joey finally fell asleep under an old oak tree.

Lights start to come up on JOEY - - it is morning.

STORY LADY: At dawn, he awoke, ready to continue his quest.

JOEY awakes, looks around, yawns and exits.

STORY LADY: Little did he know, but the DRAGON was actually quite nearby, sleeping soundly as was his preference on a warm spring morning.

It seems Joey is about to get his wish. How many of you would like to come face to face with a dragon? Well, let's take a look at the cave and by the by, if you see any little dragons scurrying about, don't let them bother you; they're just the dragonettes.

DENNIS D. DRAGON is asleep, snoring contentedly. Three little DRAGONETTES approach.

**SONG #8: DRAGONETTES ENTER
(INSTRUMENTAL)**

DRAGONETTES: Dennis! Dennis!

MICHELLE: Rise and shine, rise and shine!

LAURA: It's a beautiful spring morning -

EMMA: You won't want to miss a single moment of it!

DENNIS: *(Slowly awakening.)* Hmmmm? What? Who? Where? Oh, it's only you, my three sweet dragonettes! I thought it was me old mum, waking me up for dragon school!

MICHELLE: Dennis, that was 600 years ago. What a vivid memory you have!

LAURA: Now, stop dreaming and get up. It's a glorious day!

EMMA: It's a perfect day to write a new song. You haven't written a new song in a dragon's age.

DENNIS: Yes, you sure are right - - what a wonderful day! So, where have you been this fabulous morning?

MICHELLE: Down by the creek, preparing breakfast.

LAURA: Would you like some?

DENNIS: Why, of course . . .

EMMA: (*Cutting him off.*) No! Sing a song first! Please . . .

DENNIS: I can't sing on an empty stomach! Let me eat some breakfast first. Then I'll do a little ditty . . . I can feel one coming on.

DRAGONETTES: Okay, Dennis, we'll be right back - - don't start without us!

DENNIS: And don't breathe too heavily on the toast - - I don't like it burnt!

DRAGONETTES run off.

DENNIS: Let's see, what should I write a song about?

He takes out a small pad and pencil.

DENNIS: The big old sun rising in the sky? The fluffy white clouds? The tulips in the field? How about the birds? What about the bees? The bees in the trees! The bees that have fleas! The bee's knees. Boy, am I clever! Maybe I'll just sing about all of them - - and this beautiful, fabulous, magnificent day!

**SONG #9: A FABULOUS DAY
(DENNIS AND THE DRAGONETTES)**

DENNIS:
WHAT A FUNNY AND FABULOUS DAY,
WITH CUTE FLUFFY CLOUDS DOTTING THE SKY.
THE WEATHER IS PERFECT, IT'S WARM AND IT'S DRY
ON THIS FUNNY AND FABULOUS DAY.

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Since he can't keep up with the writing, he takes out a pocket macro-cassette recorder.

SUCH A MARVELOUS MORNING TO SEE.
THE SUN'S RISING UP, ALL YELLOW AND BRIGHT.
THERE ISN'T A RAIN DROP OR SNOW FLAKE IN SIGHT
ON THIS MARVELOUS MORNING FOR ME.

The DRAGONETTES, hearing the song, come running back on, bringing three huge pieces of toast.

A DAY LIKE TODAY SURE MAKES ME SAY,
"I'D LOVE TO PLAY ALL DAY LONG."
WE WOULD HAVE LOTS OF FUN, WE WOULD RUN IN THE SUN,
SINGING THIS MARVELOUS SONG.

The DRAGONETTES join in.

DENNIS AND DRAGONETTES:

WHAT A FUNNY AND FABULOUS DAY,
WITH CUTE FLUFFY CLOUDS DOTTING THE SKY.
THE WEATHER IS PERFECT, IT'S WARM AND IT'S DRY
ON THIS FUNNY AND FABULOUS DAY.

SUCH A MARVELOUS MORNING TO SEE.
THE SUN'S RISING UP, ALL YELLOW AND BRIGHT.
THERE ISN'T A RAIN DROP OR SNOW FLAKE IN SIGHT
ON THIS MARVELOUS MORNING FOR ME.

Dance break with the DRAGONETTES.

DRAGONETTES:

A DAY LIKE TODAY MAKES YOU FEEL SO ALIVE,
THERE'RE BEES IN THEIR HIVES ALL BUZZING BY.

DENNIS imitates bees buzzing.

LIKE THE BIRDS IN THE SKY, WE WISH WE COULD FLY.
WOULDN'T THAT BE A SURPRISE?

DENNIS: *(Shouted.)* SURPRISE!

DRAGONETTES: *(Scared.)* AHHHH!

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ALL:

WHAT A FUNNY AND FABULOUS DAY,
WITH CUTE FLUFFY CLOUDS DOTTING THE SKY.
THE WEATHER IS PERFECT, IT'S WARM AND IT'S DRY
ON THIS FUNNY AND FABULOUS DAY.

DENNIS: (*Spoken.*) Solo for the dragon!

DENNIS:

SUCH A MARVELOUS MORNING TO SEE.
THE SUN'S RISING UP, ALL YELLOW AND BRIGHT.
THERE ISN'T A RAIN DROP OR SNOW FLAKE IN SIGHT
ON THIS MARVELOUS

DRAGONETTES:

MARVELOUS

DENNIS:

FABULOUS

DRAGONETTES:

FABULOUS

DENNIS:

GLORIOUS

DRAGONETTES:

GLORIOUS

DENNIS:

MIRACULOUS

DRAGONETTES:

MIRACULOUS

DENNIS:

ILLUSTRIOUS, SPLENDIFEROUS, HARDLY CARNIVOROUS MORNING
FOR ME! FOR ME! FOR ME! (*Ala ROSE'S TURN from GYPSY*) FOR ME!

DENNIS: Boy, that was fun. Okay, let's have some breakfast! (*Picks up a piece of toast.*) I'd like to propose a toast. (*Laughing at his joke.*) Ha ha!

JOEY: (*Coming down the aisle, calling.*) Here, dragon! Here dragon, dragon! Is there a dragon anywhere about?

DENNIS: (*To the DRAGONETTES.*) Uh oh! Sounds like a people!

DRAGONETTES: A people!

DENNIS: I don't want any peoples to know we're up here. Quick all of you, let's hide.

He scurries the DRAGONETTES into the cave.

SONG #10: JOEY FINDS THE CAVE (INSTRUMENTAL)

JOEY: Oh boy, there's a cave. Where there's a cave, there's a dragon! Yoo hoo, is anybody in there?

DENNIS: (*From inside the cave.*) No! Nobody in here.

DRAGONETTES: (*Echoing DENNIS.*) Here . . . here . . . here . . .

JOEY: If there isn't anybody in there, then who's talking . . . ?

DENNIS: Nobody. It's just the echo.

DRAGONETTES: (*Echoing DENNIS.*) Echo . . . echo . . . echo . . .

JOEY: Oh, come on, I know there's somebody in there - - or some *thing*. Come on out.

DENNIS: Oh, okay, all right, but please . . . don't hurt me.

JOEY: Why would I hurt you? I wouldn't hurt you. I'm just looking for a dragon, have you seen him?

DENNIS: (*Peeking his head out of the cave.*) Seen him . . . ? Why, I am him!

JOEY: You? You're the dragon?!

DENNIS: Yes, of course! What do I look like, a seasick goat?

JOEY: A little bit, yeah. But dragons are fierce and frightening and breathe fire and smoke. They have tails and scales.

DENNIS: Well, this ain't exactly a tuxedo I'm wearing. And here's my tail!

JOEY: Impressive! So what about your fire breathing . . . ?

The DRAGONETTES begin to peek out of the cave.

DENNIS: Well, that's a sad, sad story. Many years ago, I tried climbing into a hot tub and I fizzled out all my tanks.

JOEY: Don't you eat people?

DENNIS: Oh, good gracious, no. My family has always been vegetarians.

JOEY: Well, you certainly aren't what I expected - - but I'm glad to finally meet a real live dragon face-to-face! I've been reading about you for years.

DENNIS: You mean there are books about us dragons?

JOEY: Why, sure! And DVDs and videogames! But I must say, they're not depicted much like you. They're all very, well, frightening.

DENNIS: Well, I wouldn't hurt a . . . dragonfly. I guess there are some fire-breathing people-eaters left, but most have been slain by knights. The ones that are left are mostly sweethearts, like me.

SONG #11: SWEETHEARTS, LIKE ME (INSTRUMENTAL)

JOEY: *(Extending his hand.)* I'm Joey!

DENNIS: How you doin'?

JOEY: No, not *that* Joey. I'm Joey Bisfick.

DENNIS: And I'm Dennis D. Dragon.

JOEY: What does the "D" stand for?

DENNIS: I'd rather not say.

The DRAGONETTES giggle.

DENNIS: My, how rude of me. These are my dragonettes, Michelle . . . Laura . . . and Emma! Meet Joey Bisfick!

DRAGONETTES: *(Giggling.)* Hi, Joey Bisfick.

DENNIS: These silly-billys were in a home for homeless dragons that was destroyed by some dragon-slaying knights. I've adopted them. They're just babies - - none of them are over 200 years old. But they're good company.

MICHELLE: Did he tell you what his middle name is?

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON

DENNIS: Now, you know what happens every time I say my middle name. And I just won't do it!

LAURA: But Dennis, Joey doesn't know what happens. I bet he'd love to see it.

JOEY: Uh huh! See what . . . ?

DENNIS: Absolutely not!

EMMA: Go ahead, Dennis, tell.

DENNIS: On a fabulous day like today you simply won't get me to let on that my middle name is "Dimples"! Ahhh! I said it!

The DRAGONETTES laugh hysterically as DENNIS sneezes and his nose lights up.

DRAGONETTES AND JOEY: Gesundheit!

DENNIS: There, you made me do it. You see, Joey, many years ago, an evil wizard named Voldemort put a curse on me so that every time I say my middle name, I sneeze and my nose lights up. I just can't say "Dimples" - - (*A huge sneeze and his nose lights.*) Ahhhh chhooo!

DRAGONETTES AND JOEY: Gesundheit!

THE DRAGONETTES roll with laughter.

DENNIS: Dear, dear, there I go again! All right, dragonettes, I hope you're satisfied; you've tricked me into saying it and letting Joey and all these kids in on my secret. Everyone has had a good laugh at my expense.

MICHELLE: What do you mean, we tricked you? How did we trick you?

DENNIS: You know perfectly well . . . you made me say my middle name!

EMMA: What middle name?

DENNIS: Dimples!

Again he sneezes and everyone laughs.

DRAGONETTES AND JOEY: Gesundheit!

DENNIS: Ahhh . . . you did it again.

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON

MICHELLE: We're sorry, Dennis. Tell you what - - we'll make it up to you!

EMMA: Sure! We'll do your favorite song! The Dragon Stomp!

LAURA: Okay! Sit down, Joey.

Music cue.

LAURA: And fasten your seatbelt - - it's going to be a bumpy ride!

**SONG # 12: THE DRAGON STOMP
(DRAGONETTES, JOEY, AND DENNIS)**

MICHELLE:

WE'RE GONNA SING YOU A LITTLE SONG.
THE WORDS ARE PRETTY SIMPLE, SO IT WON'T TAKE LONG.

EMMA:

YOU'LL LEARN A LITTLE DANCE THAT AIN'T SO BAD.

LAURA:

AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT'S THE LATEST FAD.

ALL DRAGONETTES:

IT'S CALLED THE STOMP.
IT'S CALLED THE DRAGON STOMP.
IT'S QUITE A ROMP.
IT'S CALLED THE DRAGON STOMP.

MICHELLE:

FIRST, YOU GIVE A LITTLE GROWL.

EMMA:

THEN YOU SHAKE YOUR LITTLE TAIL.

LAURA:

THEN LET LOOSE A MIGHTY HOWL,

ALL DRAGONETTES:

JUST TO LOOSEN UP YOUR SCALES.

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON

SHIMMY TO THE LEFT,
SHIMMY TO THE RIGHT,
SHIMMY TO THE BACKBEAT,
YOU'LL BE STOMPING OUT ALL NIGHT.

IT'S CALLED THE STOMP.
IT'S CALLED THE DRAGON STOMP.
IT'S QUITE A ROMP.
IT'S CALLED THE DRAGON STOMP.

HEY . . . HEY . . . HEY . . . YEAH!

THEY'RE DOIN' IT IN CAMELOT.
THEY'RE ROCKIN' OUT IN WALES.
THEY'RE BOPPIN' DOWN IN LOXLEY.
SHAKE THEM DRAGON TAILS.

DON'T BOOGALOO IN NORMANDY.
DON'T HULLYGULL IN FRANCE.
DON'T TWIST AWAY IN BURGUNDY,
IF YA WANNA DANCE.

JUST DO THE STOMP.
JUST DO THE DRAGON STOMP.
IT'S QUITE A ROMP.
LET'S DO THE DRAGON STOMP.

INSTRUMENTAL DANCE BREAK

JOEY and DENNIS join in the singing.

ALL:
SO WHEN YOU'RE FEELING MOODY
AND WHEN YOU'RE FEELING BLUE,
JUST DO YOUR DRAGON DUTY,
LIKE ALL GOOD DRAGONS DO.

IF YOU'RE FEELING CRABBY
OR WAY DOWN IN THE DUMPS,
DO A DANCE THAT ISN'T SHABBY,
JUST GET UP OFF YOUR RUMPS
AND DO THE STOMP.
JUST DO THE DRAGON STOMP.

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON

IT'S QUITE A ROMP.
IT'S CALLED THE DRAGON . . .

IT'S QUITE A ROMP.
IT'S CALLED THE DRAGON . . .

IT'S QUITE A ROMP.
IT'S CALLED THE DRAGON STOMP.

The song ends with the DRAGONETTES collapsed on the floor, exhausted but happy.

JOEY: Oh, that was fun! I haven't had such a good time since I did the Electric Slide with Aunt Essie at my bar mitzvah. But I better go home now . . . can I come back and visit some other time?

DENNIS: Why, of course, feel free to come by anytime! (*Softly, aside to JOEY.*) It'd be nice to talk to someone besides these silly dragonettes all the time.

DRAGONETTES: (*Without lifting their heads.*) We heard that!

JOEY: Great! Wait until I tell my folks how nice you really are. They won't ever be afraid of dragons again! Good bye!

Everyone ad-libs their "goodbyes."

DENNIS: All right, you dragonettes. Off you go to do some work for a change, instead of stomping all over the place. Off with you!

MICHELLE: But, Dennis, what was that word you shouldn't say? I forget.

DENNIS: Oh, you mean Dimp . . . Ohhh! Almost fooled me . . . now, off with you!

They exit, singing some of THE DRAGON STOMP.

**SONG # 13: DRAGON STOMP REPRISE
(DRAGONETTES AND DENNIS)**

IT'S QUITE A ROMP.
IT'S CALLED THE DRAGON . . .

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON

IT'S QUITE A ROMP.
IT'S CALLED THE DRAGON . . .

IT'S QUITE A ROMP.
IT'S CALLED THE DRAGON STOMP.

STORY LADY: *(Entering with her storybook, continuing to sing THE DRAGON STOMP and dancing a bit.)* Oh my, oh my. That sure was fun. I bet that dance will be as big as the hokey-pokey! Well, I don't know about you, but I'm exhausted. I think I need to take a break before we continue the story. How about we have one of those things they have in the theater where you all get to go to the little boys and little girls room and buy juice boxes and things - - what is that called? Anyone know . . . ? Oh yes, you're right. It's INTERMISSION!

**SONG #14: END ACT 1
(INSTRUMENTAL)**

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