

SPASKETTI

By Forrest Musselman

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance: 1 Male, 6 Females, 4 Either)

TATUM	SHE is a young girl around four or five years old.
MOTHER	SHE is actually just a voice off stage and will be said by Glow Worm. Voice could also be pre-recorded.
RAGGEDY ANNA	SHE is a rag doll and has problems moving.
JESTER	HE / SHE is the jokester of the group.
BABY DOLL	SHE is just learning to talk.
DANCER	SHE is the graceful one of the group.
BEAR	HE / SHE is the peaceful one.
TROLL	HE / SHE has an attitude problem.
GLOW WORM	SHE / HE can brighten up a room.
BARBARELLA	SHE is a distant relative to another famous doll.
WARRIOR	HE is there to save the day.

TIME

Now.

PLACE

A little girl's bedroom.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Spasketti was originally performed in the fall of 2003 by students of Studio Academy Charter Arts High School in Rochester, Minnesota. The play was done for various elementary schools in the surrounding community. The original cast is as follows: Tatum Blume, Nikki Dahlen, Kirsten Gray, Nicole David, Veasna Thouk, Justin Holmberg, Anna Seewald, Trish Heitman, Kathryn Oeltjen, Ellen Harty and Lisa Tonkinson.

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SETTING: The audience sees a little girl's bedroom. A backdrop or flat is painted to look like a bed, but is constructed in such a way that the actors can actually lift the bed skirt and crawl underneath to back stage. Various pieces of furniture or oversized blocks are positioned about the stage.

AT RISE: *TATUM is playing with BARBARELLA and BABY DOLL. The dolls are motionless and expressionless as TATUM moves them around herself. RAGGEDY ANNA is sprawled over a block. BEAR is lying on the floor. DANCER is frozen in a ballet position. TROLL is leaning against another block. GLOW WORM is lying with half her body under the bed. JESTER is lying directly downstage center.*

TATUM: Time to wake up, toys! It's time to go to school. *(Changes voice to sound like BARBARELLA)* But I don't want to go to school. *(As herself)* No excuses, Barbarella. School makes you smart. *(As BARBARELLA)* Wheee, I can't wait to go to school. I'm going to learn lots of things, like how to add and subtract and read books. *(As herself)* That's right, Barbarella, school will teach you a whole bunch and then you'll be super smart like me. Right, baby doll? *(As BABY DOLL)* Mama, mama. *(As herself)* Should we eat breakfast before we go? *(As BARBARELLA)* Yumm, yum, I love breakfast. I could eat a whole box of cereal. I want toast. I want a ganoola bar. I want spaghetti. *(As herself)* Spaghetti? You can't have spaghetti for breakfast. No, no, no. That's a supper food. *(As BARBARELLA)* What makes a supper food and a breakfast food? *(As herself)* Good question, you will do super duper good in school today. Breakfast food is food you eat for breakfast and supper food is what you eat for supper, silly. Everyone knows that. But what ...?

MOTHER: *(Offstage)* Tatum! Tatum, are you in your room?

TATUM: Yes, Mommy.

MOTHER: It's time to take a bath and get ready for bed, sweetie.

TATUM: But, Mommy, I'm not done playing.

MOTHER: Get out here now, please.

TATUM: But, Mommy, I don't want to go to bed. There's monsters under there.

MOTHER: Tatum. No more games. Let's go take your bath.

TATUM: *(Gets up reluctantly and heads offstage)* But the monsters ...

MOTHER: Honey, there are no such things as monsters.

TATUM: Uh, huh. Under the bed... I saw them.

(Her voice fades out. There is a short pause and then the TOYS slowly move from their frozen positions.)

ANNA: Help. Help me.

JESTER: *(Pops up)* Bit, bot, bat, who's saying that?

BABY DOLL: Mama?

ANNA: No, it's me ... Raggedy Anna. I'm over here. I can't move.

DANCER: How did you get in that position?

ANNA: Isn't it obvious? Could someone help me please? I can't feel my legs anymore.

BEAR: I remember once the child threw me behind the toy chest. I hung upside down for two weeks before she found me again. All the stuffing went to my head.

DANCER: That's nothing. Once, I was slammed up against the wall so hard, my arm almost broke off.

TROLL: Please ... once she dragged me into the bathtub for her bath, and I almost drowned.

ANNA: Wow, that's great. Can I have some help now?

GLOW WORM: *(Moving from under the bed)* I'd love to help, Anna, but I'm not strong enough.

BARBARELLA: I'll help you, Anna. *(She walks stiffly over to ANNA, but can not bend her arms enough to lift ANNA. SHE eventually sorta pushes ANNA off the block.)*

ANNA: Thank you for helping me. Wow, I feel like I've just gone twelve rounds with a monster.

JESTER: Oooo, don't say that word. It's not funny.

ANNA: What? Monster?

BABY DOLL: *(Scared)* Mama.

JESTER: Can't all of you hush? Or else it will get all of us!

BARBARELLA: Do you think it's true? Is there really a monster living under the bed?

BEAR: We better find it and get it out of there. It's our duty to protect that little girl.

GLOW WORM: Let's all just rub Troll's belly and wish it away.

BARBARELLA: Okay.

(BARBARELLA runs stiffly toward TROLL. EVERYONE else joins in and tickles TROLL.)

TROLL: My magic doesn't work that way. Hey, that tickles. Stop it!
Stop it!

BEAR: Okay, everyone. That's enough. Magic won't get rid of the monster anyway.

DANCER: It won't?

BEAR: Nope. This reminds me of another under-the-bed problem that happened many years ago long before any of you were made. This is when I belonged to the older child, Tyler. It all started with a horrible smell that came from under the bed. Tyler knew that it was the monster and was afraid to go to sleep. Each night he hugged me tightly and asked that I protect him from the stinky monster.

ANNA: Did the monster ever come out from under the bed? Did you fight it?

BEAR: No, I never fought it. Tyler's mother came into his room while he was at school and attacked the monster herself with a vacuum cleaner. After that day, I never saw it again.

ANNA: So, it could be back again. Meaner and madder than ever before!

JESTER: That does it. I'm am officially super scared. (*Reacts in exaggerated manner.*)

BEAR: There is nothing to fear but fear itself. We need to band together and take on this monster. If it sees all of us, it will run away and never return.

TROLL: But what if it decides to stay and fight? What will we do then?

ANNA: We'll rub Troll's belly and wish it away.

(*Begins to do so and TROLL giggles.*)

TROLL: Enough with the tickling!

GLOW WORM: If wishing won't work, then neither will fighting. We're not all strong enough.

TROLL: You won't know until you try.

BARBARELLA: Who are we kidding? Glow Worm has no arms, and I can't even bend mine.

GLOW WORM: I have arms ... I'm just weak.

JESTER: And I'm a joker, not a fighter.

ANNA: I'm too much of a clutz to do any good.

DANCER: And what am I going to do? Twirl and do the twist?

BABY DOLL: (*Dejected*) Mama.

BEAR: Fighting doesn't solve anything anyway. I learned that a long time ago.

GLOW WORM: Then what are we going to do? Are we going to let some monster scare our child so bad that she'll never want to come into her room?

TROLL: There has to be someone else out there that can help.

GLOW WORM: Forget it. There isn't anyone brave enough to face a monster.

BEAR: Actually, there may be someone.

ALL: Who? Who is it?

BEAR: I remember him when I used to live in Tyler's room.

ALL: Who? Who is it?

BEAR: He is a great warrior of unbelievable strength.

ALL: Who is it already?

BEAR: I just told you his name. Great Warrior.

DANCER: Where is he? How do we find him?

BEAR: Last I heard, he was on a secret mission to protect Tyler from the bed bugs.

ANNA: Yeah, I heard they bite.

JESTER: What are we waiting for? Let's go find him.

BEAR: It's not that easy. The Warrior is so powerful that he can read the minds of others. If we all go looking for him, he'll know immediately and hide and we'll never find him.

TROLL: What should we do?

BEAR: We need to send one person. Someone who can hide their thoughts.

BABY DOLL: *(Volunteering)* Mama!

BEAR: Perhaps, Baby Doll. But how would you talk to him? You only know one word.

(BABY DOLL shakes head.)

You know more than one word?

(BABY DOLL nods head.)

Well, let's hear it.

BABY DOLL: *(After struggling for awhile)* Kitty!

DANCER: That's it?

GLOW WORM: The Warrior won't know we need help if you say "Mama" and "Kitty" over and over again.

ANNA: Sorry, Baby Doll. We need someone else who can hide their thoughts and speak.

BARBARELLA: Well, it has to be me. I don't have a brain!

JESTER: Of course! You're dumb as a door mat.

BARBARELLA: I know, I know!

JESTER: Well, what are you waiting for? Go, go!

BARBARELLA: All right. Wish me luck!

ALL: Luck!

(ALL hug her and exit. BARBARELLA is left on stage alone. Optional: Scary Music)

BARBARELLA: Hmm, where should I go? *(Begins to walk in large circle around stage, but immediately becomes confused.)* I don't know where I'm going. I don't know who I'm looking for.

(SHE repeats this several times until WARRIOR sneaks out from upstage and walks behind her. BARBARELLA finally realizes someone is behind her and turns around. SHE screams.)

WARRIOR: Who are you? Who dares to enter the land of the warrior?

BARBARELLA: I'm sorry, I thought this was the corner of Tyler's room where all the legos are.

WARRIOR: To some it may be Tyler's room, but it is really the land of the warrior. Now, who are you?

BARBARELLA: I'm Barbarella. I have a little place down by Malibu.

WARRIOR: I don't know what that is. What do you want?

BARBARELLA: Please, you have to help us. There's a monster under Tatum's bed and we ... we meaning Baby Doll, Dancer, Jester, Glow Worm, Bear, Troll, and Raggedy Anna need to get rid of it so Tatum isn't scared anymore! Oh, please won't you help us, Warrior? You're our only chance.

(Next little section can be played over dramatically, like a bad soap opera.)

WARRIOR: I am a forgotten toy. I have no use for anyone anymore.

BARBARELLA: That's not true.

WARRIOR: Yes, it is. When Tyler tossed me aside to play with a ... a ... purple dinosaur, I vowed never to protect a child again.

BARBARELLA: How can you be jealous of the purple dinosaur? He loves you.

WARRIOR: There is no room in the warrior's heart for love. I live by the staff.

BARBARELLA: But we need your staff. We can't fight it on our own.

WARRIOR: What about Bear? He's old, wise and strong.

BARBARELLA: True, but this monster is super strong. We need all the help we can get.

WARRIOR: No, I'll just stay here and live amongst the blocks.

BARBARELLA: Don't you see? This is your chance to prove to your master that you are still the number one toy. Show Tyler that you are a true hero.

WARRIOR: I am not sure.

BARBARELLA: I guess I could go ask the purple dinosaur.

WARRIOR: What are we waiting for? Let's go.

BARBARELLA: Super! Follow me. *(Begins to walk, but immediately becomes confused.)* I don't know where I'm going.

(SHE repeats this over and over as the WARRIOR follows her. SHE looks behind her eventually and sees the WARRIOR is behind her. SHE screams. ALL the OTHER TOYS enter.)

WARRIOR: What are you doing?

BARBARELLA: You scared me. *(Notices the OTHER TOYS)* Oh, here he is, you guys. I found him.

BABY DOLL: MAMA!

WARRIOR: Who are you calling Mama?

DANCER: She calls everyone Mama. You're lucky she didn't call you Kitty.

GLOW WORM: Have you come to help us get rid of the monster, Warrior?

WARRIOR: Perhaps, but I will not do it for you. I will do it for myself.

BEAR: I see nothing has changed, Warrior. You are still on your own.

WARRIOR: I am like the lone wolf. I travel with no one. But for the sake of the little girl, Tatum, I will lead you into battle against this monster.

ALL: Hurray!!!

WARRIOR: But before we go, we must determine what sort of monster it is. To defeat our foe, we must know it better than we know ourselves.

TATUM: *(Offstage)* I'll be right there, Mommy. I need to find a toy to take a bath with me.

ANNA: Quick everyone. Tatum is coming back. Play toy!

(ALL freeze in their original positions at the start of the play. TATUM enters.)

TATUM: Now what toy needs a bath the most? *(Moves around the room)* Troll has messy hair, maybe she needs to get it washed.

Maybe Baby Doll needs a bath. *(To BABY DOLL)* What's that, Baby? You don't want to take a bath? You want to play house instead?

That's a good idea. I'll be the Mommy and you can be the baby and who should be the daddy? Should the Teddy Bear be the Daddy? *(To BEAR)* Would you like to be the Daddy, Teddy? You could be called Teddy Daddy. *(Moves them around)* Okay, so you be here and you be here and I'll be here and hey! Where did the warrior come from? *(To WARRIOR)* How did you get here? What's that? You on a secret mission? You can't tell me? Okay, so you

want to play house instead? You want to make cookies? Okay, you be there and I'll be here. Okay, so Baby is home from school and Mommy and Daddy are home too. It's time for supper. Let's all eat supper. *(To BABY DOLL)* Did you wash your hands, Baby? Yes, I washed my hands. See, they all clean. Oh, oh, that reminds me. I gotta go take my bath or Mommy will be mad and she won't read me a bed-time story. That means I'd have to go to bed by myself and there's a mean monster under there. Maybe, the monster is watching me right now. I better take a bath!

(SHE quickly runs out of the room. ALL the TOYS remain frozen. WARRIOR is the first to move.)

WARRIOR: Okay, it's safe.

(ALL unfreeze and mumble to each other: whew, that was a close one, etc.)

JESTER: When Tatum was here, it was really funny. Especially when she made Warrior play house. I wanted to laugh so hard, I almost burst my seams.

WARRIOR: No one can tame the warrior.

JESTER: Now don't be so sure, Miss Susie Homemaker. Or should I say, Mr. Cookie Baker.

WARRIOR: Perhaps I should leave.

TROLL: No, wait. She (He) was just kidding. She's always kidding.

GLOW WORM: Please stay. Tatum is really scared of the monster.

BEAR: You're our only hope. Please stay.

WARRIOR: Fine. I will stay.

ALL: Hurray!

WARRIOR: Now what do we know about the monster? What is it? Where did it come from?

JESTER: I'm not sure, but it has big teeth, smells icky and is really hairy.

DANCER: I heard it was a giant bird with fingernails as sharp as swords.

TROLL: And it had a beak that can crush a toy in two.

ANNA: That's not true. I heard it's a forgotten toy that no one plays with anymore, and it is finally going to seek revenge.

BARBARELLA: I heard it doesn't color coordinate its clothes and won't use conditioner in its hair.

GLOW WORM: No, the monster is more like a ghost and changes colors when it gets ready to attack.

BABY DOLL: Kitty?

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