Matisse
&
The Sneezy Scarecrow

Adapted for the stage from

The Curious Adventures of Matisse the Cat
‘Matisse & the Sneezy Scarecrow’

By
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

THE NARRATOR  The guide for this adventure
MATISSE       A very special cat
HUGH          Matisse’s boy
SNEEZY        The scarecrow
BELLE         The butterfly
DAPHNE        The talking duck
CANDY MAN     Candy floss seller
POST BOX      Full of letters

*EARS OF CORN  Corn field growers
*FLOWERPOTS   Garden decorations
*THE CROWS    Birds of a feather
*DUCKS        Friends of Daphne
*COWS         Cow shed residents
*SCOUTS       Scout hut parade
*COCONUTS     Very shy!

*Select the number of these characters to suit your class size

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ACT 1

Scene 1

A NEW ADVENTURE

SETTING:

The Narrator is positioned at the side of the stage. 
Hugh is back stage. 
Matisse is sat on the edge of the stage looking at the audience. 
On stage: A giant cat flap, then the flowerpots and at the far end of the stage, the ears of corn are hiding a big carrot on the floor.

1. NARRATOR: This is the story of Matisse and the Sneezy Scarecrow. 
Matisse is a cat. 
Matisse is a special cat. 
When Matisse’s boy Hugh goes to school, Matisse sometimes gets a tickle in his whiskers. 

EFFECT: Use a musical instrument to make the sound of tickly whiskers.

2. NARRATOR: The more it tickles the more he giggles, and then the adventure begins.

3. HUGH: Bye Matisse, I’m going to miss you today.

EFFECT: Sound of a door slamming shut.

4. NARRATOR: It was a glorious sunny day. 
I think I’ll go outside today, thought Matisse. 
So, he jumped through his cat flap into the garden.

Matisse stands up on the stage. 
He jumps through the cat flap into the garden.

5. NARRATOR: As he was passing the flowerpots he spotted the most beautiful rainbow butterfly.

Belle dances around Matisse.

6. MATISSE: Hello little butterfly.

7. BELLE: Giggles.
Belle dances towards the ears of corn.
As she dances the ears of corn spread out on the stage in a semi-circle
(facing towards the audience) with the carrot in front.

Belle dances off the stage.

8. MATISSE:   WAIT! Wait for me.
ACT 1

Scene 2

IN THE CORNFIELD

*Matisse runs through the ears of corn then he stops and looks at the audience.
The ears of corn begin to sway from side to side.*


*Matisse turns to face the ears of corn and stands on the carrot.*

10. MATISSE: *(Shouts)* WOW MEOW!
What was that?

*Matisse picks up the carrot.*

11. NARRATOR: Matisse had found a BIG, slimy carrot. He decided to take a closer look.

*Matisse smells the carrot*

12. NARRATOR: While inspecting the carrot, Matisse feels his whiskers tickle a little.

**EFFECT:** Use a musical instrument to make the sound of tickly whiskers.

*Sneezy and the crows appear at the opposite end of the stage*

13. NARRATOR: The little tickle makes him giggle.

**EFFECT:** Use musical instruments to make the sound of tickly whiskers.

The more it TICKLED the more he GIGGLED.

**EFFECT:** Use musical instruments to make the sound of tickly whiskers.

14. MATISSE: *(Giggles)*

15. NARRATOR: Then he heard a LOUD...

16. SNEEZY: Ah, ahha, ahha, tchoooooooo!
17. NARRATOR: The ground started shaking, the rain started pouring and the crows were laughing!

18. CROWS: (Laughing)

Matisse runs towards the crows. He faces the crows with his back towards Sneezy.

19. MATISSE: What’s so funny?

20. CROWS: (Laughing)

21. SNEEZY: Ah, ahha, ahha, tchooooooo!

22. SNEEZY: Ah, ahha, ahha, tchooooooo!

Sneezy closes his eyes and presses his joke flowers (tears).

23. NARRATOR: Matisse looked up.
It wasn’t raining from the skies.
The rain was from a scarecrow’s eyes

24. MATISSE: What’s the matter?

25. SNEEZY: Ohhhh, I’m a useless scarecrow.
The crows just laugh at me.
I don’t scare, I just sneeze.
This awful HAYFEVER won’t go away.

Sneezy cries, and sobs and cries.

26. MATISSE: I know what to do?
You sneeze because you’re made of hay.
All we need to do is stuff you with something else.

27. SNEEZY: Do you REALLY think that will work?

28. MATISSE: Yes, I’ll go and see what I can find.

29. NARRATOR: So, Matisse went to search for the perfect scarecrow stuffing.

END OF ACT 1
Matisse & the Sneezy Scarecrow

ACT 2

Scene 1

THE FIRST SCARECROW STUFFING

SETTING:

The stage is set with a hedgerow scene, then a riverbank scene, two rubbish bins and finally a shed (possibly a Wendy house).

30. NARRATOR: He looks in the hedgerow...

Matisse hides behind the hedgerow scene.

31. NARRATOR: But he doesn't find a stuffing.

Matisse looks at the audience and shakes his head.

32. NARRATOR: He looks by the riverbank ...

Matisse hides behind the river bank scene.

33. NARRATOR: But he doesn't find a stuffing.

Matisse looks at the audience and shakes his head.

34. NARRATOR: He even looks in the rubbish bins...

Matisse lifts up the rubbish bin lids (making a noise) and looks inside the bins. The hedgerow scene is removed and Sneezy returns with the laughing crows.

35. NARRATOR: But he doesn't find a stuffing.

Matisse looks at the audience and shakes his head.

36. NARRATOR: Then he looks behind on old empty shed and finds a big bundle of nettles.

Matisse hides behind the shed then appears with a big bundle of (pretend) nettles. Matisse looks at the audience and shows them the bundle of nettles.

37. MATISSE: This could be the perfect scarecrow stuffing.
38. NARRATOR: Matisse returned to the cornfield and began to stuff Sneezy with the nettles.

*Matisse throws away some hay and pretends to stuff Sneezy with the nettles.*

39. SNEEZY: OH, OHHH, OUCH, OH, AHHH, OHHHH, OUCH!

40. CROWS: (Laughing)

41. MATISSE: What’s wrong?

42. SNEEZY: It’s too itchy.

*Matisse faces the audience and shrugs his shoulders.*

43. MATISSE: I’ll go and find something else then.

44. NARRATOR: So, Matisse went to search for a different scarecrow stuffing.
ACT 2

Scene 2

THE SECOND SCARECROW STUFFING

SETTING:
The stage is set with a tractor in a barn scene, a post box, and finally Daphne with the other ducks at the far end of the stage.

45. NARRATOR: He looks in the farmer’s barn...

*Matisse hides behind the barn scene.*

46. NARRATOR: But he doesn’t find a stuffing.

*Matisse looks at the audience and shakes his head.*

47. NARRATOR: He looks in the post box...

*Matisse walks around the post box.*

48. POST BOX: (Throws letters everywhere)

49. NARRATOR: But he doesn’t find a stuffing.

*Matisse looks at the audience and shakes his head.*

*Matisse walks towards the ducks.*

50. DUCKS: Quack, quack, quack, quack, quack, quack.

*The barn scene is removed and Sneezy returns with the laughing crows.*

51. DAPHNE: Hello little cat.
What are you doing by our duck pond?

52. MATISSE: I’m trying to find some stuffing for my friend Sneezy the Scarecrow.

53. DAPHNE: Our feathers are the softest, fluffiest feather in the whole wide world.
You can have some if you like.

54. MATISSE: Thank you very much.
55. MATISSE: Now, I’ve found the perfect scarecrow stuffing.

56. NARRATOR: Matisse returns to the cornfield and begins to stuff Sneezy with the fluffy feathers.

Matisse throws away some nettles and pretends to stuff Sneezy with the feathers.

57. SNEEZY: HAH, HA, HA, HEE, HE, HEE, HAH, HA, HEE, HE, HEE!

58. CROWS: (Laughing)

59. MATISSE: What’s so funny?

60. SNEEZY: It’s TOO tickly.

Matisse faces the audience and shrugs his shoulders.

61. MATISSE: I’ll go and find something else then.

62. NARRATOR: So, Matisse went to search for a different scarecrow stuffing.
ACT 2

Scene 3

THE THIRD SCARECROW STUFFING

SETTING:

The stage is set with the cows, the scouts, the carousel scene, the coconut shy with two or three coconuts and the Candy Floss Man.

63. NARRATOR: He looked in the cow shed...

64. COWS: (Bending down pretending to munch feed.)

*Matisse weaves through the cows and looks down at the ground where they are munching.*

65. NARRATOR: But he doesn’t find a stuffing.

*Matisse looks at the audience and shakes his head.*

66. NARRATOR: He looks in the scout hut...

67. SCOUTS: (Standing to attention.)

*Matisse walks around the scouts.*

68. NARRATOR: But he doesn’t find a stuffing.

*Matisse looks at the audience and shakes his head.*

69. NARRATOR: Matisse started losing hope of ever finding a stuffing when the bright lights of the fun fair in the distance catches his eye.

*The room goes dark and fairy lights twinkle around the room.*
*Coconuts stand up and hold their coconuts high above their heads.*
*The cows and the scouts leave the stage.*
*Sneezy and the Crows get into position. The carrot is placed beside Sneezy on the floor.*

70. NARRATOR: He goes to the carousel...

*Matisse hides behind the carousel scene.*
71. NARRATOR: But he doesn’t find a stuffing.

_Matisse looks at the audience and shakes his head._

72. NARRATOR: He goes to the coconut shy...

_Matisse walks around the coconuts._

73. NARRATOR: But he doesn’t find a stuffing.

_Matisse looks at the audience and shakes his head._

74. NARRATOR: He goes to the candy floss stand where there is lots and lots of stuffing.

75. CANDY MAN: Hello little cat. What are you doing by my candy floss stand?

76. MATISSE: I’m trying to find the perfect stuffing for my friend Sneezy the Scarecrow.

77. CANDY MAN: My candy floss is the sweetest and softest candy floss in the whole wide world. You can have some bags if you like

78. MATISSE: Thank you very much.

_Matisse takes the bags of candy floss._

_Matisse looks at the audience._

79. MATISSE: Now, I’ve found the perfect scarecrow stuffing.

80. NARRATOR: Matisse returns to the cornfield and begins to stuff Sneezy with the candy floss.

_Matisse throws away some feathers and pretends to stuff Sneezy with the candy floss._

81. SNEEZY: Ohh, that feels good, that feels really good.

82. CROWS: (Stop laughing)

83. MATISSE: There, we’re all done!

_Sneezy slowly turns his head to face the crows._

84. SNEEZY: ARRRGGGGHHHHHHH! ARRRGGGGHHHHHHH!
85. CROWS: (Fly away – leaving the stage.)

86. SNEEZY: Thank you Matisse.
I feel like a proper scarecrow now.

87. MATISSE: Not quite.

*Matisse picks up the carrot and places it on Sneezy’s face.*

EFFECT: Use 2 maracas to make the gentle rattle for Matisse’s tail.

88. MATISSE: What’s that?

*Matisse runs around in circles trying to catch his tail*

EFFECT: Use 6 maracas to make a louder rattle for Matisse’s tail.

The coconuts and candy floss man leave the stage.
The flowerpots and the cat flap return to the stage

EFFECT: STOP the sound suddenly!

89. MATISSE: WOW MEOW!
I’m back in my garden.

*Matisse jumps through the cat flap into the house.*

EFFECT: Sound of a door opening.

90. HUGH: Matisse, I’m home.
Where are you?
I do hope you haven’t had a boring day.

*Matisse turns to face the audience and smiles*

91. NARRATOR: It certainly wasn’t boring thought Matisse!

THE END