

Illustrated Children's and Puppet Theater

Second Group.

9.

Frog King.

A Play in Two Acts.

Freely adapted for Children's Theater
after
W. Grimm.

Published by Otto Spamer in Leipzig.

Characters.

King.
King's Daughter.
Frog King.

Setting

The first act takes place in the forest and the second act is in a room at the King's castle.

Hints and Suggestions for the Performance

Instructions for the Production

For this fairy tale you will need two different sceneries: first a forest. However, there must be a rather large amount of space for the King's daughter to travel through. In the background there is a well. At this well, make a long strip of paper and paint red bricks on it. Then attach both ends of the strip to make a half circle in front of the trees to form the well. At the foot of the well place moss and little stones.

The *second* act takes place in a room at the King's castle. There's a door on the left, a couch on the right and a covered table in the middle, where the King and his daughter sit for their meals.

The Frog should appear completely dressed in green and must hop on hands and knees in parts and creep in parts. He should wear a frog mask, or a Frog head made out of green paper. Have the Frog wear an outfit that is easily thrown off. Underneath the Frog outfit should be a very nice suit.

Props:
A Gold Ball

Act One.

In the forest.

The King's Daughter, then the Frog King

King's daughter (*goes slowly around the circle, often standing*).

I'm taking a walk, because I am so bored. I'll walk to the right until I am bored doing that.

(Turns around and goes to the other side in a circle)

Now I'll go to the left until I can't stand it anymore. This boredom is really getting to me and it's making my life hard. If I didn't have this ball I would be completely bored.

(Takes a gold ball from the bag and plays with it, throwing it in the air and catching it.)

This game is so fun. I never drop the ball. It is my treasure and it makes me happy. It's not a new game. It's the only game that I like to play and so I play it everyday.

(Throws the ball so far that it falls into the well)

Oh no! Where did my ball go? Oh, I am so unhappy. I would give everything to get my ball back.

(Cries loudly)

My pearls, clothes, precious jewels, and even my crown, I would give them all with joy if I could only have my ball.

(Sobs heavily and sits down on the ground)

Frog King (*creeps forth from under the trees*).

King's daughter, tell me why you are crying so hard?

King's Daughter (*sees the Frog with disregard*).

You can't help me, you nasty Frog. My ball is in the well.

(Cries from sorrow)

Frog King (*hops closer to her*).

I don't want your clothes, crown, pearl or jewels, but I'll still help you if you make me a promise.

King's Daughter.

What is it? Tell me.

Frog King.

Accept me as your friend and I'll always be your companion. I will sit on your right at the table. We'll always be close. We'll eat from the same plate and I'll drink from your cup.

King's Daughter (*to herself*).

That's *not* going to happen! The dumb Frog thinks that I will take him as my friend.

(loud)

Well, for my sake—bring my ball and then your desire will be fulfilled at once. I give you my promise.

(The Frog hops away and the King's daughter laughs)

A Frog! No, that's absurd. That dumb animal is so bold to think that he's just like us.

He can just stay silently in his water.

(The Frog comes back with the ball, the King's daughter jumps up and pulls it away from him)

This is great!

(Runs away laughing loudly)

Frog King *(tries to hop after her).*

Wait! Wait! And let me go with you. Wait King's Daughter! Take me with you! You can still hear me. I beg you! I beg you!

(The curtain falls)

Act Two.

At the Palace.

King, King's Daughter, later Frog King

(King, King's daughter sitting, eating, at the table, the Frog King is heard outside hopping up)

King *(lowers his fork).*

What could that be outside?

King's daughter *(very timidly).*

I don't know, dear father.

King.

It sounds so funny.

King's daughter *(to herself).*

I'm becoming warm.

King.

What did you say to yourself so softly?

Frog King *(calls from outside).*

Hey King's daughter! Open up,

I beg you, open the door quickly!

(The King's daughter jumps up, runs to the door, opens it a little, but shuts it quickly, then sits herself at the table again.)

King.

Hey, who are you afraid of?

(laughs.)

Has a giant come and wants to take you, little daughter!

(admonishing)

How can you be so afraid? Go, open the door properly.

King's daughter *(half crying).*

Ah no! The nasty frog that got my ball out of the water yesterday is here, and I promised that he could be my companion. But I never thought that he could hop all the way here;

(annoyed)

Now he sits there at the door and wants me to let him in my house!

Frog King *(calls from outside).*

Hey King's daughter, open up. I beg you, hurry, open the door! Don't you know what I said to you yesterday in your sad situation? Don't you know that you promised that I

would be your companion? King's daughter, open up, I beg you, hurry and open the door!

King (*determined*).

Do as you promised.

King's daughter (*amazed*).

Father! How? What are you saying?

King (*strictly*).

I said that you should fulfill your promise properly. Go, open the door, I command it, go!
(*The King's daughter goes to the door mopishly and lets the frog in the room; he hops slowly to the table, where the king's daughter quickly sits down.*)

King's daughter (*while opening the door*).

I have to do it! Oh man!

Frog King (*close to her chair*).

Move over more. Leave some room for me too.

King's daughter (*annoying*).

You nasty frog, what are you thinking?

King.

Oh child, you do not please me! Clear a spot for your companion.

(*The King's daughter slides indignantly to the side of her chair so that the frog can sit close to her.*)

Frog King.

Push your little plate closer to me, so that I can eat with you.

King's daughter (*pushes the plate to him*).

It disgusts me, just look at him! Oh, it's so terrible.

Frog King (*after he has eaten something*).

Now I would like a bit to drink. Give me the goblet.

(*The King's daughter places the goblet further away.*)

King (*very strictly*).

My goodness, keep your word, or else I'll scold you.

King's daughter (*pushes the crying frog to her goblet*).

O, I must suffer the frog's every demand.

(*begging*)

O, Father, please! Throw the nasty frog out of the house!

King (*with great seriousness*).

My daughter, you are very mistaken if you think that I'm going to do that. Now hold to what you promised and make a good effort.

Frog King.

Now I have eaten and am satisfied; now, King's daughter, I ask of you, let's go over there and rest.

(*Pointing to the sofa.*)

King's daughter (*violently*).

I most certainly will not!

King (*very angry*).

Oh, daughter, I refuse to tolerate how you speak! Keep your promise, or else I'll be mean. Now carry the frog to the Sofa and don't disagree again.

King's daughter (*carries the frog to the Sofa*).

Oh, this is intolerable, I would rather die.

(The King watches how his daughter helps the frog sit himself into the corner of the Sofa and how she sits herself in the other corner, then he leaves after giving her a very stern look.)

King's daughter (*jumps up and stomps her feet*).

You nasty wicked animal. Now I'll have my revenge! Get up out of there and get going!

Frog King (*softly*).

O let me rest in peace, you king's daughter.

King's daughter (*covers the frog*).

Nasty animal! This spot isn't meant for you. Now come, it will go badly for you!

(Snatches the frog from the Sofa and knocks him forcefully against the wall; the frog's skin falls off.)

Oh!

Frog King (*laughing*).

Am I now acceptable to you? Will you be nice to me now, king's daughter?

King's daughter (*giving him her hand*).

Ah ha! You have teased me cruelly, and you've made my father mad at me, but I forgive you!

Frog King (*taking her hand*).

Now, now, don't be so forgetful: I have your promise; I'm to be your companion, even though I was in the form of a Frog.

King's Daughter (*kisses him*).

Now I'd like to keep my word to you. Now I'll call my father here—father, come here now.

(The King enters.)

King's Daughter (*takes the hand of the Frog King*).

Look, this is my playmate!

King (*admonishingly*).

Yes, Daughter, you're happy that you won a friend. So, next time don't give your word so frivolously.

(The curtain falls)