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Miss Bindergarten

*adapted for the stage by Brian Guehring music by 251 Miles
from the books written by Joseph Slate and illustrated by Ashley Wolfe
an interactive play with music for 6-28 performers*

Draft # 1.21 rehearsal draft

Miss Bindergarten has an exciting classroom of 26 kindergartners. At a school open house, Miss Bindergarten (and her student teacher Coco, the Cockatoo) share some of the crazy adventures of Kindergarten through music, acting, and dance. Miss Bindergarten and her animal students remember the first day of school, their circus, and a wild day where everything goes wrong. Adapted from the books *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*, *Miss Bindergarten Plans a Circus*, and *Miss Bindergarten Has a Wild Day in Kindergarten*.

Miss Bindergarten¹ was originally produced by the Omaha Theater Company for school groups and public audiences in the fall of 2007 and ran approximately 50 minutes. The original cast and production team were:

CAST

Miss Bindergarten: Erin Bragg Coco: Brian Guehring
Students: Michael Harrelson, Jim Hoggatt, Mari Martinez, and Suzanne Withem

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Kevin Ehrhart Set Designer: Will Davis
Costume Designer: Sherri Geerdes Light Designer: Laura Happel
Development Dramaturge: Michael Miller

Miss Bindergarten is scheduled for a possible Omaha Theater Company national tour during the 2008-09 school year.

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¹ Should the title be *Miss Bindergarten Welcomes You to Kindergarten?*
Miss Bindergarten Welcomes You to Kindergarten 1.15

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Teachers

MISS BINDERGARTEN a creative border collie Kindergarten teacher
COCO her slightly impatient cockatoo student teacher

Kindergartners

ADAM	Adam Krupp is an excitable alligator
BRENDA	Brenda Heath is a hard working beaver
CHRISTOPHER	Christopher Beaker is a curious, independent cat
DANNY	Danny Hess is a helpful, Spanish speaking dog
EMILY	Emily Moko is a pretty elephant
FRANNY	Franny Lister is a silly frog
GWEN	Gwen McGunny is a playful gorilla
HENRY	Henry Fetter a bully hippopotamus
IAN	Ian Lowe a nervous, timid iguana
JESSIE	Jessie Sike is a tomboy jaguar
KIKI	Kiki Wong is a precocious kangaroo
LENNY	Lenny Loome is a bold wheel-chaired lion
MATTY	Matty Lindo is an easy going moose
NOAH	Noah Bonn is an accident prone newt
OPHELIA	Ophelia Nye is a loving otter
PATRICIA	Patricia Packer is a pig with lots of personality
QUENTIN	Quentin Wend is a friendly quoakka
RAFFIE	Raffie Mack is a thick-skinned rhinoceros
SARA	Sara von Hoff is a chatter-box squirrel
TOMMY	Tommy Tuttle is an athletic tiger
URSULA	Ursula Crewe is a thoughtful, deaf Uakari monkey
VICKY	Vicky Densel is a shy vole
WANDA	Wanda Chin is a confident wolf
XAVIER	Xavier Roe is powerful little xenosaurus
YOLANDA	Yolanda Pound is a wary yak
ZACH	Zach Blair is a high strung zebra

* for a 6 person cast, the original concept was to divide the student characters by gender and size so....

ACTOR 1 plays ADAM, HENRY, LENNY, MATTY, RAFFIE, TOMMY, & ZACH
ACTOR 2 plays CHRISTOPHER, DANNY, IAN, NOAH, QUENTIN & XAVIER
ACTRESS 1 plays BRENDA, FRAN, KIKI, OPHELIA, SARA, VICKY & WANDA
ACTRESS 2 plays EMILY, GWEN, JESSIE, PATRICIA, URUSLA & YOLANDA

SETTINGS: Miss Bindergarten's colorful Kindergarten Classroom

TIME: now

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**ACT 2: MISS BINDERGARTEN
PLANS A CIRCUS WITH KINDERGARTEN**

COCO

Kindergarten can certainly be fun.

MISS BINDERGARTEN

Like the time we planned a circus. Everyone was so excited.

COCO

And it took a lot of work.

MISS BINDERGARTEN

But we ended up performing a great circus!

MISS BINDERGARTEN

So ladies and gents, boys and girls, Miss Bindergarten and her classroom proudly present the Kindergarten Circus!

(ADAM and EMILY enter)

MISS BINDERGARTEN

Its time to announce the first class project for the year.
We are going to perform a circus for everyone to cheer!

ADAM

A circus? A circus? I'm all keyed up!

EMILY

A circus? A circus? That's way cool!

ADAM

A circus! A Circus! And its going to be in school!
I can't wait. I want to start now!

EMILY

But it will take time to do it right.
We need to make the set, put up curtains and make it bright.

*(ADAM, EMILY, MISS BINDERGAR-
TEN, and COCO bring out the boxes, the*

curtain, the three rings to perform in, and put up lights as circus music plays. ADAM and EMILY exit.)

MISS BINDERGARTEN

That's how we started. We all worked together to build the set.

COCO

That's the background where the circus performers would perform.

MISS BINDERGARTEN

The next thing we had to do was to make our costumes.

(DANNY and FRANNY enter)

FRANNY

We need to make costumes

DANNY

Para todos to wear.

FRANNY

We should get some wigs so we can change our hair!

DANNY (giving a top hat to COCO)

The ring master necesista una chistera

COCO

A top hat.

FRANNY

The clowns need BIG shoes.

(DANNY and FRANNY see one costume and begin to fight over it)

MISS BINDERGARTEN

There will be lots of colors for each of us to choose

(DANNY and FRANNY get their own costumes with different colors. Then DANNY, FRANNY, MISS BINDERGARTEN, and

*COCO and get out the rest of the costumes
as circus music plays. DANNY and
FRANNY exit)*

MISS BINDERGARTEN

Well after we made our set for the circus,

COCO

And finished our costumes,

MISS BINDERGARTEN

We had to practice our different acts for the show!

(MATTY and GWEN enter)

GWEN

I can turn seven somersaults.

MATTY

I will hula-hoop.

GWEN

We'll be the stars of our circus performing troupe!

*(GWEN does seven somersaults and falls
out of the ring. MATTY tries to hula hoop
with 5 hoops and they all crash into each
other)*

MISS BINDERGARTEN *(To Gwen)*

Three flips will fit our ring

COCO *(To MATTY)*

And maybe start with one.

MISS BINDERGARTEN

And I think everyone will be a star! Wouldn't that be fun?

*(GWEN does three somersaults and it fits in
the ring. She bows and exits. MATTY uses
one hula hoop and does a fabulous job. He
bows and exits.)*

MISS BINDERGARTEN

After we made our set for the circus,

COCO

And finished our costumes for the show,

MISS BINDERGARTEN

We rehearsed our parts.

COCO

Then we were ready to perform....

*(Lights change and the performance starts.
COCO puts on his top hat as MISS
BINDERGARTEN exits)*

COCO

Boys and Girls and Parents, too
I'm Coco, the ringmaster Cockatoo.
We've prepared a big treat
So don't leave your seat
Till you've seen the acts we have for you

Quentin and Sara are first to appear
Some crazy clowns are right here:

*(QUENTIN and SARA as clowns enter.
THEY stumble and trip and act real goofy)*

QUENTIN

I am so strong, I'll lift a ton.

*(QUENTIN struggles, grunts, groans, and
then lifts weights and puts it down)*

SARA

I have to sweep here if you are done.

*(SARA picks up weights with pinky and
sweeps)*

SARA

Would you like to give my flower a smell?

(QUENTIN smells flower and gets a face full of water. HE yells)

SARA

It is just water. No need to yell!

(QUENTIN gets out an easel)

QUENTIN

How would you like to have your picture drawn?

(SARA nods and poses, QUENTIN holds up his thumb towards her, draws, holds up his thumb, draws, and finishes)

Looking good. Beautiful. Here.

(QUENTIN shows a drawing of his own thumb)

Now, we're gone.

(QUENTIN and SARA have a silly exit.)

COCO

Tommy and Ursula will continue our show
By riding around as fast as they can go!

(URSULA and TOMMY enter to great fan fare)

TOMMY

I'm a cool cat, a superstar guy,
Watch me go fast and practically fly.

(TOMMY rides his in-line skates, skateboard, or bicycle and then goes up a ramp as URSULA and COCO cheer. TOMMY bows URSULA then uses sign language to explain that she is only six but wants to show off her tricks)

COCO (*interpreting for URSULA*)

Even though she's only six.
She can do some amazing tricks.

*(URSULA rides in line skates, a skateboard,
or a bike and shows off several tricks.
TOMMY and COCO applaud)*

COCO (*who also signs these words*)

Wanda and Xavier are now entering the ring
To perform the most amazing stunts ever to take wing

*(WANDA and XAVIER enter to great fan
fare)*

WANDA

I'll dare a daunting dive through a fiery hoop.

(COCO holds out hoop)

COCO

I am so nervous, my stomach loops the loop.

*(XAVIER drums and WANDA leaps
through a hoop that has paper flames at-
tached to it)*

XAVIER

Wanda showed her bravery by jumping through fire.
I will risk certain injury by crossing the wobbly high wire.

*(WANDA drums and XAVIER dramatically
crosses a short balance beam. THEY bow)*

COCO

We've made you laugh, we've made you cheer,
You've seen us even conquer fear.
Now it's time for the grande finale!
An act you have to see!
...presenting the great-
I bet you can't wait
The marvelous,
The magnificent
The mysterious JUGGLE-BEE

(MISS BINDERGARTEN comes out as a juggler as COCO, XAVIER, WANDA, TOMMY and URSULA Cheer!)

COCO

Let's hear a cheer right now
for Miss Bindergarten
and her kindergarten
as they take a final bow.

(ALL take bow. STUDENTS exit. MISS BINDERGARTEN takes off her mask.)