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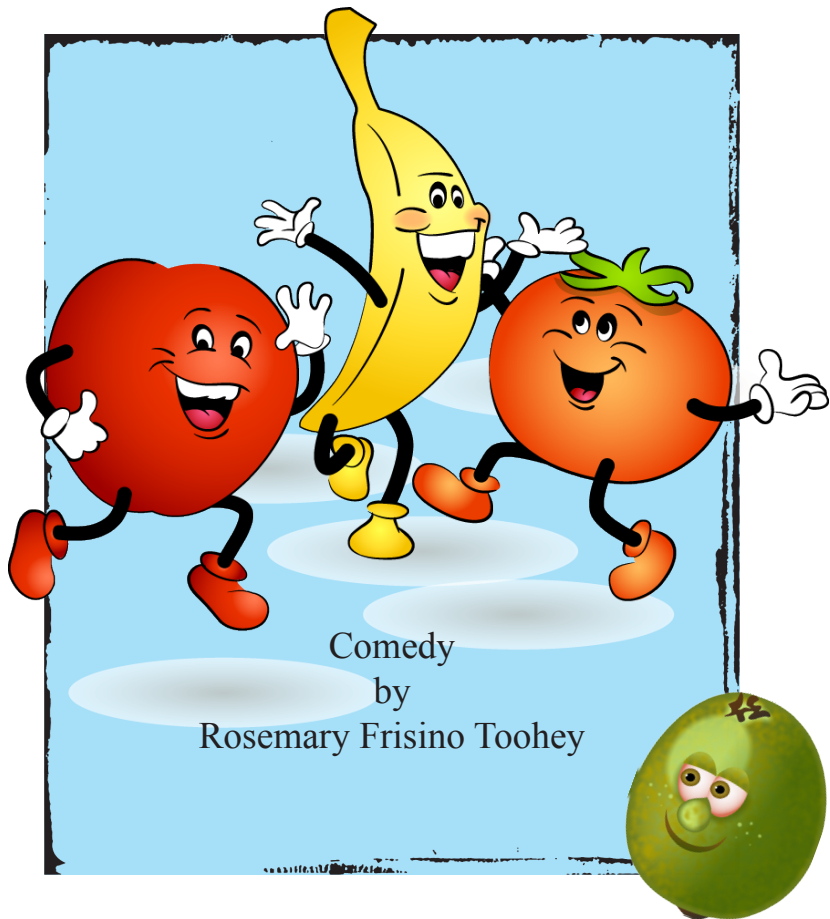
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Dramatic Publishing

Cosmic Fruit Bowl



Comedy
by
Rosemary Frisino Toohey

Cosmic Fruit Bowl

Comedy. By Rosemary Frisino Toohey. Cast: 4 actors. Think living in a fishbowl is tough? Try a fruit bowl. All the regulars are there: the self-centered star, the guy hiding a secret, the budding philosopher. Anxiety, alienation, alarm and bad attitude are all there. All oranges are acidic, but the one in this bowl is off the charts. Apple is worried because he's all or nothing at all—and what's really underneath that skin? Bruised by self-doubt, the banana wrestles with the big questions. Can he possibly be top banana? Then the arrival of a strange brown visitor from down under ups the ante. Can the newbie pass the test? And is she truly a fruit? Prejudice ripens in the bowl. Will the newcomer be accepted? As the light fades at the end of the day, there's much more than seeds and juice in this fruit bowl. *Single set. Approximate running time: 15 minutes.*

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By
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Cosmic Fruit Bowl was produced in “Summer Shorties” by Turtle Shell Productions, July-August 2011, The Shell Theater, Times Square Arts Center, New York, N.Y., John W. Cooper, Producer/Artistic Director.

CAST

Orange . . . Zoe Gronner alternating with Sutton Severance
Apple Takyrah Jones alternating with Amelia Bryant
Banana Oona Laurance
Kiwi . . AnnMarie Arcuri alternating with Madison Absher

COSMIC FRUIT BOWL

CHARACTERS (all roles may be played by m or w):

APPLE. the angst-ridden pretender

ORANGE. the obnoxious diva

BANANA. the introspective thinker

KIWI. the fresh newcomer

TIME: The present.

SETTING: The inside of a fruit bowl.

N.B. The obvious wardrobe choice would be to go with all-out “fruit”costumes. While that’s certainly acceptable, the author would like to point out that it’s not strictly necessary. A shirt or a single accessory in the appropriate color would work as well.

SYNOPSIS: Anxiety, alarm and alienation. At the end of the day, will a newcomer be accepted? Or will one of the regulars be rejected? It’s all there in the fruit bowl.

COSMIC FRUIT BOWL

(Lights up on APPLE, BANANA and ORANGE. APPLE and ORANGE are jostling for room.)

APPLE. If I didn't know any better, I'd think you were trying to push me out of the bowl.

ORANGE. Would I do that?

APPLE. Probably. That's how you are. Sharp, spiteful, acidic...that's the word for you.

ORANGE. That's not what people say. To the world, I'm everybody's sunshine.

APPLE. Hah! Advertising.

BANANA. Will you two give it a rest?

APPLE. We're having a discussion over here. Anyway, what's it to you?

BANANA. I'm going through a ripening stage. It takes a lot out of me.

ORANGE. Aw, poor baby. He's trying to ripen.

BANANA. I mean it. Knock it off.

APPLE. What's the matter? Missing your buddies?

ORANGE. Sure he is. He's the reject of the bunch.

BANANA. Come on, cut me some slack.

APPLE. Okay, we'll back off. We're just, I don't know, a little antsy today.

BANANA. Ants? Are there ants around?

APPLE. Chill. I just meant we're hungry for excitement.

BANANA. Who cares about excitement? I just want some answers.

APPLE. Answers to what?

BANANA. The big questions. You know, is there any meaning to all this?

ORANGE. Oh. Now he wants meaning.

APPLE. What kind of meaning?

BANANA. You know, one day you're green, the next day, you're yellow. It's all so...fleeting. And should we aim for something better? A bigger fruit bowl, perhaps? Then again, maybe—

APPLE. Woe, buddy, time out. You're a banana. That's it.

BANANA. But is that enough? Should I try and be a better banana? Maybe even the best banana? Can we be what we want to be or are we just what we are?

ORANGE. Geez, all these questions.

BANANA. I can't help it. You know what they say. An unexamined life is not worth living.

APPLE. Who says?

BANANA. Plato.

ORANGE. What's a Plato?

BANANA. It's not a what, it's a he.

APPLE. He, who? The guy who makes plates?

BANANA. This is not about plates! Get your mind off the table. I'm talking about one of the great thinkers of all time. He was Greek. Lived a long time ago. And he ate bananas.

APPLE. I think you've gone bananas.

BANANA. What's that supposed to mean?

(APPLE makes the sign for crazy.)

BANANA (*cont'd*). But don't you two ever wonder if there's anything beyond the fruit bowl? Is this all there is?

ORANGE. I know what your problem is. You're jealous.

BANANA. What have I got to be jealous about?

ORANGE. You got no juice. Apple Man and me, we got flavor that's drinkable. That's what keeps us at the top of the favorite fruit list. We're popular, you're not. Deal with it.

BANANA. Thank you very much, but I am not jealous of an orange. I'm just the kind of guy who focuses on the big picture. I want to know what it's like out there.

APPLE. To me, the big issue is how to stay ripe, tasty and good-looking.

ORANGE. For some of us that's no problem.

APPLE. Get her. But how do we keep at the top of our game?

BANANA. Well, if we were vegetables, it would be different.

APPLE. Sure. Nobody cares what a potato looks like. Ugly, bumpy things.

ORANGE. It's that whole French fry thing, I'm telling you. If it weren't for that, nobody'd give 'em a second glance.

APPLE. Yeah, but we got to look good. And the time frame. Too early, we're bitter and tasteless. Too late, we've got bruises and we're rotten to the core. The pressure is unrelenting.

BANANA. And you two have a bigger window than I do.

ORANGE. There's no window in the fruit bowl.

BANANA. I meant you can hang out for days and days. With me, it's green one day, rotten the next.