

A DRAGON'S HAPPY DAY

An anachronistic play for young audiences that explores neurodiversity

by

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Published by
Pollyanna Select Plays
Austin TX

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A Dragon's Happy Day was first commissioned by Pollyanna Theatre Company and produced at the Dougherty Arts Center in Austin TX in July 2003. The original cast and crew were as follows:

<u>PRINCESS MIDDLE:</u>	Deneen Frazier Bowen
<u>BRAIN THE DRAGON:</u>	Zane Messina
<u>THE METACHROMIFLY & QUEEN OF STATUS QUO:</u>	Betsy McCann
<u>THE PEGAUNICORN & KING OF STATUS QUO:</u>	Geoff Pearson
<u>THE SYSTEM & ALABASTER ARTISTS FARM COLLECTIVE:</u>	Emily Ball Cicchini
<u>DIRECTOR:</u>	Judy Matetzschk-Campbell
<u>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & STAGE MANAGER:</u>	Kristi Smith
<u>SCENIC DESIGNER:</u>	Judith Drouin
<u>COSTUME DESIGNER:</u>	Ia Ensterä (Layadi)
<u>LIGHTING DESIGNER:</u>	Don Day
<u>SOUND TECHNICIANS:</u>	Terry Trudell Billie Wofford
<u>MUSICIAN- KEYBOARD:</u>	Steve Zirkel
<u>MUSICIAN- KEYBOARD & PERCUSSION:</u>	Brad Evilsizer

Cast of Characters

<u>PRINCESS MIDDLE:</u>	a tomboy sort of princess
<u>BRAIN THE DRAGON:</u>	a dragon who thinks differently
<u>THE METACHROMIFLY:</u>	a technicolor cyborg butterfly
<u>THE PEGAUNICORN:</u>	a hybrid unicorn and pegasus
<u>THE SYSTEM (voice only):</u>	the abstract voice of society
<u>KING OF STATUS QUO:</u>	visual/audio projections
<u>QUEEN OF STATUS QUO:</u>	visual/audio projections
<u>THE ALABASTER ARTISTS FARM COLLECTIVE (voice only)</u>	

Scene

A Tower, the Clouds, and a Field.

Time

Both a long time ago and far, far into the future.

Synopsis

A young princess named Middle is cursed and locked away in a tower, where she is guarded by an angry, hyperactive dragon. Lonely and far away from home, Princess Middle is befriended by a chameleon butterfly and a unicorn with wings, and they teach Brain the Dragon how to calm down and express himself. Together, they break the terrible curse that binds the princess, and learn that "normal" sometimes isn't normal.

SETTING: The looming great chamber of a castle tower. Dark large stones, high small windows, and pillars soar up from a cold stone floor. Debris from the past litter the floor: an old suit of armor, a shield, an iron pot now empty of its gold.

AT RISE: PRINCESS MIDDLE enters in a funky princess dress that looks halfway like overalls with suspenders, and her hair in pigtails. She looks around in wonder. THE PEGAUNICORN follows her, loaded down with bags and a huge trunk. With a whinny, he plops them down.

THE PEGAUNICORN
Well. Aren't you a princess of a different sort.

PRINCESS MIDDLE
Oh, how I miss my home, the court!
Last thing I remember, I was shoved in a carriage
And driven quite roughly 'round the mountain's edge.
Oh, woe. Oh, woe is me
A dreary place I see...

THE PEGAUNICORN
Is this all your stuff?

PRINCESS MIDDLE
It's just enough.

THE PEGAUNICORN
Then welcome, Princess Middle, to the Castle of Common Knowledge.
Relax. And if you'll please, acknowledge...

(THE SYSTEM begins to laugh eerily: it should sound like many voices at the same time.)

PRINCESS MIDDLE
What's that sound? It's coming from all around!

THE PEGAUNICORN

Never fear, it's why you're here...

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Is that The System? Is it true?

THE PEGAUNICORN

Listen, and you'll hear it, too.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Uh... Hello, System, Sir. I think there is some mistake.
I am supposed to be back home, baking cake...
This whole mix up is really quite absurd...

THE SYSTEM

Children are better seen and not heard.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

BUT-

THE SYSTEM

No ifs, ands, or buts about it. Sharper than a serpent's
tooth is a thankless child.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Are you, talking to me? No, sir, I'm meek and mild...
Darn it. I didn't mean to be thankless... Ohhhh!

THE PEGAUNICORN

Your parents sent you here, we know.
You must reform, 'cause you laugh too loud.
You like sports and math. You're far too proud.

THE SYSTEM

Straight from the horse's mouth. Don't change horses
midstream. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

I wish that I could go outside...

THE SYSTEM

If wishes were horses, beggars would ride. Don't bite the
hand that feeds you. Boys will be boys. Frailty, thy name
is Woman!

(THE SYSTEM eerily laughs
again, and then fades
away.)

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Oh, I don't like the sound of it. Has it gone away?

THE PEGAUNICORN

It starts and stops. But like me, it's here to stay.

THE SYSTEM

A horse, a horse! My kingdom for a horse...

THE PEGAUNICORN

It means me, of course.
Well, thanks for the fun.
I have to run...

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Wouldn't a creature like you rather fly?
And you could take me with you, by and by...

THE PEGAUNICORN

Just because a horse has wings,
Doesn't mean you should assume such things!!!
You know the first part of assume, don't you?
It's another name for a donkey, you know...
The beast they make to reap and sow?
Ta-ta, I must be on my way...

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Don't leave me, please. I beg you, stay...

THE PEGAUNICORN

All harnessed to a carriage or plow,
I never could be so- equine, somehow...
No, no, as sure as the horn on my head,
I must be gone- I fear, I dread...

PRINCESS MIDDLE

But it's I who is banished, I who've been cursed,
Though I suppose it could be worse...

THE PEGAUNICORN

I remember, a lost September,
Hitches and saddles, whips and paddles...

PRINCESS MIDDLE

So, they've sent me away
To this castle by the bay,
My Queen mum, and the ones I love,
My Dad, the King, and Spike, my dove.

THE PEGAUNICORN

I've pulled wagons in droves...
Full of nutmeg and cloves...

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Oh my, you've turned a whiter shade of pale...

THE PEGAUNICORN

Are you kidding me? I'm as light as a veil!
I'm having a panic attack, you see.
The thought of the harness choking poor me,
And a whip at my back, it's a panic attack!

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Oh, my...

THE PEGAUNICORN

A unicorn has one horn, not two wings.
I'm a terrible, awful-ible, mixed up thing...
A Pegasus is a horse with wings...
No horn, but tail, and a mangy mane thing...
No creature alive has all three...
A Pegaunicorn: A Unicornasus. Me!
I must be the ugliest thing on four legs.
A horrible thing, I deserve the dregs...

PRINCESS MIDDLE

You're beautiful... I've never seen anything more-
dutiful...

THE SYSTEM

Hold your horses! Out of sight, out of mind...
Out of the mouths of babes. Pride comes before a fall!

THE PEGAUNICORN

I must go find a plax to relax, no, no, a place to relace:
Just, Breathe!

(takes a big breath)

In two three, out two three, in two three, out...

comes to rest nearby
PRINCESS MIDDLE.)

THE METACHROMIFLY

Do-do-do! You've got post!

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Wow. A butterfly mail!
Did I sign up for this sale?

THE METACHROMIFLY

Don't mind my diversion: I'm a free trial version!
Seriously, I'm a perk. I come with the room.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

You're all in bloom!

THE METACHROMIFLY

Natch! I'm not just a butterfly, I'm Metachromifly.
Which is an insect of many colors... by and by.
My uncle is a chameleon, and my sister, a Monarch.
But my mother is a spider that can bark!
Woof woof! And my father, rest his chips,
Was a laptop computer! His birthright is a portion of my
hips!

(She reveals a computer
keyboard attached to her
hips.)

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Wow! Computers, here in The System's castle?

THE METACHROMIFLY

Why not? Life without them is such a hassle!
And to me, this keyboard is a real life saver.
It's all that keeps me in The System's favor.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

What's the message? Can I see?

THE METACHROMIFLY

Just press this button. Oh! You're tickling me!

PRINCESS MIDDLE

It's probably junk,
The same old bunk-

THE METACHROMIFLY

(suddenly serious)

New message. TO: Princess Middle. FROM: King and Queen of
Status Quo.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

MOM AND DAD! What do they say, what do they say?

THE METACHROMIFLY

They have an attachment... a photo. Shall I display?

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Of course!

(A slideshow of images of
KING AND QUEEN OF STATUS
QUO appear. They are VERY
cross and stuffy. A dove
with a mohawk is on the
KING's shoulder. THE
METACHROMIFLY mouths words
as different voices speak.)

KING OF STATUS QUO

Dear Middle: We are not amused
By your bad behavior, your short fuse.

QUEEN OF STATUS QUO

We won't easily forget what you said and did.

KING OF STATUS QUO

As they say, spare the rod and spoil the kid.

QUEEN OF STATUS QUO

We're sorry we had to do this. But it's for your own good.
You must learn to do not what you want, but what you
should.

KING OF STATUS QUO

Be a nice little girl and do the normal things a Princess
should do.
And of course, what The System tells you to.

QUEEN OF STATUS QUO

Then, a handsome knight will come and rescue you!!!

KING OF STATUS QUO

Until then, keep your chin up.

QUEEN OF STATUS QUO

Put your best foot forward.

KING OF STATUS QUO

And don't worry,
We'll keep an eye on Spike for you.

(The dove coos.)

Love, Mom and Dad.

THE METACHROMIFLY

END OF MESSAGE.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

But how do I know what's normal???
Can you reply?

THE METACHROMIFLY

Piece of pie.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

DEAR MOM AND DAD:
Everything here is just fine and dandy!
Please keep Spike away from dogs and candy.
I miss you. I promise that no how, no way,
Will anything ever happen like that fateful day
At the Princess Pageant, neigh one month ago.
I don't really understand why you sent me here, though.
I'll try my best, but until then, don't go in my room!
Whatever I have to learn, I'll try to be home soon.

THE METACHROMIFLY

SIGNATURE?

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Love, your daughter, Middle.

THE METACHROMIFLY

MESSAGE SENT.

(back to normal)

The Princess Pageant? What is that?

PRINCESS MIDDLE

A contest, where all the most fair
Wear fancy clothes and great big hair.

THE METACHROMIFLY

And you were a contestant? How- fabulous!

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Not when everyone else
Is singing and dancing and twirling and tapping
And when I pull my talent cake from the stove
It bubbles and rises and then it explodes
And everyone laughs, and jeers, and sneers,
And Daddy gets frosting in his big white beard...
And I yelled back at them, what I don't know...
It was a really, really, really bad shew...

THE METACHROMIFLY

There, there. Don't cry.
There must be a reason why.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Do you think so, pretty fly?

THE METACHROMIFLY

Well, we must do what we must do.
And what The System tells us to.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Well. Time to unpack.
I wish I had a rack.
I guess I'll make a stack...
Of things that are like a princess,
And things that are not.

THE METACHROMIFLY

What do you mean, jellybean?

PRINCESS MIDDLE

That's what my parents used to say!
You'll see, I'll just divide it up, this way:
Pants. Not.
Dress. Yes.
Baseball Mitt. Not.
Baby Doll...

Yes!

THE METACHROMIFLY

Toy boat.

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Not.

THE METACHROMIFLY

Calculator...

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Not... I think. Unless your laptop's on the blink.

THE METACHROMIFLY

Teddy Bear...

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Wait a minute. The Teddy Bear could be for either a Prince or a Princess.

Why couldn't ALL these things be either for a Prince or a Princess???

(BRAIN THE DRAGON enters in all his glory, a huge reptile with wings. He starts off humming a little tune, dum de dum...)

Someone's coming!

(PRINCESS MIDDLE hides, THE METACHROMIFLY flies around and blends in with the wall.)

It's the dragon!

THE METACHROMIFLY

Shh... He's humming!

PRINCESS MIDDLE

Should we be frightened, or cool as a cucumber?

THE METACHROMIFLY

I don't seem him often, but he's quite peculiar!

(BRAIN THE DRAGON stalks in forcefully and stops humming. He sniffs around a

bit. After a moment, he
bellows.)

BRAIN THE DRAGON
Where's the face that launched a thousand ships!

PRINCESS MIDDLE
He can't mean me...

THE METACHROMIFLY
Zip your lips!

BRAIN THE DRAGON
The female of the species is more deadly than the male!

PRINCESS MIDDLE
(mouthing word silently)
What?

BRAIN THE DRAGON
There's no such thing as a free lunch sale. Contempt breeds
familiarity.
There's no such thing as good publicity!

PRINCESS MIDDLE
Is he still talking to me???

THE SYSTEM
Forgive them, they know not what they do. Two heads are
better than one. There's one born every minute.

(THE SYSTEM laughs.)

BRAIN THE DRAGON
Liar! Liar! There's no smoke without fire!

THE SYSTEM
Stupid is as stupid does.

BRAIN THE DRAGON
Oh, yeah? Fuzzy wuzzy wasn't, was!

PRINCESS MIDDLE
He dares defy The System!
Should I hug or should I kick him?