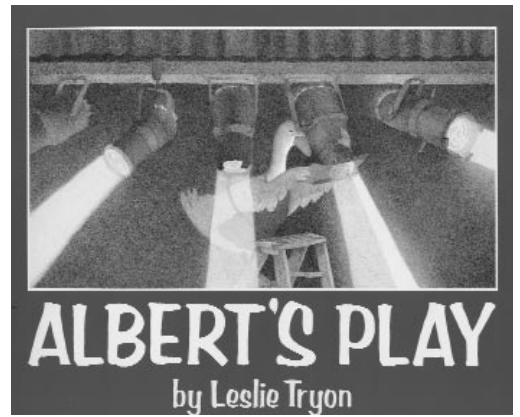


Albert's Play

by Leslie Tryon

There are 15 parts in this version of the play; to add more parts, just add more narrators and distribute the lines to the new narrators. You can mimic the play as it is shown in the book, *Albert's Play*, or you can simply do it as a reading in the classroom. Of course, the props and sets are merely suggestions.



Act one:

The Audition
Making the sets
Rehearsal

Act two:

The Play



PARTS

Narrator 1
Narrator 2
Narrator 3
Narrator 4
Albert
Skunk
Rabbit
Mouse

Pig
Hedgehog
Squirrel
Raccoon
Owl
Kangaroo
Otter

PROPS

Owl mask (see PDF)
Pussy-cat mask (see PDF)
Guitar
A runcible spoon (see PDF)
Turkey mask (see PDF)
Pig mask (see PDF)

Act One

Scene one: The Audition

Four signs indicate the spot where the characters should stand when they audition. Albert directs the characters through pantomime.





Character

Dialogue

Audition Announcement

NARRATOR 1

It's time for that yearly tradition,

NARRATOR 2

The production of Albert's play.

NARRATOR 3

Will children who wish to audition

NARRATOR 4

Be on stage after school today!

OWL

Rabbit and Skunk
audition for OWL

Dear Pig, are you willing to sell
for one shilling your ring?

PUSSY-CAT

Otter, Pig, Mouse
audition for the
Pussy-Cat

You elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!'

PIGGY

Hedgehog, Squirrel,
Raccoon audition
for FIG.

I will

TURKEY

Do you take this Pussy-Cat for your wife?

Do you take this Owl for your husband?

The Audition

Characters read their lines - they can hold a piece of paper since they're trying out for the parts.



Character

Dialogue

Audition results - Albert announces

ALBERT

The role of OWL will be played by Rabbit.

The role of PUSSY-CAT will be played by pig.

The Role of TURKEY will be played by Kangaroo

The role of PIG will be played by Hedgehog

Skunk, since you are such a good artist, will you please do the posters?

Squirrel, I would like you to make the bong tree please.

Mouse, you will be in charge of props.

Otter and Raccoon, please make the waves.

OK everybody, lets get to work!



Act One

Scene Two: Making the Props

Actors should busy themselves on stage but move slowly, as though they had all the time in the world: Skunk is working on the posters; Albert and owl are hanging stars; Rabbit and Pig are dancing; Mouse pretends to play instrument; Squirrel and Kangaroo carry a box across the stage. All crew help with the bong tree.

While this pantomime action takes place, the four narrators stand downstage and read their lines; lines can be printed on a piece of paper:



All dialogue in the following scene is carried by the narrators.

Character

Dialogue

NARRATOR 1

As soon as Albert had picked out the cast,
He set the crew into motion.



NARRATOR 2

They began with a tub and a flagpole mast,
And they painted the blue of the ocean.

NARRATOR 3

The stars, the moon, the bongos and the boat--
There were so many things to do!



NARRATOR 4

Posters to draw, and boxes to tote,
And learning to dance on cue,

NARRATOR 3

On cue,



NARRATOR 2

On cue,

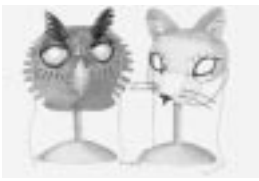
NARRATOR 1

And learning to dance on cue.

Act One

Scene Three: The Rehearsal

The action on stage is quick now, crew members scurry about, lots of cranky and worried looks. All action is pantomime while the narrators continue to read the story.



Character

Dialogue

NARRATOR 1

They dangled the stars and the dancing moon
While working faster and faster.

NARRATOR 2

No one had yet found a runcible spoon--
This could be a disaster!

NARRATOR 3

There were masks to make too, to cut, and to glue.
Would they ever get everything done?

NARRATOR 4

Rehearsal was called for half-past two.
Who said doing a play would be fun,



NARRATOR 3

Be fun,

NARRATOR 2

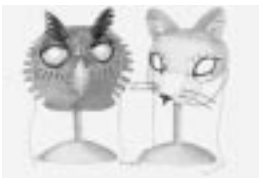
Be fun,

NARRATOR 1

Who said doing a play would be fun?

As the narrators reach the last lines, all action should diminish on stage leaving just the Pig, the rabbit and Albert onstage for the next reading. Pig has a big bandage on her 'hand.' Albert wipes her tears and Rabbit offers her a star. as the narrators read





Character	Dialogue
NARRATOR 1	Albert fixed the lights and wiped some tears. They rehearsed until it was right.
NARRATOR 2	He soothed those last-minute jitters and fears, And said, “You’ll be fine by tonight.”
NARRATOR 3	They put on their costumes, practiced a bow, Albert double-checked every detail.
NARRATOR 4	The theater is full--Shhh! it’s just minutes now, Till the Owl and the Pussy-cat sail,
NARRATOR 3	Set sail,
NARRATOR 2	Set sail,
NARRATOR 1	Till the Owl and the Pussy-cat sail.
ALL 4 NARRATORS	Ladies and Gentlemen . . . The Owl and the Pussy-Cat by Edward Lear



Act Two

The Play

The first two stanzas of this famous poem are read by the narrators while the two main characters are in the boat headed for the “land where the Bong-tree grows.” When it’s time for the OWL to sing his part, the narrators should turn and face the OWL and gesture toward him.



Character

Dialogue

NARRATOR 1

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea

In a beautiful pea-green boat,

NARRATOR 2

They took some honey, and plenty of money,

Wrapped up in a five-pound note.

NARRATOR 3

The Owl looked up to the stars above,

And sang to a small guitar,

OWL

‘O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,

What a beautiful Pussy you are,

You are,

You are!

What a beautiful Pussy you are!’



Character	Dialogue
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NARRATOR 4	Pussy said to the Owl,
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PUSSY-CAT	You elegant fowl!
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How charmingly sweet you sing!

O let us be married! Too long we have tarried:

But what shall we do for a ring?

NARRATOR 1	They sailed away, for a year and a day, To the land where the Bong-tree grows.
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NARRATOR 2	And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood With a ring at the end of his nose,
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NARRATOR 3	His nose,
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NARRATOR 4	his nose,
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With a ring at the end of his nose.



The OWL and the PUSSY-CAT have arrived at the 'land where the Bong tree grows.



Character

Dialogue

OWL

Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
your ring?



PIGGY

I will.

NARRATOR 1

So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.

TURKEY

(read to the OWL)

Do you take this Pussy-cat to be your wife?

OWL

I do



TURKEY

(read to the PUSSY-CAT)

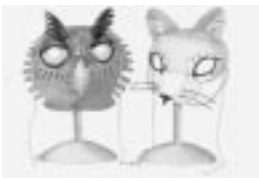
Do you take this Owl to be your husband?

PUSSY-CAT

I do

NARRATOR 1

They dined on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;



Character

Dialogue

NARRATOR 2

And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,

NARRATOR 3

The moon,

NARRATOR 4

The moon



They danced by the light of the moon.

All the characters join hands, in one long line. Albert walks to the center of the stage and leads everyone in a bow.

The End

