

YALE CHILDREN'S THEATRE PRESENTS

PUPPET PIONEERS

An Original Puppet Musical

Story by **ALEC ZBORNAK** | Music by **CHARLIE ROMANO** | Lyrics by **WILL WEGNER**
Puppets by **LIL WENKER & ALEC ZBORNAK** | Directed by **ALEC ZBORNAK**



December 7-8, 11am | House opens at 10:30am
Basement of Yale's Hopper College: Hopper Cabaret
189 Elm St, New Haven, CT 06511

PUPPET PIONEERS:
AN ORIGINAL PUPPET MUSICAL

Book By
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CAST BREAKDOWN (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

MARCIE: A hopeful puppet who just wants to be the first at something, anything!

DR. S. CARY: The cynical doctor and father of Marcie.

VOLCANO: Marcie's newest creation...come to life!

DIRPY: Marcie's younger, spastic, sock-puppet sibling.

STELLA: The cool, calm and collected inventor friend of Marcie and love interest to Jimbo.

JIMBO: A video-game loving puppet friend of Marcie and love interest to Stella.

BALLADEER: The puppet's wild-western, smooth-talking, musical narrator. Every group's got one!

GAME: The voice of a video game that's too good to be true.

PUPPET CARY: The puppified version of Dr. S. Cary—not so S.Cary anymore!

OPEN IN THE HOME OF MARCIE, PUPPET, AND DR. S. CARY, HUMAN.
BEGIN THE FIRST MUSICAL NUMBER: "I WANNA BE THE FIRST"

-----[singing]-----

MARCIE:

*I'm always intent, and I'm always in charge,
and I never lose my smile
while searching for fun.
But sometimes I think that the world is too large
and that ev'rything worthwhile's
already been done.*

-----[dialogue]-----

MARCIE: Hiya, Dad! Why'd you call me down to your
 office?

DR. S CARY: (Sternly) Marcie, what have we talked about?
 I asked you to call me by my title, Dr. S.
 Cary. I didn't spend twenty years perfecting
 the Puppet Ray 3000 to not be called by my
 official title.

**DR. S. CARY TAKES OUT THE PUPPET RAY 3000, WHICH LOOKS LIKE
A BIG SILLY FLOWER (THAT WAY IT APPEARS LESS VIOLENT).**

MARCIE: Sorry, Da.. I mean Dr. S. Cary. What does
 the Puppet Ray 3000 do?

DR. S CARY: The world will find out soon enough.

MARCIE: Okayyyy. So what do you want?

DR. S CARY: It's not so much what I want, but what I
 know that you want. I have some exciting
 news for you, Marcie.

MARCIE: OOOH OOOH, are we having candy for dinner?

DR. S CARY: No.

MARCIE: Are you letting me keep the pet alligator I
 took from the zoo?

DR. S CARY: No!

MARCIE: Have you forgiven me for accidentally using
your toothbrush to clean my ears?

DR. S CARY: Still no...wait what?

MARCIE: NOTHING!

-----[singing]-----

MARCIE:

*There's plenty to do
to keep myself active.
But anything new
would be more attractive.*

*So I'd be downright thrilled
if I could own an alligator,
but I'd be more fulfilled
if I could be an innovator!*

*I wanna be the first!
I wanna be the start!
I wanna be master of my fate!
I think I'm gonna burst—
I feel it in my heart—
unless I find that something to create!
I'm a flower trapped inside a bud,
just waiting for the moment that I blossom!
So I'm taking a stand!
And I'm taking a vow!
'Cause I wanna be new!
I wanna be now!
I wanna be the first—
the first to do something awesome!*

-----[dialogue]-----

DR. S CARY: Well, Marcie, I know how you're always
talking (and singing) about wanting to be
the first at something. Well, I think I have
something that may help.

MARCIE: Yeah! That reminds me! I think I finally am
onto something. Look what I just invented!

DR. S.CARY: (Aside) Oh goodness. Please tell me that's
not just a normal paper maché volcano.

MARCIE: It's a volcanic mountain that I have
fashioned out of a complex ratio of paper
mache..

DR. S. CARY: (face in palm) Not again!

MARCIE: and the chemicals of vinegar and baking
soda! It's completely my own invention! I
call it a-

DR. S. CARY & MARCIE: (at the same time) Baking Soda
Volcano!

MARCIE: Yes exactly! How'd you know?!

DR. S. CARY: Because it's already been invented before!
It's a very common science project.

MARCIE: Ah, glitter!

DR. S. CARY: We don't want this to end like your last
"experiment," now do we?

MARCIE: That was a disaster!

DR. S. CARY: I'm just trying to keep you grounded.

-----[singing]-----

MARCIE:

*Last year I tried to visit space
and solve that cosmic mystery
and in the process take my place
among the ranks of history.*

*And from that rocketship that I designed,
I'd take one giant leap for puppetkind!*

*But then I bought a book
as research for my stunt
to learn if the trip would be a-jarrin'.*

*And when I took a look,
there printed on the front-
a picture of Yuri Gagarin.*

-----[dialogue]-----

DR. S CARY: *(directly to the kids)* That's right, kids.
Before Neil Armstrong landed on the moon,
Yuri Gagarin, a Russian astronaut, was the
first human to ever brave outer space!

-----[singing]-----

MARCIE:

*I wanna be the first!
I wanna be the start!
I wanna be master of my fate!
I think I'm gonna burst-
I feel it in my heart-
unless I find that something to create!
Under pressure, I'm a piece of coal,
but soon I will transform into a jewel!
So I'm taking a stand!
And I'm taking a vow!
'Cause I wanna be new!
I wanna be now!
I wanna be the first-
the first to do something cool!*

-----[dialogue]-----

MARCIE: Ah, sugar! *(Pause, then more dramatically).*
Oh, what I'd give to be just like them and
do something, anything, for the first time!

DR. S CARY: You really ought to let me help-

MARCIE: I just know it's in my genes!

-----[singing]-----

MARCIE:

*Another time I took command
of special methodology
in hopes that I would understand
the basis of biology.*

*I'd find the building blocks to prove my worth-
the Lego set for all the life on Earth!*

MARCIE (CONT'D):

*But then I asked around,
and much to my dismay,
the sorry reality a-sank in.
'Cause it's already found—
they call it DNA—
discovered by Rosalind Franklin.*

-----[dialogue]-----

DR. S CARY: *(directly to the kids)* And Rosalind Franklin
was a chemist from England. Her research led
to the discovery of DNA.

-----[singing]-----

VOLCANO:

*Why can't she be first?
Why is she always worst?
How can this curse be reversed?*

-----[dialogue]-----

DR. S. CARY: *(interrupting before the final chorus)*
Marcie! You need to listen to me; I have the
perfect solution to your problem!

MARCIE: Why didn't you say so to start with?!

DR. S CARY: *(a bit exasperated)* I was trying to. *(pause)*
Well, Marcie. Some of my colleagues from the
lab were talking. We heard about a place out
West. It's supposed to be a beautiful
paradise like no other! They are calling it
EL BRAVADO.

MARCIE: How does that help me?

DR. S CARY: And...nobody has settled there yet!

MARCIE: Oh! I think I get what you're saying! You're
telling me that I should ... BUILD AN EVEN
BIGGER PAPER MACHÉ VOLCANO!

THE VOLCANO PUPPET POPS OUT IN THE BACKGROUND AND SMILES

DR. S. CARY: NO! (impatiently) And (pointing to the volcano) you stay out of this, you! (nicer) What I'm trying to say is that you could head West and settle this town. You and your puppet friends could be the founders of the first Puppet Community!

MARCIE: The first Puppet Community! That sounds cooler than dry ice! I'll take Stella and Jimbo, so that they can give me a **hand**.

A HAND, PERHAPS EVEN A GIANT FOAM FINGER, POPS OUT FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN. HANDS ARE TRAUMATIC FOR PUPPETS, AND ALL OF THEM SCREAM.

PUPPETS: AHHHHHHHHH!

THE HAND RETREATS.

MARCIE: Sorry about that. Hands really give us puppets the heebie jeebies! But, anyways, what about you, Dr S. Cary? Won't you miss me?

DR. S CARY: Of course, I will, Marcie. But I know that it's for the best. This is your *destiny*.

MARCIE GOES IN TO HUG DR. S. CARY.

MARCIE: Thank you! Thank you! I'll miss you too. You're right, this is my destiny!

-----[singing]-----

MARCIE:

*I'm gonna be the first!
I'm gonna be the start!
I'm gonna be master of my fate!
I know I'm gonna burst—
I feel it in my heart—
'cause now I've got that something to create!
I'm an ember in an amber fire—
and evr'yone's emboldened as I'm blazing!
'Cause I've taken my stand!
And I've taken my vow!
So I'm gonna be new!
I'm gonna be now!
I'm gonna be the first—
the first to do something amazing!*

-----[dialogue]-----

DR. S CARY: Oh, and Marcie? I forgot to mention. I will let you go out on this journey on one condition.

MARCIE: Yes! Anything! I'll do anything!

DR. S CARY: You need to take your brother, Dirpy, with you.

MARCIE: WHAT? ANYTHING BUT DIRPY! HE'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY!

ENTER DIRPY, A CRUDELY FASHIONED, CROSS-EYED, SPAZZTIC PUPPET WITH CHOCOLATE STAINS PERMANENTLY AROUND HIS MOUTH. HE CHARGES AT MARCIE, ACTING VERY AFFECTIONATE, NUZZLING AND JUMPING UP AND DOWN AND WHAT NOT!

DIRPY: Road Trip! Road Trip! Road Trip!

MARCIE LOOKS RIGHT AT THE AUDIENCE THEN SHAKES HER HEAD, SIGHS

MARCIE: Okay fine! Let's go.

THE TWO EXIT

END SCENE

THE TWO REAPPEAR. THEY ARE ABOUT TO HEAD OUT FROM THE FRONT YARD OF DR. S. CARY'S HOME. DR. S. CARY IS THERE BUT NOT PAYING THEM ATTENTION.

MARCIE: (aside) Okay, Dirpy. If you are gonna come with us, you have to promise that you won't embarrass me in front of my friends. Stella and Jimbo will be here any minute. So we have to lay down a couple of rules: 1.) No sniffing their hair—I don't know why I have to keep telling you that 2.) No getting your sticky chocolate mouth on them—I have no clue how you always have chocolate 3.) No TikTok dances!

DIRPY: But I got sweet moves and sweet bars—chocolate bars.

MARCIE: I don't want to hear it. Do you promise?

DIRPY: Okay, fineeee. I promise.

MARCIE: Good. Look, here comes Stella and Jimbo.

ENTER STELLA AND JIMBO. DIRPY INSTINCTIVELY GOES TO SMELL JIMBO'S HAIR BUT THEN PULLS BACK.

DIRPY: (to himself) No, I promised.

DR. S. CARY: Okay, enjoy your puppet selves. Good luck on your journey. (aside, almost inaudibly) You'll need it.

ALL: Thanks, Dr. S. Cary! Byeee!

MARCIE: Jimbo. Stella. Dirpy. We got a long road ahead of us. So if we want success, we better get prepared. I've already done some research. We can expect deserts, mountains, and feral wolves along the way.

JIMBO: Deserts?!

STELLA: Mountains?!

MARCIEL And wolves.

DIRPY: Oh my!

JIMBO, STELLA, AND DIRPY ALL HUDDLE TOGETHER, AFRAID.

MARCIE: Hey, no need to be scared! Being the first is never easy. But with hard work and our friends by our side, we can achieve anything!

STELLA: Yeah! And they will call us the Puppet Pioneers.

JIMBO: Who's *they*?

STELLA: You know *they*! The people who write the history textbooks.

MARCIE: Okay, Puppet Pioneers, listen up. Like I said, the journey is gonna be rough, but I've heard our destination is amazing.

JIMBO: Oooooo I bet there will be video games!

STELLA: Yeah! And telescopes!

DIRPY: And (manically) CHOCOLATE!!! AHHHHHH

MARCIE: Okay, okay, okay. Let's not get too ahead of ourselves. I don't think we will find those things there. But I can promise that we will find glory. What do you say, everyone?! Are you ready to make history?!

STELLA: YEAH! Puppet Pioneers on three! One. Two. Three.

ALL/DIRPY: Puppet Pioneers!!/Chocolate!

MARCIE LOOKS DISAPPROVINGLY AT DIRPY.

MARCIE: Onward, Puppet Pioneers!

DIRPY: Are we there yet?! I have to go to the bathroom.

MARCIE: (Looks at the audience) This is gonna be a lot longer than I thought.

BEGIN THE TRAVEL MONTAGE TO THE SONG "PUPPET PIONEERS", WHERE A MYTHICAL BARD CHARACTER (HUMAN OR PUPPET) PLAYING THE BANJO COMES AND SINGS THE TALE OF THEIR JOURNEY. AT ONE POINT THERE IS A MONTAGE OF THEM AS THEY TRANSFORM INTO SHADOW PUPPETS AND MOVE OVER MOUNTAINS AND PAST CACTI AND WOLVES. AT ONE POINT THEY ALL FALL ASLEEP, AND WE SEE CARDBOARD CUTOUTS OF THE DIFFERENT THINGS THEY ARE DREAMING ABOUT (JIMBO: VIDEO GAMES; STELLA: SPACESHIPS; DIRPY: CHOCOLATE). MARCIE LOOKS OVER THEM MOTHERLY.

-----[singing]-----

BALLADEER:

*The four of them set off,
with their packs upon their backs—
plus unrelenting confidence
and lots of tasty snacks.
While Jimbo munched a mango
and Stella chomped a carrot,
young Dirpy scarfed his chocolate,
but didn't care to share it.*

*On the journey, all together,
knowing what the future would bring!
Even on the steepest slope,
no one lost one shred of hope,
and all they had to do was sing—*

BALLADEER & PUPPETS:

*Puppet Pioneers!
We're Puppet Pioneers—
we're on an expedition,
and we're facing all our fears!
We are gonna roam
'til we fin'lly find our home!
That's our only mission
as Puppet Pioneers!*

BALLADEER:

*They all continued on,
and they never missed a step.
Despite their many obstacles,
they never lost their pep.
Through desert, plains, and tundra,
they conquered every climate.*

BALLADEER (CONT'D):

*And when they reached a mountain range
they only had to climb it.*

*But they still remained persistent,
always an unbreakable gang!
Marching onward, side by side,
so uniquely unified,
sticking to the song they sang—*

BALLADEER & PUPPETS:

*Puppet Pioneers!
We're Puppet Pioneers—
we're on an expedition,
and we're facing all our fears!
We are gonna roam,
'til we fin'lly find our home!
That's our only mission
as Puppet Pioneers!*

BALLADEER:

*The puppets needed rest
being pushed to their extremes.
But thoughts about the settlement
persisted in their dreams.
While Jimbo dreamt of gaming,
and Stella dreamt of stars,
young Dirpy dreamt of gobbling
a million choc'late bars!*

*As they slept, they all imagined
something that they could strive toward.
Unrelenting in their quest,
even nightly in their rest,
listen to the song they snored—*

PUPPETS:

*[sleep-mumbling something resembling the following, and
maybe inserting a snore here and there]*

*Puppet Pioneers!
We're Puppet Pioneers!
Even though we're sleeping,
we're facing all our fears!*

PUPPETS (CONT'D):

*We are gonna roam,
'til we fin'lly find our home!
That's the vow we're keeping
as Puppet Pioneers!*

BALLADEER:

*The days wore into weeks,
and the weeks gave way to more,
and trekking through the wilderness
began to be a chore.
Their pep reserves were empty.
Their snacks were running out.
The heads of our poor puppet friends
were filling up with doubt.*

*Would they ever really make it?
How much longer could they take it—
swimming in such a deep despair?
They were near their end of wits,
and prepared to call it quits, when ...*

-----[dialogue]-----

STELLA: Hey, what's that place over there?

**THE PUPPETS ALL LOOK OFF IN THE DISTANCE AS A CRUDELY
DISGUISED DR. S. CARY PLACES A SIGN READING, "EL BRAVADO:
THAT WAY" ON STAGE.**

MARCIE: Kids, can you help us find El Bravado?

JIMBO: Do any of you see a sign?

DIRPY: What's that?

STELLA: It's right behind us?

**ON CUE, ALL OF THE PUPPETS SLOWLY TURN THEIR HEADS AND LOOK
AT THE SIGN AT ONCE.**

MARCIE: (Counting down to the chorus) Two. Three. Four!

-----[singing]-----

BALLADEER & PUPPETS:

Puppet Pioneers!

We're Puppet Pioneers!

Keeping to our motto,

we've conquered all our fears!

No more need to roam,

'cause we've fin'lly found our home—

here in El Bravado,

as Puppet Pioneers!

As Puppet Pioneers!

We're Puppet Pioneers!

-----[dialogue]-----

STELLA: Bye, Singer Man!

BALLADEER: (Calling off after them) No, it's okay. I didn't even want to come wit you to that super awesome new town. I actually have to go sing for some puppets on the other side of the frontier, anyways.

END SCENE

THE PUPPETS ARRIVE IN A NEAR PERFECT LAND. SOMEHOW ALL OF THE THINGS THAT EACH OF THEM LOOKED FOR ARE PRESENT. (EX. A BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF OUTER SPACE, GIANT TVs AND VIDEO GAMES, and A CHOCOLATE MOUNTAIN)

DIRPY: This must be it! OH my goodness.

MARCIE: Huh, this seems odd.

JIMBO: Look, there are old video games!

STELLA: Wow, I can see the stars perfectly from here. They're so beautiful.

DIRPY: And is that a mountain made out of...
CHOCOLATE?!

DIRPY/STELLA/JIMBO: It's perfect!

MARCIE: Doesn't it seem strange that every single thing we said we hoped we'd find was already here....Almost like it was waiting for us.

STELLA: Let's sing our new provincial anthem that we had time to write on our long journey!

THE PUPPETS LINE UP IN A BARBER SHOP QUARTET FASHION AND BEGIN DOING THE HARMONIZING, BUT BY THE TIME THEY GET TO DIRPY (THE LAST MEMBER), RATHER THAN SINGING THE HARMONY HE JUST SCREAMS FOOLISHLY. THEY ALL LOOK AT HIM SILENTLY FOR A FEW MOMENTS.

DIRPY: Yeah...I'll sit this one out.

DIRPY HEADS TO THE AUDIENCE AND SITS IN AN EMPTY SEAT WITH THE KIDS, DANCING AND GROOVING ALONG TO THE NEXT NUMBER.

"O EL BRAVADO"

-----[singing]-----

PUPPETS:

*O El Bravado,
proud and true you stand!
You are formidable,
yet so hospitable,
the perfect puppet land!*

PUPPETS (CONT'D):

*You'll always remain in our heart,
and if ever we should part,
this anthem is guaranteed to start!
And we'll be singing—
E, L, B, R, A, V, A, D—*

*O El Bravado,
proud and true you stand!
We'll never stray,
and we'll always stay,
in our perfect puppet land.*

*We'll never stray,
and we'll always stay,
in our perfect puppet land.*

-----[dialogue]-----

PUPPETS: This is awesome!

MARCIE: (to herself) I just don't understand how it could be so perfect. How could it match up exactly with what everyone wanted?

JIMBO: You rock, Marcie!

MARCIE LOOKS CONCERNED

MARCIE: I don't know about this place. It seems too good to be tr ...

STELLA: Let's all cheer for Marcie, the world's first Puppet Pioneer!

MARCIE: Well, hold on guys, this seems a bit fishy...

DIRPY/STELLA/JIMBO: Marcie! Marcie! Marcie

MARCIE IS CLEARLY CONCERNED, BUT SHE SEEMS TO BRUSH IT OFF AS UNIMPORTANT AND LIGHTEN UP, AS EVERYBODY CHEERS. EVERYONE EXITS INTO THE CITY. SHE BREAKS INTO A REPRISE OF HER OPENING NUMBER: "I'M FINALLY THE FIRST."

-----[singing]-----

MARCIE:

I wanted to be first.

I wanted to be best.

I wanted to make the world applaud.

It's just like I rehearsed.

It's better than I'd guessed.

But doesn't that seem just a little odd?

If my former self could see me now,

she'd sense my hesitation, and she'd scoff!

'Cause we're finally here!

And it's finally done!

So I'm finally through!

I've finally won!

I'm finally the first-

so why does something feel ...

off?

END SCENE

BY WAY OF TRANSITION, ENTER THE VOLCANO.

VOLCANO: One month later...

EXIT VOLCANO. ENTER MARCIE AND DIRPY. STELLA AND JIMBO CAN BE SEEN IN THE DISTANCE. MARCIE WALKS THROUGH SAYING HELLO TO ALL OF THEM AND CHECKING IN.

MARCIE: Alright, time for me to make my rounds.
Dirpy, do you have my clipboard?

DIRPY: Ma'am, yes, ma'am!

THE CLIPBOARD IS COVERED IN CHOCOLATE, AS IS EVERYTHING DIRPY TOUCHES.

MARCIE: No need for the formalities, Dirpy! Marcie is a-okay with me.

DIRPY: Ma'am, yes, ma'am! Oops, I mean, Marcie, yes, Marcie! By the way, your hair looks like it smells delightful today!

MARCIE: Thank you for not smelling it. Okay, now time for the checklist: How are the crops doing?

DIRPY: Excellent! We have already grown enough to last the entire year! My personal favorite is the broccoli!

MARCIE: Really? That seems unlike you. You've really matured a lot since we got here.

DIRPY: I dip it in the chocolate river!

MARCIE: That makes a lot more sense. What about the homes we built?

DIRPY: Amazerooni! They have already been awarded best settlements in Architectural Digest!

MARCIE: And how is our technology?

DIRPY: Beautiful! Thanks to Stella's **handiwork**

THE HAND BURSTS OUT. CUE SCREAMING!

DIRPY: Sorry, sorry! Didn't mean to say the *H* word. I mean her engineering. We have some of the best telescopes in the world!

MARCIE: Glad to hear everything is going so dandy! Time to check in with our other Puppet Pioneers.

MARCIE AND DIRPY START MOVING OVER TO SEE STELLA AND JIMBO

MARCIE: How are the video games going, Jimbo?

JIMBO: Hi, Marcie. Hi Dirpy. I just wanted to tell you that you sure have done an amazing job settling this place. (flirtily) And so has Stella. She is so smart and strong, like a Gorilla. (realizing what he said and acting awkwardly to cover it up) Strong like a gorilla I mean. Her IQ is much higher than a gorilla's. Also, not like she looks like a big hairy primate or anything. Don't tell her I said that! She is much prettier...

AWKWARD SILENCE

JIMBO: But anyways. I'm already at level 1,000 of *Call of Disney: Revenge of Donald Duck*. The game's so realistic—it's almost like I can walk right into the TV!

MARCIE: Sounds great! Keep up the good work!

DIRPY: Jimbo: check!

MARCIE: Stella, how's the stargazing?

STELLA: Oh, hi Marcie! Hi, Dirp. Stargazing—Speaking of gazing, doesn't Jimbo just look lovely today. Did he do anything different with his hair?

DIRPY: He doesn't have hair.

STELLA: Hahaha you're so funny! (aside to herself) Foolish Stella! Foolish Foolish!

MARCIE: Ummmm, Stella?

STELLA: (snaps out of it and back to Marcie) Oh, yes. Hi, again, Marcie. To answer your question: stargazing, more like staramazing! From the top Chocolate Mountain, I feel so close to the stars and planets. Sometimes I think that I can just float on up there.

MARCIE: Amazing! Looks like everything checks out! Guess I can head back to my office.

DIRPY: Forgetting anyone?

MARCIE: Oh, yes, how are you doing, Dirpy?

DIRPY: I've eaten so much chocolate that I have a stomach ache!

MARCIE: Is that a good thing?

DIRPY: Are you kidding me? It's the dream!

MARCIE: Well, I'm glad you are happy! It seems everything is in order then. Come along, Dirpy.

MARCIE AND DIRPY EXIT. JUST STELLA AND JIMBO REMAIN. THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT THEY ARE IN EARSHOT OF THE OTHER, AND BACK UP INTO ONE ANOTHER AS THEY SAY THE FOLLOWING LINES:

STELLA/JIMBO: Gosh, I love Jimb-OH!/Stell-AH!

STELLA/JIMBO: What?

STELLA/JIMBO: Did you say you're in love with someone!

STELLA/JIMBO: Who?

STELLA/JIMBO: No more talking in unison!

STELLA/JIMBO: I agree, but who should go first?

STELLA/JIMBO: You!

STELLA/JIMBO: Fine, me!

STELLA/JIMBO: AGHHHHHHHHHH

STELLA: Okay shhhh. I may have been saying that I maybe, sorta...have a crush on....uhhhh...uhhhhhh

DIRPY WALKS BY MUNCHING ON SOME CHOCOLATE

STELLA: Dirpy.

JIMBO: The guy with permanent chocolate stains.

STELLA: Uhhhhhhh. Yep, Dirpy. Totally love the guy.
Okay, how about you?!

JIMBO: Well, I'm in love with

ENTER MARCIE DOING A FEW MORE ROUNDS WITH HER CLIPBOARD.

JIMBO: Ughhhhhhhhhh, Marcie!

STELLA: MARCIE?! But, she's our leader!

JIMBO: (Obviously lying) I know, don't tell her,
because then I'd be sooooo embarrassed.

STELLA: Oh, yeah. Totally. So embarrassed. So, uh,
when ... Marcie looks at you, I bet you feel
the same way I do when...Dirpy looks at me.

JIMBO: And how does that feel?

**CUE SONG ABOUT LOVE WHERE JIMBO AND STELLA SINGS ABOUT HOW
THEY LOVE, MARCIE AND DIRPY, RESPECTIVELY. BUT IT'S OBVIOUS
THAT THEY ARE ACTUALLY SINGING ABOUT THEIR TRUE LOVES: EACH
OTHER.**

"MORE THAN YOU CAN EVER KNOW"

-----[singing]-----

STELLA:

*Ev'rytime you look at me,
my face begins to blush.
And when you're standing near me,
my mind just turns to mush.*

*Then when you depart,
it's like I'm stuck in limbo.
Your name is written on my heart—
it's palpitating ... "Dirpy".*

-----[stage directions]-----

ON HIS NAME, DIRPY BURSTS OUT FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN RIGHT BETWEEN STELLA AND JIMBO AND STARTS TIK-TOK DANCING UNTIL JIMBO'S VERSE.

-----[singing]-----

STELLA:

*My only consolation
when you're not in my embrace
is that ev'ry constellation
forms the shape of your face.*

*I wish that I could tell you
the way I really feel.
The longer it's a secret,
the less I feel it's real.
I wish I had the words to say
or the courage to show
I love you more than you can ever know.*

-----[dialogue]-----

JIMBO: Wow, I didn't know you liked him so much.

STELLA: Me neither...but what do you feel, you know, when
 you look at Marcie?

JIMBO: It's funny you should ask that...

-----[singing]-----

JIMBO:

*Ev'rytime you speak to me,
my heart begins to leap.
And if it's close to bedtime,
it's tough for me to sleep.*

*If you felt the same,
I'd be a lucky fella.
'Cause I'd be calling out your name,
just bellowing for ... "Marcie".*

-----[stage directions]-----

ON HER NAME, MARCIE BURSTS OUT FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN
RIGHT BETWEEN STELLA AND JIMBO AND DANCES UNTIL JIMBO AND
STELLA'S SHARED VERSE.

-----[singing]-----

JIMBO:

*The only thing that's driving
ev'ry level I complete
is that you may be arriving
when the boss has been beat.*

*I wish that I could tell you
the way I really feel.
The longer it's a secret,
the less I feel it's real.
I wish I had the words to say
or the courage to show
I love you more than you can ever know.*

STELLA & JIMBO:

*I wish I had the courage
but I don't.
I guess it's time to let it go,
though still I'm vying violently.
I'll hide my feelings deep below,
but still be sighing silently.
I'll never have the words to say
or the courage to show
I love you more than you can ever know.
I love you more than you can ever know.
I love you more than you can ever know.*

END SCENE

ENTER VOLCANO:

VOLCANO: Six months later....

EXIT VOLCANO. ENTER MARCIE AND DIRPY, ONCE AGAIN SURVEYING THE SETTLEMENT. THIS TIME THE LAND LOOKS BAD. IT IS SAD, STORMY, AND EVERYTHING HAS GONE TO THE DUMPS.

MARCIE: (sadly) Should we go through the monthly checklist again.

DIRPY: I guess, but we already know how it's gonna go.

MARCIE: The crops?

DIRPY: Still rotten.

MARCIE: The houses?

DIRPY: Broken.

MARCIE: And the technology?

DIRPY: All the telescopes are malfunctioning!

MARCIE: I just don't get it! How could everything have changed so quickly. It felt like only two scenes ago we were all singing about how much we loved the colony, and now everything has changed. That seems like a rapidly progressing story!

DIRPY: I wonder how our secondary characters are taking this sharp transition.

MARCIE: Let's go check on them!

DIRPY AND MARCIE EXIT

SPOTLIGHT ON JIMBO PLAYING VIDEO GAMES. HE IS GETTING REALLY INTO IT. OMINOUS MUSIC STARTS PLAYING. SOUNDS FROM THE GAME ARE HEARD.

JIMBO: Only a few more points until level one million!

NOTIFICATION SOUNDS PLAY, AND SOMETHING POPS UP ON THE SCREEN.

JIMBO: Wait, what is that?

A VOICE FROM THE GAME THAT SOUNDS AWFULLY SIMILAR TO DR. SCARY'S SAYS,

GAME: To enter the game world, approach the monitor.

JIMBO: No way...

JIMBO MOVES EVEN CLOSER TO THE SCREEN AND EVENTUALLY, AS THE OMINOUS MUSIC PICKS UP.

JIMBO: AHHHHHHHH!

HE GETS SUCKED INTO THE SCREEN. MELTED CHOCOLATE SHOOTS OUT. THE CHOCOLATE COULD BE REPRESENTED ABSTRACTLY WITH BROWN SCARVES.

SPOTLIGHT ON STELLA ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN LOOKING INTO SPACE. THE SAME OMINOUS MUSIC STARTS PLAYING.

STELLA: Gosh, even the stars seem dimmer than they typically do. If only I could get an even closer look.

CUE A SUCKING NOISE. THE OMINOUS MUSIC BEGINS.

STELLA: Gosh, and the gravity feels even lighter than it usually does.

STELLA GETS SUCKED UP INTO SPACE. CHOCOLATE SAUCE IS SHOT OUT AGAIN.

STELLA: AHHHHHH. What...what's happening?!

ENTER DIRPY.

DIRPY: Marcie! Any luck?!

MARCIE RUNS BACK TO THE STAGE YELLING.

MARCIE: (Scared) Oh my Elmo! They've gone missing! They've gone missing!

DIRPY: Really, I just looked by the chocolate river and couldn't find them anywhere!

MARCIE: (Angrily) Did you just say that you were by the chocolate river?

DIRPY: Yeah, looking for them!

MARCIE: There was chocolate all over the scenes of the crimes.

DIRPY: What are you saying?

MARCIE: You're the only one who uses that chocolate river.

DIRPY: I promise I didn't do anything. I wasn't even near them.

MARCIE: The evidence speaks for itself. You were probably jealous of me—jealous that I was the first Puppet Pioneer.

"I WANNA BE THE FIRST" BEGINS TO PLAY

MARCIE: NOT NOW, PIANO MAN! Can't you tell I'm using my angry voice!

DIRPY: Please, Marcie. You got to believe me. It wasn't me.

MARCIE: I knew I never should have taken you!

DIRPY: But...but...Marcie. (voice cracks) You're my sister. I love you.

MARCIE: Just go! Leave! You've done enough.

MARCIE SITS DOWN ON A NEARBY ROCK AND STARTS TO SOB. DIRPY RUNS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STAGE AND SITS ALONE, THERE. MUSIC STARTS PLAYING. THEY SING WITHOUT SEEING THE OTHER.

"I WISH YOU UNDERSTOOD."

-----[singing]-----

MARCIE:

*I wish you understood what it's like to be me—
I don't mean to ruin all your fun.
I wish you understood my authority
to do what must be done.*

MARCIE (CONT'D):

*When I act superior
or calmly self-possessed,
Under my exterior
I'm trembling and stressed.
Imagine if you knew.*

*I wish you understood.
I think that you should.
And I wonder what would happen if you could.*

DIRPY:

*I wish you understood what it's like to be me—
I don't mean to pester or annoy.
I wish you understood my priority
to be a source of joy.*

*When I'm unconventional
and acting like a fool.
Nothing's unintentional
'cause laughter is a tool.
Imagine if you knew.*

*I wish you understood.
I think that you should.
And I wonder what would happen if you could.*

MARCIE AND DIRPY:

*Taking all the blame's
a terrible shame.
I only wish that someone felt the same.*

-----[dialogue]-----

DIRPY: I'm running away!

DIRPY RUNS AWAY OFF STAGE.

END SCENE

MARCIE SITS BACK AND BEGINS TO SOB.

MARCIE: I just wanted to be the first at something, the first puppet pioneer, but I couldn't even do that. I'm a failure.

WE HEAR A VOICE FROM OFF STAGE. IT'S DR. S. CARY.

DR. S. CARY: Now, now, don't cry.

MARCIE: Oh great. And now I am hearing things!

ENTER DR. S. CARY.

DR. S. CARY: You're not hearing things, Marcie. It's really me. I thought you might need some help.

MARCIE: Boy, do I ever! My settlement is falling apart, and it's all my fault!

DR. S. CARY: Oh, Marcie.

SHE HUGS HIM (HE DOESN'T HUG HER BACK. THE SCENE FREEZES. SPOTLIGHT ON DIRPY.

DIRPY: I can't believe it. I didn't even smell their hair and they got mad at me! Why is it always me. Hmph!

HE SITS DOWN AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE SEES DR. S. CARY'S LAB COAT.

DIRPY: Huh. That looks like Dr. S Cary's lab coat.

HE TAKES A CLOSER LOOK AT IT.

DIRPY: That *is* Dr. Cary's lab coat, but what's it doing here. Unless...

DIRPY LOOKS INTO THE POCKET AND PULLS OUT A PIECE OF FOLDED-UP PAPER.

DIRPY: "Project Eliminate All Puppets"? What? ...Oh no. MARCIE! I have to go warn her.

DIRPY RUNS AWAY TO GO TELL MARCIE. THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN MARCIE AND DR. S. CARY CONTINUES.

DR. S. CARY: It's not your fault. How could you have known that your settlement was actually a trap.

MARCIE: A what?

DR. S. CARY: A trap, Marcie. My lab and I designed it to perfectly fit each of your interests and then rigged it to capture you all.

MARCIE: I...I don't understand. What are you talking about?

DR. S. CARY: I am talking about how we set you up. I trapped Jimbo in a fake TV and Stella in an artificial star. Then, I covered my tracks in chocolate, so that you would blame it on your silly brother, Dirpy! This whole settlement has been a ploy to get rid of all you puppets.

MARCIE: Get rid of us?

DR. S. CARY: Yes. And turn you into humans.

THE TWO FREEZE AGAIN. SPOTLIGHT ON DIRPY, WHO IS RUNNING AS FAST AS HE CAN TO GET BACK TO MARCIE.

DIRPY: If I cut through the chocolate river, I can save time.

SPOTLIGHT ON MARCIE AND DR. S. CARY.

MARCIE: Why would you do that?

DR. S. CARY: When I was a little boy, I wished I could be a puppet. But I could never become one. And I was made fun of it for it. And ever since that day, I vowed to seek my revenge on puppets.

HE TAKES OUT THE PUPPET RAY 3000 FROM THE START OF THE SHOW.

MARCIE: The Puppet Ray 3000!

DR. S. CARY: You wanted to know what it does? It turns puppets into humans. I guess you finally get to be the first at something, Marcie, the first puppet to fall victim to the Puppet Ray 3000.

DR. S. CARY TAKES AIM, BUT OUT OF NOWHERE DIRPY COMES RUNNING IN, CHOCOLATE STAINS SHIMMERING IN THE LIGHT.

DIRPY: Watch out Marcie!!!

HE RUNS AND JUMPS IN FRONT OF MARCIE, AND PLAYS TUG OF WAR WITH THE PUPPET RAY, THUS COVERING IT IN CHOCOLATE. HOWEVER, DIRPY FAILS TO KNOCK IT OUT OF DR. S. CARY'S HAND. AND THE DOCTOR RAISES THE RAY AT BOTH OF THEM. THE TWO TURN AND LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

DR. S. CARY: Any final puppet words for the both of you?

MARCIE: Yes, I do have something to say. I'm sorry, Dirpy. I'm sorry I was so tough on you and blamed you for this. You are an amazing puppet, and I will never forget you. I love you Dirpy!

DIRPY: I love you too, Marcie!

DR. S. CARY FIRES THE RAY GUN, BUT IT MAKES A COMICALLY SILLY NOISE AND BACKFIRES. DR. S. CARY FALLS TO THE FLOOR AND TURNS INTO A PUPPET!

PUPPET CARY: What?! What happened to me?

MARCIE: I KNOW, Dirpy's chocolate must have short-circuited Puppet Ray 3000 and reversed its settings, turning humans into puppets and not puppets into humans! I guess your sticky chocolate mouth actually saved the day!

PUPPET CARY: Oh no! Wait a minute. Does that mean I'm a puppet?! Finally!

MARCIE: Well, well, well. Looks like you aren't so tough after all.

DIRPY: Yeah! You were defeated by chocolate, the sweetest of all weapons!

PUPPET CARY: I'm sorry I put you through all of that. I should have realized that puppets are never mean to each other. I understand if you want to banish me from the settlement.

MARCIE: No, dad. Puppets are kind and forgiving. We welcome everyone here. You can join our town and live with us! But you need to set Stella and Jimbo free first.

PUPPET CARY: Of Course! Of course!

DR. S. CARY TAKES A COMEDICALLY THEMED REMOTE OUT OF HIS POCKET AND ENTERS A LONG CODE INTO IT AS IF HE IS TYPING A PHONE NUMBER. BEEP. BOOP. BEEEEEEP. WITH THAT, STELLA AND JIMBO ARE FREED! THEY ENTER THE STAGE.

JIMBO: STELLA!

STELLA: JIMBO!

THE TWO EMBRACE EACH OTHER.

STELLA: After being away from you for so long, I realized I just need to tell something. I don't really love Dirpy.

DIRPY: Ow! I'm standing right here!

JIMBO: AND I don't really love Marcie!

MARCIE: Yep, can confirm that does hurt.

STELLA: I love you, Jimbo!

JIMBO: And I love you, Stella!

PUPPET CARY: AND I LOVE BEING A PUPPET!

DIRPY: Marcie, will you be our leader, again?

MARCIE: Well, Puppet Pioneers...

MARCIE BEGINS THE INTRO TO THE "FINALE".

-----[singing]-----

MARCIE:

*Our settlement might be a little bit scarred.
With our property decaying,
we don't have a lot.
It won't be too easy, but won't be too hard—
if we're all intent on staying,
we might have a shot.*

-----[dialogue]-----

PUPPET CARY: You really are a great leader, Marcie. I
have to **hand** it to you-

CUE SCREAMING!

PUPPET CARY: Sheesh! Now I understand why that's so
scary. But you know what? Of course we will
stay! Especially with you as our leader:
Marcie, the world's *first* Puppet Pioneer!

-----[singing]-----

ALL:

Puppet Pioneers!
We're Puppet Pioneers!
Now that we're united,
we've conquered all our fears!
No more need for doubt
'cause we've fin'lly worked it out!
Everyone's delighted,
a movement's been ignited,
and you are all invited
to be Puppet Pioneers!
Join the Puppet Pioneers!
All the Puppet Pioneers!

O El Bravado,
proud and true you stand!
We'll never stray,
and we'll always stay,
in our perfect puppet land.

We'll never stray,
and we'll always stay,
in our perfect puppet land!
In our perfect puppet land!
In our perfect puppet land!
In our land!

CLOSE CURTAIN.

FIN.