

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC

By Jerry Rabushka

Copyright © 2016 by Jerry Rabushka, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-60003-906-5

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers LLC.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS LLC
P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406
TOLL FREE (888) 473-8521 • FAX (319) 368-8011

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC:**AN HISTORICAL NARRATIVE***A Ten Minute Comedy Duet***By Jerry Rabushka**

SYNOPSIS: A play that's stuffed full of humor for all ages! Remember the old days, when a ball game was a ball game? Now it's a world-wide media event where a soda costs ten dollars...and parking? Out of this world. What many people don't know is that this same thing happened to the Teddy Bear Picnic. A nice country outing for just a few teddies turned into a massive global event on a scale too grand to continue. Can this squishy tradition be saved? Finally, the true story, and why smart teddies stay home.

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(2 either; gender flexible)*

TEDDY (m/f)..... A stuffed bear. (36 lines)

HEDDY (m/f) A stuffed bear. (35 lines)

CAST NOTE: Heddy and Teddy play other characters as indicated in the script.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

The characters address the audience, taking turns with their "historical narrative." Notes: The author is aware of the controversy and occasional distaste of using the word "an" before the word "historical," and in fact due to that controversy feels it's a great title for the piece. Like the author's play "Goldilocks on Trial," this piece can be performed on a bear stage.

TEDDY: The first Teddy Bear Picnic was a small, cuddly affair.

HEDDY: Kind of like the Saint Louis Olympics in 1904.

TEDDY: I didn't know Saint Louis *had* an Olympics in 1904.

HEDDY: No one did.

TEDDY: There were six of us.

HEDDY: Six teddies, six tuna sandwiches and some honey at a picnic in the woods.

TEDDY: We just wanted to get out of the house, just us six, but before long word got around.

HEDDY: The teddies next door saw us sneaking home, and once they found out what happened they wanted to come along to the next one. That was about what, 10, 12 teddies?

TEDDY: Something like that. Twice the teddies, twice the tuna. (*Disappointed.*) Half the honey.

HEDDY: So year two was pretty good. We got to mingle and share stories of love and cuddliness.

TEDDY: If you're into that.

HEDDY: We sort of have to be. Once the love and cuddly goes away, you turn into a dog toy, and they-

TEDDY: (*Stops the action, horrified.*) Don't! Don't say it!

HEDDY: They tear the stuffing out of you.

TEDDY: But you said it anyway.

HEDDY: Almost every species has its predators. Ours are "cute puppies."

TEDDY: (*Still distracted and upset.*) Worse yet are evil moms and dads who think their children outgrow us and shove us up in a closet with Raggedy Andy.

HEDDY: (*Getting back on track.*) By the third year, word got out even further and almost every neighborhood teddy was there at the ready. We'd gone from six bears at a quiet outing to 366 polyester foam-filled fuzzies all wanting in on planning the menu and activities.

TEDDY: While the initial bill of fare was tuna and honey and the activity was eating it, by the third year in went from "Teddy Bear Picnic" to "The Big Teddy Event."

HEDDY: And the relatives...

TEDDY: Chiming in like a grandfather clock stuck on midnight.

HEDDY: Aunt Hildabear from Build-A-Bear, she was so bossy!

TEDDY: After all, what's a picnic without aunts!

HEDDY: *(As AUNT, taking control.)* We need a wider table cloth, more chairs, and a much broader variety of treats and desserts. I'm going to draw up an organizational chart with everyone's obligations firmly in writing.

TEDDY: Then there was Bear-Rock O'Bama, who started at the bottom of Aunt Hildabear's organizational chart but suddenly got himself elected as president of the Teddy Bear Picnic Activities Association. Twice. "I expect everyone will support me in the quest for better tuna and more honey, as opposed to honey wheat bread, which is not an essential nor nutritional part of this picnic's tradition," he said.

HEDDY: Mind you, there wasn't a TBPAA when we first started.

TEDDY: Nope, just six of us and-

HEDDY: And some tuna.

TEDDY: *(Abrupt, as another AUTHORITATIVE CHARACTER.)* Was that tuna dolphin safe?

HEDDY: *(Taken aback.)* Excuse me? And who are you, anyway?

TEDDY: I'm from the Environmental Bear-tection agency, and I demand to know if the tuna is dolphin safe and mercury free!

HEDDY: *(Befuddled.)* We just took a can out of the cabinet.

TEDDY: I must have documentation or I'll be forced shut down the picnic and replace it with an educational seminar.

HEDDY: *(To audience.)* Who knew? *(In response.)* I'm sure it's fine. No dolphin, no mercury. Just tuna in water. That's what bears eat.

TEDDY: I'll need to sign off on it before your next jaunt into the woods.

HEDDY: After a brief, yet tense, investigation, it was determined that all our food met EPA requirements. We were absolved of a burden we should never have borne. You can't do anything anymore without someone Facebooking you in a page of shame.

TEDDY: And that's what happened. Other teddies were offended.

HEDDY: *(As COUSIN JUSTIN for the next several lines in quotes.)* "I can't believe I was left out!"

TEDDY: ...said cousin Justin Bee-Bear, a once popular teddy who turned into a real brat.

HEDDY: “You posted the picnic and purposely didn’t invite me! I’m unfriending all of you. (*Pretending to press buttons.*) Unfriend, unfriend, unfriend! Take that, Bear-ianna Grande, Justin Tim-bear-lake, and Kim Bear-dashian.” [Note: feel free to make up bears of your own as pop tastes change]

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from TEDDY BEAR PICNIC by Jerry Rabushka. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:

**Brooklyn Publishers, LLC
P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011
www.brookpub.com**