

# **Murderous Circus**

## Tall Tales

### Characters:

Jess	Young climate activist	Jess
Yealen	Murderous Circus Ring Master	Reggie D
SG / AJ	Protestors at the circus	Adriana & Isabella
Jim	A duck on the pond next to the circus	Romeo
Sonic	A cat / cat-dragon / member of the circus	Adam + Gloria?
Honey Bunny	Member of the circus	Lydia
Roxie Rabbit	Member of the circus	Phoebe
Punk Lee	Member of the circus	Orissa
Other circus performers -		Lydia, Reggie J, Myla, Romeo, Maya, Seba
Toshinori	Former member of the circus	Tori
Barry the Bee	Friend of the Eco Paradise	Grace
Tilly the Tiger	Friend of the Eco Paradise	Stevie
Fred	Founder of the Eco Paradise	Zoe
King Alfred	Leader of the Cat Village	Elliot
The cats	residents of the cat village -	Sadie, Olivia, Gloria
The Living Tree	A tree at the centre of the Forest which gives life to all the other trees and plants	Daisy

Scenes:

- 1 We meet Jess the climate activist outside the circus
- 2 Welcome to the circus
- 3 Jess, SG & AJ - she learns about the Eco Paradise
- 4 The Ring Master plotting; sends circus members to 'recruit' more performers
- 5 Pollution in the pond; Sonic becomes cat-dragon
- 6 Welcome to the Eco Paradise - Jess arrives and meets Fred
- 7 Roxie & Punk Lee try to kidnap Barry & Tilly
- 8 The Cat Village - Jess & Fred searching for the Living Tree - recruit King Alfred
- 9 Toshinori breaks the spell on Roxie & Punk Lee
- 10 The cat-dragon trap - Jess & Fred think they've found the Living Tree
- 11 Meeting - ALL pro-nature characters + Finding the Living Tree
- 12 Confronting the circus & government shutdown
- 13 The Eco Circus

## Precursor - Reggie (RM) Welcomes audience into space

YEALLEN

Welcome to the Circus, please take your seats.

## Scene 1 - Jess's worries

*JESS is in the forest with the circus tent in the distance*

JESS

Hello my name is Jess and I'm a climate activist. I love nature because I love seeing everything grow and I love how it makes me feel.

Pollution is getting out of control, It rains everyday in the world and then in the summers we have a drought. We've got this circus coming to the forest, which will stop trees from growing, animals from roaming and ruin the local wildlife. So I'm going to see if I can stop it by protesting outside.

*PROPS: ? Does Jess have a prop?*

*PROJECTION: Forest? Circus tent? FOREST SOUNDTRACK*

## Scene 2 - Welcome to the Circus

*INT circus tent*

*Welcome to the circus performance introducing the circus that is being temporarily built in the forest. Jess and SG & AJ are protesting on the sidelines.*

**PROPS:**

*Sawing a women in half.*

*Bar weights for strong man*

*Hula Hoops - for trapeze artists*

*Hanging props*

*Drapes*

*Ticket booth*

**COSTUMES:**

*The Murderous Circus (anti-purpose circus)*

*Glow in the dark- toxic costumes*

*Toxic popcorn*

*Candy floss cart: Rotten Candy*

*Lions eating people out of the audience*

*Acrobatics, trapeze, high wire*

*Clown doing tricks:*

*Fall into lion pit*

**SAWING A WOMAN IN HALF**

*Escapologist- dynamite on a timer*

**IN THIS SECTION ADD AUDIENCE INTERACTION ELEMENT - CARDS WITH CHEER, BOO & WOO**

**SONG & DANCE - WELCOME TO THE CIRCUS**

YEALLEN (Ring Master)

Welcome to [drum roll] the Murderous Circus!!

You're going to see lions, people, dynamite, scary things.

YEALLEN (CONT'D)

Make sure there's not children here!

[Evil laugh]

YEALLEN (CONT'D)

You will be scared!! You will ask - why did I come?!?

[Evil Laugh]

YEALLEN (CONT'D)

Stay in your seats - otherwise the lions will get you!!!

[Evil laugh]

### Scene 3 - Protestors

Exterior Big Top

*Jess walks to the centre of the stage where SG & AJ are chanting outside the circus in protest.*

PROPS: placard

PROJECTIONS: Outside circus

SG

No to the Murderous Circus! Yes to Wellbeing and nature!

JESS

It's hopeless, I try and try to warn people of the growing danger but they just won't listen.

AJ

Yes, no one listens to me either!

JESS

They are all blind to the coming crisis.

*Jess turns to the audience.*

JESS

What I should do?

*Jess turns to ask SG.*

SG

Oh wait, I had an old friend who I protested with many years back.

JESS

Oh yeah?

AJ

He's called Fred, He can easily heal any tree. Real nice guy as well, he'll know what to do.

JESS

Where can I find him? Does he live around here?

SG

He went to live in an eco cabin in the forest, just down the path going off Dale Road.

JESS  
Are you coming?

AJ  
No, I can't let these clowns out of my sight.

*She sets off to find Fred.*

## Scene 4 - The Baddies Plotting

Ext forest

*Trees are being sawn down to make way for the circus. SOUND EFFECT*

YEALEN  
We need more land, you either need to cut or burn the trees down.

TIMMY / ROXIE RABBIT  
We can't do that

YEALEN  
WELL THAT'S TOO BAD, AND WE DON'T CARE . WE  
NEED MORE LAND!

*TOSHINORI enters the stage*

TIMMY / PUNK LEE  
I-i-i- It's wrong . That's down right wrong. If you keep polluting this earth we  
will have no.....

*Time freezes.*

*Toshinori enters the stage to the FREEZE FRAME theme tune.*

*Toshinori sneaks around and steals a massive book that Yealen is carrying titled 'NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS (Yealens Top Secrets)'. On her way out she notices the audience, and cuts off the music to address them.*

TOSHINORI

Shh! My name is Toshinori, and back in the day I used to be part of this Murderous circus. I left because they do bad things. Now I spend my days chasing after these dumbo's Punk Lee and Roxxie Rabbit. It's like they're brainwashed.

*Toshinori holds up the top secrets book.*

TOSHINORI (CONT'D)

Anyway, this'll help. Wish me luck.

*Toshinori signals to start the FREEZE FRAME music again and then dances off stage.*

*Time is unfrozen.*

YEALEN

Burning down a couple of trees won't do nowt.

*Yealen begins to be stern with RR and uses a spell to brainwash him.*

ROXIE RABBIT

Ok sir.

*Timmy / Roxie Rabbit picks up a chainsaw and walks off. (possibly chainsaw sound effects).*

YEALEN

Punk Lee, Roxxie. Over here!

*Punk Lee and Roxxie Rabbit stand in front of them.*

ROXXIE RABBIT AND PUNK LEE

Yes sir!

YEALEN

We need more acts and staff for the circus. I want you to bring me every last living creature and tree from the Forest. That's where they are. GET THEM NOW!

ROXXIE RABBIT

Gotcha!

PUNK LEE

On it!



## Scene 5 - CAT TRANSFORMATION

EXT pond outside Big Top

*Jim the Duck is calmly meandering his way around the pond, the pond big blue cutout on the floor.*

*He notices a sign which says 'circus' which hadn't been there previously. Suddenly a concerned look is projected on his face as green, smelly goo oozes on stage out of circus-circus is a circus coloured veil covering a wall opposite to the pond's side- and the duck rushes out of the pond.*

NARRATOR

Jim the duck is having a relaxing time by the pond when he notices that a sign has appeared which says CIRCUS, he is baffled by this as the sign wasn't there before and he becomes very concerned.

JIM

Quack! Quack! Quack!

*Sonic the cat walks out of a bush.*

SONIC

Meow!

NARRATOR

Sonic the cat comes to the pond for a drink, (little pause) suddenly he starts to feel unwell because little does he know that the pond water is poisonous.

*Sonic goes behind the trees to change to Dragon (girls with wings waiting for him here)*

NARRATOR

Surprisingly Sonic the cat turns into a dragon

JIM THE DUCK

What the QUACK!!!!

*Sonic breathes fire and immediately starts trying to capture Jim.*

## Scene 6 - The Eco Paradise

### SONG AT START OF SCENE

*Fred is in his environmental paradise.*

*We see mountains, flowers, trees, lakes, animals, bushes, birds, clouds, sun, rain, rocks, hills, feathers, bugs, cobwebs, stars, willow trees, blossom, grass, nettles, waterfall, beavers, badgers, bees buzzing, river.*

Fred

I love this place, it's so calm and comforting. It allows me to focus and enjoy life. Recently though I have begun to sense a disturbance in the balance of nature here. Like, the paradise is no longer being mothered by the living tree. Now I spend my days looking for the tree.

*Jess arrives in the environmental paradise.*

*Jess can hear the birds chirping, she is noticing smells she has never noticed before and is starting to forget all of her problems. Then suddenly all the beauty has reminded her of her problems again.*

JESS

Hello? Is anyone here? Fred? Are you here? Can anyone hear me?

*Fred pops his head out from a bush.*

FRED

Hello!

JESS

Are you Fred? The person I am looking for?

FRED

Yes, Why are you looking for me?

JESS

I need your help.

FRED

Well hurry because I'm really busy looking for the Living Tree.

JESS

A living tree?!? If you don't help now then this entire forest will be flattened like a pancake!

FRED

\*huffs\* fine I will help you then.

JESS

Thank you and in return I will help you look for this tree of yours

*Jess and Fred walk off looking for the Living Tree.*

## Scene 7 - Barry the Bee gets locked in a tree

### **BEE SONG AT START OF SCENE**

Ext - A forest clearing

*Barry the bee and Tilly the tiger who are rolling in the grass in front of a tree.*

BARRY

Stop getting grass on me!

TILLY

Stop being a grumpy stumpy!

*Punk Lee & Roxie Rabbit creep up on Barry and Tilly,*

PUNK LEE

Look there's a tiger. Wonderful for the fame.

*They jump out at them*

PUNK LEE

Get them! Now!

HONEY BUNNY

Fast!

ROXXIE RABBIT

Roger that!

*They try to capture Tilly. Barry uses one of his stingers to sting Punk Lee in the eye.*

PUNK LEE

That buzzing hurt!

*Tilly manages to break free and run off back to her cave.*

BARRY

Stop being naughty, you little chicken nugget. Otherwise I'll turn you into Rabbit stew.

*Barry is putting up a fight*

HONEY BUNNY

Nuh-uh not today buzzle bee

ROXXIE RABBIT

Get in there now Barry!!!

*Punk Lee and Roxie Rabbit shut Barry up by locking him inside a Tree.*

BARRY

Hey let me out!

*Punk Lee and Roxie go on and continue their quest to find more animals.*

BARRY

COME BACK AND FINISH ME OFF YOU COTTON TAILS!

HONEY BUNNY

Don't worry, we will!!!!

ROXXIE RABBIT

We did it!!! We trapped them!!!

*High Fives as they all walk off*

## Scene 8 Meet the Cat Village

**CAT SONG & DANCE AT START OF SCENE - Dance ends with Alfie in the middle of the cats**

*Jess and Fred arrive at the Cat Village. It is covered in missing cat posters amongst countless wanted dog posters. Every street lamp is a cat scratching post.*

Fred  
Just as I suspected the tree is gone?

*Jess and Fred are immediately surrounded by thousands of large felines.  
King Alfie arrives and is initially mean.*

King Alfie  
What are YOU doing here?! Have YOU taken the Living Tree?!

JESS  
What NO this is a misunderstanding !

FRED  
We are ACTUALLY looking for the Living Tree!

KING ALFIE  
That tree has been here since the dawn of the cat village! Everything you can see grew from that tree!  
Now look! Everything is DYING!

JESS  
That's why we're here, to stop the evil circus AND save the friendly forest!

FRED  
If you help us look for the tree, we WILL give you cat treats, cat nip and enough cardboard boxes for every single cat here to lounge around in all day and all night. Who's with us?

*All the cats cheer.*

JESS  
Every cat will have a box it can call home!

KING ALFIE  
You heard them! Warn the entire forest of the circus and bring the Living Tree to me!

*All the cats scramble off excitedly.*

*King Alfie turns to Jess and Fred*

KING ALFIE

Come, let's find the tree!

*King Alfie, Jess and Fred leave looking for the tree.*

## Scene 9 - Toshinori breaks the spell on Roxie and Punk Lee

*Toshinori is walking through the woods tracking Roxxie and Punk Lee when she finally sees them. They are carrying and dragging sacks with all the woodland creatures they have captured.*

*Toshinori jumps out on them.*

TOSHINORI

Roxxie!! Punk Lee!! SNAP OUT OF IT!

*Roxxie and Punk Lee immediately throw up their defences.*

TOSHINORI

Please don't do this! You're capturing all of these poor woodland creatures because Yealen has hypnotised you to do his bidding!

*Toshinori pulls out Yealen's diary which has 'Yealen's top secrets' written on the front.*

*Roxxie and Punk Lee look increasingly more confused as Toshinori flicks through the book.*

TOSHINORI

There it is! This will snap you out of the spell

*Toshinori looks up. (Sound FX for spell or clicks fingers)*

Toshinori

"That's all folks!" [like a Catch Phrase] ## sound effect ##

*Roxxie and Punk Lee snap out of the hypnosis.*

RoxXie

W-What happened?

Punk Lee

Yeah, where the heck are we?

*They both look at the sacks they were carrying and remember what they've been doing.*

ROXXIE

Why have we got all of these woodland creatures?

PUNK LEE

That will be Yealen's spell.

## Scene 10 - Dragon captured & cured. Barry is saved

*Fred, Jess and King Alfie are walking through the forest.*

BARRY

Arrrrggggghhhhhhhhh!!!!

*They suddenly stop.*

JESS

What's that noise?

KING ALFIE

I don't know

*King Alfie shrugs his shoulders and they all cup their ears to try to hear better.*

BARRY

Arrrrggghhhhhhhhh! Heeeellllpppppppp!

*The screaming gets closer and closer until suddenly a tree runs past them buzzing like a bee!*

*Fred points at the tree.*

FRED

Is that the living tree?? We've found it!!

BARRY

Drrraaaagggooooonnnnnn!

*Suddenly Sonic the dragon appears overhead.*

FRED

Take cover otherwise that Dragon is going to kidnap us for the circus!

KING ALFIE

I'll find a way to catch him

**Grace & Reggie's song - the dragon scare song - GRACE sings from inside tree costume.**

*During acapella song - Fred and Jess are distracting the Dragon while King Alfie (and possibly cats) is getting his net*

KING ALFIE

I'm going to trap this dragon now!

*Sonic the dragon is trapped in the net by Alfie. Jess & Fred hold the net with him.*

*Jess, Fred and King Alfie all give each other high fives.*

KING ALFIE

Wait a minute... Sonic is that you?

*Sonic breathes fire.*

JESS AND FRED

What? You know him?

KING ALFIE

Yeah he's one of my best cats.

*Sonic breathes fire again.*

KING ALFIE

Remember Sonic, it's me Alfie!

*King Alfie gets out his phone (Images on phone to be shown to audience through projector)*

KING ALFIE (CONT)

Look... here's some pictures of us.

*Alfie flicks through some pictures of them both cuddling, playing, cooking, eating, going on trips, birthday parties and sleepovers.*

KING ALFIE (CONT)

\*Talks through the pictures.\*

*Suddenly Sonic snaps out of it and transforms back into a cat. Dragon head is removed & cat ears put on - Dragon puppeteers exit stage.*

BARRY

You telling me THAT was just a cat! Let me at them!

Let me at them!

*Jess and Fred grab a branch each and hold the tree back!*

KING ALFIE

Talk to my Sonic like that again and watch what happens!

BARRY

Watch what happens!?! He just nearly made me sting my last sting!

JESS

Last sting? You're a tree not a bee!

BARRY

I am not! It's me Barry the Bee!

FRED

How did you get in there?

*Fred lets Barry out of the tree.*

BARRY



Two dodgy lookin' rabbits locked me up in here.

*Barry gets out of the tree.*

BARRY (CONT)

Wow! How it feels to finally take the weight off my feet.

JESS

We need to get to the circus it's about to start!

FRED

We still haven't found the Living Tree...

JESS

That won't matter if the circus carries on! Let's Go!!!

*Everyone leaves for the circus*

## Scene 11 - At the circus - finding the Living Tree

*Everyone arrives outside the circus where SG & AJ is still protesting.*

SG & AJ

No to the Murderous Circus! Yes to Wellbeing and nature!

KING ALFIE

Right! Come on let's just storm through the front and I'll send my cats round the back. No prisoners.

*The cats all cheer!*

FRED

Wait, wait! Stop

JESS

What's up?

FRED

I can sense The Living Tree is nearby.

*They all look around.*

THE LIVING TREE

Hamburgers! Cheese burgers! Horse burgers! Come get your burgers!

*They all notice the living tree working at a burger van.*

KING ALFIE

Is that our sacred tree?

JESS

Surely not!

*Fred approaches the tree.*

THE LIVING TREE

Oh hey Fred!

KING ALFIE

It is.

*King Alfie and the cats all kneel.*

FRED

Living tree what are you doing here?

THE LIVING TREE

Working?

JESS

For these?

KING ALFIE

Why?

FRED

Your job is supporting the eco system and it is very important.

THE LIVING TREE

Nobody cares about nature anymore or appreciates me.

*Everyones really sad especially the cats.*

FRED

But your job is so important. Without it nature would die out.

*The Living Tree enters a hypnotised state. Fred waving in front of Tree's face*

*(Shaking the tree)*            What's happened to you???

THE LIVING TREE

Circus good! Nature bad! x2

*Everyone gasps!*

*The Living tree walks off into the circus.*

KING ALFIE

That's enough! Let's storm the circus at once! Same plan as before! Go! Now

*Everyone EXITS the stage to storm the circus.*

*SG & AJ goes to one side and phones the Police.*

SG

Can I speak to the Police please!

AJ

There is a breach of the peace, a murdering circus, cat armies, dragons, talking trees, and just a lot of weird stuff going on; on top of the pollution previously reported.

## Scene 12 - Storming the circus - *Interior Big Top*

### MUSIC - ROCKY (IMMIGRANT SONG TYPE ONE)

*Two tribes clash - Murderous Circus characters v's The Eco Activists*

*Toshinori enters with Punk Lee and Roxxie Rabbit (possibly freezes time again with TIME FREEZE music).*

*Toshinori pulls out the secrets book.*

TOSHINORI

"That's all folks!!!!" \*\* SOUND EFFECT \*\*

*All the animals snap out from the hypnosis.*

*Suddenly there is a massive hologram.*

GOVERNMENT HOLOGRAM - Pre-filmed

Everybody stop! This Circus is not only bad but it is polluting this entire area and turning it into one big landfill. We might need to bomb it!

*The animals and circus performers all look shocked.*

*The audience starts to boo!! (\*possibly sound effects)*

AUDIENCE

Booooo!

AUDIENCE MEMBER

This cost me fifty quid!!

*The audience starts chanting. Boards held up to get the audience chanting.*

AUDIENCE

We want our circus! We want our circus!

*Yealen breaks up the boo'ing and chants. The circus animals (un-hypnotised) grab Yealen, until he apologises.*

YEALEN

I vow to put on an eco-show that is not only the best circus in the world, but the most environmentally friendly circus that the world has ever seen, and I will rewild the entire area as soon as the show is finished.

*The audience cheers.*

HOLOGRAM

I sentence you to 2 million hours of community service rewilding all of Derbyshire. Pre-filmed

*Everyone cheers again.*

## Scene 13 - The Eco-circus

EXT Forest

Big song & dance number for the end.

Soundtrack of nature - bleeds into song

### Finale

#### The Wellbeing Sensory Circus

The audience experience a walk through the forest.

They can smell cut grass and leaves.

They feel rice or a sandpit, or blades of grass.

They hear drips, waves, catchy music, birdsong

The lighting is soft and slow moving

There are envelopes on the seat with games:

- Nature bingo card

- Other

The acts at the circus are:

- Comedy (feel good)

- Dance

- Mime?

- Magician – The flower spray gun?