

TRUE COLORS/BORN THIS WAY: *THE GREATEST SHOWMAN*



by Melissa Delapa

Cast:

Barnum - Peter (ringmaster)
Letty - Shannon (bearded lady)
Anne Wheeler - Temeka (trapeze artist)
WD Wheeler - Josh (Anne's brother and trapeze artist)
Philip - Chris (playwright)
Queen Victoria - Chaya (Queen of England)
Queen's Announcer - Chey
Strongman - Emily (the Swede)
Tattooed Woman - Hollyn
General Tom Thumb - Robbie (tiny man)
Flame Dancer - Alex
Lizard Woman - Patty
Contortionist - Ryan
Mermaid - Marsche
Jo-Jo - David (dog-faced boy)
Jenny Lind - Sasha (the Opera singer, as known as the Swedish Nightingale)

Plot:

PT Barnum is becoming a famous entertainer, hosting oddities and musical shows in New York City. He has asked his performers to think of ways to get more people interested in coming to the shows after receiving several negative reviews in the newspaper. Barnum's business partner, Philip, secures an invitation to Buckingham Palace to meet the Queen, hoping that this publicity will be more positive. They meet Jenny Lind, the Swedish opera singer, and Barnum convinces her to come to America to perform.

Scene 1:

New York City, inside
the Barnum's American
Museum.

Scene Note:

The oddities are sitting around in the tent and begin talking about bigger ideas for their show, to make it even more over-the-top. It's relaxed and everyone is in a good mood.

Letty:

Warm isn't it?

Strongman:

Yes tis is.

Flame Dancer:

(quietly)

The fire is bright
tonight.

WD:

Barnum asked us to
think of ways to
improve our show.

Contortionist:

I could teach people
how to do this...

Anne:

I can't even do that! We could remove the safety nets at the night shows- everyone loves danger.

Flame Dancer:

And watch you both fall
and die?

Mermaid:

We could put a big pool
under you to catch you,
and I could swim
around.

Tom Thumb:

I know. Let's find a tiny
ballerina.

Mermaid:

You just want a date.
And legs are so boring
when you have a tail.

Contortionist:

Legs are not boring.

WD:

Maybe we do our
trapeze act with a
poisonous snake
around our shoulders?

Anne:

Uh-uh. No way.

Lizard Woman:

Or add zebras. I could ride on their back and stick my tongue out.

Tattooed Woman:

The kids would love
that!

Jo-Jo:

A bike with sparklers?

Flame Dancer:

You take the wheel Jo-Jo,
and I could ride on your
back breathing fire over the
heads of the audience. Oh,
that's probably dangerous
with all your fur.

Tattooed Woman:

I know someone who
has a cat that has 5
legs.

Strongman:

What would we call it,
Thing?

Letty:

No, I hate when people
call us names or freaks.

Strongman:

I agree with thee.

WD:

Those are some good ideas. But Barnum says our reviews in the paper are terrible. They say we are the shame of the city, offensive and indecent.

Scene Note:

Everyone looks around
at each other hurt.
Philip then enters.

Phillip:

Well, good thing we got
an invitation to
Buckingham Palace to
meet Queen Victoria
herself.

Everyone:

What?

Lizard Woman:

Is this true?

Anne:

Are ALL of us invited?

Phillip:

*(pauses and looks
around)*

I guess I'll have to say
it's either all of us, or
none of us.

Everyone:

(cheers)

Scene 2:

Buckingham Palace in
London, England.

Queen's Announcer:

Presenting Mister PT
Barnum from America,
and his performers.

Barnum:

Your majesty, I am
honored to be here.

Queen Victoria:

The honor is mine
Mister Barnum. I have
heard all about your
little colonel from my
friends in America.

Tom Thumb:

I am a General. And
you are very short for a
Queen.

Scene Note:

Everyone is shocked at the General's rudeness. The Queen finally breaks the silence.

Queen Victoria:

*(looks serious and then
laughs and laughs)*

Everyone:

(joins in laughing)

Queen's Announcer:

Miss Jenny Lind.

Jo-Jo:

Who is that?

Phillip:

The most famous opera
singer in all of Europe.
Oh, no. What is Barnum
doing?

Barnum:

Miss Lind. I am PT
Barnum.

Jenny:

I believe I have heard of
you.

Barnum:

I would like you to come
to New York and sing.

Jenny:

And have you heard
me sing?

Barnum:

No, but Philip says you
are the best, and I can
make you world
famous.

Jenny:

I have always wanted to visit New York. So, yes Mister Barnum. I will come to America and perform for you.