

Excerpt from Splendid Productions'
'Red Riding Hood Versus the Wolf'
By Kerry Frampton & Ben Hales

We have just seen a 'school play' version of the story of 'Red Riding Hood'

NARRATOR (singing) Ladies and gentlemen
Girls and boys
This is a story
About a girl and a wolf

Two deadly enemies
Can never be friends
But there's a long way to go
Before the story ends

So watch and enjoy
But remember our theme
Things are not always
The way they first seem

MS FOREGETMENOT (coming on stage from the audience) Wonderful, superb! An absolutely marvellous performance from nearly everyone... (to audience) Weren't they good? Come on, they were better than that! ... I think it gets better every year, and I should know, I directed it.

A YOUNG ACTOR comes on carrying something behind their back

YOUNG ACTOR Ms Forgetmenot!

MS F Do I hear my name? That's right, I'm Ms Forgetmenot, named after the delicate little flower, obviously ... And before you ask, it's got nothing to do with my memory. I've got a memory like... um... a memory like... um... what's that thing that never forgets? ... you know, that big heavy lumbering animal... likes peanuts... Oh that's right, my first husband Phil.

For years I've been the headteacher at the village school here in Stanton on the Briar, I've taught generations of kids from right sweeties (to audience) yoo hoo! ... to absolute rascals (to audience) they let you out of prison did they?... (Aside) I remember her all right.

YOUNG ACTOR Ms Forgetmenot!

MS F Oh yes, I'm sorry, what's up errr.... Brian?

YOUNG ACTOR I'm Suzanne.

MS F That's what I said.

YOUNG ACTOR We just wanted to say thank you for all the hard work you've put into directing the play, so we made you a card... (presents the 'card') but we couldn't find any card so we had to use toilet paper...

MS F What a sweet, sweet gesture... ooh, they could have used a fresh piece! Now let's have a read. (She tries to read) Oh dear, my poor old eyes, I need my glasses for this, now where are they? Have you seen them?

They are on her head. After a while of discussions with the audience...

MS F Where are they? Oh yes of course! They're on my head... teacher's table...

She goes off and returns with another pair of glasses.

MS F (reading) 'You are the best teacher in the world and we all love you from the bottom of our hearts'... well, isn't that nice? Although you have misspelled 'hearts' - it doesn't start with an 'F'. Take it away and write it out properly five times... Honestly ladies and gentlemen, the teaching is never done... I'll just put these up here where I won't forget them...

She puts the second pair of glasses on her head.

MS F Ooh, hark at me banging on like there's no tomorrow! It's time for the mayor's speech! He's a real life hero, you know... Let's give him a clap

Applause. The MAYOR, some COUNCILLORS and some WOODCUTTER GUARDS take the stage.

MAYOR Thank you! Thank you all... I just want to start by –

MS F This is Mayor Woodward. We are very lucky to have him. Do you remember the woodcutter from the story? That was him!

MAYOR - start by thanking –

MS F He was the one who fought the wolf that terrible day. Can you imagine? Face to face with a deadly animal!

MAYOR - by thanking Ms Forgetmenot and the pupils of The Forgetmenot Primary Secondary Sixth Form Free Academy Group School for that wonderful, moving performance...

Applause. MS FORGETMENOT curtsies in an upstaging fashion.

MAYOR ... and we thank you all for coming to this, our twenty-fifth Annual Red Riding Hood Remembrance Parade, where we remember the terrible events that changed our village forever. And I am proud to say it's the twenty fifth year running when no children and no grandmas have been eaten by wolves!

EVERYONE Wolves out! Wolves out!

MS F He was our youngest ever Mayor, you know. It was him who got everyone together to kick the wolves out, and after what he saw at Grandma's house, who could argue with him?

MAYOR Guys. I know things haven't been easy in that time. We've all had to make sacrifices.

MAYOR But it's a small price to pay for keeping our village safe! Am I right?

Applause.

MS F Ooh, he's very impressive isn't he? It's funny to think that before it all happened everyone thought he was a complete idiot.