



Performance Notes for The Golden Goose

THREE WAYS THAT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN UTILIZE THIS PLAY

- 1.** Students can read the play aloud while sitting in the classroom. Ask the readers to skip all bracketed stage directions. You may prefer to rotate your actors to give all students a chance to read the speaking parts.
- 2.** Students can perform the play in the classroom. Clear an area that can be used as the stage. Have the audience sit on the floor in front of the stage. Students in the play can make simple costumes and/or sets as described below. When the scene change, the characters "on stage" simply walk to the back of the room where they wait until their next appearance "on stage."
- 3.** Students can perform the play on stage. Refer to the production notes that follow. Ask the actors to enter from the back of the room and move through the audience as they approach the stage.



COSTUMES

- NARRATOR – Simple clothing.
- OVERTON, MIDDLETON, SIMPLETON, and WOODCUTTERS – Slacks or jeans with thermal long sleeve shirts tucked in and suspenders. Boots are preferred but not necessary.
Optional: Drawn on facial hair or stick-on beards.
- ELF – Slacks, long sleeve shirt, and belt around the waist. A floppy hat.
Optional: Drawn on facial hair or stick-on beard.



- **GOLDEN GOOSE** – Any yellow or gold clothing, and with the look of being covered in yellow or gold feathers. This can be accomplished in a few ways. If the clothes themselves are made of a fuzzy or feathery material, that can give the look of feathers.

Another option is buying cheap feathers or making them out of paper, then painting or spray-painting them yellow or gold (if they aren't already). Feathers can then be sewn to clothing or attached with craft glue. No need to cover the clothes, just a few feathers here and there.

Note: You will need at least two feathers that are detachable. See Prop Notes for this.

When the **GOLDEN GOOSE** is first discovered in Scene 2, he/she should be covered in bit of brown felt or fabric. It does not need to be attached, as long as it can cling or lay on **GOLDEN GOOSE** in some way.

- **INNKEEPER** – Slacks, button down shirt, unbuttoned vest, and a sash.
- **AVA, FAIGA, and UNNA** – Long skirts and frilly blouses.
- **FARMER and MILLER** – Jeans or overalls and a dirty shirt.
- **PEASANT, MAN #437, and CROWD** – Slacks, long sleeve shirts and vests.
- **PRINCESS** – Long dress and a tiara.
- **KING** – Long robe, dress pants, and a crown.



PROPS

Scene 1

- Axes for **OVERTON, MIDDLETON, and SIMPLETON** to chop at the trees. Axes can be made from cardboard and painted or spray-painted gray or silver.
- A basket for **OVERTON, MIDDLETON, and SIMPLETON** to use for food. (**SIMPLETON** carries it for the remainder of the play.)



- Two detachable gold feathers that GOLDEN GOOSE “drops” for SIMPLETON. These feathers could be cardboard cutouts or craft feathers spray-painted gold. Feathers can be attached with Velcro to the GOOSE.

Scene 2

- Same props as scene 1.

Scene 3

- Same props as scene 1.

Scene 4

- Juggling materials CROWD MEMBER #1. These can be real juggling balls or any small round object. If the actor doesn't know how to juggle, they can mess up on purpose, to make a joke out of it, since they are trying to make the PRINCESS laugh. Another option is to use small scarves, since it is easier to “juggle” with those.
- A long scarf for CROWD MEMBER #4 to wave around.
- “New” axes for OVERTON and MIDDLETON, made from cardboard. These should be bigger and shinier than their original swords. You can use glitter to make them really shiny or cover them in tin foil.



SETS

To make transitions easier, divide the stage into three sections. If you want to make a backdrop, you can paint it to show the three locations, or you can just rely on set pieces. The three locations are:

- 1) The Forest/The riverside, on one side of the stage.
 - 2) The Inn, in the middle of the stage.
 - 3) Town Square, on the other side of the stage.
- **Scene 1** – The Forest. Cut and paint cardboard trees to create the forest. Paper can be glued on for the leaves. Trees can be propped up against/tied to chairs or milk crates.
One tree needs to be wide enough for the GOLDEN GOOSE to hide behind. This placed towards the front of the stage, away from the other



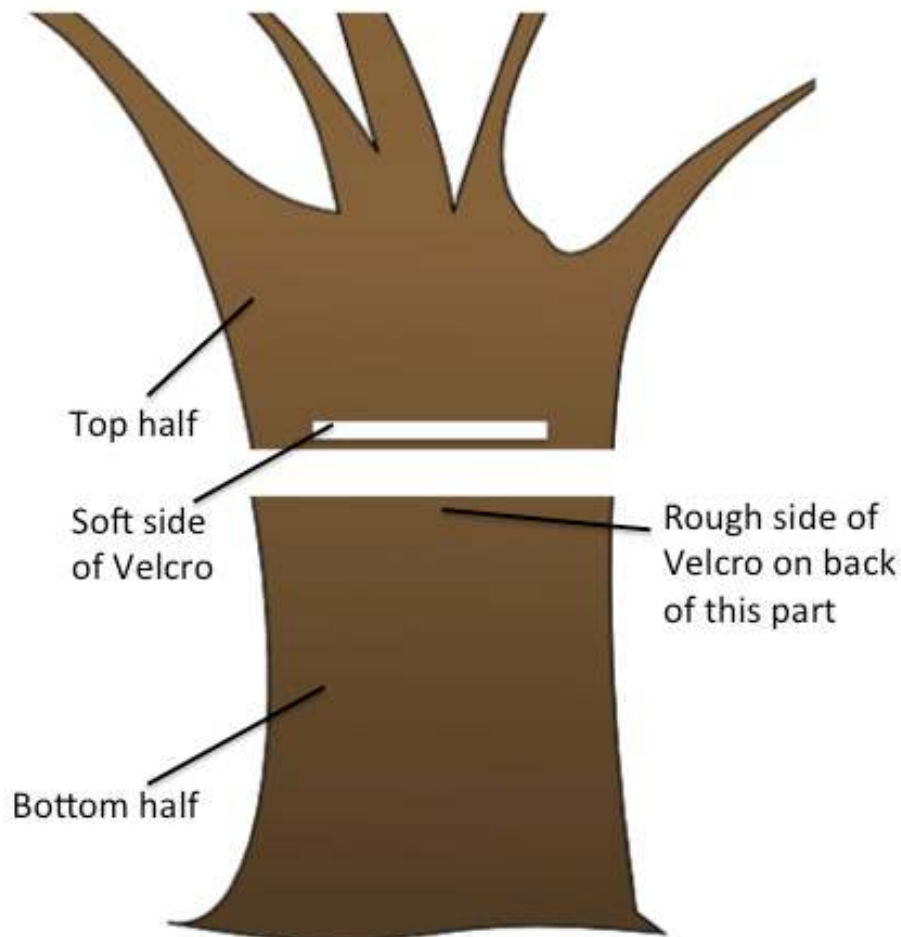
trees. It is the one that SIMPLETON chops down in Scene 2.

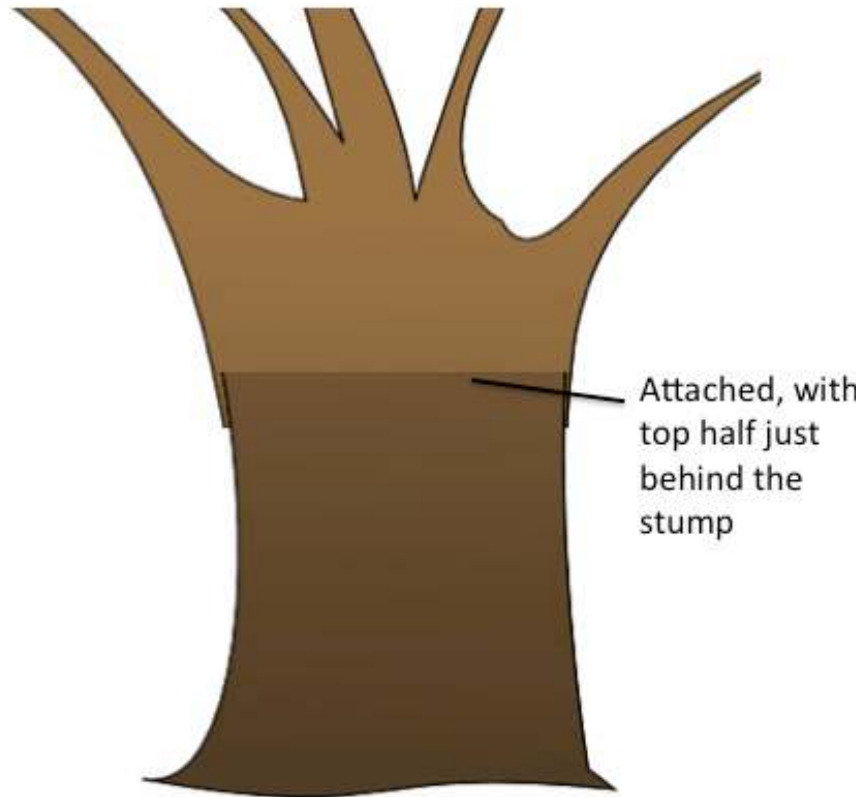
In order to make the tree in a way that it can be chopped down: Use thick cardboard, and cut a tree that is wide, though it doesn't have to be very tall. Then, cut the tree in half, so that you have a bottom stump and a top trunk with some branches.

Use a long strip of strong Velcro to attach the two parts back together. Put softer side of the Velcro on the top of the tree, and the rougher side on the stump. When you attach them together, the top part will be behind the bottom part.

When SIMPLETON strikes hard at the tree, the top part should fall off and back.

See images below:





Another option would be to have a kid play the tree, and when SIMPLETON “chops” (pretend!) the kid can fall bend at the waist, or fall over.

- **Scene 2** — The riverside. As SIMPLETON walks to the front of the stage, two stagehands bring on a large rock made from cardboard and place it next to the wide tree. The rock can be propped up against a chair or milk crate, or you can make a brace out of cardboard on the back. Stagehands also bring on a blue sheet or piece of fabric. They can place the blue sheet on the ground in front of the wide tree, or hold it up behind the action. This represents the river.

If stagehands remain to hold up the fabric, they can exit at the end of the scene.

- **Scene 3** – The Inn. A bed for SIMPLETON. The bed can be as simple as a yoga mat or blanket on the floor, or a chair with an ottoman covered in a



blanket, with a pillow and a sheet on top. Ottoman can be a milk crate, a stool, or anything else for SIMPLETON to stretch his legs out on.

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- **Scene 4** – The Road. This scene can take place in front of all of the other sets. Actors can walk in a line, follow-the-leader style, as SIMPLETON leads them in figure 8s, etc., back and forth one or two times, until it is time to stop at the town square.
- **Scene 5** – Town Square. If you make a backdrop, you can paint it to show a cobblestone road with German houses and buildings all around and a clock tower in the distance. If you don't have a backdrop, you can make a fountain out of cardboard, and place it in the middle of the space.
See below for German town square images:



ADDITIONAL NOTES

The train of people following Simpleton is meant to be comical. It works best if they try to stay close together. Let their movements be awkward and clunky, but make sure that everyone is safe.

