

Alien Circus (7)

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music by Katie Higley

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SUMMARY:

A crew of alien circus performers is raising the curtain on their wildly entertaining show featuring tricks and skills learned on Earth! When suddenly, midway through the show they learn they're actually on Earth performing their amazing tricks for humans! Will they be able to finish the show or will they be laughed off the stage by the earthlings watching?

CAST:

(in order of appearance)

All characters have 13 lines of dialogue and can be played any gender.

Ringleader *Brightly colored alien with loud personality*

Animal Tamer/ Strongman *An alien with a skill for animals and a dream of showing off their strength.*

Fortune Teller *Mysterious alien with a literal third eye and a talent for fortune cookie reading.*

Acrobat *An optimistic and supportive alien who loves the challenge of adapting to the shows needs*

Thrower *A skilled performer and alien who's trying to face down fears of failure*

Clown *Supportive, hilarious alien, whose enthusiasm often carries the circus forward.*

Magician *Mysterious, well traveled alien with a vast history of experience they love to hint at.*

TIME:

Future

PLACE:

A galactic circus tent

MUSIC:

1. Come to the Circus	Full Cast	<u>script</u> #1
2. Come to the Circus Reprise	Full Cast	#13

Range for all voices:

ACT ONE

Scene One

The stage is dark. Then a single spotlight pops on, shining down on a single person wearing a top hat, facing backwards to the audience. This is RINGLEADER.

Music begins playing, and the RINGLEADER begins stepping to the beat. Suddenly, RINGLEADER spins around and begins to sing. Suddenly revealed is a brightly colored alien face and a pair of antenna.

SONG 1. Come to the Circus

RINGLEADER

THERE'S A PLACE WHERE HEARTS TAKE FLYING LEAPS
A COVERED SPACE WHERE LAUGHS DROWN OUT SPEECH

Another alien wearing an ANIMAL TAMER ensemble, a safari hat and khaki clothes, appears.

ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN

A PLACE WHERE WILD BEASTS ARE GOOD FRIENDS
WHERE NIGHT AND DAY, WE BRAVE OUR OWN TRENDS

A third alien with a third eye holds up a water bottle. This is FORTUNE TELLER.

FORTUNE TELLER

FUTURE'S PAST AND PAST IS PRESENT HERE
COME CLOSE AND HEAR NEWS THAT SHOCKS AND CHEERS

Now an alien steps up wearing tights and a bejeweled turban, ACROBAT.

ACROBAT

IN THE RING ANYTHING IS POSS-BLE
WILDEST DREAMS RUN FREE AND FANCIFUL

The lights burst full on stage, and all seven members of the Alien Circus are visible.

ALL

COME SEE THE SIGHTS
COME FEEL THE LIGHTS
COME FIGHT THE FRIGHTS
COME SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS
COME BE A DREAMER
COME SEE THE THINGS YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE HERE

COME TO THE CIRCUS
COME TO THE CIRCUS

THROWER, an alien with extra arms, steps
forward holding a pair of knives.

THROWER
UNDER LIGHTS, YOU'LL SEE WHAT YOU COULD BE
BOLD IN TIGHTS, WE'RE HAPPY TO BE SEEN

CLOWN, wearing silly makeup and juggling only
two items, dances around the thrower.

CLOWN
THIS IS A PLACE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME
STRONG AND WEAK, OLD AND CHIC, HERE'S FREEDOM

The final member dances forward, MAGICIAN,
wearing a cape and holding a dove on their
finger.

MAGICIAN
THERE'S MAGIC WAITING JUST FOR YOU HERE
A WHOLE WORLD UNFOLDS FOR THOSE WHO DARE

ALL
LET'S RAISE THE ROOF, LET'S PITCH THE TENTS
LET'S SHOUT THE PROMISE THAT NEVER ENDS
THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE WE ALL BELONG AS FRIENDS!

COME SEE THE SIGHTS
COME FEEL THE LIGHTS
COME FIGHT THE FRIGHTS
COME SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS
COME BE A DREAMER
COME SEE THE THINGS YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE HERE
COME TO THE CIRCUS
COME TO THE CIRCUS

(The performers are doing tricks as the
Ringleader introduces the circus.)

RINGLEADER
Welcome one and all to the greatest circus in the Galaxy!

THROWER
In the universe, more like!

MAGICIAN
You'd never believe the things we've seen.

RINGLEADER

We've scoured the galaxy for years, collecting the greatest talents, the strangest animals, the wildest skills, and the funniest jokes around. Like this one from planet earth...

CLOWN

What do you call a cow that's been abducted by aliens?

(beat)

A moo-teorite!

(Then the clown holds up a sign that says "applause".

(At the end of the dance break, all step forward and sing again.)

ALL

COME SEE THE SIGHTS

COME FEEL THE LIGHTS

COME FIGHT THE FRIGHTS

COME SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

COME BE A DREAMER

COME SEE THE THINGS YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE HERE

COME TO THE CIRCUS

COME TO THE CIRCUS

RINGLEADER

(Over the ending of the song.)

Settle in, ladies, gents, flying creatures, and pests, all are welcome as we present- Kadoosh's Wild Alien Circus!

RINGLEADER steps back and MAGICIAN comes forward to the spotlight.

MAGICIAN

I am Shreeefoggin the GREAT! Supreme leader of magicians in the circus realm! Tonight I will befuddle your minds with the power of my magic! Let's begin with our journey into the word VANISH. My assistant will come forward.

ACROBAT

Hello, hello everyone!

(points at someone in the audience)

Oh, hey, good to see you here.

MAGICIAN

(hissing at acrobat)

Stop that, come over here.

(then recovering the sense of mystery)

This is my friend, Tan Gee. Tan will stand here in front of me.

ACROBAT

I'm very good at standing, you know.

(MAGICIAN goes behind the acrobat and puts their arms around them, holding a sheet of fabric so it blocks the acrobat's lower body.)

MAGICIAN

We all know Tan Gee needs two legs to do her feats of wonder. So tell me, what will she do with only ONE LEG!

(MAGICIAN raises the sheet, and we see only one leg.)

ACROBAT

Oh my galaxies! What did you do?

MAGICIAN

Don't you worry, I can reverse the magic.

(MAGICIAN lowers the sheet and raises it again. The Acrobat has both legs.)

RINGLEADER

Isn't he amazing!

(The RINGLEADER comes forward and works on the crowd, trying to get them to applaud louder.)

MAGICIAN

But not all magic is about illusion; often, the greatest magic is in seeing the beauty of what is right in front of us.

(ACROBAT comes forward and twirls in a circle as MAGICIAN slowly backs off the stage.)

ACROBAT

In our journeys across the galaxy, I have trained with the greatest acrobats among the stars.

RINGLEADER

Perhaps you have heard of Toodle-oo the volcano walker? Or Pixie the Trixie?

ACROBAT

None of those talents compares to what I have seen on Earth, where even the smallest humans do acrobatic tricks that prove gravity only holds us down when we let it.

(ACROBAT raises their hands up, then places them on the ground, tucks their head, and pushes off, doing a somersault.)

(CLOWN, ANIMAL TAMER, RINGLEADER, and THROWER all applaud wildly.)

FORTUNE TELLER

Do you want to overcome YOUR future just as the smallest humans overcome their physical limitations?

ACROBAT

Yes, I do!

FORTUNE TELLER

Do you want to know the mountains that you must climb to become a success?

THROWER

Will I survive them? That's the question.

FORTUNE TELLER

All of you, I see your fortunes ahead of me like a path unwinding. And after visiting the great fortune tellers of Earth, I have become a master of the ancient art of-- FORTUNE COOKIE READING!

FORTUNE TELLER pulls out a bag and, reaching in, reveals a handful of fortune cookies.

THROWER

Show me the target for the future, tell me I can hit it!

FORTUNE TELLER raises the cookie high above their head and cracks it open.

FORTUNE TELLER

If you think nobody cares that you're alive, just try missing a few car payments.

THROWER

So you're saying, I really do matter?

MAGICIAN

And not just for your skills, but also for your money!

ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN

Tell ME how to become the greatest animal tamer in the galaxy!

FORTUNE TELLER pulls out another cookie.

FORTUNE TELLER

"If you wish to truly find yourself, you should play hide and seek alone."

ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN

What wisdom! Success really is a game best played against ourselves.

FORTUNE TELLER

And for you, Clown, a fortune.

CLOWN

What fortune can you give a clown?

FORTUNE TELLER breaks open a cookie.

FORTUNE TELLER

Help, I'm trapped in a Chinese Cookie factory.

CLOWN

Whoa, didn't see that one coming.

FORTUNE TELLER

(to the audience)

And for all of you!

(breaks open a cookie)

"Are you really going to take advice from a cookie?"

RINGLEADER

Thank you, Great Fortunata! You bring the mysteries of the galaxy to life! Next in our grand show--

(Suddenly, MAGICIAN runs back on the stage carrying three stuffed animals: a lion, an elephant, and a monkey.)

MAGICIAN

Sorry, ladies and Gentlemen! A... technical difficulty has occurred. Please enjoy these... tricks by our wild animals, while we resolve the situation.

(MAGICIAN drops the stuffed animals on the ground and rounds up the cast, pushing them off to the side of the stage.)

ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN

What is this? What's going on? It's my turn to perform! Look at my lion, he's not supposed to be near the elephant.

MAGICIAN

I just got word from the captain... big news... we're not on Gamma Nine-twenty-three like we had been told.

CLOWN

But I was supposed to pick up my new clown car after the show.

ACROBAT

It doesn't matter what planet we're on, Shreeeeefoggin. We're amazing anywhere.

MAGICIAN

Oh, it matters because we're performing our best Earth tricks... ON EARTH!

Everyone gasps and reacts in shock.

FORTUNE TELLER

I knew something was off!

ACROBAT

You mean... You mean I did a somersault for Earthlings? How embarrassing! They're all masters of the somersault.

ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN

This is bad! Lions, elephants, and monkeys are all over the earth. I bet they're all bored with those animals. Do we have any other animals on the ship?

CLOWN

I have my pet stegosaurus, but I heard Earth dinosaurs are like hundreds of feet tall, they'd probably laugh old Spike off the planet.

THROWER

You're right about that. Spike's only ten feet tall, and he eats leaves. I know for a fact earthlings like real danger... If I wasn't afraid of missing again...

CLOWN

Oh, come on, Burq! You've been practicing so hard, and you're so much better. And I can probably do some slapstick to get them warmed up; they invented the stuff on Earth, but I hear it's still all the rage.

RINGLEADER

Gary's right, Burq! Your act is perfect for this audience, and we all have faith in you, right guys?

(Everyone nods and offers encouragement)

Jarnathan, you'll have to forgo your animal routine; they all have trained pets anyway. But you can stand in as the target for Burq's throwing act. And Gary, you make 'em laugh. Then we finish up with the closing number.

ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN

Aw man! I was so excited to have my elephant jump through hoops and my lions give rides to the audience members; it's always a highlight of the show.

RINGLEADER

At this point, we don't have much choice. Unless you can think of a way to do something that earthlings have never seen before...

ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN

Oooo, I have an idea that I've been working on, maybe this is the perfect time? What if I did my strongman act? Remember when I used to do that thing where I lifted my elephant? Because I'm from Jupiter 3, and I heard that Earth has 3 times less gravity, right? It should be fairly impressive?

CLOWN

That's a great idea, Jarnathan. Way to think outside the box.

(CLOWN and ANIMAL TAMER high five. Clown regrets it, wincing at how hard Animal Tamer hits back.)

RINGLEADER

Fine, fine! Clown, go make them laugh while Jarnathan gets in costume. Then we have the strongman act. Then Burq does his throwing, and we wrap up with a song!

CLOWN

Sure, we've got this. Let's blast off!

(CLOWN cheers, and all the other performers raise a hand in the air with him in unity with his cry. Then they run from the stage.)

(ANIMAL TAMER quickly grabs the animals before leaving the stage.)

(CLOWN runs to the front of the stage and raises their hands, clapping and getting the audience to cheer. Then the clown starts pretending to be flattered by all the applause. Starts to walk off in an "aww-shucks" moment, but "hits" an invisible wall.)

(They then mime pushing the wall away, lean against it, and eventually slide down it to the ground. Picks themselves up by the literal seat of their pants.)

(The audience is laughing and clapping, and the clown motions for more applause and then pretends to be sheepish for the praise. If the audience isn't cheering, remember the applause sign.

(Suddenly, CLOWN motions for the audience to calm down and smiles.)

CLOWN (CONT'D)

Welcome to Earth! Yes, yes, I just arrived. And you know, I've got a lot of questions for you! Like, does butter really fly as you put it on toast? When can I see it rain cats and dogs? And can you tell me more about the amazing invention of sliced bread?

(ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN comes back on, now in jungle fur costume.)

ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN

Alright, Clown, enough jokes. Time to show this crowd a real talent!

CLOWN

Ooo, yes, show us! You look like you're dressed for a dance.

(CLOWN grabs Strongman and starts swinging them around in circles.

ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN

No! No! Not a dance.

(ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN extricates himself from the arms of the Clown.)

CLOWN

You don't dance? Then what talent do you have?

ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN

I am a marvel of intergalactic strength! I can do daring feats of wonder with my amazing muscles! Don't let size fool you; these babies are packed with power. Shall I do a demonstration?

ALL

(ad lib)

Yes!

(Encouraging the audience to participate)

Show us!

ANIMAL TAMER/STRONGMAN

Alright, I imagine you have all heard of an elephant. But have you ever heard of a "barbellephant"?

MAGICIAN

Behold! The Barbellephant!

(MAGICIAN comes on stage with a leash and leads a barbell on stage. Instead of weights, it has an elephant stuffy on either end. They "walk" (are dragged) to the center of the stage.)

CLOWN

Now I know you all see these magnificent creatures every day outside your houses... but how often do you-

(STRONGMAN bends down, grabs the barbell, and with pretend exertion lifts it above their head.)

LIFT THEM?!

(Audience response with wild abandon. ANIMAL TAMER/ STRONGMAN puts the barbellephant down, pretending to strain.)

ACROBAT

You're so strong! But can you carry the elephants while walking a tightrope?!

(Acrobat dramatically unrolls a long ribbon and lays it flat upon the ground. Then the acrobat walks across the ribbon pretending to balance precariously.)

ANIMAL TAMER / STRONGMAN

Yes, that would be tricky! Behold!!

(The Strongman bends over, strains, and picks up the barbell elephant and then walks carefully across the tightrope.)

ACROBAT

Wow! You're amazing! But can you do this?

(ACROBAT stops, bends down, and somersaults on the tightrope. If the Acrobat can do a more difficult trick, embrace the opportunity here.)

(Audience gasps.)

RINGLEADER

AMAZING! What wonders will you see next? How about our final act of intergalactic talent? Perhaps you've seen knife throwers here on Earth? Well, we bring to you a talent unlike any before Burq! The invisible blade thrower!

(THROWER runs on, arms out wide for the applause.)

THROWER

Anyone can throw a blade that they can see! But it takes real skill and courage to throw a blade that you can NOT!

(THROWER pretends to draw a knife. They poke the tip of it with their finger to test the sharpness, jump, and put the finger in their mouth. Then gesture for an assistant to come from the side of the stage.)

(FORTUNE TELLER comes out holding a target.)

FORTUNE TELLER

Burq always throws best to grand applause- for my sake, don't stop clapping!

(THROWER winds up and launches the invisible knife.)

(FORTUNE TELLER reacts as though it hit their target hard and knocks them back a step. Then they hold up the target and cheer!)

THROWER

Anyone can throw one knife- how about two at a time? And a pint-sized target?

(Draws out two invisible knives. Motions for an assistant. ANIMAL TAMER / STRONG MAN comes out holding a tiny target.)

(THROWER winds up and releases the two knives in quick succession. ANIMAL TAMER / STRONG MAN reacts to two hits on the target.)

THROWER (CONT'D)

But let's dispense with the easy stuff! How about invisible SWORD throwing?!

(THROWER pretends to pull out a huge curved sword. And motions to the sidelines. MAGICIAN comes out holding a large target.)

MAGICIAN

Alright, now remember what happened last time-

(THROWER lifts the sword high above their head and releases the blade. There is a moment of suspense, and then Magician is knocked backward from the impact. Audience erupts in applause.)

THROWER

Thank you! And another round of applause for my assistants! It takes great courage to hold a target for an invisible blade!

(ACROBAT runs on with an apple.)

ACROBAT

Burq, let's show these people what you can REALLY DO!

THROWER

Are you sure?

ACROBAT

You can do it, Burq!

(ACROBAT puts the apple on her head and closes their eyes. THROWER grins, draws out another crazy blade. Turns backwards and, with a heave, throws the blade over their head blindly.)

(Suddenly, the apple flies off the ACROBAT'S head in two pieces. Acrobat turns around, picks them up, and holds them above her head. THROWER turns around, sees the results, and throws his hands into the air. The audience cheers.)

THROWER

YES! I did it!

(aside to the audience)

Last time our acrobat had to regrow her head!

RINGLEADER

Yes! Isn't Burq amazing!!! Three more cheers for our fantastic crew here at Kadoosh's Wild Alien Circus!

(All the performers come onto the stage. Music begins again.)

(Song 2. Come to the Circus Reprise)

FORTUNE TELLER

I'm receiving a vision from the great beyond! And it is clear to me, you shall never see another circus as great as this!

THROWER

And we'll never see an audience as great as this one either!

FORTUNE TELLER

We don't need cookies to see that!

RINGLEADER

Just remember, if you're ever feeling down, lost, or perhaps too strange for your planet. There's a place where everyone belongs!

ALL

LET'S RAISE THE ROOF, LET'S PITCH THE TENTS
LET'S SHOUT THE PROMISE THAT NEVER ENDS
THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE WE ALL BELONG AS FRIENDS!

COME SEE THE SIGHTS
COME FEEL THE LIGHTS
COME FIGHT THE FRIGHTS
COME SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS
COME BE A DREAMER
COME SEE THE THINGS YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE HERE
COME TO THE CIRCUS
COME TO THE CIRCUS

(Lights go black.)

(The end.)