

GOODNIGHT GORILLA

SCRIPT PERUSAL

Actor 1:

ZOOKEEPER: An affable and kind Zookeeper who loves their job, loves the animals, and has been doing the same thing every day and night for years. The zoo is their life. Work/Life Balance is an irrelevant concept because they love their job so much.

Actor 2:

JOSIE or Joe: The second in command on the zoo staff. An employee and friend with almost as much love for their job as the Zookeeper.

GORILLA: Mischievous and silly, but also friendly, this gorilla is the most popular animal at the zoo. He has been known to cause trouble before, but this evening, he outdoes himself. A puppet maneuvered by both actors, one at a time).

ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE or Husband: Down to earth and practical, the Zookeeper's Spouse has worked hard to balance life at work and home. They love the animals too but remind us that everyone belongs in their own comfy bed.

Actor 3:

Mouse Puppeteer, Zoo Staff, Front of House, ASM

Synopsis

Evening is falling at the Zoo. The ZOOKEEPER is doing his normal rounds at the zoo saying goodnight and making sure that all the animals are happily bedding down in their cages for the night. Little does he know that his buddy the Gorilla has "borrowed" his keys. As the ZOOKEEPER says each of his goodnites, the Gorilla is opening up the habitat of each of his friends.

The ZOOKEEPER heads home to bed and is followed by a parade of animals. Once home, the ZOOKEEPER falls fast to sleep, but the ZOOKEEPER's wife wakes up to discover that the Zoo has entered her bedroom! She escorts everyone back to the zoo and settles down to sleep again.

Little does she know that the Gorilla and the tiny mouse still think her bedroom is the best place to hang out for the night!

This show has many elements of audience interaction interwoven throughout.

Act I

ZOOKEEPER Joe (Actor 1): The Zoo is closed, but we are just getting started. We have lots of work to do tonight.

JOSIE, another Zookeeper enters.

ZOOKEEPER: Hi Josie.

JOSIE: Hello Joe. It sure is quiet here at night, You got the late shift? Huh?

ZOOKEEPER: Yup, I get to say goodnight to all the animals, and then I'll head home and go to sleep. I really love the zoo at night.

JOSIE: me too...

SONG- THE ZOO AT NIGHT

ZOOKEEPERS: THE ZOO... AT NIGHT... IS QUIET...
THE VISITORS HAVE ALL GONE AWAY
THE MOON... IS BRIGHT... AND SHINING...
AND THE ANIMALS ARE ALL DONE FOR THE DAY

AND SO THEY GET, READY FOR BED
SO THEY GET, READY FOR BED
SO THEY GET, READY FOR BED
READY FOR SLEEP

JOSIE: Alright, have a great night Joe! I'll see you in the morning. (*JOSIE exits*)

ZOOKEEPER: Goodnight Josie.

The sounds of a peaceful evening continue in the background.

ZOOKEEPER: It's starting to get pretty dark out here. I need something that helps me see in the dark. Something shining and bright. I know! I need my trusty flashlight. Now, where is it?

The ZOOKEEPER look in their Bucket.

HERE IT IS! I found it in my Zookeeper Bucket. You all have flashlights in your Zookeeper Buckets too. Let's take them out and turn them on. Parents, we may need you help clicking on our flashlights. Once they are on, let's point them down at the ground.

The ZOOKEEPER waits for the majority of the audience to turn on their flashlights and point them down.

Ok. Let's practice using our flashlights. Can we light up our hands?

(They model the action and wait for the audience to follow)

Good. Can we light up our elbows?

(They model and wait for the audience to follow, this continues)

Can we light up our shoulder? Can we light up our tummies? What about our knees? And lets twinkle our toes. Can we shine it on our chins and make a silly face? And back down to the ground. Great job! Now, we collected all the pink balloons before we started but I think one floated away. Does anyone see a pink balloon? Can you point to it with your flashlight? You found it! Can you shine your light on the moon ? Does anyone see the moon? There it is! Great Job! Impressive work everyone but we have a long night ahead of us and we need to save our batteries. So let's turn off our flashlights, Click, and let's put our flashlights back into our Zookeeper Bucket.

The ZOOKEEPER puts their flashlight back in their Bucket.

ZOOKEEPER: Alright. We have practiced using our flashlights. What else do we have in our buckets? That's right, our keys. Hold on just a second I need to find my keys.

The ZOOKEEPER turns upstage and looks through their Zookeeper Bucket. The keys are hanging from a hook on the back of the ZOOKEEPER's belt. They are fully visible to the audience. The ZOOKEEPER will follow directions from the audience and ad-lib a bit during the search for their keys.

ZOOKEEPER: I can't find my keys! Have you seen them?... They're behind me?

(They check)

No, they're not there.

(They turn in a circle, one way and then the other.)

I don't see them anywhere!... On my belt?

(They chase their tail for a moment and then finally...)

Here they are! I found my keys! You all have keys in your Zookeeper Buckets. You each have two keys. Can you count them to make sure you have two keys? 1, 2,... great! I have 6 keys. I better count them to make sure that they're all here.

ZOOKEEPER: 1..2..3..4..5..6. 6 keys! Let's just try that one more time just to make sure. Can you help me count this time? 1...2...3..4...5...6. *(Fanfare)* 6 keys!

ZOOKEEPER: Keys are good for opening things, but they also make great musical instruments... if you shake them. Give your keys a shake.

(The ZOOKEEPER and the audience shake their keys)

Good! Now, Quiet Keys.

(The ZOOKEEPER models holding the keys in their hand to keep them from rattling, the audience follows)

Very good. And Shake Them! And Quiet Keys. And Shake Them! Quiet keys. And Shake! And Quiet. Very Good!

ZOOKEEPER: *(Hearing the Music)* I love this song. Oh! Can we shake our keys to the rhythm of the music? Let's Try. 1,2,3, now you 1,2,3 and 1,2,3, you 1,2,3 you got it! Shake Shake Shake, Shake Shake Shake, Shake Shake Shake, Shake Shake Shake.....

As the ZOOKEEPER shakes their keys they begin to dance. Soon the dancing is quite large and silly and out of control. Suddenly they stop.

ZOOKEEPER: Hold on. Stop the music! *(Record Scratch)* I had so much fun dancing around that I got a little carried away. We have so much work to do tonight. We better get to it. We might need those keys later. So let's all put them back in your buckets for safe keeping. I'm going to use my orange key to say goodnight to my buddy, the Gorilla.

ZOOKEEPER crosses to Buddy's Habitat. The ZOOKEEPER opens the gate.

ZOOKEEPER: Hey Buddy.....

GORILLA (Actor 2 as Gorilla Puppeteer) enters

ZOOKEEPER: Hi Buddy. Wanna come out and say hi?

(The GORILLA shakes his head no)

Why Not?

(The GORILLA gestures out to the audience)

Oh. Buddy gets a little stage fright sometimes. Can we let buddy know he has a nice friendly audience waiting for him? Can we give Buddy a round of applause?

(The audience applauds)

Yeah let's clap for Buddy. Alright.

(The GORILLA crosses to center with excitement.)

Hey Buddy. Did you have a good day today?

(The GORILLA nods)

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All ready bed?

(The GORILLA shakes his head no.)

What do you mean no?

(The GORILLA gestures for the ZOOKEEPER to come closer.)

Oh Ok

(The ZOOKEEPER leans down and the GORILLA whispers in their ear.)

Uh huh? Uh-uh. Oh, good idea.

(Now out to the audience)

Buddy was hoping to do a special song and dance for you all tonight. And I think that would be a great idea? What do you think? Do you want to see a gorilla dance?

(Hopefully the audience responds with a verbal "yes")

Ok! Let's get ready....

SONG- MY BUDDY THE GORILLA

ZOOKEEPER.

MY BUDDY THE GORILLA

EVERY TIME I SEE HIM IT-A GIVES-A ME A THRILL-A

HE'S GREAT, HE'S AN APE

HE'S A GREAT GREAT APE AND HE'S MY BEST APE MATE

OF ALL APE KIND HE'S THE BEST YOU'LL EVER FIND

THE GORILLA IS A REALLY GOOD BUDDY OF MINE

The ZOOKEEPER and the GORILLA dance a soft shoe.

MY BUDDY THE GORILLA

EVERY TIME I SEE HIM IT-A GIVES-A ME A THRILL-A

HE'S GREAT, HE'S AN APE

HE'S A GREAT GREAT APE AND HE'S MY BEST APE MATE

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