

THE SELFISH GIANT

A Musical In One Act

Libretto and Music by **JOHN MILLS**

Additional Script Consultancy from **ADAM ELMS**

A Musical Inspired By **OSCAR WILDE**'s Story Of The Same Name

SCENE 1: OUTSIDE THE GIANT'S CASTLE – Meet the Giants *GOGMAGOG, CORMORAN, FINN McCOUL & BENANDONNER*

GIANTS (Not SELFIE) in character mingle and chat with AUDIENCE arriving. Friendly banter with a bit of a threatening 'edge' to them. In regional accents. Transition at the start of the show to less-friendly banter/challenge with other Giants leading to cacophony of threats, including gentle pushing and shoving etc that gradually builds to hurling taunts and anger.

SCENE 2: OUTSIDE THE GIANT'S CASTLE – Meet Selfie and the Giants *WILDE, SELFIE, GOGMAGOG, CORMORAN, FINN McCOUL, BENANDONNER*

(A stuffed, heavy rucksack and a walking pole are on the stage)

WILDE

(Enters with Book in hand and something to write with) That's enough, that's more than enough from you, you disgusting, argumentative Giants! Pooh! I don't know where you get such bad behaviour from. *(Turns pages of the book)* It's nothing like my story. Off you go! Off you go! *(Dismisses the GIANTS who exit in a grump. Sees AUDIENCE)* Oh, sorry, didn't see you there! Welcome, one and all, short or tall, young or older, timid or bolder, to our telling of 'The Selfish Giant'! Let me introduce myself. I'm Wilde! Oscar Wilde. With an 'e' on the end. W .. I .. L .. D .. E! I'm a writer, and this story – The Selfish Giant - is a special favourite of mine. Do you want to meet him/her? He can be a bit grumpy. Are you sure? Are you really sure? *(Somewhat scared)* The Selfish Giant! *(Sound of heavy footsteps)* Ooh! Here he comes! *(Exits)*

SELFIE

(Enters with tray of gardening pots and tools. On the tray is a doll hidden inside a hanky. Threatens AUDIENCE) Grrr, humans! Grrr, Mummies, Daddies! Grrr, bony boysies, chewy girlies. *(Looking at tray)* Just picked some veg from the garden. over-boiled cabbages, stringy beans and cannonball turnips. Lovely! Not forgetting my favourite ... sprouts! *(Farting sound effect. Sniffs the air and enjoys it too much! Unwraps doll in handkerchief and shakes it about.)* With a tasty human as garnish! Yum! I love my garden. Mummy-Giant loved her garden so much ... but she'd say, 'Don't play there, you'll spoil it with your clumping feet'. I'd protest, 'But I want to play in the garden!' Mummy Giant would come back at me, 'Too much 'I' and not enough 'us'!' *(Reflectively)* Poor Mummy-Giant. *(Pause. Threateningly shaking fist)* Grrr! I'm Selfie, and yes, I'm The Selfish Giant! *(Sharply)* What's that you said? 'You're not big enough to be a giant!?' *(Gleefully bites off the doll's head and arms.)* Elevenes! I'll keep some for later. *(AD-LIB looks around the AUDIENCE for another snack. Packs half-eaten doll into the stuffed rucksack, puts it on, picks up walking pole)* I want to find some new varieties of veggie seeds to grow. *(Begins trudging around the stage)* I'm gonna hike across these lands till I

find what I'm looking for. (*Comes to a stop and takes off rucksack*). Aching feet. Aching legs. Aching arms. Tired back. What a weight! (*Soothing and stretching shoulders. Rests, looks inside the rucksack.*) Walking pole, bolster and mallet, bandages, earplugs! Check! (*Pause*) Not many travellers. Did meet some giants though. What a bloodthirsty lot they were! Even more bloodthirsty than me! First was Gogmagog ...

GOGMAGOG

(*Enters noisily, in considerable pain.*) Help me! I'm Gogmagog, the Welsh Giant. I've been fighting over some juicy little humans. Managed to grab an arm and a leg! But I'm badly hurt. I need some bandages and water. Can you help me?

SELFIE

(*Pulls out bandage then replaces it in the rucksack.*) I might need it! Sorry, can't help you, Gogmagog! I'm Selfie, the Selfish Giant!

GOGMAGOG

Well, 'That's that!' then. Don't come to me if you ever need any help. (*Grumbles and sulks*)

SELFIE

Second, there was the stinky giant Cormoran ... (*CORMORAN enters with a bad back*)

CORMORAN

Help me. I'm Cormoran, the Cornish Giant! I need to hurl stepping stones across the bay to squish and flatten crunchy little humans. But I'm so tired and have a bad back. Can you help me? Lend me your walking pole!

SELFIE

It's mine, you might break it. Pooh, Cormoran, you're really sweaty-stinky!

CORMORAN,

Well, 'That's that!' then. Don't come to me if you ever need any help. (*Moves away and sulks*)

FINN MCCOUL

(*Enters, with bandaged hands*) Help me. I'm Finn McCoul, the Irish Giant! Can you help me? My fingernails are blunt from trying to chisel those rocks into a giant bridge. Have you got a bolster and mallet I could use?

SELFIE

(*Pulls out a bolster and mallet then replaces them.*) You'll wear them out. I might need them. And pooh, pooh, poo-ey Finn McCoul you're even more sweaty-stinky than Cormoran!

FINN MCCOUL

Well, 'That's that!' then.! Don't come to me if you ever need any help. (*Sniffs under armpits, shakes head, shakes painful hands, moves away, starts making baby crying noises.*)

SELFIE

(*Putting in of earplugs, shouting*) And that soppy Scottish Giant, Benandonner ...

BENANDONNER

(*Enters, covering ears to hide the cries, and shouts*) Help me. I'm Benandonner, the Scottish Giant. Have you any earplugs to shut out the noise of that wretched giant baby there? (*No reaction from SELFIE, so BENANDONNER moves closer.*) Laddie! Earplugs!

SELFIE

No! They'll get all sticky with your earglobs. Yuk!

BENANDONNER

Well, 'That's that!' then. Don't come to me if you ever need any help.

Music starts for #01 He's A Selfish Giant/Seven Years Passed**SELFIE**

Ha! They all wanted something! But they got nothing from me.

GIANTSYou're a selfish Giant!**GOGMAGOG**

It would have been so easy to let me have some bandages!

CORMORAN

It would have been so easy to let me use your walking pole!

FINN MCCOUL

It would have been so easy to let me use your bolster and mallet.

BENANDONNER

It would have been so easy to let me borrow your earplugs.

GIANTS

You're a selfish, selfish Giant!

HE HASN'T GOT A LOT TO SAY.

CORMORAN

HE HASN'T GOT THAT MUCH TO DO.

FINN MCCOUL

BUT FRIGHTEN LITTLE CHILDREN AWAY.

GOGMAGOG

OR WRESTLE WITH A DRAGON OR TWO.

BENANDONNER

HE HASN'T GOT A LOT TO SAY.

CORMORAN

NO HE HASN'T GOT THAT MUCH TO DO.

FINN MCCOUL

BUT EAT THEM JUICY HUMANS EACH DAY.

GOGMAGOG

OR SCARE A LITTLE PRINCESS OR TWO

SELFIE

I'M A SELFISH GIANT.

CARES FOR NO-ONE BUT HIMSELF.

I'M A SELFISH GIANT.

I DOESN'T CARE FOR YOU

AND I DOESN'T CARE FOR HE,

I'M JUST ABOUT AS SELFISH AS CAN BE!

SELFIE

Not much!

SELFIE

Very little!

SELFIE

Squishy, juicy!

SELFIE*(Squealing)* Don't eat me!**ALL**

HE'S A SELFISH GIANT. (I am)

CARES FOR NO-ONE BUT HIMSELF.

I'M/HE'S A SELFISH GIANT. (So true!)

HE DOESN'T CARE FOR YOU

AND HE DOESN'T CARE FOR ME,

HE'S JUST ABOUT AS SELFISH AS CAN BE!

GIANTS*(AD-LIB)* Meany, selfish giant, got no feelings. etc**BENANDONNER**HE'S A REALLY MEAN AND SELFISH GIANT. (*SELFIE* echo in 1st person)

CORMORAN

HE'S NEVER DONE A GOOD THING IN HIS LIFE. (*SELFIE echo in 1st person*)

FINN MCCOUL

HE'S GOT NO TIME FOR ANY OTHER GIANT. (*SELFIE echo in 1st person*)

GOGMAGOG**SELFIE**

HE'S GOT NO ONE TO SHARE IN HIS LIFE.

I DON'T NEED SHARING!

SELFIE**GIANTS**

I'M SUCH A HAPPY CREATURE
HAPPY IN MY SOLITARY WORLD.

SUCH AN UNHAPPY CREATURE,
LONELY IN HIS SOLITARY WORLD.

I'M SUCH A HAPPY CREATURE
HAPPY IN MY SOLITARY WORLD.

SUCH AN UNHAPPY CREATURE,
LONELY IN HIS SOLITARY WORLD.

SELFIE

I'm happy in my solitary world!

SELFIE & GIANTS

I'M/HE'S A SELFISH GIANT.
CARE(S) FOR NO-ONE BUT MY/HIMSELF.

YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT
DON'T LOOK BEHIND YOU!

I'M/HE'S A SELFISH GIANT

WATCH OUT!

I/HE DOESN'T CARE FOR YOU AND I/HE DOESN'T CARE FOR HE/ME,

I'M/ HE'S JUST ABOUT AS SELFISH AS CAN BE!

SELFIE**GIANTS**

I'M/HE'S A SELFISH GIANT.
CARES FOR NO-ONE BUT MY/HIMSELF.

YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT
DON'T LOOK BEHIND YOU!

I'M/HE'S A SELFISH GIANT

WATCH OUT!

I/HE DOESN'T CARE FOR YOU AND I/HE DOESN'T CARE FOR HE/ME,

I'M/HE'S ABSOLUTELY SELFISH!

I/HE DOESN'T CARE FOR YOU AND I/HE DOESN'T CARE FOR HE/ME,

I'M/HE'S ABSOLUTELY SELFISH! I'M/HE'S COMPLETELY SELFISH!

JUST ABOUT AS SELFISH AS CAN BE!

ALL

You'd better watch out! Grrrr!

SELFIE

Seven years all by myself!

SELFIE**GIANTS**

ONE YEAR PASSED, FELT GOOD ALL BY MYSELF.

ONE!

A SECOND YEAR FLEW BY, I FELT GREAT ALL BY MYSELF!

TWO!

YEARS THREE AND FOUR THEY CAME AND WENT,

THREE! FOUR!

I STILL WAS STRONG AND FREE,

AND FIVE AND SIX YEARS RUSHED ON BY,

FIVE! SIX!

SO HAPPY TO BE ME.

AND NOW I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR VERY NEARLY SEVEN YEARS, SEVEN!

IT'S TIME I STOMPED MY WAY BACK HOME.

Back to my garden for some lovely nettle tea ... and a snack! (*Takes a bite of the doll and spits out the bones. GIANTS exit grumbling.*) Not worth the effort, these human snacks. Tickle