

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



# The Absolutely Awesome Giant

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by Bruce Shearer

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EXTRACT

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This script is distributed by The Australian Script Centre  
77 Salamanca Place Hobart 7004 Tasmania Australia  
email [admin@ozscript.org](mailto:admin@ozscript.org)  
[www.ozscript.org](http://www.ozscript.org)  
ph +61 3 6223 4675  
fax +61 3 6223 4678

## SYNOPSIS

The play is a voyage of discovery for a short giant born into a large family. His desire to be an absolutely awesome giant leads to his initial boasting, and his subsequent need to go out into the world and prove himself as a giant. In the wide world he soon learns that there are things much larger and more fearsome than he is. Through his experiences he learns to accept himself for what he is.

The play addresses the misconceptions we all have about our individual sizes and shapes. Everyone would like to be just a little bit different, or at least we think we would. Through the humour and songs of the play, children can see that it is actually alright to be what they are, as they see the giant making all sorts of humorous mistakes in trying to be what he is not.

## CHARACTERS

- THE GIANT:** A boy who wishes to be huge, awesome and fearsome, and who ventures out into the world to prove that he is.
- GIANT'S MOTHER:** She is a very kind mother who is extremely fond of her son. She makes sure he takes a hat and a clean handkerchief on his adventures.
- A WOMAN:** A friendly lady who meets the giant in the street.

- OLD LADY/WITCH:** An old deaf lady dressed in black who may or may not be a witch.
- A MONSTER:** A grumpy monster that has trouble sleeping. The monster gets very hungry when it can't sleep.
- SINGING SNAILS:** The singing snails are rock and roll snails who go around the country singing.
- A GIRL:** The girl lives in the village that the giant visits. She is about the same size and about the same age as the giant. She doesn't believe that he is a giant.
- BOXING BEETLE:** The Fluffweight champion of the world. The Boxing Beetle is very aggressive towards anything larger than itself. It wears red trunks and red boxing gloves.
- SNAKE:** The snake is a representative from the Kingdom of Snakes where they are looking for a King. There can be a chorus of snakes.
- LARGE BOY:** The large boy is truly enormous, but is still only a boy. Only one of his shoes and his leg is visible to the giant and the audience.

# THE ABSOLUTELY AWESOME GIANT

## SCENE 1

(THE GIANT AND HIS MOTHER ARE IN THE KITCHEN OF THEIR HOUSE. SHE IS STIRRING AN ENORMOUS TUREEN OF SOUP. THE GIANT LOOKS SULLEN AS HE SITS IN THE CORNER. HIS MOTHER DIPS A GIGANTIC SPOON INTO THE TUREEN AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SOUP IS SO THICK THAT IT'S ALMOST SOLID. SHE CHANTS TWICE.)

MOTHER *I LIKE A GOOD THICK SOUP I DO, I DO.  
WITH LOTS OF VEGETABLES TOO I DO.  
WHEN IT GETS THICK IT'S CALLED A STEW.  
WHEN IT GETS TOO THICK IT SETS LIKE GLUE.*

*OH YES, I LIKE A GOOD THICK SOUP I DO, I DO.  
WITH LOTS OF VEGETABLES TOO I DO.  
WHEN IT GETS THICK IT'S CALLED A STEW.  
WHEN IT GETS TOO THICK IT SETS LIKE GLUE.*

(THE GIANT SUDDENLY LEAPS TO HIS FEET AND SHOUTS.)

GIANT I'M ABSOLUTELY AWESOME!

MOTHER Yes dear, of course you are. But for a giant you're on the small side.

(THE GIANT SHOUTS DEFIANTLY.)

GIANT I am not!

MOTHER You're not very well behaved either.

GIANT I'm a GIANT! I'm gigantic, I don't have to be well behaved.

(THE GIANT'S MOTHER REMOVES THE ENORMOUS WOODEN SPOON FROM THE SOUP FOR A MOMENT AND WAVES IT AT HIM.)

MOTHER Stop that shouting at once.

(THE GIANT SITS DOWN AGAIN FOR A MOMENT AND WATCHES HER OUT OF THE CORNER OF HIS EYE. THEN HE LEAPS TO HIS FEET AGAIN.)

GIANT I'm ENORMOUS!, I'm MONSTROUS!

(SHE LOOKS HIM UP AND DOWN.)

MOTHER As giants go, you're no colossus.

GIANT I'm FEARSOME!

MOTHER You're a very nice little fellow for a giant, and usually very quiet.

(SHAKES HER HEAD DISAPPROVINGLY.)

I remember one of your uncles. Always roaring, and tearing down castles and eating people. It gave the whole family a bad name. Every time I went to the supermarket, it was, 'What has that brother of yours been doing now?' and 'Your brother devoured my cousin yesterday!'.

(THE GIANT'S EYES ARE GLAZED IN WONDER.)

GIANT: What a Giant!

MOTHER What an embarrassment!

GIANT: If only I could be like him.

MOTHER I'm very relieved that you're not!

GIANT That's it then. I'm off to gain a reputation, to make my way in the wild world of giants. I'm going where they will appreciate a truly terrifying giant like myself.

(THE GIANT'S MOTHER THROWS AN ENTIRE PUMPKIN INTO THE SOUP AND THEN LOOKS UP FROM HER STIRRING.)

MOTHER Make sure you take your woolly hat and a clean handkerchief if you're going out.

(THE GIANT DUTIFULLY CHECKS TO MAKE SURE HE HAS THESE ITEMS AND THEN ROARS AS HE WALKS TO THE DOOR.)

GIANT I'm going where they'll be terrified at the very sight of me, not worried about whether or not I have a clean handkerchief!

(AS HE SAYS THIS HE MAKES A HIDEOUS GRIMACE IN THE MIRROR NEXT TO THE DOOR AND SCARES HIMSELF AS HE CATCHES SIGHT OF HIS FACE IN THE MIRROR. HE IS NEVERTHELESS ENCOURAGED BY THIS AND BEGINS TO SING A SONG.)

*I REALLY THINK I MIGHT  
GO, WHERE THEY'LL APPRECIATE MY HEIGHT.  
WHERE THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE WISE  
WHO'LL WONDER AT MY SIZE.  
WHERE MY STATUS WILL BE CLEAR  
AND THEY'LL RUN AWAY IN FEAR.  
IT'S ALL SO VERY TRYING, BEING TERRIFYING!*

(HE OPENS THE DOOR WIDE AS IF TO SLAM IT, THEN CLOSES IT CAREFULLY AS HE LEAVES.)

## SCENE 2

(THE GIANT HAS LEFT THE HOUSE AND IS WALKING ALONG THE STREET SHOUTING.)

GIANT I'm ABSOLUTELY AWESOME! I'm ABSOLUTELY AWESOME!

(A WOMAN WITH A SHOPPING BASKET WALKS UP TO THE GIANT AND GREETES HIM.)

WOMAN I'm very pleased to meet you Mr. Awesome

(THE GIANT SHAKES HIS HEAD WITH EXASPERATION.)

GIANT NO, NO, NO, I'M ABSOLUTELY AWESOME!

WOMAN And I'm very pleased indeed to make your acquaintance. Absolutely, is quite an unusual Christian name really, but I like it, very emphatic.

GIANT It's not my name, IT'S WHAT I AM!

WOMAN What are you exactly?

(THE GIANT STRETCHES UP ON TIP TOES TO HIS FULLEST HEIGHT.)

GIANT ABSOLUTELY AWESOME, well look at me!

(SHE PEERS AT HIM VERY CLOSELY.)

I'm MONSTROUS aren't I!

WOMAN No, not really.

GIANT I'm TERRIFYING!