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P1 - 1

Before starting **Kranky Kids Theater 2007**, Lishka knew she would need at least eighty-two digital video tapes for the documentary, and eight binders to hold the scripts.

P1 - 2

Over the course of the program she would also need to provide 44 sandwiches, 44 bags of chips, 44 packages of cookies, 77 granola bars, 37 apples, 6 pizzas, 5 salads, and 66 bottles of water.

P1 - 3

She hired three camera operators and one audio engineer.

P1 - 4

One high school student signed up as a volunteer intern.

P1 - 5

All costs were coming out of her pocket.

P1 - 6

The initial plan was for the theater program to be the usual twelve sessions, consisting of an hour and a half each, twice a week, for six weeks.

P1 - 7

The sessions would take place outside, on school grounds, with the school library being used for rehearsal space in case of bad weather.

P1 - 8

The final show would take place in the school's multi-purpose room on the evening of the last session.

P1 - 9

Seven students were signed up to participate.

P2 - 1

Due to their other after-school activities, two of the students would be attending the program part-time.

P2 - 2

This meant Lishka would have a core acting group of *five* full-time students who might *possibly* have to carry the entire show.

P2 - 3

However, the day before the first session, Lishka learned that one of *that* five would also not be able to participate full-time.

P2 - 4

Now, she would have a core group of only *four* students **that might have to carry the entire show**, but, oh well, theater is *always* an adventure.

P2 - 5

Session One: In the library at three o'clock.

P2 - 6

Present are Thomas, Chloé, David, Mark and Jacqueline.

P2 - 7

Sean, the volunteer high school intern, is assigned to assist with audio and work the boom mic.

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P2 - 8

Lishka asks what they did over winter break.

P2 - 9

A song erupts over the mention of Sacramento.

P2 - 10

(and) Eventually, Lishka has the students improvise fairy tales.

P3 - 1

At five after four, Callan and Haley arrive, and the improvisations of fairy tales continues.

P3 - 2

The session ends with the students knowing each other better, and Lishka having a feel for what they can accomplish.

P3 - 3

She decides the show will focus on fairy tales since they're so familiar to the students.

P3 - 4

Session Two: Outside at three.

P3 - 5

All seven students are present.

P3 - 6

The students are told to each select a fairy tale which *they* will narrate while the other students act out the story.

P3 - 7

They choose:

P3 - 8

Rumpelstiltskin

P3 - 9

Snow White

P3 - 10

Jack and The Beanstalk

P4 - 1

Hansel and Gretel

P4 - 2

Rapunzel

P4 - 3

(and) Little Red Riding Hood (Red-Cap)

P4 - 4

And The Three Little Pigs, no, wait, Goldilocks and The Three Bears.

P4 - 5

They start improvising what they *think* are the stories of Rapunzel and Hansel and Gretel, during which time Thomas has to leave early.

P4 - 6

For the last ten minutes, they play tag and the session ends with the students exploding with energy.

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P4 - 7

Realizing that the weather will just keep getting nicer, and no one will be able to focus, Lishka decides to spend as little time as possible *outside* for the rest of the program.

P4 - 8

Plus, she now realizes that all rehearsals should *ideally* be in the multi-purpose room where the performance will take place.

P4 - 9

Unfortunately, she discovers (**that**) the multi-purpose room is available only *three times* before performance day.

P4 - 10

Session Three: Back in the library *again*. (at three)

P5 - 1

All the students are present at three o'clock except Chloé, who is sick.

P5 - 2

One of the camera crew is also absent, but this allows Sean to fill that position and learn more about filming hands-on.

P5 - 3

The students are told to find a book with their chosen story and then read it.

P5 - 4

They do, but only after arguing about which story they had chosen during the last session.

P5 - 5

After they finish reading, Lishka has each student repeat what they've read to see if they've retained the story.

P5 - 6

The ages of some the characters is a revelation to everyone: for example, (**Did you know that**) **Snow White** (**was**) is only seven years old when she (**kept**) **keeps** falling for the evil Queen's attempts to kill her.

P5 - 7

This is (**probably**) why the original story in the Brothers Grimm collection is entitled **Little Snow White**.

P5 - 8

Lishka then explains that there is a difference between Aesop's Fables, Grimm's Fairy Tales and fairy tales in general.

P5 - 9

She explains this because she has decided that their choices should be in line with the Kranky Kids' series **Grimmly Speaking**, which consists only of tales from the Brothers Grimm Collection.

P6 - 1

Jack and the Beanstalk is an (**old**) English fairy tale, not a Brothers Grimm tale.

P6 - 2

Goldilocks and The Three Bears also does not belong in the Grimm collection.

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P6 - 3

They are replaced with **The Louse and The Flea** and **The Golden Goose**.

P6 - 4

Session Four: Outside for thirty minutes, then into the multi-purpose room for an hour.

P6 - 5

All seven students are present, but they must wait outside for another after-school program to finish using the multi-purpose room.

P6 - 6

Once inside, the crew sets-up and the students ask questions.

P6 - 7

Will there be an audience? (Yes, friends and family.)

P6 - 8

What if our whole class wants to come? (Great!)

P6 - 9

Will the performance be filmed? (Yes.)

P6 - 10

Will there be a documentary? (Yes.)

P6 - 11

Finally, work on **Rapunzel** begins.

P7 - 1

But they must stop for the day after only twenty minutes.

P7 - 2

Before the next session, Lishka writes scripts for **Little Snow White, The Golden Goose and Little Red-Cap**.

P7 - 3

Little Red-Cap is the original title of the story now known as **Little Red Riding Hood**.

P7 - 4

Session Five: Back in the library at three.

P7 - 5

Thomas, Chloé, David and Mark are on time.

P7 - 6

Scripts are handed out and **initial** parts are assigned.

P7 - 7

Everyone *whines* about how much they have to memorize.

P7 - 8

Lishka tells them *twice* that the long narrator parts do *not* have to be memorized.

P7 - 9

Jacqueline arrives and rehearsal of **The Golden Goose** begins.

P7 - 10

They draw and make notes on their scripts.

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P7 - 11

Haley and Callan arrive at four-fifteen to pick-up their scripts, and then proceed to *whine* about how much *they* have to memorize.

P8 - 1

Lishka *again* tells *everyone* that the long narrator parts do *not* have to be memorized.

P8 - 2

As they leave, the students are reminded to read and practice at home.

P8 - 3

So far, out of a running total of seven and a half hours into the program, all of 75 minutes has been used as rehearsal time, *but* all seven students were present for only *twenty* of those minutes.

P8 - 4

Lishka finishes writing *another* four scripts, then realizes that *all* the scripts are too long, and starts editing them down.

P8 - 5

Session Six: Outside *again* for thirty minutes, then into the multi-purpose room for an hour.

P8 - 6

All students are present except Mark, who is sick.

P8 - 7

Inside, the crew sets-up the stage and **lights** (lighting) for the first time.

P8 - 8

Outside, the new scripts are handed out, **and Thomas, *again*, has to leave.**

P8 - 9

Lishka explains to his parents that he needs to either attend all future sessions, or, drop out of the program because it's not fair to him, or to the other students, if he misses more rehearsal time.

P9 - 1

Again, only *five* students are left to rehearse, and they immediately start whining about memorizing their lines.

P9 - 2

Yet *again*, they are told that the long narrator parts do *not* have to be memorized.

P9 - 3

But they only *stop* whining after **Rumpelstiltskin** is rehearsed, because BINGO! - it *finally* sinks in that *most* of the lines are *narrator* lines which *don't* have to be memorized.

P9 - 4

At four-twenty, the fire alarm goes off.

P9 - 5

The crew thinks it's because of the hot stage lights close to the ceiling, but no, it's the hot *kiln* from a pottery class in another building at the school.

P9 - 6

(and) The session ends with only *forty* minutes of actual rehearsal time accomplished.

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P9 - 7

Lishka continues to refine the scripts, and she cuts **The Golden Goose** entirely because it's *too* long and has *too* many characters.

P9 - 8

Session Seven: Back in the library at three.

P9 - 9

Thomas, Jacqueline, Callan, Haley and David are present.

P9 - 10

Mark is *still* sick, and this is beginning to worry Lishka, because he is the most experienced of the students for live performances.

P10 - 1

And Chloé, although not sick, will not arrive until *five* minutes before the end of the session.

P10 - 2

So rehearsal *again* begins with only *five* students, but this is a *different* combination than the last session.

P10 - 3

Lishka assigns final parts based on participation and the previous amount of individual *whining*.

P10 - 4

The students start counting their lines, and immediately commence a *new* variety of whining about who gets to say *what* in the show, and *how much* they get to say in general.

P10 - 5

Fifty-five minutes later, **Hansel and Gretel**, **Little Red-Cap** and **The Louse and The Flea** have been read through and the day ends.

P10 - 6

Lishka cuts the scripts by fifty percent, adds stage directions, and color-codes all the parts to avoid having the students waste any more time highlighting their roles during rehearsal.

P10 - 7

She also draws a stage set-up page for everyone to reference.

P10 - 8

Session Eight: In the library at three-fifteen.

P10 - 9

Mark is *still* sick, and now Lishka is *really* getting worried, even though he has a copy of the new script via email.

P11 - 1

Jacqueline is also absent, due to a school field trip, so rehearsal is *yet again* down two players.

P11 - 2

Lishka measures the students for costumes and **they ask if they'll get to keep them. (No.)**

P11 - 3

The new color-coded scripts are given out.

P11 - 4

Stage set-up is reviewed and stage directions are explained.

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P11 - 5

However, the props are still not made.

P11 - 6

Lishka promises to have most of them by the next session.

P11 - 7

They rehearse **Little Red-Cap, Little Snow White and Rumpelstiltskin** with Lishka reading the lines of the absent students.

P11 - 8

Four weeks, and eight sessions, totaling twelve hours have passed, and only three and half of those hours have been spent rehearsing.

P11 - 9

However, not *once* have all *seven* students been present to rehearse together with any script in hand.

P11 - 10

And, while Lishka is making the costumes at home, her sewing machine breaks and has to be taken in for repair.

P12 - 1

Because she now has to sew *by hand*, most of the props remain *un-made*.

P11 - 2

Session Nine: In the library, yet again, at three.

P11 - 3

Mark **finally** returns, but Haley and Callan will not arrive until four on this day.

P11 - 4

Everyone gets fitted for belts for their costumes and hemlines are marked.

P11 - 5

The few props that *are* ready are explained.

P11 - 6

The session ends with all seven students having now spent a total of twenty minutes together rehearsing with the final script.

P11 - 7

However, *no one* has **(yet)** memorized *any* lines for the show.

P11 - 8

Before the next session, Lishka makes:

P11 - 9

a giant pair of scissors

P11 - 10

a baby doll sewn into a blanket

P11 - 11

three shawls

P11 - 12

a walking stick

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P13 - 1

a pitcher that breaks into two pieces

P13 - 2

a sleeping cap

P13 - 3

and a necklace

P13 - 4

She buys:

P13 - 5

a red cap

P13 - 6

a small table

P13 - 7

and a broom

P13 - 8

She already has:

P13 - 9

a ring

P13 - 10

a fancy headband

P13 - 11

two hats

P13 - 12

and a small reading light for the narrator's stand

P14 - 1

Session Ten: Back outside for thirty minutes, then into the multi-purpose room for an hour.

P14 - 2

All seven students are *finally* present.

P14 - 3

They study and practice their lines while waiting to get into the multi-purpose room.

P14 - 4

Once inside, the new props are explained.

P14 - 5

"Props are not toys."

P14 - 6

During rehearsal, projection is worked on.

P14 - 7

"I can't *hear* you!"

P14 - 8

When the session ends, **Hansel and Gretel** is *cut* from the show - due to time.

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P14 - 9

They have now spent a total of *one* hour and *fifteen* minutes together rehearsing and the *show* is one week away.

P14 - 10

Lishka makes:

P14 - 11

more belts for the costumes

P15 - 1

a giant frame

P15 - 2

a crown

P15 - 3

a fake fire

P15 - 4

a fake rifle

P15 - 5

a fake wine bottle

P15 - 6

a fake piece of cake

P15 - 7

a fake knife

P15 - 8

a fancy barrette

P15 - 9

and the *final* stage script to be used by *all* the actors when narrating

P15 - 10

She also animates two of the titles to be shown on the screen next to the stage.

P15 - 11

Session Eleven: Back in the library at three.

P16 - 1

The students watch the animated titles for **Grimmly Speaking** and **Little Red-Cap** on Lishka's powerbook.

P16 - 2

Then everyone learns the new props and they rehearse for seventy minutes.

P16 - 3

This is the *first time* they have gone through the entire show from start to finish.

P16 - 4

Lishka *still* has to make the rest of the costume belts and animate four more titles, *plus* the end credits.

P16 - 5

Session Twelve: In the multi-purpose room at three, and *this* is the last session.

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P16 - 6

They run through the show once, while *still* getting stage directions.

P16 - 7

Everyone breaks for dinner.

P16 - 8

Then, they run *straight* through the show again.

P16 - 9

And now, with a whopping total of *four* hours, and *five* minutes, of *actual* rehearsal time together, over the course of *six* weeks, they arrive at -

P16 - 10

SHOW TIME!

P17 - 1

Can I have a drink of water?

P17 - 2

Did any of these kids have homework during this?

P17 - 3

I mean, seriously, how did they manage to do such a good job with so little rehearsal time?

P17 - 4

And they look so natural . . . I'm so jealous . . .