

LITTLE BLUE & LITTLE RED #1 (Playing with the Puppets)

NOTE: The four actors who play the engines of this railroad have no external “machine” pieces. They do not move mechanically or stiltedly. They may refer to their feet as wheels, but they walk normally. They are dressed in engineer’s overalls. The most important trait of these “engines” is their humanity.

LITTLE BLUE is the “Little Engine That Could.” She is one of the younger engines at the railroad. BLUE is cheerful, an optimist, hopeful, full of life and has lots of energy. She also longs to grow up so she can someday leave the yard and pull the train like the adults. She is very warm and loving – sensitive to others. Though she may get discouraged, she remains confident she will someday achieve her dream of being a main line engine.

LITTLE RED (like Little Blue) is also one of the younger engines at the railroad. Red is Blue’s best friend – they share the work as switchers in the train yard. Red is spirited, fun, lively – sometimes playing “teacher’s pet” to get what she wants. But at heart, Red is a good person – if a bit over-zealous & comically misguided at times.

One of the jobs here at this railroad is to pull the train filled with toys. The older engine, Rusty, has always done this job but now has been told by her gruff and insensitive boss that she may too old for the job. Rusty feels rather down. Little Blue loves Rusty and hates to see her unhappy. Here, Blue gets the idea to use the toys and puppets to help cheer up Rusty. Little Red sees Little Blue doing this, and together they make the toy doll (Little Blue’s puppet) and the toy clown (Little Red’s puppet) talk and sing to make Rusty smile again.

NOTE: The toys (the doll, the clown, and Monty the bear) are large hand puppets. In the show, the actors will have to work the puppets with their hands. But for this audition, only your vocal interpretation is what we are looking for. It is not necessary to mime the puppet’s movements.

Little Blue reads the role of the Doll. Little Red reads the role of the Clown.

DOLL/BLUE

Rusty, don't listen to what the others say. You're not too old. In fact, speaking for all of the toys here, I say – we toys only want you to pull our train.

CLOWN/RED

All right, all right! - just what's goin' on here?!

DOLL/BLUE

Uh-oh. I was wondering when he was going to show up.

CLOWN/RED

So what's with all da gloomy faces?!

DOLL/BLUE

Well, you see...

CLOWN/RED

Hey, lighten up, kids! Ya know – ya gotta make 'em laugh!

DOLL/BLUE (stopping him)

But Mr. Clown,...

CLOWN/RED (quickly correcting her)

Punch!

DOLL/BLUE

Huh?

CLOWN/RED

The name's – Punch!

DOLL/BLUE

Punch?

CLOWN/RED

Yeah, ya know – like “What's the punch line?!” Get it?! (*laughs*)

DOLL/BLUE

Well, you see Mr. Punch - Rusty's feeling kind of down.

CLOWN/RED

So ya wanta cheer up Rusty, huh? No problem! Leave it to me, kids! – I'll sing!

DOLL/BLUE

Sing? You?

CLOWN/RED

Yeah sure, ya know...

(acting big, grand, important)(loudly to audience)

...Ladies and Gentlemen!, ... Boys and Girls!, ...Moms and Dads! ... Since we toys like to see everyone be happy, may I present to you - singing a solo - to cheer up Rusty, here's your favorite toy - the one,...the only,...ME! ...Mr. Punch the Clown!

DOLL/BLUE

Hey, what about me?

CLOWN/RED

Huh?

DOLL/BLUE

I could sing too.

CLOWN/RED

Oh, I get it! You wanta cut into my big star act, huh? Well, forget it, kid! I'm the star toy around here! I only sing solo!

DOLL/BLUE

Now, Mr. Clown,...

CLOWN/RED

Punch!

DOLL/BLUE

We toys should be in harmony. And Monty can sing too. We three can sing in harmony.

CLOWN/RED

Okay, okay!...

...All together now, kids! And remember – give it lots of 'punch'! Sell it, kids!...Sell it! Sell it! Sell it!

END OF SIDE.