

A-More Spaghetti

Written by Joshua Powlison

Giraldo
Federico
Carlotta
Loretta/Loretto/Lorita
Giovanni

Scene 1 (Family Restaurant, Kitchen)

LC: Lights Up

Giraldo is on stage with a big pot of spaghetti resting on a table. He's stirring and checking it. Could have a sign out, "Giraldo's Spaghetti Kitchen".

LC: Door Open/Ringing Bell sound effect (faint)

Giraldo: Hey, Federico, we have more customers coming, do you have the extra noodles yet? (pause) Federico? (pause) FEDERICO!

Federico: Yes, Papa! (runs in from SL. Plops some bags of spaghetti on the table beside the pot)

Giraldo: Is that all? Where's your sister? (calls) Carlotta?

Carlotta: (comes in from SL) Yes, Papa?

Giraldo: Do we have any more spaghetti?

Carlotta: No, Papa.

Giraldo: You are kidding me! It's almost lunch hour! Federico!

Federico: Yes?

Giraldo: Please call the local store and see if they have any more spaghetti in stock!

Federico: Alright. (goes to wall phone, starts dialing a number, picks phone up)

Carlotta: What are you going to do if they're out of pasta, Papa?

Giraldo: Don't talk crazy talk, you tend to this spaghetti while I go get some more sauce, okay sweetie?

Carlotta: All right.

Federico: Thank you sir. (hangs up the phone) Papa, they're all out!

Giraldo: All out of spaghetti?

Federico nods. Giraldo sits down, hold his hand to his head.

Giraldo: Mama mia...

Carlotta: What are you thinking, Papa?

Federico: We're not going to have to shut down the pasta shop early, are we?

Carlotta: There must be other spaghetti shops in Italy!

Giraldo: (grieving) Oh, but none that make noodles the way your mama used to make them! With dough...

Children: ...and amore.

Giraldo: Rest her soul. Well, my children, I think there's only one thing we can do.

Federico: What's that?

Giraldo walks over to a bookshelf, takes out an old book and dusts it off

Giraldo: According to ancient legends, deep in the Northern woods, there is a tree that grows spaghetti...

Federico: A tree that grows spaghetti?!

Giraldo: The best spaghetti in the entire world!

Carlotta: Are we going to the Northern woods then, Papa?

Giraldo: Don't get ahead of me... but yes.

Federico: Wow, I've always wanted to go there. When do we leave?

LC: Lights Out

Table and props taken off stage

All exit

Scene 2 (Northern woods)

Set out trees and bushes for hiding

Giovanni and Loretta hide behind the trees and bushes. Giovanni has an axe.

LC: Lights Up

Giraldo, Federico, and Carlotta enter SR. Could have a small wooden sign, "Northern Woods". Giraldo is holding a map.

Giraldo: The spaghetti tree should be this way...

Loretta: (steps from the bushes into their path) Going somewhere?

Carlotta: Um... yes...

Federico: Who are you?

Loretta: The name's Loretta.

Giraldo: Good to meet you. I'm Giraldo, and these are my two children, Federico and Carlotta. What do you want?

Loretta: Do you seek the spaghetti tree?

Carlotta: Yes!

Loretta: I thought so, that's why I'm here too.

Federico: What do you want with the spaghetti tree?

Loretta: Spaghetti, what else?

Federico: Oh, right.

Loretta: I've been to the spaghetti tree many times since my childhood. I know these woods like the back of my hand.

Giraldo: Then we'd be obliged to have your company, we've never been to it ourselves. Would you join us?

Loretta: Gladly, these woods are... quite dangerous. (to Giraldo) Oh... and you won't be needing that...

Loretta snatches Giraldo's map away from him. Crumples it into a ball and throws it behind her. Laughs uncomfortably. Heads SR.

Loretta: Follow me!

Giraldo, Federico, and Carlotta follow Loretta off SR, happy to have a guide. Giovanni comes out from behind the bushes with the axe, grabs the map and looks at it. Laughs.

Giovanni: The spaghetti tree will be mine!

Giovanni gives another laugh, runs off SL with the map.

Loretta, Giovanni, Federico, and Loretta come in SR. All except Loretta are exhausted.

Giraldo: Did we just go in a circle?

Loretta: Don't be crazy.

Carlotta: That looks like the bush we just passed.

Loretta: It's your imagination.

Federico: Look, are those our footprints?

Loretta: No.

Carlotta: Well, they must be somebody's footprints.

Everybody stops for a minute.

Giraldo: Are you sure you know where you're going, Loretta?

Loretta: (pause, getting angry) My name's not really Loretta.

Loretta takes off her wig, exposing shorter hair (actress's hair pulled up), and slyly puts on a fake mustache. Giraldo, Federico, and Carlotta gasp. Pause.

Federico: (to Giraldo) Who is she, Papa?

Giraldo: I don't know.

Loretta: Not she! HE! I am Loretto! (pulls out a gun) And you're coming with me!

Giraldo, Federico, and Carlotta all shout. Evil laughing from SL. Giovanni enters.

Giovanni: Giraldo! We meet again.

Giraldo: Giovanni! What are you doing here?

Carlotta: Are you still trying to destroy Papa's business?

Giovanni: What do you think?

Pause.

Federico: No?...

Giovanni: (upset) Yes! Yes, of course I am!

Carlotta: But if you're here, that must mean you're after the...

Gasps from Federico and Carlotta. They look at each other and exclaim,

Children: The spaghetti tree!

Giovanni: (laughs) Brilliant observation, children. But my quarrel isn't with you. It's with the old man.

Giraldo: Why must you do this, Giovanni?

Giovanni: Well, I figured that robbing your local noodle shop probably wouldn't do your business in without additional action.

Giraldo: What, you robbed the noodle shop?!

Giovanni: Our father told us numerous stories of the spaghetti tree when we were children, how it cures every known disease, summons fairies, and not to mention that it's very tasty too. I figured you might believe the tales and find your way here.

Giovanni brandishes the axe

Giovanni: So I guess I'll have an audience as I finish up business. (practice swings the axe. Laughs)

Carlotta: You wouldn't!

Loretto: He would.

Giovanni: I would. Loretto! Bind their hands.

Loretto: Yes, sir!

Loretto binds their hands.

Giovanni: The spaghetti tree should be over this way...

Giovanni goes SL, Loretto walks behind Giraldo, Federico, and Carlotta with the gun. They all exit SL.

LC: Light Out

Bring spaghetti tree on stage, put upstage from CS.

Scene 3 (Northern woods, Spaghetti Tree)

LC: Lights Up

Giovanni enters from SR, followed by Giraldo, Federico, and Carlotta, followed by Loretto.

Giovanni: Ah, the legendary spaghetti tree! (turns to others) I am more than pleased to do the honors.

Giovanni brandishes the axe, swings at the tree as the heroes shriek. The axe just bounces off the tree, doing no damage.

Giovanni: What?! (keeps swinging, but isn't damaging the tree)

Loretto: I told you you should've stretched this morning.

Giovanni: What is going on?

Carlotta: Maybe you're just too weak.

Giovanni: What? Giovanni, weak? (laughs at the absurdity, starts pacing, thinking) Let's see... ah... oh... the book, the book, the book, the book, the book, the book, the book!

Loretto: What book?

Federico: What book?

Carlotta: (to Giraldo) What book, papa?

Giraldo: (smug, to Giovanni) What book?

Giovanni: (takes the gun from Loretto, storms over to Giraldo) "What book", you know what book! Think back, Giraldo. Think back a long ways...

Giraldo pretends he has to think about it.

Giovanni: (outburst) The book our father gave to you, for Petre's sake! (sad) Because I was "not ready," he said. "Maybe he'll like spaghetti when he's older", he said.

Giraldo: Not to mention you were evil.

Giovanni: WAS evil?! (offended) I'll let that one slide.

Giraldo: I'll make a deal with you, Giovanni... I'll give you the book if you let my children go.

Carlotta: Papa!

Federico: Don't do it, Papa!

Giovanni: Agreed. Undo his bonds, Loretto.

Motions for Loretto to undo his bonds.

Giovanni: Now... where is it?

Girardo: (takes it out of pocket) In my pocket.

Giovanni reaches for it, but Girardo throws it behind him, where it lands behind his kids.

Fight scene as they scramble for the book. (in the end, Federico's and Carlotta's bonds are undone, and Giovanni snatches the book for a brief moment, Loretto pointing the gun at Girardo, Federico, and Carlotta.)

Giovanni: (reading) "In order to destroy the spaghetti tree, one of pure heart must..."

Loretto: (Points gun away from three to Giovanni. To Giovanni) Stop right there!

Giovanni: (confused. Looks up, jumps) Whoa, Loretto! Watch where you're pointing that thing!

Loretto: I am! And I've gotten all the evidence I need now, Giovanni. (undoes hair, it falls down) I'm actually a spy for the FBI!

Federico: The FBI?

Loretto: That's right, the Federal Bureau of Italians. (takes off fake mustache)

Carlotta: So you're not Loretto?

Loretto: That's right, my name is... Lorita!

Girardo: So you were a girl disguised as a boy, disguised as a girl...

Lorita: That's right! (to Giovanni) You, Giovanni, under order of the Italian Government, are under arrest!

Lorita grabs spaghetti from the tree.

Giovanni: Under arrest? For what?

Lorita: For robbing a noodle shop. You admitted it yourself, did you not?

Giovanni: But... but I...

Lorita: Save it for the court! You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you.

Lorita starts binding Giovanni's hands with the spaghetti.

Giovanni: (to Giraldo) Giraldo... you haven't seen the last of me!

Lorita: You're right about that, Giovanni, he'll be a witness at your trial! Come on!

Lorita takes Giovanni off SR. Giovanni still has the book. Suddenly, it occurs to Giraldo, Federico, and Carlotta:

Giraldo,
Federico,
and Carlotta: THE BOOK!!

They look over, Carlotta and Federico look ready to run after them, but Giraldo stops them.

Giraldo: Never mind, we'll get the book back come court date. I have it memorized from cover to cover anyway. Now, let's get some spaghetti!

The three run over to the tree, start getting spaghetti.

LC: Lights Out
Curtain Call