Let’s imagine you are given several familiar fairy tales to work with, and your instructions are to change and rearrange the fairy tales we all know and love and turn them on their sides and shake them up a bit. That is what Jon Scieszka, the author, and Lane Smith, the illustrator, did in their hilarious book entitled *The Stinky Cheese Man and other Fairly Stupid Tales*. Now, you’re told to take the book and adapt the book into a drama or play. That’s what the playwright of this performance worked to produce—a crazy, mixed-up play based on the crazy, mixed-up book. Come join the fun by experiencing *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* at Clowes Memorial Hall!

**Adapt** – change or modify in some way  
**Drama or play** – a live performance that tells a story using dialogue (words)  
**Playwright** – the person who writes the script to a play, drama or musical
Who are the MAIN CHARACTERS in this Musical?

More than fifteen characters appear in the performance of *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. However, there will only be 6-7 actors on stage portraying these characters. In order to do this, actors must double character roles. For example, the actor portraying one of the Stepsisters may also play the Frog or perhaps the Stinky Cheese Man. There will be various character roles that will only be on stage for a short amount of time and are not the main characters. They are called supporting characters. For example, the main characters, Jack and the Giant, act as narrators while encountering many supporting characters throughout the play. To allow you to know which character is being portrayed, actors will change their costumes, speak in the appropriate character voice, and with your brilliant imagination, you will know which character is which. So, during the performance, be aware of the main characters and how they may interact with the supporting characters in the play. Also, be aware of which actors may be doubling on stage.
Who is in the show?

Main Characters:

- Jack
- Giant

Supporting Characters:

- Stinky Cheese Man
- Little Red Hen
- Frog
- Wolf
- Prince
- Rumpelstiltskin
- Princess
- King
- Two Stepsisters
- “Red” – Little Red Riding Shorts
- Cinderella
- Stepmother
- Queen
- Girl
Preparing YOU to see *The Stinky Cheese Man...*

Read the Book: *The Stinky Cheese Man and other Fairly Stupid Tales* by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith!

What better way to appreciate a drama or play than reading the book first! This particular book already requires you to have knowledge of several fairy tales before twisting and turning the stories into humorous fractured fairy tales. We highly encourage you to know about the stories in *The Stinky Cheese Man...* before seeing the performance. The play will bring the foolish fairy tales to life on the Clowes stage!
Lines to Listen For…and Interpret… and Try for Yourself

Dialogue are the words that actors/characters say on stage. Use the sample from *The Stinky Cheese Man* script to discuss dialogue.

- **Read the lines carefully.** Discuss: the meaning of the lines and what is going on around the characters, what the characters may be doing while speaking these lines, and how the lines may be delivered to the audience through expression and voice.
- **Try saying the lines aloud with expression, feeling, and gestures.** Practice the lines in different ways to discover how this can add different meaning to the words.
- **Practice delivering the lines with a classmate or friend, then present to others.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jack</th>
<th>Stinky Cheese Man</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hello Mr. Giant. What can I do for you?</td>
<td>I’m running, I’m running as fast as I can. You can’t catch me I’m the Stinky Cheese Man.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant</td>
<td>Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m going to grind your bones to make my bread. But, first I’m going to smash your head.</td>
<td>Hello Stinky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stinky Cheese Man</td>
<td>Giant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Try and catch me! Try and catch me!</td>
<td>You’re making me sick. Get away from us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>Giant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nice rhyme. Clever. I don’t think I’d make good bread. You might try wheat instead. How about that rhyme? Pretty good huh?</td>
<td>Maybe you’d like to eat the Stinky Cheese Man instead of me Giant?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant</td>
<td>Stinky Cheese Man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m going to enjoy eating you.</td>
<td>Yeah, but you’ll never catch me. Na na na na na.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Now You Try It! Be the Playwright! Be the Designer!

Playwriting – Try writing 4-6 lines of new dialogue that tell a part of the story not already told in the performance. Choose one of the following situations or create your own. Use your imagination as well as knowledge about the characters to decide what they might say to one another. Practice the conversation with a partner. How should the lines sound or be delivered? After practicing with a partner, revise your lines, as needed.

- A reporter is interviewing Jack after the performance.
- The Princess decides not to kiss the frog.
- Another dialogue creation of your own from the book! Be creative!

Example of format for writing dialogue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jack</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giant</td>
<td>My story is a very important one to tell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant</td>
<td>(getting more angry) Fee! Fi! Fo! Fum! My story is better than yours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>But, not better than mine. Remember? I steal all your gold! Ha! Ha! Ha!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant</td>
<td>(feeling desperate) Why do you always trick me?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Designing – When a play is based on a book, the costume designer, make-up designer and scenery designers can look for descriptions in the script or use illustrations placed in the book to help them with costuming, scenery and prop ideas. They see pictures in their minds too.

Work with a partner to make a plan for how you would show the following events on stage. Remember you can use only costumes, simple sets, lighting and sound effects to solve each problem. After the performance, compare your ideas with what actually happened in the play.

- Changing set from an outdoor scene to an indoor scene.
- Designing costumes particularly for the animals with human-like characteristics.
Try Storytelling Without Words

- How many different fairy tales can you name? How did you learn these stories? Did you read them or did someone tell the tale to you?

- Let’s act out a story using only our bodies – NO WORDS! Think of a fairy tale, then focus on the important parts of the tale – the main events. Now, how can you tell these events using just your body movements?

  Is it harder for someone to understand you without words? Why or why not?

- Can you convey your emotions and actions without words?
Now You’ve Seen *The Stinky Cheese Man*...

- Did you like the way **costumes** were designed for the characters? Were special accommodations made for taller or shorter characters?
- Were the **set** (background) and **props** (things the characters hold or use when acting) easy to believe or work well with the performance?
- Did the **actors** chosen for the **character** parts do a good job in their roles? What **character** was your favorite?
- Was the **script** written well by the **playwright**? Was it **similar** to the book? Was it different? If so, how was it different?
- How were **sound effects** and **lighting** used to enhance the performance?
- Did you have to use your **imagination** to enjoy the performance?
- Did you enjoy the **performance**? Why or why not? How would you rate the performance on a scale of 1 - 10 with 10 being one of the best performances you’ve ever seen?

Thank you for coming to see a performance at the Butler Arts Center, Clowes Memorial Hall.

*We hope you’ll come back to see another wonderful and engaging performance!*  
Visit our website at www.butlerartsceneter.org for upcoming events!