

Monologue Mania!

The Nose That Ran Away from Its Face

By Joseph Robinette

Any gender / Child or teen / Timeless

About the play: What happens when a nose cuts loose to spite its face? Inspired by Nikolai Gogol's absurd short story "The Nose," this quirky, comedic journey begins when a giant sneeze separates a young boy and his pun-loving proboscis (that means "nose" to those in the "knows"). The sassy schnozzle celebrates his newfound freedom and the commercial possibilities that come with it, entertaining job offers from an ENT doctor and a florist. Meanwhile, the boy frantically searches for his wandering facial feature and struggles to come to terms with his nose-less identity. That is, until he encounters a string of sympathetic adults who show their concern by giving him gifts of candy, coins, and more. Just as the boy begins considering life without his sniffer, a group of townsfolk ready to thumb their nose at establishment leadership during a political rally sees hope in both the boy and the nose's symbiotic messages of honesty and change. But are the boy and his nose better together than apart? That answer, of course, is as plain as the nose on your face.

About the scene: We hear a big sneeze and suddenly, a Nose appears center stage. In this monologue, this Nose has just escaped the face of a boy, finally "running" free on its own. Its puns and wit know no bounds, describing itself and its newfound freedom. Is it the first nose to finally break free from a face?

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NOSE:

I'm free... I'm free. I'm free! Free at last of those idling eyes, those irritating ears, that muttering mouth, that ugly face. Well, maybe not ugly exactly, but certainly not deserving of such a handsome, classic nose as I. (*To AUDIENCE.*) Notice the noble nostrils, the Romanesque ridge, the symmetrical slope. I am the very model of a perfectly modern proboscis. That means nose. And that's me. And I'm free! Thank you, oh great maker of sneezes. That was a masterful sneeze that brought my master to his knees and set me free. Now I can go anywhere I please without being tied down anymore. I can wake up in the morning and smell the roses like all the other free noses... Actually, I've never seen another nose that was free. Maybe I'm the only one. The very first. I could be a world's record. Hello, Mr. Guinness? Stick this nose in your book!