

*The Tortoise and the Hare*

---

by Sarah Brandt

Music and Lyrics by Neal Richardson

Commissioned by The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

SETTING

The Forest

CHARACTERS

Shelly: Tortoise

Henry: Hare

Wally: Bear

Frannie: Fox

(A typical looking forest. HENRY bounds onto the stage, wearing workout gear and doing lunges. WALLY moseys on stage, slowly and happily.)

**Song: DO WHAT YOU LOVE**

WALLY

Hey Henry. Sure is a nice day, huh?

HENRY

You bet it is. Perfect day for some sprints and a nice sweaty workout.

WALLY

Is that what you're doing?

HENRY

Of course. Lunges. Good for the glutes. On a day this great, morning is the perfect time for serious athletes to train.

HENRY

WHEN I WAKE UP WITH MY BACK IN KNOTS  
I START MY DAY WITH FIFTY SQUATS.  
THIS IS THE KIND OF DAY TO DO WHAT I LOVE.  
NEXT I GO INTO MY CRUNCHES  
THEN I DO KARATE PUNCHES.  
THIS IS THE KIND OF DAY TO DO WHAT I LOVE.  
ISN'T IT GREAT TO BE ALIVE?  
REVELIN' IN WHAT MAKES ME THRIVE.

DOIN' THE THINGS THAT I LOVE.  
IT'S A WONDERFUL, INCREDIBLE, MAGNIFICENT, GLORIOUS DAY TO DO  
WHAT YOU LOVE.

WALLY

Wow, you sure do have some spirit this mornin'. I don't know about all that, but when the sun  
shines down this nice, you'd have to work pretty durn hard not to enjoy life.

WALLY

ON EACH BRIGHT DAY, I'LL TELL YA SUNNY,  
I LIKE TO GO AND FIND SOME HONEY.  
THIS IS THE KIND OF DAY TO DO WHAT I LOVE.  
EACH AFTERNOON I TAKE A BREAK  
MAKIN' MY WAY DOWN TO THE LAKE.  
THIS IS THE KIND OF DAY TO DO WHAT I LOVE.  
ISN'T IT DANDY TO BE ALIVE?  
HAVIN' FUN WITH A GREAT BIG DIVE.  
DOIN' THE THINGS THAT I LOVE.  
IT'S A WONDERFUL, INCREDIBLE, MAGNIFICENT, GLORIOUS DAY TO DO  
WHAT YOU LOVE.

(FRANNIE enters, wiping her hands on a bandana. Perhaps she is wearing a plaid shirt  
and pigtails.)

FRANNIE

Well hiya Wally.

WALLY

Howdy Frannie. Whatcha been up to this fine mornin'?

FRANNIE

Oh you know, a little this, a little that. Baked some pretty tasty cinnamon buns, painted my  
nails...then helped my daddy rebuild the carburetor on his ol' tractor.

WALLY

That hunk-a-junk's still runnin'?

FRANNIE

It is now.

(Notices Henry, bats eyes)

Oh! Hiiii Henry.

HENRY

(Still engrossed in his workout/stretches/whatever)

Frannie.

FRANNIE

Nice morning, eh? Maybe you'd like to take a walk with me on this sunny day.

HENRY

Maybe later Frannie. Gotta finish my training session.

FRANNIE

Perfect day for it.

FRANNIE

THERE'S MANY THINGS TO DO OUT THERE  
LIKE FIX A CAR OR FIX MY HAIR  
THIS IS THE KIND OF DAY TO DO WHAT I LOVE.  
I LIKE TO PRACTICE MY CHARM AND POISE  
CAUSE I LOVE TO FLIRT WITH BOYS  
THIS IS THE KIND OF DAY TO DO WHAT I LOVE.  
IT'S TERRIFIC TO BE ALIVE!  
IT'S A PARTY WHEN I ARRIVE.  
I'M DOIN' THE THINGS THAT I LOVE.  
IT'S A WONDERFUL, INCREDIBLE, MAGNIFICENT, GLORIOUS DAY TO DO  
WHAT YOU LOVE.

(SHELLY enters, shyly greets her friends.)

WALLY

Shelly! Can you believe this day? Wanna go honey huntin' with me?

SHELLY

Morning Wally. Maybe in a bit. I need to check in with Henry.

FRANNIE

Shelly! Look at the sunshine this morning! Doesn't it just butter your biscuit?

SHELLY

I guess.

WALLY

Doesn't it give you the warm fuzzies?

SHELLY

Huh?

WALLY

You know--that special good type feeling, like when I take a swim in the lake.

FRANNIE

Or when I finish sewin' a new dress!

SHELLY

Oh. Yeah, I guess.

WALLY

Come on Shelly. What wakes you up in the morning?

SHELLY

Um, usually my alarm.

FRANNIE

Well that's one way...

SHELLY

I better go. Henry needs some fresh water, and I have tons of work to do before his next event.

WALLY

Okay.

FRANNIE

Whatever you say sweetie.

HENRY, WALLY AND FRANNIE

ISN'T IT GREAT TO BE ALIVE?  
REVELIN' IN WHAT MAKES ME THRIVE.  
DOIN' THE THINGS THAT I LOVE.

HENRY

IT'S A WONDERFUL

WALLY

INCREDIBLE

FRANNIE

MAGNIFICENT

HENRY, WALLY AND FRANNIE  
GLORIOUS DAY TO DO WHAT YOU LOVE!

HENRY  
Shelly, look at this medal! It's way bigger than the last one I won.

SHELLY  
I saw. It's great.

HENRY  
Right?! Here, you can take this stuff.

(Dumps a bunch of stuff in her arms. Water bottles, towels, etc.)

SHELLY  
Ok.

WALLY  
What's that?

HENRY  
Uh, just another first place medal.

FRANNIE  
Henry you're incredible!

HENRY  
I sure am.

FRANNIE  
(aside)  
And cuter 'n a sack fulla puppies.

WALLY  
Huh?

FRANNIE  
Can I have your autograph?

SHELLY  
Now, now, let's not bother Henry. He's tired--

HENRY  
--It's okay Shelly. Just this once.

FRANNIE

My heavens!

(Holding paper to her heart)

He signed it x's and o's!

(Swoon, caught by WALLY)

WALLY

Tell us about the race Henry.

SHELLY

He doesn't want to--

HENRY

--Now, now, Shelly, we have to give the people what they want.

(Dramatic reenactment)

There I was, only half a mile to go and I was surrounded by the competition. Cheetahs on my left--

FRANNIE

Cheetahs are the fastest land animal!

WALLY

There are cheetahs in the forest?

HENRY

--Pronghorns on my right--

WALLY

What's a pronghorn?

SHELLY

It's an antelope, but I didn't see--

HENRY

They thought they had me beat, but I just turned it up a notch and zoom! Blew right past 'em.

FRANNIE

You're amazing!

HENRY

Thank you everyone, thank you. Shelly, do you have my bag?

(SHELLY shows the rather large gym bag she's holding.)

HENRY

And you picked up the new protein powder, right?

SHELLY

Right.

HENRY

And the vitamins?

SHELLY

Yes.

HENRY

The gummies? I like those better than the swallow kind.

SHELLY

Yes Henry. The orange. Your favorite.

HENRY

Gotta get all the nutrients these muscles need to keep the win streak going.

(Does some flexing, posing. FRANNIE swoons again.)

FRANNIE

Oh my...

SHELLY

Get ahold of yourself, Frannie.

(To Henry)

Go on home and rest buddy. See you tomorrow.

HENRY

See ya!

FRANNIE

I'll walk with you!

(HENRY exits. FRANNIE recovers and follows him. SHELLY attempts to rearrange all of Henry's stuff in her arms, accidentally dropping it in a heap. WALLY helps her pick it all up to carry it home.)

Are you okay!?

WALLY

Yeah. Whoops.

SHELLY

That's a lot of stuff. Is it all Henry's?

WALLY

No, no. This...

SHELLY

(Digs out a tiny bag)

...is mine.

WALLY

That's it?

I don't need much.

SHELLY

But Henry does.

WALLY

Well he is the star.

SHELLY

True. But why do you have it all?

WALLY

I don't mind helping.

SHELLY

I don't mind helping neither. Let me take some of this.

WALLY

Thanks Wally.

SHELLY



(They walk to Shelly's house.)

WALLY

He must have really been sumthin' out there today, huh?

SHELLY

Definitely. Henry's the fastest animal I've ever seen.

WALLY

Yup, he's pretty quick. Can't say the same for m'self.

SHELLY

Me either. But you're awful strong Wally.

WALLY

Aww stop.

SHELLY

You are! I saw you push that giant tree out of the way when it fell across the road.

WALLY

I did do that...thanks Shelly.

(They approach Shelly's house.)

SHELLY

Thanks for your help.

WALLY

See you later!

SHELLY

Bye Wally.

(WALLY hands over the stuff he was carrying, carefully balancing it all in Shelly's arms.  
WALLY exits. SHELLY enters her home, overloaded once again with Henry's stuff.  
SHELLY drops all the stuff she's carrying in a heap and collapses.)

SHELLY

Whew. What a day.

(Begins separating the pile of stuff)

Towels for laundry...eww that one's stinky. Water bottles to wash...almost out of band-aids...

(She picks up a water bottle and box of band-aids to reenact the race.)

SHELLY

(As announcer)

Look at Henry go. He's ahead by a mile! No one will catch him now!

(As Henry)

Oh no! A blister! And I'm out of band-aids. How will I ever finish?

(As competitor)

Henry's down. Here's my chance!

(As announcer)

Henry, our champion, is down with a terrible blister. He's being passed!

(As Henry)

Nooooo! How can I win without band-aids? How could Shelly let me down?

SHELLY

Like I'd ever do that. Pack a proper gym bag. That's something I can do. Maybe all I can do...

**Song: SPECIAL**

SHELLY

I'M JUST A SIMPLE TORTOISE,  
SAFE IN THIS COMFY SHELL OF MINE  
I'M NOT GOOD AT BEING FAST.  
YES, JUST SIMPLE TURTLE,  
DOING MY BEST TO BE OKAY  
THOUGH I'M ALWAYS CHOSEN LAST.  
BUT THERE'S GOTTA BE MORE TO ME THAN SIMPLY WHAT YOU SEE.  
MAYBE I COULD BE SPECIAL.  
MAYBE I COULD STAND OUT.  
MAYBE THERE COULD BE  
SOMEONE SPECIAL WHO'LL SEE  
WHAT MY LIFE'S ABOUT.  
MAYBE I COULD BE DIFF'RENT  
FROM WHAT I HAVE BEEN BEFORE.  
NOT THE TIMID YOUNG THING  
WHO'S AFRAID TO SING

AND LET MY FEELINGS OUT.  
BUT DEEP DOWN INSIDE, I THINK I KNOW  
THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WITHIN THAT WANTS TO GROW.  
SOMETHING MARVELOUS THAT ONLY I CAN BE.  
THERE'S SOMETHING WONDERFUL AND SPECIAL WITHIN ME.  
WHAT IF I MADE SOME CHANGES  
THAT SUITED THESE DREAMS IN MY HEART?  
BUT CHANGING IS TOUGH  
WHEN THE GOING GETS ROUGH  
AND WHERE DO I START?  
BUT DEEP DOWN INSIDE, I THINK, NO, I KNOW!  
THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WITHIN ME THAT WANTS TO GROW.  
SOMETHING MARVELOUS THAT ONLY I CAN BE.  
THERE'S SOMETHING WONDERFUL AND SPECIAL WITHIN ME.

(SHELLY exits).