

PETITE ROUGE

*Based on the book
by Mike Artell
Illustrated by Jim Harris*

Adapted by
Joan Cushing

Book, Music & Lyrics by
Joan Cushing

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Final Script
with sound cues
June 20, 2005

PETITE ROUGE

A CAJUN RED RIDING HOOD

A classic tale soaked in Cajun hot sauce!

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Running time: 70 minutes
Cast of Six

**Commissioned by Imagination Stage,
Bethesda, MD**

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SCENE

TIME

The Present

PLACE

The Louisiana Bayou
& New Orleans

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Cast of Characters (6)

Petite Rouge (female, alto) - young girl, adventurous, naive, a risk-taker, sometimes reckless, looking for excitement, wants to see the world

TeJean (male, tenor) - Petite Rouge's sidekick cat - shy, cautious, homebody, who follows the rules, a 'fraidy cat

Claude the Alligator (male, baritone) - a master of disguises, clever, sneaky, hungry, a gourmet cook who butchers the French language

Swamp Chorus - storytellers, who also play multiple roles

Crayfish (Female, Soprano)

Mrs. Duck
Alley Gator
Gator Trapper #1
Riverboat Tourist
Mardi Gras Dancer #2
Dixieland Band Member (trombone)
Gospel Singer (mother of dead chipmonk)

Turtle (Female, Alto)

Grandmere (feisty, crotchety, don't mess with her, loves her "hot sauce")
Alley Gator
Gator Trapper #2
Riverboat Tourist
Mardi Gras Dancer #3
Dixieland Band Member (banjo)
Gospel Singer

Frog (Male, Bass/Baritone)

Dixieland Band Member (clarinet) and Lead Singer
Alley Gator
Gator Trapper #3
Riverboat Captain
Riverboat Tourist
Mardi Gras Dancer #1
Gospel Singer

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

THE BALLAD OF PETITE ROUGE #1	Swamp Chorus
STRAIGHT DERE, STRAIGHT BACK	Mrs. Duck, Petite Rouge & TeJean
THE BALLAD OF PETITE ROUGE #2	Swamp Chorus
I'M HUNGRY!	Claude & the Alley Gators
WAITING FOR LIFE TO START!	Petite Rouge
WHAT YOU WAITING FOR!	Claude & Petite Rouge
THE BALLAD OF PETITE ROUGE #3	Swamp Chorus
WAITING FOR LIFE TO START/Reprise.....	Petite Rouge & TeJean
HOLIDAY FOR TRAPPERS!	Gator Trappers
WHAT I WAITING FOR/Reprise	Claude
THE RIVERBOAT WALTZ	Ensemble

ACT II

MARDI GRAS SEQUENCE:

The Beat of Zydeco!.....	Ensemble
Let Yourself Go!	Frog, TeJean & The Dixieland Jazz Band
Funeral Dirge	Gospel Choir
THE BALLAD OF PETITE ROUGE #4	Claude
I'M HUNGRY! Reprise	Claude, Petite Rouge & TeJean
HOT SAUCE!	Ensemble
THE BALLAD OF PETITE ROUGE #5	Swamp Chorus

[70 minute running time includes 2 minute stretch break and announcement.]

PROLOGUE

SOUND CUE #1 - Preshow Music

The stage is preset for the inside of Petite Rouge's house. There is a door frame with a screen door Upstage Right and a rocking chair Upstage Left. The Red Cape is draped over the back of the rocking chair.

TURTLE, FROG and CRAYFISH (the Swamp Chorus) enter.

SOUND CUE #1.5 - Fade out of Preshow Music.

SOUND CUE #2 - Preshow Announcement

SOUND CUE #3 - "The Ballad of Petite Rouge" #1

BACKUP refers to whoever is not singing the solo lines.

"THE BALLAD OF PETITE ROUGE" #1

FROG

(Spoken, over music.)

**BACK IN DE SWAMP
WHERE DAT SPANISH MOSS GROW,
I HEARD ME A STORY
FROM LONG TIME AGO.**

CRAYFISH

(Spoken)

**IN A LITTLE OL' HOUSE
DAT BEEN BUILT OUTTA WOOD,
LIVE A DUCK PEOPLE CALL
PETITE ROUGE RIDING HOOD.**

BACKUP

(Sings)

**A STORY
LONG AGO.**

PETITE ROUGE.

PETITE ROUGE.

(PETITE ROUGE enters.)

PETITE ROUGE

Nothin' ever happens aroun' here. Every day de same. If only somet'ing exciting would happen. Jus' once.

TURTLE

(Sings)

SHE LIVE WIT' HER MAMA AN' DAT CAT TeJEAN

(TeJEAN enters.)

WHO PLAY WIT' HER ALRIGHT.

AN' SHE LONG TO EXPLORE DE WORLD BEYON',

BUT HER MAMA SHE HOLD ON TIGHT.

*(CRAYFISH becomes
MRS. DUCK.)*

MRS. DUCK

Petite Rouge, don' you go wanderin' off. You stay right by de house, where I can see you, hear?

PETITE ROUGE

Yes, mama.

FROG

(Spoken)

DEN ONE DAY DE GRAND-MERE

COME DOWN WIT' DE FLU,

AN' PETITE ROUGE TOLE HER MAMA

ALL THREE

(Sing)

WHAT SHE GOT TO DO.

(The music fades off.)

FROG, TURTLE and CRAYFISH/MRS. DUCK exit.)

ACT I

SCENE 1.

**PETITE ROUGE'S LI'L OL' HOUSE
ON THE BAYOU**

TeJEAN sits down in the rocker and takes out his harmonica. HE begins playing.

PETITE ROUGE enters.

PETITE ROUGE

Psst! TeJean!

(SHE beckons to HIM to come out and play with HER.

TeJEAN ignores HER and goes on playing his harmonica.

PETITE ROUGE sneaks up behind HIM.)

PETITE ROUGE

Boo!

TeJEAN

Rouge!

PETITE ROUGE

Come on, TeJean. Let's go outside.

TeJEAN

I practicing, Rouge.

PETITE ROUGE

So?

TeJEAN

So, don' wanna go outside.

PETITE ROUGE

Who'm I gonna play wit'?

TeJEAN

I don' know. *(HE goes on playing his harmonica.)*

PETITE ROUGE

Why you play dat t'ing anyway?

TeJEAN

Gonna be a musician.

PETITE ROUGE

(Irritated that HE won't play with her, mutters under her breath)

Doesn't sound like music to me.

(MRS. DUCK enters, carrying a letter, and holding a basket. Inside the basket is a sack containing the items to be packed in the basket: boodin, a jar of gumbo, 3 Hot Sauce containers, and a jar of File.)

MRS. DUCK

Petite Rouge?

PETITE ROUGE

Yes, mama.

MRS. DUCK

Mr. Owl, he bring me de letter from you grandmere. She sick wit' de flu. Look like I'm gonna have to take her some o' my homemade gumbo.

PETITE ROUGE

Oh mama, let *me* take her de gumbo!

MRS. DUCK

All de way to grandmere's? Oh no, Rouge. Too many dangers on de way.

PETITE ROUGE

But mama...

MRS. DUCK

I not lettin' you out dere on you own. Not on de bayou.

PETITE ROUGE

What's so bad about de bayou? All my *friends* get to go out on de bayou. An' *dey* okay.

MRS. DUCK

You friends not my worry, cher. Maybe when you a little bit older.

PETITE ROUGE

How 'm I ever gonna grow up if everybody's always *worried*?

(SHE tries another angle.)

Here, mama, let me help you.

(MRS. DUCK sets the basket on the floor, and next to it SHE places the sack. PETITE ROUGE takes the items out of the sack and puts them in her mother's basket, holding up each item for the AUDIENCE to see.)

PETITE ROUGE continues

First, put in de gumbo wit' plenty de okra an' de chicken. Den some o' dis here Cajun sausage, what we call boudin (BOO dan). An' de file (FEE lay). For seasoning.

MRS. DUCK

Don' forget de hot sauce.

PETITE ROUGE

Which one, mama?

MRS. DUCK

Well, you know you grandmere. She like it tres hot an' spicy.

PETITE ROUGE

(Picking out a jar)

How 'bout dis? Logan's Hot 'n Smokin'!

MRS. DUCK

Well, it's hot alright, but not hot enough.

PETITE ROUGE

Marie Leveau's Molten Gold?

MRS. DUCK

Hotter!

PETITE ROUGE & TeJEAN

Hotter dan MOLTEN GOLD?

MRS. DUCK

(Reaching in the sack)

Here we go. *(Reading the label)* "Dickie's Volcano Paste!" Melt you tongue right off!

TeJEAN

Ooh wee! Dat gonna be one hot gumbo!

PETITE ROUGE

Too hot for me.

MRS. DUCK

Not for you grandmere. De hotter de sauce, de better she like it. Look like I got everyt'ing

TeJEAN

(Looking in the basket)

Hey, where de cornbread?

(MRS. DUCK looks in her basket and doesn't see it.)

MRS. DUCK

Cain't eat de gumbo wit'out de cornbread. (*SHE gets the cornbread and puts it in her basket, then heads for the door.*)

PETITE ROUGE

(*Blocking the door*)

Please mama. If I leave now, I'll be back right after lunch. Straight dere an' straight back.

MRS. DUCK

I don' know, Rouge. (*SHE thinks for a moment.*) Maybe if you take TeJean. You two got to learn responsibility sometime.

PETITE ROUGE

OH NO! Not *him!*

MRS. DUCK

I'm not sendin' jus' one o' you out dere. Got to be two.

TeJEAN

I don' wanna go.

PETITE ROUGE

Shush, TeJean! (*afraid he'll ruin the deal*)

MRS. DUCK

(*To PETITE ROUGE*)

You know how curious you get sometimes.

PETITE ROUGE

I won' get curious, mama.

MRS. DUCK

And you can't be talkin' to strangers, hear? Cause some, dey got dem tricks up dey sleeve.

PETITE ROUGE

I won't, mama.

MRS. DUCK

Two or nothin'!

PETITE ROUGE

He's always such a *goody goody!* (*Thinking it over, SHE reluctantly gives in.*) Two!

(*SOUND CUE #4 - "Straight Dere, Straight Back"*)

MRS. DUCK

Well, alright den.

“STRAIGHT DERE, STRAIGHT BACK”

Waltz

MRS. DUCK

(Sings)

YOU AN’ TeJEAN GOT AN ERRAND TO DO,
AN’ PLENTY O’ MI-LE TO COMB, CHER.
TAKE CARE O’ YOU GRANDMERE WHO SICK WIT’ DE FLU,
DEN TURN AROUN’ STRAIGHT AN’ COME HOME, CHER.

CHORUS

STRAIGHT DERE, STRAIGHT BACK.
STRAIGHT, CHER, TO GRANDMOTHER’S SHACK.
DON’ YOU STOP, SOME NEW T’ING TO TRY.
DERE BE PLENTY TIME LATER TO FLY.

(Music underscoring continues under dialogue.)

MRS. DUCK

Now, remember de way to grandmere’s, both o’you. Down de bayou to Little Mamou, right at de fork, an’ follow de signs to Thibodaux. (TIB ah doh). Grandmere li’l ole house sittin’ right dere, all by itself, second live oak to de right. Now *you* say it.

PETITE ROUGE & TeJEAN

(Repeating it quickly)

Down de bayou to Little Mamou, right at de fork, an’ follow de signs to Thibodaux. Grandmere li’l ole house sittin’ right dere, all by itself, second live oak to de right.

MRS. DUCK

(Sings)

MANY NEW PLACE YOU GO T’RU ON DE WAY.
TEMPTING FOR YOU TO DEBARK, CHER.
BUT DOSE NOT DE T’INGS YOU BE DOIN’ TODAY.
GOT TO GET BACK BEFORE DARK, CHER.

PETITE ROUGE

I will, mama. Cross my heart.

CHORUS

PETITE ROUGE and MRS. DUCK
STRAIGHT DERE, STRAIGHT BACK.
STRAIGHT, CHER, TO GRANDMOTHER’S SHACK.
DON’ YOU STOP, SOME NEW T’ING TO TRY.
DERE BE PLENTY TIME LATER TO FLY!