

FLY GUY: THE MUSICAL

Based on the books by Tedd Arnold

Book, music and lyrics by Austin Zumbro

Perusal



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ACT I

PROLOGUE. An Introduction

(FLY GUY *buzzes in.*)

FLY GUY
HI, I'M A FLY.
JUST THE REGULAR KIND
LIKE YOU MIGHT FIND
FLYING BY OUTSIDE, MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS,
WHICH IS, IN THIS CASE, AS IT IS MOST DAYS
THE BUSINESS OF SNIFFING OUT SOMETHING DELICIOUS TO EAT:
SOMETHING TASTY... LIKE AN OLD, DEAD FISH...
OOO! OR MAYBE
SOME MOLDY BREAD OR SOME FRUIT THAT'S GONE ROTTEN
FORGOTTEN LONG ENOUGH, DECOMPOSITION HAS SOFTENED IT
SO IT'S SMELLY AND MUSHY AND SLIMY
MMM, FOR A FLY, THAT'S THE HEIGHT OF FINE DINING
AND YET, AS ALWAYS, THE HARDEST PART IS FINDING IT.
I'M A FLY. I CAN'T JUST GO OUT AND BUY IT.
AND SURE, I COULD SETTLE FOR SOME REGULAR GARBAGE
BUT I WANT SOMETHING BETTER, SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING!
TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT EVEN THAT HUNGRY
BUT I DO HAVE THIS CRAVING FOR... SOMETHING
THAT'S WHY I'M OUT FLYING, TRYIN' TO FIND WHAT I'M MISSIN'
I'M FOCUSED. I'M DRIVEN. I'M A FLY ON A MISSION.
FOCUSED ON WHAT? I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT IS YET
BUT I DO HAVE THIS FEELING THAT TODAY WILL BE DIFFERENT.

(FLY GUY *starts to explore as BUZZ bursts onto the stage.*)

BUZZ
TODAY!
TODAY IS THE DAY I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR
I'M OUT THE DOOR, I'VE NEVER BEEN SO SURE
ABOUT WHAT THE WORLD HAS IN STORE FOR ME!
CAUSE SEE, THIS MORNING:
I HAD A VISION! I SAW A SIGN!
AS IF IT WAS PRINTED IN BIG BLOCK LETTERS,
RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF MY EYES...

(BUZZ *pulls out a paper flyer.*)

YES, IT WAS THIS SIGN!
THIS PIECE OF PAPER THAT SOMEONE HAD TAPED TO A POLE
RIGHT THERE OUTSIDE OF MY BEDROOM WINDOW.

AND IT SAID:
COME BE A PART OF THE AMAZING PET SHOW.
NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT!

BUT BACK TO MY VISION!
YES, I HAD A VISION
A VISION OF ME UP ON STAGE WINNING A RIBBON:
A SPECIAL PRIZE TO RECOGNIZE THAT I HAVE THE MOST AMAZING PET!
THE ONLY PROBLEM WITH THAT, IS THAT I DON'T HAVE A PET JUST YET
BUT THAT WILL CHANGE
I'VE GOT A NET AND A CAGE
AND A ROPE, AND A TRAP, AND A BURLAP SACK
AND A FISHING POLE, AND A WAGON-FULL
OF PREMIUM, HIGH-QUALITY, RARE AND EXOTIC
ANIMAL ATTRACTING BAIT!

BUZZ

(aside) It's actually some old hamburger I took from the fridge.

BUZZ

BUT THAT'S HOW I KNOW THAT TODAY IS GONNA BE SO GREAT!

(BUZZ readies his gear as his DAD calls from behind him.)

BUZZ'S DAD

Hurry it up, Buzz! We want to hit the road before traffic picks up.

BUZZ

I'm almost ready!

(BUZZ'S PARENTS enter.)

BUZZ'S MOM

Buzz, you're bringing a birdcage to the beach?

BUZZ

This isn't stuff for the trip, Mom. It's for *this*.

(BUZZ hands her the flyer and continues hunting. BUZZ'S MOM shows it to BUZZ'S DAD.)

BUZZ'S MOM

Buzz I know you really want a pet, and I'm sorry we haven't gotten you one-

BUZZ

Oh, don't worry about it, Mom. I'm gonna find one myself.

BUZZ
I'M ON A MISSION!
I'M ON A MISSION!
A MISSION TO FIND SOME RARE KIND OF CREATURE
A CREATURE WITH FLAIR AND FABULOUS FEATURES
THE KIND THAT WILL-

BUZZ'S DAD

Well, you better make it snappy, cause I want to be on the road in ten minutes.

BUZZ

OK...

(BUZZ'S PARENTS *exit as FLY GUY enters on the opposite side.*)

BUZZ
YES, I'M ON A MISSION!

I'M ON A MISSION!

THE STARS ARE ALIGNED,
THE STAGE IS SET
I KNOW WHAT WANT
IS WHAT I'M GONNA GET
AND I WANT THE
MOST AMAZING PET! BUT I
JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YET!

FLY GUY
WHAT AM I MISSING?
I CAN'T SHAKE THIS FEELING
I'M A PART OF A STORY
BUT I'M STUCK AT THE BEGINNING
YEAH, THE STARS ARE ALIGNED
AND I'M READY FOR CHANGE
AND I WANT SOMETHING NEW
EXHILARATING AND STRANGE
I WANT TO NAME IT, CLAIM IT
I'M READY, I'M SET, BUT I
JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YET!

(BUZZ and FLY GUY *continue their searches. FLY GUY's search takes him offstage as JAMIE, RILEY, and BOOTS, three kids from school, enter.*)

RILEY

Hey, Buzz, what are you doing?

BUZZ

I'm looking for an amazing pet.

BOOTS

What makes it amazing?

BUZZ

I don't know yet! I'm hoping for something venomous, like a komodo dragon.

JAMIE

Oh, so it's imaginary.

BUZZ

No! Komodo dragons are real lizards. They're native to Indonesia and-

JAMIE

(pulls something out of the wagon) What's this for?

(The KIDS play with BUZZ and his accoutrements – BUZZ somewhat unwillingly - as FLY GUY enters off to the side.)

FLY GUY

Uh-oh. Humans. *(He quickly weighs the benefits of flying past them or going back the way he came. He's not sure which is worse.)* Humans are a problem... but, only because a lot of them have a problem with *me*. And with flies in general. I don't even really know why.

(The roughhousing continues, perhaps a little rougher. It looks fun. FLY GUY wants to join in, but he knows he can't.)

FLY GUY

I've always wanted to ask one to find out, but every fly knows you shouldn't talk to humans. You know, on account of the... squishing...

(JAMIE has sat down in the wagon on top of the hamburger.)

JAMIE

Ew!

BUZZ

You squished it!

BOOTS

Is that hamburger?

JAMIE

Why was there hamburger in there?

RILEY

I told you he was weird.

(As the KIDS exit, FLY GUY tries to avoid them but winds up brushing past them.)

RILEY

Ugh! A fly!

(RILEY swats at FLY GUY, who swerves and heads straight for BUZZ. They go into slow motion. Ultimately, they bump into each other.)

BUZZ
A pet!

(BUZZ scrambles for his net. FLY GUY makes to leave. There's no way BUZZ is going to catch up, so he calls out.)

BUZZ
Wait! Please don't go...

(FLY GUY hesitates and turns back. BUZZ is flabbergasted.)

BUZZ
You- you stayed! *(He tosses his net away.)* Can you understand me?

FLY GUY
Buzz!

BUZZ
You know my name!?

FLY GUY
Buzz?

BUZZ
Yeah! That's my name. Holy cow, you're the smartest pet in the world!

FLY GUY
(A pet!?) Wuzzle wuzza!?

BUZZ
Sorry. Not a pet. I mean, not right now. But... would you maybe like to be *my* pet? That's what we call it when humans and animals are friends.

FLY GUY
Friendzzies?

BUZZ
Yeah! Also... there's this competition called the Amazing Pet Show, and I bet we could probably win if we entered together... What do you think?

FLY GUY
HUH.
HERE'S A STORY THAT I HAVEN'T REALLY HEARD YET
ABOUT A BOY WITH A PET THAT'S AN INSECT
I'LL ADMIT: IT'S AN INTERESTING CONCEPT

AND I'D LOVE TO HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN A CONTEST...
WHAT AM I DOING? THAT'S A HUMAN!
THIS CAN NEVER WORK
HUMANS AND FLIES? SURPRISE! THE FLIES GET HURT
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT - I THINK I KIND OF LIKE HIM
WASN'T I JUST SAYING THAT I WANTED SOME EXCITEMENT?
ALL RIGHT THEN, I THINK I'M GONNA TRY IT:
ME AS A PET? A FLY? WHO'DA GUESSED?
OK, BUZZ, THE ANSWER IS:

FLY GUY
Yezz.

BUZZ
Yes?

FLY GUY
Yezzz!

BUZZ
All right! Come on, you have to meet my parents. They're gonna love you!

(BUZZ and FLY GUY run off.)

SCENE 1. Have You Heard the Buzz?

(The whole town enters, gossiping amongst each other. Among them are the two kids, RILEY and JAMIE, along with two TOWNSPERSONS. As they recount the various rumors and stories, BUZZ, FLY GUY, BUZZ'S MOM, and BUZZ'S DAD play out the actions in pantomime.)

RILEY
DID YOU HEAR?

TOWNSPERSON 1
WHAT'S THE WORD?

JAMIE
HAVE YOU HEARD?

RILEY
DID YOU HEAR?

TOWNSPERSON 2
OUTRAGEOUS!