

The Velveteen Rabbit

Act 1 Scene 1

Blackout.

GYMNASTIC FLOORING DOWN – Room in a house, set up for a birthday. Day

VOICE: There was once a velveteen rabbit and, in the beginning, he was really splendid. He was soft and squidgy, as a rabbit should be, his coat was spotted brown and white, he had real thread whiskers and his ears were lined with satin. One morning a little girl found him sitting on top of a stack of birthday presents, a big bow around his middle....

Lights up

Stack of presents set DSR with Toy Rabbit on top

TILLY: *(Enters SL running, stops, shouts in awe)* "Oh my gosh!"

MUM: *(offstage)* What do you see?

TILLY: It's a bunny rabbit! Is it for me?

MUM: *(enters SL)* All for you

TILLY: He's beautiful! My own little bunny! *(takes the ribbon off)* This is my best present ever!

SISTER: *(pointing to a large present wrapped up in paper)* What about that one?

TILLY: Is that mine too?

MUM: They are all yours, it's not every day my girl turns 9

TILLY: *(Unwraps TOY Ruby the Robot, throws rubbish out to audience)* Wow! Look at this! It's a robot!

SISTER: She does all sorts of things

TILLY: Does she walk?

SISTER: She walks, talks AND has flashing lights

TILLY: Cool! *(presses a button on RUBY)*

RUBY: Hi! My name is Ruby Robot

TILLY: Thanks mum, it's just what I always wanted.

Doorbell

MUM: That'll be your friends for your party!

TILLY: Yes! (MUM, SISTER and TILLY exit SR)

BLACK OUT - Remove presents leave TOY RABBIT DSR

LIGHTS UP

ENTER SL

ROUTINE: PARTY TIME - Gymnastics 5-7 - Do You Believe In Magic

BLACK OUT EXIT SR

ROUTINE: MY TEDDY & ME - Gymnastics 8+ - A Thousand Years

BLACK OUT EXIT SR

ROUTINE: TEDDIES - Gymnastics 5+ - Circle of Life

BLACK OUT EXIT SR

ROUTINE: BALLOONS - Gymnastics 8+ - 99 Red Balloons

BLACK OUT EXIT SR

CURTAIN DOWN - TOY RABBIT is DSR in front of the curtain slumped under some wrapping paper - CHAIR DSL in front of curtain

All exit SR – REMOVE THE FLOOR. Leave wrapping paper (in a mess)

VOICE: And so, it was that happy day. There was a music box, a silly clown and picture books, so many things. Each one was better than the last and in the excitement the velveteen rabbit was forgotten.....The little girl had very busy parents, so she was looked after by Nana. She ruled the nursery

Scene 2

Child's nursery. Evening

House lights up. NANA enters from the back of the audience, walking down the centre.

NANA: Look at this mess! How can one child create such havoc is beyond me. (picks up wrappings in front of the stage) All I ever do is tidy up. Tidy, tidy, tidy. (She continues to pick up wrapping paper and complain (Adlib) as she exits stage right and walks around the back of the stage - (NANA enters stage by the stairs at the front) "Oh my aching back! " (sees a chair, checks to make sure she's alone, goes to it and sits) Ahh! (As NANA relaxes, she looks at RABBIT on the floor)

Well? What are you looking at? Just because you're all fresh and new and I'm beat to the bone. You know I got this way picking up toys like you, thank you very much...And just you wait. After a few months of that girl dragging you around, you won't look too good yourself. You've already got a smudge on you. As if her toy chest wasn't full enough already.

All right, you. Let's just get a few things straight around here. (Stands) Number one...(pauses, starts laughing) "What am I doing? I'm talking to a toy".

There better be enough room for all of you in that chest or I'll be cleaning the whole house!
(*She grabs the rabbit and EXITS SR*)

SCENE 3
Child's nursery. Night

SOUND FX: Magical twinkling.

LIGHTS:

CURTAIN UP/LIGHTS UP AS MUSIC STARTS

ENTER SL

ROUTINE: FAIRIES – Midi Groovers Ages 3-4 - Magical

BLACKOUT EXIT SR

SET TOY BOX - CENTRE STAGE

VELVETEEN RABBIT (*in the BLACKOUT on stage*) I can't see

SKIN HORSE: Take it easy kid, your eyes will adjust

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Who's there?

SKIN HORSE: Just hold your horses, now. Don't be afraid.

Slowly grow lighter until we can see TOY BOX CS

SKIN HORSE: There you go.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Who are you?

SKIN HORSE: I'm the skin horse. I've been around for a long time.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: So I see. (*embarrassed*) I mean, you look so old! (*flustered*) I mean...

SKIN HORSE: It's alright kid, I'm used to it.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: (*laughs nervously*) So, where are we?

TOPSY N TURVEY: I'll tell you where you are! Right on top of us!

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Oh! I'm sorry! The Nana just dropped me in.

TOPSY N TURVEY: Ok, so can you move?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: What?

LITTLE BO PEEP: Get off me!

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Oh! (*tries moving*) Oh, dear

LITTLE BO PEEP: What's wrong?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I can't move

LITTLE BO PEEP: Oh come on, everyone can move.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: They can?

TOPSEY N TURVEY: Oh man! What are you, new or something?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Yes! I was a gift for the little girl and..

TOPSEY N TURVEY: Yeah, yeah, MOVE!

RUBY: I can handle this...(*Walks mechanically to RABBIT, tilts him over*)

LITTLE BO PEEP: Thank goodness! I hope you didn't break anything

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I didn't mean to hurt you...

RUBY: So who are you?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I'm the Velveteen Rabbit

RUBY: I'm Ruby Robot

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Pleased to meet you

RUBY: If you don't move, do you talk?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Well that's a silly question...

LITTLE BO PEEP: We don't mean toy chest talk.

TOPSY N TURVEY: We mean REAL talk that people can hear. *Topsy says to Turvey* " Sorry, what did you say?" *Turvey looks at Topsy* " Ha ha very funny".

RUBY: Listen: (*Presses button*) "Hello. I'm Ruby Robot"

VELVETEEN RABBIT: How do you do that?

RUBY: Batteries of course! Don't you have batteries?

VELVETEEN RABBIT : I guess not, maybe I could learn to do something?

LILY BLOCK : I don't think so Sawdust head!

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I beg your pardon!

ELLE BLOCK : You have to be smart to learn

EVANGELINE BLOCK : 1 + 2 is 3

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I'm just as smart as anybody else

ISOBELLE BLOCK : You think so, huh?

NEL BLOCK : How do you spell SLAY?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: S...L.....E (gets interrupted)

ISOBELLE BLOCK :WRONG!

BLOCK siena, Elle & Evangeline: What's 2 x 3?

VELVETEEN RABBIT:I don't know

NEL BLOCK :Six, fuzz brain!

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Who are you all?

ALL BLOCKS :Who are we?

SUMMER BLOCK: We are the blocks fuzz brain

VELVETEEN RABBIT: What do blocks do?

Ella BLOCK: We teach, dummy!

ISOBELLE BLOCK : When they made you, we did they not give you a brain?

SUMMER BLOCK: That's why she is so soft and squidgy , there's not alot going on upstairs!

Ella BLOCK: Maybe she didn't go to school?.

LILLY BLOCK: Give us a hand everyone

ALL BLOCKS: Turn to spell out a word

VELVETEEN RABBIT: STOP!

SUMMER BLOCK: I beg your pardon

VELVETEEN RABBIT: It's too noisy!

ROBOT: All right then Rabbit, what do you do?

ALL BLOCKS: Yeah, Rabbit. What do you do? Can you do anything?

CLOCKWORK MOUSE dashes across the stage in a straight-line fashion, crouching low to simulate "all fours". When he hits the opposing wall, he bounces off and runs straight-line into another wall, crossing and recrossing the stage once or twice until he smashes into the toys and they all tumble over.

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: *(During his dash)* "Rrrrrrrunnnnnnnnn! Rrrrrunnnnnnnnn! "
(He is not at all disturbed by hitting the wall or any other object)
"Rrrrrrrrrunnnnnnnnnnn!!! " *(When he smashes into the pile of animals, they fall all over but he turns wrong-side-up, his legs and arms still "running" wildly against the thin air, still happily repeating)* "Rrrrrrrrrunnnnnnnnnnn!" *(Then, his movements slow down until he stops all together with a pronounced jerk.)*

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: *(After a refreshing pause in the action, with tremendous relief.)* "Oh, that was wonderful! "

SKIN HORSE: *(Pause's)* Did you enjoy yourself, Mouse?

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: *(Feeling Drained)* "It was great! Great! That's where you really miss out, Rabbit. When TILLY winds up my key, I come alive! I can run! Run! "

SKIN HORSE: Why is running so important?

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: Running is everything, Horse! Running is... is LIFE! Running is what makes me real.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: *(Suddenly, very interested.)* You're REAL??

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: Of course!

SKIN HORSE: *(Shakes his mane disapprovingly.)* No, you're not real.

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: I am, too! I can Rrrrrunnnnnn!

SKIN HORSE: Only when the girl winds you up.

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: Yes, but she winds me up all the time. She likes to wind me up.

SKIN HORSE: She's not winding you now.

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: She's probably just outside the door ready to come play with me.

SKIN HORSE: None of us are REAL, Mouse, we're all stuffed with sawdust, and sewn together.

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: (*Defensively.*) Not me!! I feel it when Tilly winds me up. I feel it inside; my insides get all tight and excited. I can't wait till she lets me loose so that I can Rrrrrunnnn! I am full of life!

(*He strives, without success, to move his feet and hands.*) "Run!"

SKIN HORSE: But you can't do it by yourself, Mouse. Real things, real people and real animals, can run all by themselves without anybody winding them up or pulling their strings or changing their batteries. They go where they want to, when they want to.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Wow!

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: A lot you know, Horse. You've never run in all your life.

SKIN HORSE: Sadly, you are right. I've never run, nor am I likely to on these stiff legs.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: My legs are sewn together. I guess I'll never run, either.

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: See? How can you say I'm not real when you haven't Rrrunnnnn? You don't know!

SKIN HORSE: Mouse, I've been here a long time. You and the Rabbit here are newcomers to the Nursery. Look at my hide, all worn and shabby from the ten thousand hugs I've gotten. The stuffing in my left ear is coming out. I've seen toys far more wonderful than you come and go. There was a little bird here last year in a silver cage, who could sing when the Girl wound her up. She would sing and sing beautiful songs; but one day the Girl wound her too far, and she couldn't sing any more. Her father tried to fix her, but she was... She was broken.

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: (*Scared.*) Broken! (All cast)

SKIN HORSE: Yes, You know what they did to her? They threw her (*whispers*) —away—

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: No!

SKIN HORSE: Just because she couldn't sing any more.

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: They wouldn't... they wouldn't do that if she could run.

SONG: PART OF YOUR WORLD - Senior, Junior & Future Stars Musical Theatre

The Girl enters. TOYS FREEZE

TILLY: (*With recognition.*) Horse!!

(She runs over to the SKIN HORSE and hugs him all over, kissing his shaggy head, and rubbing his worn hide. Then she sees the VELVETEEN RABBIT and goes to him.)

Oh, Rabbit! *(She straightens the VELVETEEN RABBIT.)* Now sit up straight and be good. Oh, you're so pretty, Rabbit! *(She hugs the VELVETEEN RABBIT.)* And what nice ears.

The GIRL continues holding the VELVETEEN RABBIT, then stroking it, and is oblivious of their ensuing conversation.

SKIN HORSE: *(To VELVETEEN RABBIT.)* Rabbit, you're in luck. The Girl cares for you.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I like her, too. I feel something inside when she hugs me.

SKIN HORSE: That's it! That's what I was saying!

VELVETEEN RABBIT: What?

TILLY: *(Suddenly, as her attention shifts to the CLOCKWORK MOUSE).* There you are! I've been looking for you. *(She goes to the CLOCKWORK MOUSE and begins to wind him).*

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: Oh, oh! I feel it coming! That sensation! I feel it! All my insides are charging up. I'm going to Rrrrrunnnn again!!

SKIN HORSE: I hope she doesn't wind you up too much, Mouse.

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: What?! Do you think she might? Please, please, don't wind me too much... just enough. Just enough for me to—

TILLY: *(Talking over him.)* Here you go, Mouse.

CLOCKWORK MOUSE: *(Suddenly off from SR)*
Rrrrrunnnnnnnnnn! *(The GIRL watches him, and then is off to follow him out the SR)*

SKIN HORSE: Let me introduce you to the rest of the nursery toys, the Girl has so many. *(they casually walk off SL)*

ENTER FUTURE STARS AS MAIN CAST REMOVES TOY BOX SR

All the toys are moving and bustling around. NANA enters SL

NANA: Oh my goodness look at this mess, how are there toys everywhere again. Always got work to do. *(She starts to move the toys around to 'tidier' places, huffing and puffing as she does. She checks her watch)* Oh look at the time I need to get dinner started.

NANA exits SR and the toys are animated again.

GIRL Enters SL (toys freeze) Skips in and says hello to some of her toys, from offstage she hears her Mother calling

TILLY: What's that mum? Oh, coming. (exits SL)

The toys start to move again (EVIE DOLL TOY starts to cry)

EVIE DOLL TOY: She never plays with me anymore, she used to be my best friend

DAISY CAREBEAR TOY: Please don't cry you've always got me

IOLA BEAR TOY: You've always got a friend in me

ALL TOYS: You've always got a friend in us

ROUTINE: Mixed Toys - Future Stars - Ages 5-6 - Friend Like Me

BLACK OUT EXIT SR
LIGHTS UP

BO BEEP ENTERS SR looking for her sheep (FOLLOWING/HIDING BEHIND HER)
TOPSEY & TURVEY ENTERS SL
SKIN HORSE & VELVETEEN RABBIT ENTERS DSL

SKIN HORSE: Ahhhh look there goes poor Bo Peep. She is always looking for those little balls of fluff (*Bo peep is walking around the toys looking for her sheep*).

3 little sheep follow Bo Peep around hiding from her. Bo peep see's Topsey & Turvey and goes up to them.

BO PEEP: Have you seen my sheep anywhere?.

TURVEY: Knock Knock

BO PEEP: who's there

TOPSY: Not your sheep!

TURVEY: Knock Knock!

BO PEEP: Who's there (*getting annoyed*)

TOPSY: Still not your sheep! (*starts laughing*)

BO PEEP: Skin Horse have you seen my sheep anywhere?

SKINHORSE: Little Bo Peep, if you leave them alone, they will come home, wagging their tails behind them!

Topsy & Turvey trying to walk off the stage but trying to go in different directions

SKINHORSE: That's Topsy & Turvey, the jokers of the bunch. They argue all the time. Mind you so would I if I were permanently stuck to someone. I've seen toys come, toys go throughout the years. One minute you are flavour of the month and then the next thing you know, you're boxed up and shipped out to charity. (*BARBIES ENTER SL*) At the moment the Barbies are the best thing since sliced bread! Speaking of which.....

SKIN HORSE & VELVETEEN RABBIT move DSR

ROUTINE: Barbies - Level 4 Urban Modern - Pink/What I Was Made For MEDLEY

ROUTINE: Disney Princess - Senior Modern - How Does He Know MEDLEY

SKINHORSE: And now I would like to present the lovely Penguin Skittles.

ROUTINE: Penguins Skittles - L4 Tap - I Wish

SKIN HORSE: Well done you talented Penguins! Let's see if the Robot toys can top that!

ROUTINE 11: Robots – Hip Hop / Street Dance - Mixed Class -Teknologic - Mr Roboto

SKIN HORSE: Well, I think that's everyone

VELVETEEN RABBIT: There are so many, where does she get time to play with them all...*(pause, musing)* What is Real, Horse? Does it mean having things that buzz inside of you or batteries and a wind-up key?

SKIN HORSE: I tried to tell the Mouse but no Real isn't how you're made. It's a thing that happens to you. TILLY just likes the Mouse to play with. She doesn't really love it. When a human really truly loves you, then you become truly real.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Truly real? *(Musing.)* I felt something when the Girl hugged me. It's like I could almost hug her back. I can't explain it.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Oh, I wish I were truly real. I wish I could hug the Girl back.

SKIN HORSE: Yes. The Mouse and Robots will never feel that. They are made of metal and nobody hugs metal, Rabbit.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Are you real, Horse?

SKIN HORSE: (*Whistfully.*) No, no I'm not. But I thought I could be once; I mean I felt it so strong... I know that if I'd been just a little better, I could be real.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Does it hurt to be real?

SKIN HORSE: Sometimes. But when you're Real, you don't mind being hurt.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Does it happen all at once, like the Mouse being wound up?

SKIN HORSE: No. It takes a long time. You don't turn real, you become real. That's why it doesn't often happen to toys that break easily or have sharp edges. By the time you are real, most of your hair has been loved off, But that doesn't matter at all. Rabbit, once you become real, you can't ever be ugly, except to the ones who will never understand.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Then are you real forever?

SKIN HORSE: Not forever. But for a very long time. Remember, even real animals do not go on forever. But their lives are filled with joy. They are capable of giving and returning a lot of love. (*There is a great noise offstage outside the main door. The shadow of NANA falls into the nursery from without..*)

NANA: (*Offstage, to Tilly.*) Now child, be good; it's time for you to go to bed.

TILLY: (*Offstage.*) But I don't want to!

NANA: (*Offstage.*) Be a good girl and do as I say... (*Coaxing.*) You can take one of your toys with you.

TILLY: (*Offstage.*) Really?

NANA: (*Offstage.*) Yes, pick one and let's go to bed. Do you want your Mouse?

TILLY: (*Offstage. Decidedly.*) No! (*She enters the nursery, looking at all her toys.*)

NANA: (*Offstage.*) Hurry up, child, it's getting late.

TILLY: (ENTERS SL) I will. (*She rubs the SKIN HORSE.*) Hello, Horsey. (*Then she sees the VELVETEEN RABBIT.*) Rabbit! I want the rabbit!

NANA: (*Offstage.*) Very well, bring it along.

TILLY: Come on, Rabbit, it's past your bedtime. Let's go. (*She grabs the VELVETEEN RABBIT and drags it SR.*)

Slow fade to black out.

ROUTINE: Night time in the Nursery – Shooting Stars - Daydreamer

Scene 4

Child's Nursery. **Spring morning** **Early morning**

Open to TILLY GIRL playing make believe with TOY RABBIT in her bed making burrows in the covers, under the pillows. MUSIC starts and SENIOR BALLET 'replace' the actors and dance Pas de deux

ROUTINE: Girl Solo – Senior Ballet - When Magic Happens

EXITS SR with props

VELVETEEN RABBIT: *(ENTERS SL - To the SKIN HORSE.)* Have you noticed how nice the days are becoming, Horse? It used to feel so cold and now...

SKIN HORSE: Yes, that happens every year. You're very new, so you don't know, but every few weeks a season changes. It will get warmer and warmer *(With a sigh.)* But then it will get cold again.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I hope not too soon; I like the warmth.

SKIN HORSE: We have a good long time, Rabbit.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: What's it called?

SKIN HORSE: What, the season?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Yes, the season. This warming of the sun and greening of the world; what's it called?

SKIN HORSE: It's called Spring, Rabbit.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Spring! My what a nice name! I wish I could feel it up close. *(Sighs.)* Spring!

ROUTINE: Springtime - Tutu & Taps (Tap) - April Showers

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Somehow it just warms my insides to feel that bright sunshine. I wish we really could go outside to play, but I suppose that's impossible.

SKIN HORSE: No, not impossible... The Girl sometimes takes her favourite toys out into the garden. If you're very lucky, you might be chosen.

TILLY: *(Offstage.)* I need my toys, Nana!

NANA: *(Offstage.)* Oh go ahead, then, pick one of your toys. Just one, mind! You're sure to get it full of mud outside anyway and it'll take forever to wash.

TILLY: *(Offstage.)* Oh, thank you, thank you! *(She enters.)*

NANA: *(Offstage.)* Now do hurry!

TILLY: *(Trying to decide which toy to take, he looks all around.)* I think I'll take...
(Triumphantly.) Bunny!

NANA: *(Offstage.)* Oh, not the Rabbit! It will get all dirty outside in the grass. Why don't you take your Robot? Or the dinosaur?

The GIRL comes over to the VELVETEEN RABBIT and touches him.

TILLY: I want my Bunny!

NANA: Take your blocks, why don't you?

NANA: *(Offstage.)* Oh, you don't want that old thing! It's such a silly toy to take outside!

TILLY: *(Defensive.)* Don't call him a toy! I love my Bunny! My Bunny's REAL!

NANA: *(Offstage.)* Oh, very well, go and take it. But wipe its face; it's got some water about the eyes.

SONG - Chu Chi Face - TILLY & TILLY

FADEOUT - CURTAIN DOWN

Interval

House lights up & Raffle draw

25-30 mins

Act 2

SCENE 4

Child's nursery. High Summer

VELVETEEN RABBIT is alone in the middle of the room

ROUTINE: Summertime – Tutus & Taps (Ballet) - Summer Waltz

BLACKOUT

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I really miss that old Horse. He used to be such good company. He said himself he was getting old; but even Nana couldn't mend him this time and she took him away. First the Mouse and now him. I wish he were still here. He knew so much. He might even be able to tell me what the name of the new season is.

VOICE: It was a wonderful summer. Everywhere the girl went, the rabbit went too. He had rides in the wheelbarrow and picnics on the grass and lovely dens made for him under the raspberry canes. Near the Girl's house was a wood and in the long June evenings, she liked to go there after supper to play. She took the Velveteen Rabbit with her, of course and before she wandered off to pick flowers or climb trees, she always made the rabbit a little nest somewhere among the bracken where she would be quite cosy.

TILLY: *(finishing making the nest around Rabbit)* You wait here, and when I come back, I'll bring you a surprise, okay? I won't be long. *(Starts off, turns back)* And I promise I won't forget. *(Hugs RABBIT and leaves)*

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Ah! At last! That girl could love a rabbit to pieces! I'm worn out! Look at me, I'm a mess! When Nana finds out it'll be Washer-dryer here I come. Sometimes I wonder if it's worth it, being Real. *(Looks around)* This is nice and comfy though. Out in the warm sun *(yawns)* Maybe I'll take a little nap...*(DSR)*

MUSIC: The Pink Beret

Kate REAL RABBIT LEADER: C'mon; it's safe! There are no humans here.

SUMMER REAL RABBIT: You sure? They're pretty tricky.

FIRST REAL RABBIT LEADER: I'm sure. Look, nothing here but that toy.

LILY REAL RABBIT; *(Sniffing.)* Seems safe. Any food?

Rosie REAL RABBIT: Haven't seen any yet.

NEL REAL RABBIT: Food! That's kind of a funny word; what does the "F" stand for?

ELLE REAL RABBIT: Fattening!

ISOBELLE REAL RABBIT: How about the double “O”?

Kate REAL RABBIT: *(After a thought.)* Ooooooh! *(pause and thinking again)* Ooooooh

SIENNA REAL RABBIT: And the “D”?

ELLA REAL RABBIT: *(Without hesitation.)* Delicious, of course!

ROSIE REAL RABBIT: *(Sniffs VELVETEEN RABBIT.)* What’s this thing?

KATE REAL RABBIT: It’s a toy Rabbit!

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I am not!

Lily REAL RABBIT: You are too.

SUMMER REAL RABBIT: Hey, how do you know how to talk, Toy?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Because I’m a real Rabbit, not just a toy.

KATE REAL RABBIT: You are?? I’ve never seen a real rabbit like you before. You must be from a different burrow.

ELLA REAL RABBIT: What are you doing in here? Scrounging for food?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I live in the house near by.

KATE REAL RABBIT: You’re a pet Rabbit, then! I’ve heard of that. Rabbits kidnapped from their warrens and forced to live in Man- houses. What a sad life!

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I like it.

KATE REAL RABBIT: Well, you don’t have to stay there anymore. You can run away with us.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Oh, I couldn’t do that! I love the Girl I live with. I’d miss her terribly.

SUMMER REAL RABBIT: But don’t you want to run and play with us in the sunshine? It’s Summer!

SECOND REAL RABBIT sniffs VELVETEEN RABBIT and goes around him, studying him carefully.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Oh, that would be lovely! But my Girl would miss me.

DAISY REAL RABBIT: *(Suspiciously.)* Are you sure you’re a real Rabbit?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Of course; the little Girl said so.

ROSIE REAL RABBIT: I don’t know; I’ve never seen fur like yours.

KATE REAL RABBIT: Lemme see. *(Looks.)* Hmmm! Did your mother have fur like this?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Mother? What's a Mother?

SUMMER REAL RABBIT: Oh, surely you know who your Mother is! All real Rabbits have Mothers.

NEL REAL RABBIT: I don't think you are real. I don't know what you are, but—hey look at these legs, here.

ELLIE REAL RABBIT: What? They don't move!

ISABELLE REAL RABBIT: No wonder She just sits in one place.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: What are you two talking about?

LILY REAL RABBIT: I don't think you're real.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: What? I told you—

ROSIE REAL RABBIT: If you're real, why don't you get up and run with us into the field. You can come right back, if you're worried.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: *(Pause.)* I don't want to.

SIENNA RABBIT: Come on, it's easy! *(He hops across the stage.)*

GRACE RABBIT: Try it. Let's see if you are real.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I don't feel like it.

SUMMER REAL RABBIT: I don't believe She can.

KATE REAL RABBIT: Can you dance? Come on, let's show her how it's done! *(Beckons to the Dancing Rabbits off stage)*

ROUTINE: Rabbits – Tippy Toes & Tappy Feet (TAP) - Jive Bunny

EXIT SR CHANGE INTO BALLET SHOES

SUMMER REAL RABBIT: That was fantastic, bravo. *(claps)* They are great dancers. So "Real rabbit" what can you do? Can you wiggle your little nose?

Rabbit tries to copy but can't do it

LILY REAL RABBIT : Can you jump up real high?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I'd just rather sit here, if you don't mind.

ISABELLE REAL RABBIT: Hey, She's got no whiskers!

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I know the Girl loved them off.

NELL REAL RABBIT: Loved off your whiskers?

VELVETEEN : My fur is fading too. I'm even starting to lose my shape. But I don't mind.

ROSIE REAL RABBIT: You don't?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Being shabby doesn't matter when you are Real.

GRACE REAL RABBIT: Why don't you come play with us. It's as easy as anything!

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I don't feel like it. I've been playing with the Girl all day, I'm tired

NEL REAL RABBIT: He can't he hasn't got hind legs

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I have! I have got hind legs! I'm sitting on them

SUMMER REAL RABBIT: Stretch them out and show me. Do the Bunny Hop.

SIENNA REAL RABBIT: The Jackrabbit Jump? *(Shows the Jackrabbit Jump around the stage)*

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I really don't...

EVANGELINE REAL RABBIT: I know! The Rabbit Rag! *(Demos some moves from the dance)*

VELVETEEN RABBIT: You go first.

KATE REAL RABBIT: Ok. Oh dancers (calling off stage) let's give him The Rabbit Rag! A 5, 6, 7,8
HIT IT!

ENTER SL - Real Rabbit Seniors stay on stage

ROUTINE: Rabbits – Tippy Toes & Tappy Feet (Ballet) - Bunny, bunny, bunny

TILLY: *(from off stage)* Rabbit! I'm back, I have a surprise for you

ALL REAL RABBITS: OH NO! Human! *(Everyone runs off in a panic in all directions)*

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Wait; wait; don't leave yet. Come back! Come back and play with me!
Oh do come back! I know I'm Real! The Girl will tell you!

TILLY enters SL

TILLY: Here you are! Look what I picked for you. Aren't they nice? *(shows him the flowers)*
You hold onto them while I play *(She races off SL)*

VOICE: For a very long time the Rabbit sat very still watching the bracken and hoping they would come back. But they never returned and the sun sank lower and the little white moths fluttered out, and the Girl came and carried him home.

TILLY ENTERS SL takes VELVETEEN off SR

BLACKOUT

SCENE 6

Bedroom

VOICE: Weeks passed and spring turned to autumn, and the little Rabbit grew shabbier and shabbier, but the Girl loved him just as much as ever, so she didn't mind. After all, when you're Real, shabbiness doesn't matter.

ROUTINE: Autumntime – Senior Hip Hop - Ain't no sunshine - Lido remix

Daylight. GIRL and RABBIT sat on the floor heads together making secret plans

VOICE: And then one day not long before the Girl was going on holiday, while they were busy making plans...

GIRL: We can go out sailing on a real boat and fish from a pier and make sand castles in the sand. It's going to be awesome!

VOICE: Suddenly without any warning...

TILLY: (Suddenly faint) I don't feel good. (Stands and heads towards exit) Nana...! (Falls to the floor)

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Tilly are you alright? (*GIRL moans*) Hey, what's the matter? Get up! (*Struggles to move*) Oh why don't I have legs? What can I do?

NANA: What's going on here? (Sees Girl) Oh dear! (*Helps Girl*) Why, you're burning up with fever! I'm going to call the doctor right away! (*EXIT SL*)

BLACKOUT

ROUTINE: Scarlet Fever – Urban Modern -

SOUND: Clock Chimes (ENTER Bed Centre Stage)

VOICE: And the doctor came...

LIGHTS UP

DOCTOR 1: *(Appears with NANA, examines GIRL.)* Say “Ahhhh.”

GIRL: Ahhhh.

DOCTOR 1: Breathe in. Out. Hmm. *(Rises, moves away with NANA.)* It’s a good thing you called when you did.

NANA : Is it serious?

DOCTOR 1: Scarlet fever.

NANA: Oh, dear!

DOCTOR 1: A pretty bad case, I’m afraid. *(Putting instruments into bag.)* Keep her covered up at all times, with cold compresses on her forehead, and give her lots of fluids. We have to break the fever. *(Writes on bottle, gives to NANA.)* Give her two of these every four hours. And don’t let anyone else in the room. It’s highly contagious.

NANA: Anything else?

DOCTOR 1: The rest is up to her. Doctor Byles will stop by tomorrow to see how she’s doing. Call me if there’s any change.

NANA: *(Escorting him to door.)* Thank you, Doctor. *(HE exits. SHE prepares a compress.)*

NANA: Here, now. Let’s see if we can cool you off...

TILLY: *(Weakly.)* Rabbit?

NANA: What?

TILLY: Can I have my bunny rabbit?

NANA: Sure you can. You can have anything you want. *(Takes RABBIT by the ears to bed.)* Now you snuggle up close to that old bunny and try to get some sleep. You’ll be well in no time... *(Starts to turn, then looks back.)* Oh, please, get well. I don’t know what I’d do if you... *(Mock sternness.)* Now listen to me, young lady. You’re going to get well; do you hear me? If you don’t, I’ll just have to... *(Notices.)*

Now look at that. She’s already fast asleep... *(Exits.)*

Fade to special on bed.

ROUTINE: Doctors – Urban Modern -

DOCTOR BYLES: That’s just fine; keep giving her that medicine one or two days more, but—but she’ll be fine. She has made a remarkable recovery.

NANA: Oh thank you, Doctor, thank you.

DOCTOR BYLES: I had very little to do with it. It was the Girl's own strength that pulled her through. Scarlet fever can be quite bad—well, it's over and that's the main thing.

NANA: Yes, thank Heaven. I was so frightened for her.

DOCTOR BYLES: I'd like to see her again though, in about a week, just to be sure.

NANA: Can I let her go outside again? He really wants to.

DOCTOR BYLES: Yes, by all means. Let her get all the sunshine she can while it lasts. The weather will change all too soon, I'm afraid.

NANA: Thank you again, Doctor.

DOCTOR & NANA FREEZES

VELVETEEN RABBIT: (*Excited. To the Audience*) Did you hear that? Isn't that exciting news?! She is better and she is going outside tomorrow! And if she goes outside, I'll go outside, too. It will be great fun. I just love it outside. Better than this stuffy old Nursery. It will be great to go outside again. I can hardly wait.

DOCTOR BYLES: One more thing, and this is important. You'll have to disinfect her room entirely. Her bed clothes, her linen, anything she came in contact with regularly, it all has to be burned. Scarlet fever is very contagious, and she could pick it up again from germs that they carry.

NANA: Everything? You mean like her toys and books, too?

DOCTOR BYLES: Yes. Best not to take chances. Burn it all and buy her all new things.

NANA: How about... (*Whispers*) What about her old bunny? (*RABBIT overhears*)

DOCTOR BYLES: That! Why, it's a mass of scarlet fever germs. Take it to the trash and burn it!

NANA: But she loves it so...

DOCTOR BYLES: What? Nonsense. Get her a new one.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Oh, no!

NANA: All right. I'll have the gardener do it tomorrow while he's burning the leaves.

DOCTOR BYLES: Very good. Do you have my hat? Thank you. I'll be sending you the bill, as always.

NANA: Thank you, Doctor. (*NANA and DOCTOR EXIT SL*)

LIGHT BLACKOUT

VOICE: *(In darkness.)* And so the little rabbit was put in a sack with the old picture books and a lot of rubbish, and carried out to the end of the garden behind the chicken house.

Outdoors, late afternoon, fading to twilight.

GARDENER ENTERS with the bags of rubbish. A moment before movement is discerned; RABBIT'S head pops out of the top bag. TILLY QUICK CHANGE

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Whew! I could hardly breathe in there! Now let's see, where am I? I know, there's the pink flower bed. *(Sniffs.)* I wish I wasn't so close to the chicken house, though. Phew! *(Sees GARDENER coming.)* Oh! Here comes the gardener with his wheelbarrow. Maybe he'll give me a ride.

GARDENER: *(Enters, stops.)* Well, let's see, now. What next? *(Looks at list.)* Burn the trash. Okay. That's easy enough. *(Looking for matches.)* Nothing I like more than a big bonfire!

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Oh no! Not now! Not yet!

GARDENER: *(Finds match.)* Well, better get started. *(Starts to strike it. Sound: Tension. Steps away.)* 'Course, I'll have to stand here and keep watch for the next several hours *(Thinks.)* Still, better get it over with... 'Course, it's getting late, and some of these things might take a while to burn. Don't want to be out here after dark... *(Thinks.)* Nope. Never save for tomorrow what you can do today. I'll start it now and come back to check on it in a bit.

Strikes match **BLACKOUT** flame goes out, GARDENER is heard muttering. Strikes another match

SOUND: Strikes match - FLICKERING/FLAME MUSIC: Starts as the lights come up

ROUTINE: FLAMES - Level 4 Ballet -

GARDENER enters with BUCKET to put flames out

BLACKOUT

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Boy, that was close! I guess he wasn't coming to give me a ride... *(Looks at the wheelbarrow.)* Now I guess I'll never go for a ride again. Maybe if... *(Wiggles to get out.)* If only I had hind legs!

VOICE: The little rabbit lay among the trash feeling very lonely. He was shivering, for he had always been used to sleeping in a proper bed, and his coat had worn so thin and threadbare from hugging that it was no longer any protection to him.

(RABBIT shivers audibly.)

VOICE: He thought of those long hours in the garden, and how happy they were - and a great sadness came over him.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I guess I'd better say goodbye to everything. Goodbye, garden. Goodbye, flower bed, and little fairy huts. Goodbye forest trees so tall, and summer sky, goodbye Sun, Goodbye Moon, and all your little stars. *(Feeling it slip.)* And all my friends in the toy chest. Ruby Robot, Bopeep, Topsey & Turvy, clockwork mouse and Skin Horse... *(Losing it.)* Oh Skin Horse! I know you said it could hurt ... is this what you meant? What good is it to be loved and lose one's beauty and become Real if it all ends like this?

SONG: When Somebody Loves You - TILLY, VELVETEEN RABBIT & SKIN HORSE

DOWN LIGHTS ON SINGERS DSL, DSR & USL

VELVETEEN RABBIT SOBS. Then the lights change and beautiful music is heard. The FANTASY FAIRY and two REAL RABBITS appear. They go to the VELVETEEN RABBIT, and he instantly stops crying.

FANTASY FAIRY AYLA: Little Rabbit, do you know who I am?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: No, I've never seen anyone like you before.

FAIRY AYLA: *(Laughing musically.)* I am the Magic Nursery Fairy. I am the Protector of all that is Pretend *(Spoken.)*

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Do you want me to come with you somewhere?

FAIRY AYLA: *(Smiles.)* Not unless you want to?

VELVETEEN RABBIT: *(A trifle uncomfortable.)* If you don't mind, I'd really like to stay here. And play with my friend Tilly..

FAIRY AYLA: So be it.

ROUTINE: AYLA SOLO DANCE - SENIOR POINTE

FAIRY AYLA: *(She kisses him, and the VELVETEEN RABBIT stirs.)* You are now a real Rabbit.

LIGHTS SOUND: Magical Sound FX TWO REAL RABBITS help VELVETEEN RABBIT escape the bag. The VELVETEEN RABBIT tests his legs and wiggles his nose.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: Weeee! I can Runnnnnnnnn! Just like the Mouse. How can I ever thank you? *(She rubs her nose up against the FAIRY)*

VELVETEEN RABBIT: I shall be happy for the rest of my life.

FAIRY AYLA: Goodbye, Rabbit.

VELVETEEN RABBIT: (As they exit SR the **lights return.**) Say hello to the Horse and the Mouse for me. So this is what it's like to be real, Real feet. (*He thumps them.*) Real paws. (*He waves them.*) Real ears. (*He shakes them.*) And a real nose. (*He wiggles it.*) (*Tries a timid hop.*) Oh! (*Tries a big hop.*) I can hop! I can hop like a Real rabbit! (*Hopping around.*) I've got hind legs! At last, I'm really Real!

ROUTINE: Real - Contemporary -

WINTER TIME

VOICE: Autumn turned to winter. Crisp white snow covered the ground but Velveteen Rabbit was nowhere to be seen

ROUTINE: SKYFALL - Izzy & Rosie

ROUTINE: Winter - Dance Fusion -

VOICE: When winter passed and spring came around, when the days grew warm and sunny, the Girl went out to play in the woods behind the house.

The GIRL appears, plays action.

VOICE: And while she was playing, two rabbits crept out from the bracken and peeped at her, and one of them looked so familiar. Could it be?

VELVETEEN RABBIT and REAL RABBIT ENTER USL The REAL RABBIT gets scarred and hops off. VELVETEEN RABBIT and GIRL stare at each other. VELVETEEN RABBIT hops over to her. GIRL reaches out her hand and VELVETEEN RABBIT rests her face in it.

Fade to isolate Girl and Rabbit. Action freezes: Slow fade to black.

THE END.....

Finale

STAGE LEFT / GROUP A	STAGE RIGHT / GROUP B
Ayla	L4 Ballet FLAMES
Doctors	SCARLET FEVER
Hip Hop Seniors	BUNNIES
Summer Time	WINTER
Shooting Stars (Night time)	Hip Hop Junior
Gymnastics	Gymnastics
Gymnastics	Gymnastics
Midi Groovers	Future Stars - TOYS

