

## **BLUE**

By Annie Cusick Wood

### **Synopsis** **One Act (45 minutes)**

Welcome to a world where blue is the only color allowed. As birds sing and a rooster crows, the inhabitants of this blue world begin to wake. Pale Blue, dressed in his night clothes, exits a tent and draws a sun on a chalkboard. "Blue day!" he announces. He draws himself as a stick figure on the chalkboard, too. Noticing his companion is still asleep in the tent, Pale tries using a feather to tickle her awake but that doesn't work. He finally throws some water in the tent and Inky Blue sleepily crawls out. Inky adds another smiling stick figure on the chalkboard and draws a smile on Pale's figure, too. Uh-oh! They both realize they are still wearing their night clothes. They go behind a wash line, and throwing their blue items to and fro, eventually come out dressed.

It's time for breakfast. Pale and Inky set out their stools, although Inky struggles getting hers just right. Next, Pale takes out two straws and Inky draws first. Because she drew the short straw, it's her turn to prepare breakfast. As they eat, Pale finds a single red cereal in his bowl. They are both shocked, but Inky is also very curious about this non-blue item. She asks Pale if he doesn't eat or want it, can she have it? Sternly, Pale tells her no because it's red and not blue. Pale throws it in the trash can.

Time for work to begin. Pale and Inky, grabbing long blue sticks, go around their world pointing and confirming that everything is indeed blue. Then they collect all the laundry and begin to do the wash. Oh, no! Pale once again finds something amiss. A red sock is mixed in the blue laundry. Scared, he holds the sock away from him as Inky tries to touch it. She asks if they can keep it to play with. Pale firmly tells her no. She asks again, but he won't allow it. Inky picks up the sock, smells it, and even pretends to lick it, much to Pale's dismay. Pale demands that she throw away the red sock, but she starts chasing him with it. Pale manages to snatch it and throw it in the trash, but Inky sneaks over and takes it out. This time she puts it on her hand and pretends it's a red sock monster. Terrified, Pale begs Inky to stop. He even grabs a blue sock and tries to sword fight the red one. Pale finally convinces her to put it in the trash.

Back to work. Pale and Inky blow all different sizes of bubbles to clean the blue laundry. Pale takes his job seriously, but Inky likes playing instead. When their work is done, Inky goes behind the wash line. She blows up a balloon and tops it with a hat and flowers – it looks like a blue lady. Pale sees the blue balloon lady and, thinking it's real, begins to fall in love. Inky peeks around the balloon and Pale is upset that he's been tricked.

Finally, the day is over. Pale draws a moon on the chalkboard and they both return to the tent for bed time. But, Inky sneaks back out and takes the red sock out of the trash can. She dances and plays with the red sock. Before going back to bed, Inky carefully hides the red sock inside a blue sock on the wash line.

It's morning and the routine begins. Pale tickles Inky with the feather until she wakes. And, like the day before, Inky picks the short straw and must serve breakfast. But, something strange happens again with the cereal. This time it is ALL red. Pale is horrified. Inky is excited. After throwing the red cereal away, Pale opens a different cereal box but this one is all yellow. A green, purple, and pink sock somehow find a way in to their blue world, too. A curious Inky is intrigued by all the new colors. But Pale insists that the other colors don't belong. After he tries to throw the socks in the trash, more colorful socks come flying towards him. The more he tries to get rid of the socks, the more seem to appear. Inky is thrilled with all the new colors. Frustrated, Pale asks Inky if she had anything to do with this and she reveals that she kept the red sock from the day before. Inky doesn't understand why it's so bad to have other colors, but Pale is adamant that there is to be no other color in their world besides blue. He finally has had enough. Pale tells Inky to leave and she reluctantly does, taking the trash can filled with colorful socks with her. Pale erases Inky's stick figure and goes to bed.

The next day is even bluer than the days before. Pale draws a cloud and rain to show the weather. He starts the morning routine, but it's just not the same without Inky. The wind picks up and, after opening an umbrella, Pale is blown all around. Pale is so very cold and sad. He puts on a blue sock to warm up, but he discovers the original red sock inside it. Pale is angry that this red sock started the whole mess. He tries to get rid of it, but it just won't cooperate. When he hides it, it materializes somewhere else. Finally, it's gone! Pale is all alone and getting colder. The red sock appears again (with a few more red sock friends), wrapping itself around Pale's neck. Pale is scared until he realizes the socks are trying to warm him. He's reminded of his friend, Inky, and draws her stick figure on the chalkboard once more. Soon Inky returns. Pale hides the red sock in his pocket as Inky walks in. Inky is different; she's covered in socks of all sorts of colors. She's back for the red sock she left behind and asks Pale where it is. He tells her he's going to keep it and, when she asks why, he puts it on his hand like a red sock monster. Pale chases Inky around the stage and they enjoy playing with all the new colors. A rainbow sock flag rises above their tent. The two friends, finally having fun together, dance off stage as all different colored socks magically appear above them.

#### Notes:

- There is no intermission for this show.
- Some seating (primarily in the first few rows) will be cushions on the floor.
- When the characters see red (in the cereal, as a sock), an alarm sounds and red lighting flashes.
- The actors exit through the audience twice during the performance.
- There are some weather sound effects, like wind, rain, and thunder.