

Descriptive notes for Mrs Wishy-Washy 2024

These descriptive notes will give character and set descriptions, and a full summary of the performance including visual moments.

Main Characters

Mrs Wishy-Washy - a cheerful farmer who loves clean things and is determined to keep her farm animals Cow, Duck, and Pig spotless for the Big Farm Fair.

Mr Wishy-Washy - Unlike Mrs Wishy-Washy, he isn't obsessed with cleanliness. Instead, he often finds himself caught up in her cleaning frenzy and becomes part of the humorous situations that arise on their farm.

Pig is one of the farm animals who loves to get dirty. Pig is playful and somewhat stubborn, often finding creative ways to get dirty again just after being cleaned by Mrs Wishy-Washy and her scrubbing brush!

Duck also loves to get dirty. Duck is lively and playful, often splashing around in muddy puddles, which leads to Mrs. Wishy-Washy's frequent attempts to wash Duck clean.

Cow is a large, gentle and patient animal who also gets very dirty and requires frequent washing. Cow often endures Mrs. Wishy-Washy's cleaning routines with a calm manner.

Mud / Bubbles / Water - An actor portrays these different elements. Mud helps Duck, Pig and Cow get 'dirty' by putting brown fabric on them. Bubbles comes on at bath time and makes bubble shapes. Water comes on when Mr Wishy-Washy leaves the tap running and also when Mrs Wishy-Washy uses a hose to clean the animals.

Other characters

Big Farm Fair Announcer and Judge - a lively and enthusiastic character with a booming voice, who takes their role quite seriously.

Car Wash - Two actors come on and create a carwash with a disco vibe.

Set Description

Mr and Mrs Wishy-Washy's home is represented by a large rectangular raised floor area with white and grey diamond patterned lino. This sits in the middle of the stage but there is the stage area around it which represents the farm or outdoors. There are two white metal chairs sitting on the lino.

Up the back is a line of white kitchen cupboards with a sink and a double faucet tap. Along the front of the cupboards is where Mrs Wishy-Washy stores or displays her various cleaning equipment – mops, brooms, tea towels, brushes etc – which are also all mainly white or blue. There is a blue hose coiled up.

There are stairs down on the left hand side and also stairs on either side near the kitchen cabinets.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

On either side of the kitchen cabinets are garden planter beds. Each has two vertical brown poles and a mound of earth made of brown felt. On the left hand side some climbers with white flowers are growing up the poles, and on the right there is nothing growing...yet.

In front of the planters is a white picket fence made up of different sized rectangular white pickets. Behind the planters are taller white picket fences, again made up of different sized rectangular white pickets

To the right of the raised lino floor is a mud pit represented by brown chunks of foam. When the animals get dirty they jump in the mud pit and the actor playing Mud then puts brown sleeves or brown collars of fabric on them to represent them getting dirty.

At bath time a large white plastic rectangular tub is brought on and placed in front of the raised lino floor.

When the Big Farm Fair starts three large teardrop signs each saying one word of Big Farm Fair is brought on.

Story Summary

Warning - spoiler alert. The following gives a summary of the entire performance, so if you'd rather not know what happens in the show, then read no further.

Scene 1 of 14 scenes

Mrs Wishy-Washy (Mrs WW) enters singing about her love of cleaning as she mops and scrubs. Mr Wishy-Washy (Mr WW) enters and does his best to help. At the end of the song they sit – Mrs WW with a cup of tea, and Mr WW with a newspaper. Mr WW reads that the Big Farm Fair (BFFair) starts tomorrow, on Mrs WW's birthday, and there is a competition for the cleanest animal. While they talk, bits of mud land in their house and Mrs WW stand each time to clean it up. At the end they decide to find out where the mud is coming from.

Scene 2

Cow enters and walks into the mud the music starts and we see the actor playing Mud behind Cow. Cow sings a slow song about their love for Mud. Then Pig enters and sings a rap style song about how much they love mud. Duck enters and sings an energetic song about making mud pies. Mrs WW sees them in the mud and tells them it's bath time. The actor playing Bubbles enters to add the bubbles to clean the animals. Duck finds a bubble gun in the bath and he and Bubbles fire bubbles at each other. Mrs WW tells them to stay clean for the BFFair. But the animals spy the mud and they all jump in the mud together and there is a 'mash up' of all their mud songs together.

Scene 3

The animals decide to enter Mrs WW house. They have never been it before. They each settle in a chair and talk about how good humans have it. They fall asleep in the chairs. Mrs WW follows their muddy footprints into the house. She isn't happy.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

Scene 4

Mrs WW tells each of them that it's bath time. They each pretend that they are asleep. Mrs WW entices the animals out of the house with a bucket of food which starts beside the sink right to the bath. Mr WW brings in the bath alongside bubbles while the animals are distracted by the food.

Scene 5

Mrs WW and Bubbles give the animals a bath all together. Afterwards, the animals agree they are hungry and decide to look for some food.

Scene 6

Mr WW decides it's the perfect day to plant some corn. He plants some seeds in the right hand garden bed and Mrs WW waters as he does so. They exit and the corn grows at a silly rate. Mr WW enters and can't believe his eyes. He goes to find Mrs WW to show her. The animals enter still looking for food. Cow spies the corn and decides to 'clean' the garden by eating the corn. Duck and Pig join in. They eat all the corn and exit. Mr WW brings in Mrs WW in and proudly presents his corn. But there isn't any. Mr WW is sad.

Scene 7

Mrs WW has just done the washing so brings on a washing line and hangs her clothes on the line – a dress, apron and head scarf. She exits. The animals enter but Cow accidentally walks into the dress and ends up wearing it. He laughs and says he is Mrs WW. Pig and Duck also put Mrs WW clothes on. Mrs WW enters and is dismayed to see the animals wearing her clothes but she soon finds it funny and calls Mr WW on to see. They all laugh. Mrs WW takes the clothes off the animals to rewash them.

Scene 8

As Mrs WW exits, Mr WW tries to tell the audience a secret – that he has made a cake for Mrs WW's birthday. He shows it to the audience and puts it on the kitchen bench. The animals appear behind the bench to look at it (there may be quite a lot of audience noise at this point). They exit. Mr WW decides to do the dishes and puts a plug in the sink and turns the tap on. But he hears the animals offstage and decides to feed them. The actor playing Water emerges from the sink and pulls blue fabric across the house as if water was pouring out of the sink. The animals see the 'water' and begin playing in it. Mr WW sees the water and realised he left the tap on and turns it off. As they all mop up the water they sing about Mr WW being the fastest washer in the world. Mrs WW enters and is very impressed to see everything so clean.

Scene 9

The animals are sad as they don't have anything to give Mrs WW for her birthday. They think about what they could do. Pig suggests a card and Duck knows where one would be – in the house. Spy movie style music starts and Cow and Pig adopt persona of spies and 'break into' Mrs WW house. Duck finds a card more simply. They use Mud to decorate the card – Cow's hoof mark makes a big heart. Pig's hoof makes a small heart and a couple of wing swishes makes a kiss from Duck.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

Scene 10

They all put a stamp on the envelope by standing in the mud and stamping their muddy feet on the envelope. They are pleased with themselves. But Mrs WW enters and sees that they are muddy again and is upset.

Scene 11

Mrs WW decides to use the hose to clean them. But as the actor playing Water comes along the hose, each animal bends the hose to stop water travelling along to the nozzle. Mrs WW decides there is no water on the farm so gets the truck to take the animals into town. The animals play 'stuck in the mud'. Then Mrs WW enters with a steering wheel (representing her truck) but gets stuck in the mud. The animals help push her out. Mrs WW puts the animals into the 'truck' and takes them into a carwash. This is represented by two disco dancers one of whom is the actor playing Water. Mrs WW brings in some cupcakes to say thanks to the animals.

Scene 12

As they finish off the cakes, Mrs WW enters with a mirror for Mr WW. As she hands it to Cow he sees his reflection and says it's a picture of a cow. Each of the animals look at the mirror and argue that it's a picture of a duck, or a pig or a cow depending on who is looking at it. Mrs WW stops the truck and takes the mirror and the animals all agree it's a picture of Mrs WW. The next morning, we hear the animals singing 'Happy Birthday'. Mrs WW and Mr WW enter. They hear the animals and Mr WW wishes Mrs WW a happy birthday.

Scene 13

Mr WW says he has some treats for Mrs WW's birthday later on, but she must head to the Big Farm Fair (BFFair). They exit. The BFFair Announcer enters and sets up flags for the BFFair and makes some important announcements but no-one can hear the most important parts. The Judge arrives for the cleanest animal competition and asks Mrs WW to leave. The animals each perform a routine. The Judge calls Mrs WW back and proudly announces that Cow, Pig and Duck are the winners and the Judge gives them medals. They all exit.

Scene 14

Mr WW enters and tells the audience that Mrs WW will be home soon and asks if everyone can sing her 'Happy Birthday'. Mrs WW enters and is delighted with the song, and Mr WW cake and the animal's birthday card. The animals proudly show Mr WW their medals. Mrs WW says it is the best birthday she has ever had. The cast all sing the song that Mrs WW sang at the beginning of the show. The End.

This is the end of the descriptive notes.