

PHILOMENA

"FARMER'S MARKET"

Written by

Caleb Schilly

In this musical comedy for preschoolers, Philomena, a six-year-old, banjo-playing giraffe, uses her enthusiasm and creativity to solve problems with her bluegrass band of talented animals. But when she tries to write a new song for the weekly farmers' market, she learns that friendship requires compromise.

cwschilly@gmail.com
(704) 975-5221

Hear the TWANG TWANG TWANG of BANJO.

EXT. TREE-COVERED SIDEWALK - DAY

Eyes closed. Ears perked. Tongue poked out of her mouth. PHILOMENA (6, Giraffe) is LOCKED IN, playing through a JAUNTY TUNE on her banjo.

She's walking as she picks the strings. Twang twa--

PHILOMENA

1 Oof!

1

She strolls right into her dad OTTO (30s, Giraffe), who pushes a STROLLER. Her song ends abruptly.

PHILOMENA

2 Dad! Why are we stopping? 2

Otto smiles as he kneels down to rummage around the stroller.

OTTO

3 J wants his rattle. 3

In the stroller is BABY J (9 months, Giraffe, cutest thing you've ever seen). He's getting fussy, throwing his hands (hooves) around wildly.

OTTO

4 It's in here somewhere... 4

Philomena peers down the sidewalk, at the entrance to the town square. It's decked out with balloons and flowers.

She starts chopping her feet, impatient.

PHILOMENA

5 But we're late! 5

He checks his watch.

OTTO

6 The farmer's market doesn't open 6
for another ten minutes, hon.

He continues rummaging.

OTTO

7 Besides, I might find it faster if 7
we work together.

Philomena's feet-chopping now approximates a potty dance.

She pauses as she notices a BRIGHT GREEN RATTLE poking out from underneath Baby J.

He grabs the rattle. Baby J reaches for it and blows a joyous raspberry.

11 OTTO
11 The king is pleased. Now--

Philomena's already running. Otto calls after her:

12 OTTO Wait, hold your horses, Philly! 12

A family of HORSES walks by and look sideways at Otto. He grins, embarrassed.

13 OTTO
Excuse me. 13

And he and Baby J hurry after Philomena.

EXT. MARKET ENTRANCE - DAY

Philomena reaches the entrance at a sprint. As she slides to

A steep, hot bank spines like a pinwheel on the slope.

SHE PUSHES THROUGH THE CLOSED GATE TO CROSS THE HALLWAY.
LESTER (O.S.)
(muffled, mouth full)
Look out!

She steps into the market and nearly collides with LESTER (4, Bear cub) as he rides his BICYCLE past the entrance.

He has a MANDOLIN slung on his back and a BOUQUET OF FLOWERS in his mouth. He brakes hard--SKRRRRRT

The flowers fly out of his mouth, soaring high into the air.

15 PHILOMENA
15 Whoa whoa--oh hi, Lester!

Lester plants a foot on the ground to steady himself on his bike as he swings his mando around and plays a quick riff.

Then he reaches out a paw and catches the falling bouquet.

17 Ta-da! LESTER 17

Philomena laughs and applauds.

She starts to play it. Lester taps his foot to the beat.

20 LESTER
20 Have you shown it to Scoop yet?

21 PHILOMENA
21 Not yet--I'm going to find him now.

Philomena beams.

Lester gets back up on his bike.

He pushes off into the market.

At that moment, Otto and Baby J arrive at the entrance.

25 PHILOMENA
Can I go find Scoop now? 25

Otto gestures with a wide, sweeping motion:

26

OTTO
Lead the way.

26

EXT. MARKET - DAY

The market is bustling as animals of all kinds prepare their stands--produce, flowers, crafts, and more.

In the center of the square, there's a stage occupied by a band of older (60s-70s) animals. They're all laughing as they rehearse together.

Philomena takes a moment to watch the banjo player of the band--an otter named OLIVE (60s)--play an impressive riff.

27

PHILOMENA
Wow.

27

She whips her banjo into playing position and starts picking at the strings, playing the same jaunty song from earlier.

Soon, her lone banjo is joined by some GUITAR CHORDS. Her ears flutter in excitement. She turns around--

It's SCOOP (5, Fox)! He's strumming his guitar.

28

PHILOMENA
Scoop!

28

He plays a quick run on his guitar.

29

SCOOP
What's that you're playing?

29

Philomena smiles wide.

30

PHILOMENA
I wrote it. It goes like this.

30

She starts to play it in earnest. Scoop strums the chords with her. They laugh and dance around to the bouncy tune.

But then...

31

SCOOP
(singing)
Ohhhh red leather yellow leather,
I love sunny weather,
Ice cream, and apple pieeeee!

31

Philomena stops playing. She stares in confusion.

32 PHILOMENA
What are you doing? 32

Scoop smiles broadly.

Philomena shakes her head emphatically.

35 PHILOMENA
35 This one doesn't have singing.

36 SCOOP How do you know? 36

37 PHILOMENA
Because I wrote it! 37

38 SCOOP 38
Maybe we could write it together.

Scoop starts strumming the song again, but slightly faster.

39 SCOOP We could play it even faster... 39

Philomena is horrified.

40 PHILOMENA
That's way too fast-- 40

Scoop starts playing runs on his guitar.

PHILOMENA

	SCOOP	
43	And then we start (singing)	43
44	<i>Siiiijingqinqqqqq.</i>	44

45 PHILOMENA
Scoop, stop! 45

He does.

46 SCOOP
What's wrong? 46

Scoop's smile falls.

They stare at each other, unsure how to continue.

At that moment, Otto catches up. He's out of breath.

49 OTTO
(panting)
Philly...you gotta...wait for me.
No more wild goose chases! 49

A mother GOOSE walks by, followed by eight goslings. She side-eyes Otto as she passes.

Scoop laughs; Otto grins as he catches his breath.

50 OTTO
Anyway, how are you, Scoop? Is the
blueberry stand ready? 50

Scoop's eyes get wide and he fumbles his guitar.

51 SCOOP I almost forgot! I have to finish
51 setting up before the gate opens.

He turns to Philomena, who is quietly playing her song, a little slower and sadder than before.

Philomena looks up, surprised but delighted.

EXT. BLUEBERRY STAND - DAY

Philomena and Scoop stand with Otto at the blueberry stand. The table is decked out with cartons of blueberries and TWO LARGE PITCHERS of blueberry lemonade.

There is an empty banner and markers near the table.

Scoop leans towards Philomena.

Philomena giggles.

56 PHILOMENA 56
Me too.

57 OTTO 57
While you two get to work, I'll go
help your folks unload the rest of
the blueberries.

He heads off as Scoop grabs the banner and turns it vertical.

Philomena looks at it sideways.

58 PHILOMENA
Shouldn't it be like this? 58

She rotates it horizontal.

Scoop frowns as he points to the poster.

59 SCOOP
59 But I was going to draw a big glass
of lemonade right here.

Now Philomena frowns.

PHILOMENA
60 That's where I was going to a draw
a big blueberry. 60

61 SCOOP How do we decide what to do? 61

Philomena thinks for a moment, then her ears flutter. She grabs a marker and draws a line down the middle of the poster.

She points to each side of the poster.

62 PHILOMENA 62
You can draw on this side, and I'll
draw on this side.

SCOOP

They get to work. Scoop draws a big glass of lemonade. Philomena draws a big blueberry.

Excited, she draws another blueberry. Then another. Then another. Whoops!

She accidentally draws over the center line, into Scoop's territory.

65 SCOOB
That's my side! 65

66 PHILOMENA
Sorry Scoop, I didn't mean to-- 66

67 SCOOP 67
That's okay, I can just draw
something on your side.

He starts to draw a pitcher of lemonade that crosses the center line.

The two keep drawing back and forth until the whole poster is covered in a mess of blueberries, lemonades, and scribbles.

Philomena and Scoop step back to look at the banner.

SCOOP PHILOMENA
It's...
horrible.
Perfect!

Scoop looks between Philomena and the poster. He squints at the poster.

He squints so hard that he closes his eyes.

70 PHILOMENA
70 You just closed your eyes!

She looks back at the poster.

EXT. BAKERY STAND - DAY

An ENORMOUS tower of donuts, nearly complete.

Suddenly, a black and white blur leaps into view before falling out of sight.

A new donut has joined the tower.

The black-and-white blur appears again. Another donut too.

As Philomena and Scoop approach the table, they see POGO (5, Skunk) jumping up and down, flipping in midair and placing donuts on the tower.

PHILOMENA

Pogo smiles in excitement and does a double flip.

73 POGO
Philomena! Scoop! What are you
doing here? Are we playing today?
73

She reaches under the table and procures her UPRIGHT BASS.
She plays a quick walk on it.

74 PHILOMENA 74
Not yet. We have to finish this.

She produces their poster. SFX: JUMPSCARE STINGER. Pogo leaps backwards in fright, hiding behind her bass.

75 AHHH. POGO 75

She gathers herself.

76 POGO You shouldn't startle a skunk like
76 that.

She leans in closer to the poster, confused.

77 POGO
What is it? 77

Philomena frowns slightly.

78 PHILOMENA
It's for the blueberry stand. 78

79 POGO
What...happened to it? 79

Philomena and Scoop look at each other.

81 SCOOP We tried to work together. 81

Pogo nods--aha.

82 POGO
I'm almost done setting up here and
then I can come and help. Just need
the finishing touch... 82

She reaches for a donut to place at the top of her display, but Philomena stops her.

83 PHILOMENA
Here, I can do it. 83

84 POGO
It's okay-- 84

85 PHILOMENA
I'm taller than you, so I can reach
it easier. 85

Philomena grabs the donut and reaches for the top of the tower.

PHILOMENA
(straining)
Almost...got it... 87

She barely sets the donut down. It's unbalanced.

It teeters one way. Then the other way.

	POGO	SCOOOP	
88	Oh no!	Look out!	
	The tower collapses. Donuts roll around on the table.		
	PHILOMENA		
88	Oh, um, it's ok, see? Now they're easier to reach.		88
	Philomena tries to smile, but Pogo's ears and tail droop low. She reaches below the table for some napkins.		
	POGO		
89	It's okay, I can stack them up again. I think there's time...		89
	Then she notices something across the market:		
	POGO		
90	Oh no--they're about to open up the gate!		90
	Philomena follows Pogo's gesture to the market entrance. Her eyes widen in concern.		
	PHILOMENA		
91	(to Scoop) We need to finish your booth, or we won't have time to play my song!		91
	EXT. BLUEBERRY STAND - DAY		
	Back at the blueberry stand, Philomena and Scoop start arranging the blueberry cartons. They're moving quickly.		
	PHILOMENA		
92	Let's put the blueberries here...		92
	She moves them to one side of the table.		
	PHILOMENA		
93	And the lemonade here...		93
	She pulls the pitchers over to the other side.		
	PHILOMENA		
94	And the poster right in the middle.		94
	She hangs the messy poster in the center of the table.		
	Scoop considers this arrangement.		

95 SCOOP
95 No, the lemonade should go over
here... 95

He moves it back.

96 SCOOP 96
And the blueberries here...

He moves them too.

98 PHILOMENA 98
But then no one can see the
lemonade! It should be here...

She drags the pitchers across the table.

99 SCOOP 99
But then everyone will think we're
just a lemonade stand!

He starts to pull the pitcher back.

It's a tug of war as the two kids pull the lemonade back and forth and back and forth and--

100 SCOOP Wait, Philo-- 100

SPLASH.

Both pitchers of lemonade tip over and spill all over Scoop and Philomena.

The poster is ruined. The lemonade is gone. And the kids are sopping wet.

PHILOMENA
102 The lemonade. 102

103 SCOOP
The poster. 103

They look at each other, sticky and wet.

PHILOMENA

SCOOP

Philomena looks to the entrance of the market, where the gate is being opened.

Then she looks around the market.

She sees Otto helping Scoop's family carry cartons of blueberries.

She sees the older musicians laughing with each other as they prepare a song.

Her eyes grow wide and her ears wilt.

PHILOMENA

104 First I ruined the poster, then
Pogo's tower, and now the whole
blueberry stand.

104

She looks at her friend.

PHILOMENA

105 I'm so sorry, Scoop. I kept trying
to make you do what I wanted to do.
But that's not really working
together.

105

Scoop smiles and puts a friendly paw on her shoulder.

SCOOP

106 Thanks, Philomena. I know you were
just trying to help.

106

Lester and Pogo run over to the table.

LESTER

107 Are you both okay?

107

POGO

108 We saw what happened!

108

Philomena smiles sheepishly (giraffeishly?).

PHILOMENA

109 We're okay. I realized I haven't
been a very good friend today. I'm
sorry.

109

POGO

110 That's okay, Philomena! My tower
was even better the second time.

110

111 SCOOP 111
Besides, we can try again next
week. I'm not sure we'll get many
customers with this.

He holds up the soggy, messy poster. Philomena smiles wryly.

Everyone laughs as Philomena's eyes suddenly grow big and her ears begin to flutter.

113 PHILOMENA 113
Hold on. Maybe we don't need a poster to get customers.

She turns to Pogo and Lester.

PHILOMENA
115 Could you two help us make the stand look nice again? 115

Lester salutes.

Pogo is already bouncing up and down.

117 POGO
117 And I can build a tower with the
blueberry cartons!

PHILOMENA
118 That's perfect! Then all we need-- 118

At that moment, Otto returns with crates of blueberries.

119 OTTO
Hey Philly... 119

He takes in the messy scene.

120 OTTO 120
What happened here? Looks like a
dog's breakfast.

A refined-looking DOG in a suit and monocle strolls by, turning his nose up at the mess.

Otto waves half-heartedly at him.

PHILOMENA (quickly)

121 We were having trouble working together, and we accidentally spilled the lemonade, and we're really, really sorry...

121

Otto has a small smile--he's used to this sort of mischief.

PHILOMENA

122 ...but now we have a different way
to get people to come!

122

SCOOP

123 We do?

123

She swings her banjo around.

PHILOMENA

124 We just need a really good song.

124

Scoop is intrigued.

PHILOMENA

125 A really good song...with some
really good singing.

125

She smiles at Scoop, who smiles back even bigger.

EXT. BLUEBERRY STAND - LATER

The stand is transformed: decked out in flowers, and with the blueberry cartons stacked into an architectural wonder.

Next to the table, Philomena, Scoop, Lester, and Pogo play the jaunty tune.

Around them, their friends and neighbors at the market cheer, clap, and dance.

Even Baby J shakes his rattle on beat.

Philomena and Scoop make eye contact, smile, and nod.

Scoop takes a deep breath.

SCOOP

(singing)

126 (singing)
Ohhhhh blueberries, blueberries /
No rasp, straw, or blackberries /
Don't mind the sticky messssssss!

126