



**HOMEGROWN
THEATRE
CAMP**

The Mitten

Adapted by Alaina Conner

3 or 4 Performer Edition

CAST

Alexei:	A young boy
Grandmother:	Alexei's kind grandmother
Narrator:	A narrator
Mouse:	A mouse
Rabbit:	A rabbit
Fox:	A fox

3 Person cast- **Performer 1 plays Alexei and Mouse**
Performer 2 plays Grandmother and Narrator
Performer 3 plays Rabbit and Fox

4 Person cast- **Performer 1 plays Alexei**
Performer 2 plays Grandmother and Narrator
Performer 3 plays Rabbit and Fox
Performer 4 plays Mouse

ACT 1 Scene 1

(Inside Alexei and Grandmother's house. ALEXEI is putting on his winter clothes. GRANDMOTHER is sitting in a chair.)

Grandma: Be careful out there, dear. It won't be long before that blizzard hits our village. You won't have much time to gather firewood and winter berries.

Alexei: I know, Grandmother. Don't worry, I'll be safe.

Grandma: I'm worried about you. This will be your first winter gathering firewood without your father around to help you.

Alexei: (sadly) I know.

Grandma: Don't worry, dear. I know you'll do an excellent job. Now, come here. I've got something for you.

Alexei: (excited) What is it?

(GRANDMOTHER pulls out a pair of white mittens)

Grandma: I finished those mittens you asked me to make.

Alexei: Oh, thank you so much, grandmother! They're even white, just like I asked!

Grandma: I don't know why on earth you'd want white mittens. You're sure to lose them in the snow! But I made them anyway. See? They fit perfectly!

(ALEXEI and GRANDMOTHER hug tightly)

Alexei: Thank you so much, Grandmother! I won't lose them, I promise!

Grandma: I know you won't, dear. Now, you'd better get going. It's almost noon! You'd best gather up all the firewood and berries before it's dark, or you'll be caught in that blizzard! Goodbye, Alexei, and stay safe! I love you!

Alexei: I love you too, Grandmother.

(ALEXEI exits.)

ACT 1 Scene 2

(In the wilderness. NARRATOR enters.)

Narrator: Meanwhile, a Rabbit was hopping through the woods.

(NARRATOR exits.)

(RABBIT enters and hops around.)

Rabbit: Oh, oh, oh! It's so cold outside... My tail is tingling and my ears are twitching. That means that a blizzard is coming... a big one! It's a good thing we rabbits have such a fine sense of the weather.

(RABBIT tilts their head and sniffs loudly.)

Rabbit: It smells like it's going to start snowing tonight. I'm glad I have this thick fur to help keep me warm... except the fur on my ears is so thin. My ears feel cold already, and the blizzard hasn't even started yet! They might freeze off!

(RABBIT searches around for something warm.)

Rabbit: I hope I can find something to keep my ears warm while I make the journey back to my burrow. If it gets much colder, my poor ears will be turned into icicles!

ACT 1 Scene 3

(In the wilderness. NARRATOR.)

Narrator: In another corner of the woods, a Mouse was having problems of their own.

(NARRATOR exits.)

(MOUSE enters and scurries about.)

Mouse: Oh dear! I had just gotten all cozy in my new den, when suddenly a mean old rat chased me straight out of my home! He's probably warming himself and feasting on all of my seeds and berries right this moment!

(MOUSE trembles in fright and from the cold.)

Mouse: It's hard to be a mouse in the winter... All of the houses in the village have cats to keep the mice away. My burrow was so nicely prepared for the winter, but now I haven't got so much as a hole to shelter in!

(MOUSE stops and sniffs the air.)

Mouse: Oh no... it smells like a blizzard is on its way! If I don't find somewhere to shelter for the night, I might not live to see the morning!

ACT 1 Scene 4

(The wilderness. NARRATOR enters.)

Narrator: A Fox and her newborn baby were also searching for warmth that cold winter evening.

(FOX enters with her baby. She looks worried.)

Fox: Well, this is a mighty fine mess I've found myself in! Winter's only just arrived and now I have this little one to care for. It's such a long journey back to my cave. My fur is thick enough that I'll be just fine on my own, but my baby is too young and her fur too thin to keep warm in this cold.

(FOX suddenly stops and tilts her head.)

Fox: Oh dear... it sounds like there's a wind blowing in the east. That must mean a blizzard is on its way. I haven't much time to journey to my den. If I can't make it back before nightfall, this poor little one might freeze to death!

ACT 1 Scene 5

(The wilderness. ALEXEI is walking without his mittens on.)

Alexei: I walked through that patch of brambles for nothing! There wasn't any good wood to chop for fire in that thicket. I had to take off my mittens so they wouldn't get scratched by the thorns, but now my hands are covered in scrapes! Oh well, at least my mittens are just as nice as when Grandmother first gave them to me.

(He reaches into his pocket to grab his mittens.)

Alexei: Hmm, I could have sworn I left them in this pocket... Maybe this pocket? No... Where are they?

(He begins searching frantically for his mittens, but he can't find them.)

Alexei: My mittens! I've lost my mittens!

(ALEXEI huddles up in a ball on the ground)

I can't believe I lost my mittens, just like Grandmother said I would! It's already dark, and I haven't even found any firewood or food! I'll have to just curl up in the snow until morning. It's too dark and cold to do anything else.

(End of Act 1)

ACT 2 Scene 1

(The wilderness. Alexei's mittens lay on the ground. RABBIT enters from stage left, but does not notice the mittens yet.)

Rabbit: Oh dear... it's growing quite late, isn't it? I'm still so far from my burrow, and my ears are so cold! I'll surely get frostbite if I can't find something to keep them warm while I journey back home.

(RABBIT notices the mittens.)

Rabbit: What's this? A pair of mittens? What human would be so careless as to leave these out in the snow?

(RABBIT picks up the mittens and puts them on their ears.)

Rabbit: They're so warm! These will keep my ears nice and toasty, at least until I make it back to my burrow!

(RABBIT hops across the stage a few paces, then stops.)

Rabbit: At last, I can see my burrow! I won't be needing these lovely mittens anymore. I think I'll take them off so someone else can use them. And tomorrow morning, I think I'll leave a gift of thanks for the human who dropped them.

(RABBIT takes off the mittens and exits stage right.)

ACT 2 Scene 2

(The wilderness. There is a white blanket on the ground, which represents the mitten. Mouse enters from stage left.)

Mouse: Oh dear, it's so dark and so cold, and I still haven't found any shelter for the night! I'll surely die in this blizzard!

(MOUSE notices the mitten.)

Mouse: A mitten! This one is so soft and warm... and it's just the right size for me! This will be the perfect shelter for the night.

(MOUSE snuggles up in the mitten.)

Mouse: (as they yawn and start to fall asleep) I'll have to leave a nice gift for the human that left such a warm shelter for me to use.

ACT 2 Scene 3

(The wilderness. One mitten lays on the ground. FOX enters from stage right with her baby.)

Fox: My baby is getting so cold... If I don't find some way to keep her warm soon, there's no way she'll last the night.

(FOX notices the mitten.)

Fox: Oh my goodness! This is just the right size! Now I can keep her all safe and warm in this mitten until the blizzard passes.

(FOX carefully puts her baby in the mitten.)

Fox: Tomorrow morning, I'll find something to show my thanks to whoever left such a precious gift here.

ACT 2 Scene 4

(The wilderness. The pair of mittens lie on the ground surrounded by two baskets of food and a bundle of firewood. ALEXEI enters sadly from stage left.)

Alexei: What will Grandmother say? I spent all night in the cold, I lost my mittens, and I wasn't even able to find firewood or food! This is going to be the worst winter ever!

(ALEXEI notices the firewood, baskets of food, and his mittens.)

Alexei: What on earth...? My mittens! And somebody left firewood and food! But there are no footprints... just a bunch of animal tracks. Hang on a second... what's this?

(ALEXEI picks up a small piece of paper and reads it aloud)

Alexei: "Thank you, stranger, for helping us through the blizzard. Here are some gifts to help you through the rest of the season."

(ALEXEI smiles and runs off happily.)

ACT 2 Scene 5

(ALEXEI and GRANDMOTHER's home. GRANDMOTHER sits in her chair, looking worried. Suddenly, ALEXEI enters.)

Grandma: Alexei! There you are! I've been worried sick! Are you alright?

Alexei: I'm just fine, Grandmother! I lost my mittens, just like you said I would.

Grandma: Oh dear, now I'll have to knit you a whole new pair!

Alexei: No, no Grandmother, it turned out alright! I lost them, but in the morning I found them again. And somebody had left me firewood and food for the winter! They said that my mittens helped them through the blizzard.

Grandma: Oh my, it looks like those mittens turned out to be good luck for more than just you. We could all stand to help one another more these days. I'm so happy you made it home safe.

Alexei: Me too, Grandmother. You know what? I think this winter will turn out just fine.

(They hug. End of play.)