

"THE MULE AND THE BANDIT"

BY

MARY ENGQUIST

©2012 THE MULE AND THE BANDIT
MARY ENGQUIST

CAST MEMBER

CHARACTERS: JOSH, BANDIT, MULE

PROPS--

(SOMEONE DRESSED LIKE A MULE) A MULE COSTUME WITH BIG EARS
AND A BIG TAIL.

MASK FOR THE BANDIT

TWO GUNS AND A HOLSTER

A WATER CANTEEN

A SCENE LIKE A DESERT

A TAIL HIDDEN INSIDE CLOTHING OF JOSH

ACT ONE**SCENE ONE**

(The scene is set in the desert. Josh is holding his water canteen upside down trying to get that last drop of water. His mule is looking on wishing he could get a drop of it.)

JOSH

Sorry, you old worn down mule, there is only enough for me. Even if there was enough I sure would not want to share much with you. Why you're just an old mule. Quit looking at me like that. I know you don't understand me. Why mules are just dumb donkeys.

(Mule starts talking to Josh. Josh is startled and his eyes get real big as the mule opens his mouth.)

MULE

Yea, yea, that is what you think, you old worn out want-a-be cowboy.

JOSH

Boy, I have been in the desert for too long. I just thought I heard that mule talking to me.

MULE

Well you did, you dumb cowboy want-a-be. You ride me for hours and don't give me a drop of that water, and I am dumb enough to put up with it. Why you're nothing but a slave driver without the sleigh.

JOSH

Mules don't talk, Mules don't talk.

(He repeats this and looks at the ground)

MULE

Oh yes they do, oh yes they do, ha, ha.

JOSH

Oh, no, they don't. Wait I hear something in the brush. Do you hear it, you old mule?

MULE

Well, you just said that mules don't talk so I will not answer you.

JOSH

Well, now I know why my pa told me that mules were stubborn.

(In walks the bandit with a mask on his face and holding his guns aimed at Josh.)

(Josh runs and gets behind his old mule.)

JOSH

I have nothing to offer you.

BANDIT

(Is silent for he cannot talk. He is a mute. He motions Josh to get his hands high in the air.)

JOSH

What do you want? I have nothing, do you hear me? Huh, do you hear me? Why are you not speaking? I got it! You cannot talk. I don't believe this; here I have a mule that can talk and a bad bandit that can't talk. Does the cat got your tongue? Hee, hee

(The Bandit is getting really mad now and goes over and pokes Josh in the ribs with his guns. He then pulls on the long ears of the mule.)

JOSH

You leave my dumb mule alone, do you hear?

MULE

He heard you, Josh.

BANDIT

(The mule steps back with his guns still pointed at them and tries to understand what they are saying.)

JOSH

How do you know that, you dumb mule?

MULE

It's not a joke, don't you see. Many years ago, I was the bandit and he was a mule.

JOSH

Yea right. And I am Indiana Jones.

MULE

If you would just listen now I can turn him back into the mule and me back into the bandit.

JOSH

Tell him to quit pointing that gun at me and maybe we can get this straightened out.

MULE

(To the bandit)

Okay, stand down now, stand down.

JOSH

No, you big nut. Tell him guns down, guns down.

MULE

He does not hear and he does not understand us. He is nothing but a two-legged mule.

JOSH

Not so fast. Did you know that mules are the backbone of our country?

MULE

Yes, but did you also know that mules may be stubborn but very smart and they protect each other?

JOSH

What's that got to do with our problem?

MULE

It has everything to do with it, you dumb wit. Why you don't have a clue, now do you?

JOSH

I'm waiting.

MULE

First of all, I may be the offspring of a male donkey and a female horse.

JOSH

What are you saying then?

MULE

Well, it does not take a rocket scientist to know that we need a Hinny.

JOSH

What is a Hinny?

MULE

Unbelievable you don't know what that is? You goofy human. A Hinny is the offspring of a male horse and a female donkey.

JOSH

That is just the opposite of what you just said to me. You just told me a male donkey was an offspring from a female horse.

MULE

Sit on it will you and quit confusing me. Now if my hunch is right we can overcome the bandit. He still thinks like a mule.

JOSH

As if you don't!

MULE

Enough of that now. I want you to grab my tail.

JOSH

Are you nuts? Why your tail?

MULE

We need to cause a diversion. You know, to break away from him so all you have to do is pick a fight with me. After you pull my tail, I pull your hair. Then we will repeat it again. I then grab your canteen and hit him over the head. You grab his guns, I grab your hair, you grab my tail. It cannot be easier than that.

JOSH

Really now. Well okay let's get this into action before I change my mind.

BANDIT

(The mule starts dancing around Josh and trying to pull his hair, while Josh is grabbing the mule's tail and they both are going around in a circle. The bandit looks surprised and shakes his guns at them.)

(The mule turns around with the canteen in his hands and hits the bandit over the head. The bandit falls to the ground.)

JOSH

We did it, we did it. You're not so dumb after all.

MULE

That is an understatement. Now you must listen to me, Josh. You are the real Hinny here.

JOSH

What are you saying?

MULE

What I am saying is, you are an offspring of a male horse and female donkey and that is what makes you my Hinny.

JOSH

No way, I am all human to the bone.

MULE

It's been a long day for you. Let us go home.

JOSH

Yea, you're right.

(Both the mule and Josh turn their back on the audience and Josh has a tail that falls out of his pants as they exit.)

MULE

(Looks over at Josh's tail.)

I told you that you were my Hinny.

(The mule lifts Josh's tail.)

And so it is.

THE END!