

PUPPET PLAYS FOR PUN AND PROPHET

By Darlene Fedele

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DEDICATION

To my lovely daughters, Giacinta and Amy, but especially to Doug Fedele, my former partner in puppetry. Without him, these plays would never have been written. Doug provided ideas, inspiration, suggestions, and changes that greatly improved the scripts, notably, "Frankie Finds a Father." We had a lot of fun performing these skits together, and it is my hope that others will be able to use them to minister God's truth to the glory of Jesus Christ.

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THE TWO SHOES

Cast of Characters

LEADFOOT: A “worldly” shoe.

SHUHITE: A missionary’s shoe.

MAN: A shoe customer.

Setting: The shoe section of a Salvation Army store. We see shelves of shoes, and a large sign saying “Salvation Army.”

Performance Time: Five minutes.

Set: Shelves for the shoes can be made from small cardboard boxes, or pieces of Styrofoam like those used for packing. We used actual old children’s shoes for a realistic touch.

Puppets: Our shoes were foam sculptures, twelve inches high. If you don’t have anyone who is handy with an electric knife, you might experiment with cardboard or stiff fabric — or, for a small theatre, real shoes!

No costumes, props, or sound effects are needed.

(AT RISE: SHUHITE and LEADFOOT enter. They see each other and react with recognition.)

SHUHITE: Leadfoot! What are you doing here?

LEADFOOT: Hi, Shuhite! Oh, my owner finally decided I wasn’t good enough for him anymore, so he bought a new pair of shoes and dumped me here.

SHUHITE: Yeah, my owner wore me out, too. But hey, it’s good to see you! I haven’t seen you since we were brand new shoes in that little shop on Forty-fifth Street!

LEADFOOT: Yeah, that was a long time ago. That was a nice little shop, huh? With that nice carpet, and the smell of new leather—

SHUHITE: And all those other shoes. Remember that funny-looking pair of loafers?

LEADFOOT: Oh, yeah! He was well heeled, wasn't he?

SHUHITE: And those Nike sneakers with the purple shoestrings?

LEADFOOT: Yeah, I think he came from California! And what about those red high heels in the corner? Pretty classy! You know, I think she liked me!

SHUHITE: We had some good times, didn't we?

LEADFOOT: We sure did. Those were the good old days.

SHUHITE: So, who was the guy that bought you? You look like you've had a hard life.

LEADFOOT: You know it. He was really hard on me. He didn't polish me very often, and he hardly ever changed his socks! What a smell! He didn't use foot powder, either! Athlete's foot, mold, sweat ... I had it all. Oh, the agony of de feet!

SHUHITE: Did he work you really hard?

LEADFOOT: Well, the days weren't too bad. He sat at a desk most of the time so I just stood on the floor. Sometimes he would cross his legs and kick his feet, and then I'd get a breeze. That was nice. Sometimes he'd even take me off, and I could rest. But it was the evenings that killed me!

SHUHITE: What did he do?

LEADFOOT: He liked to go dancing!

SHUHITE: That must have been tough.

LEADFOOT: Oh, what a beating I took! One-two-three, one-two-three, pound, pound, pound! For hours! This way, that way, round and round ... it made me dizzy! Sometimes I got stepped on, too!

SHUHITE: That's too bad.

LEADFOOT: Once he even spilled a drink on me! Ugh! I didn't dry out till the next day! I'll never forget that smell as long as I live.

SHUHITE: He sounds awful.

LEADFOOT: Then when he'd get home, he'd throw me under the bed, and I'd land on my head in all that dirt! How do you like that?

LEADFOOT: (*Continued.*) I was his sole support, and he just kicked me into the dust!

SHUHITE: I guess he didn't appreciate you.

LEADFOOT: Yeah, I've really been through the mill. Well, what about you? You look like you've had a hard life, too.

SHUHITE: It was hard, but I was happy and fulfilled.

LEADFOOT: You were? What kinda guy was your owner?

SHUHITE: He was all right. At least he polished me once in a while. He wore me all the time. I was the only pair of shoes he had. He didn't have too much money. He walked a lot.

LEADFOOT: Yeah? Where did he take you?

SHUHITE: Just up and down the street, mostly. Sometimes it was on the grass, but it was the sidewalks that wore me out. That pavement was hard. A lot of times he'd walk up and down the street for hours. Sometimes it was really cold. And sometimes it rained.

LEADFOOT: That sounds terrible! You had to go out even in the rain and snow? What was the guy doing?

SHUHITE: He'd knock on people's doors, give them pieces of paper and talk to them. It wasn't so bad, really. I figured if he could take it, I could, too. It was nice to see the joy on people's faces when he talked to them. A lot of times the person would invite him in, and I'd get to stand on a nice carpet in a living room to rest and warm up.

LEADFOOT: Did he ever go dancing?

SHUHITE: No, but every Sunday he would polish me and go to a big building with lots of other people. He would sing. They sounded really nice. All the other shoes were really friendly, too.

LEADFOOT: Sounds like a goody-two-shoes! When he went into the people's houses, what did he talk about?

SHUHITE: Well, he would talk about God and about His Son Jesus Christ.

LEADFOOT: You believe in God? I think your laces are untied, buddy!

SHUHITE: I didn't believe in God before, but what he said made a lot of sense. He told about how Jesus Christ died on the cross for people's sins and rose from the dead.

LEADFOOT: Huh! Sounds like the guy had a shoe loose!

SHUHITE: I think he had a point. He said that God loves everyone, and that God could save each soul!

LEADFOOT: Save each soul? I don't think my sole can be saved. Look at this! *(HE turns up his sole so it can be seen. It is shabby and dirty.)* I need to be re-soled.

SHUHITE: That's just it! Look how black your sole is! I think you need a new sole. *(HE turns up soles to reveal shiny soles.)*

LEADFOOT: Yeah, yours do look better. They're shiny or something. Shuhite, I don't understand. Didn't we come from the same stock ... the same piece of leather? Weren't we in the same shoe store?

SHUHITE: Yes, we were, Leadfoot.

LEADFOOT: Well, how come our soles are so different?

SHUHITE: Leadfoot, I think I have it figured out. It's what's inside that counts! My owner was a Christian and yours wasn't. Mine used to quote a verse from the Bible, God's Word: "How beautiful are the feet of them that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth salvation!"

LEADFOOT: Shh! Someone's coming!

(Enter MAN, who looks at the shoes, then picks up SHUHITE.)

MAN: Here, this old pair of shoes will do. They're just what I was looking for.

(MAN exits with SHUHITE.)

The End

End of Freeview

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