

The Magic Box

by Carney, King, and Snead

Characters/Costume:	Props:
1. Prissy Mae Jefferson (dressed normally)	1. horn (like bus or bike horn)
2. Beauregard (Bo), her dog (dog ears/tail, paw gloves, dog print pants/shirt)	2. paper version of ECO (for Prissy)
3. Mom (like regular mom)	3. manual wheelchair (for Prissy)
4. Granny (very granny-ish)	4. desk
5. Iggy, the Technology Witch (witch outfit with bits of technology attached, like cords and switches)	5. homework books (or even a computer on the desk for doing homework)
6. Heart's Desire (fairy costume)	6. tickling bells (for Heart's Desire)
7. Kid 1 (dressed normally)	7. magic wand (for Heart's Desire)
8. Kid 2 (dressed normally)	8. squirt gun (for Iggy)
9. Kid 3 (dressed normally)	9. note (to attach to simulated ECO)
	10. bed (or mat, or blanket)
	11. paper version of Vanguard
Music: Graceland ©1986, by Paul Simon	12. paper version of Vantage Lite
	13. paper version of Springboard

SCENE 1: SIDE STAGE

(Scene starts with Bo walking onto the side stage.)

BO: Hi there folks. My name is Beauregard T. Dog. That “T” stands for THE T H E and I am here to tell you a story. First, I want to tell you a little bit about myself. Now, I am a COMPANION DOG. I live with a girl named Miss Prissy.

I LOVE Miss Prissy. **(HOWL)** I work as a companion for Miss Prissy.

Now, Miss Prissy, she sits in a wheelchair. She has this CONDITION called C P, which stands for ahhhhh let me see

..... cer.....ahhhhh..... cerrr.....arrrr..... cerebral palsy. Not like PAWSY (**Bo plays with his paws**), but “palsy.”

Now CP is a condition which means she can't move her body around too good. But she's real smart! And you know something else? She can't talk too good. Well, she can a little bit, but you can't understand her. Sort of like me. (**BARKS**)

Speaking of talking, let me get something straight right now. You people are the only ones that can understand me. Everyone else will think I am just barking. Get it? Some people can understand me, while others can't. Just like Miss Prissy. GOLLEE! I wish that girl could talk!

Speaking of Miss Prissy. It is about time for her to get home from school. School is almost out. 'Bout time for the end of the year school trip to Graceland. I should be hearing that school bus horn just about now.... OH, there it is. Gotta go...

(Bo EXITS and goes to get Prissy.)

SCENE 2: PRISSY'S HOUSE - CENTER STAGE

(Mom in center stage. Bo and Prissy enter and cross to Mom.)

MOM: Prissy! You are home! Well, did you have a good day at school today?

PRISSY: (All answers are unintelligible, but nods head YES.)

BO: (Nods YES along with Prissy and barks.)

MOM: Did you pass out the invitations to your birthday party at school today?

PRISSY: (Nods YES and tries to speak.)

BO: (Nods YES along with Prissy and barks.)

MOM: Well, I have been working so hard today trying to get the house cleaned up before the party! And Granny is coming! Also, Dad will be home from his trip.

Now, I have a very important question.

Do you want chocolate cake?

PRISSY: (Nods NO.)

BO: (Nods YES vigorously and rubs tummy.)

MOM: Do you want pineapple upside down cake?

PRISSY: (Nods NO.)

BO: (Nods YES vigorously and licks lips.)

MOM: What about strawberry angel food cake?

PRISSY: (Nods YES.)

MOM: What about some donuts? And don't forget potato chips and ice cream? And some hot dogs would be good.

BO: (Lots of barking throughout.)

MOM: Hush all the barking Bo!! You'll get your dog food soon enough.

BO: Just what I was afraid of

PRISSY: (Begins to vocalize and communicate something to Mom, gets more and more vigorous, with gestures added.)

MOM: What's that Prissy? I don't understand you....

No just slow down!

OK OK Prissy. Now just RELAX!

Say it again for me. Stop. Let's start at the beginning.

Does it have to do with your birthday? (Prissy nods NO!)

Does it have to do with your grandmother? (Prissy nods NO!)

Is it something I already know about? (Prissy nods sort of YES!)

Is it something that happened at school? (Prissy nods sort of YES and begins to hit her armrest like a bus horn.)

(Throughout, BO is also barking. A general hullabaloo!)

MOM: (Does "The Twenty Questions Rap.")

“THE TWENTY QUESTIONS RAP”

I don't understand you, Prissy dear!
Person, animal, vegetable, or mineral...
(CH CH) Never fear.
Home, school, Granny, or Dad?
(DA DA DA DA) It's not so bad.
Together we'll figure it out.

Don't get frustrated. Just slow down!
You don't have to shout!!! I'll figure it out!!!!

Past, present, future, or today?
(DA DA DA DA) What more can I say?
Shopping, friends, music, or school?
Oh, Prissy dear, guessing's not cool.

Are you comfortable? Is anything wrong?
Do you hafta go the (UM) bathroom?
Honey, honey. This is taking so long!

Water? You must want water? NO
Hungry? You must be hungry? NO

OHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

Just slow down. You don't hafta shout!
I'll figure it out!! LATER.....

MOM: Why don't you go to your room and do your homework. We'll talk about this later. We have so much to do for your birthday party!

PRISSY: (Nods YES and **EXITS** to SIDE STAGE to her desk.)

BO: Mom, don't you get it? She was buzzing her beeper, just like the bus horn. She's talking about the field trip to Graceland.

MOM: Bo, stop that barking!!

Now just between us, we are not going to have to go through this guessing game any more.

Tomorrow for her birthday, Prissy is getting a device, like a computer, that will talk for her. Won't that be wonderful?

BO: (Howls.)

MOM: Now you go on up and help Prissy with her homework while I start on that strawberry angel food cake..... and I have to
(Muttering as she **EXITS**.)

BO: (Goes over to Prissy on the side stage.)

SCENE THREE: PRISSY'S ROOM - SIDE STAGE

(Prissy, in front of her desk, yawning. Bo alongside her.)

BO: Oh boy, homework time! Boy, that girl works hard on her homework.

Homework makes me as tired as treein' possums. I'll just lay down here by her side and snooze off a couple of ZZZZs so I will be ready to take care of the CAT later. (BO yawns and falls asleep too.)

PRISSY: (Falls asleep doing her homework. Sound of tickling bells heard off stage.)

HEART'S DESIRE: (Comes in and spins around Prissy and Bo.)

Dream time Prissy. It's dream time..... (More tickling bells.)

Dream Prissy. Dreammmmmmmmm..... (More tickling bells.)

PRISSY: (Prissy gets out of her wheelchair and her dream body floats to center stage to sing "Prissy's Song.")

“PRISSY’S SONG”

If I could talk, the first thing I’d say
is my name my name
my name is Prissy Mae.

Talking, laughing, joking, singing.
Oh what joy to have my say.

Spill my guts	Talk my head off.
Go on and on.	Shoot off my mouth.
Tell all.	Blabber.
Talk a mile a minute.	
Talk with my mouth full.	

If I could talk, the next thing I’d do
is tell some jokes to my silly friends like you!

Talking, laughing, joking, singing.
Oh what joy to make people laugh!
Ha ha ha ha ha ha (infectious laughter)

If I could talk, the best thing I’d do
is say to my folks
Mom and Dad, I love you!

HEART'S DESIRE: Prissy Over here..... Yoo hoo... Over here.

PRISSY: What's that?

HD: It's me.

PRISSY: I know I'm dreaming, but this is weird. Who are you?

HD: I'm your heart's desire.

Tomorrow, MAGIC is going to happen to you!

PRISSY: To me?

HD: The wish you have locked in your heart for soooooo many years is going to come true!

Remember that same old wish you made time after time on shooting stars?

Remember that same old wish you made blowing out your birthday candles year after year?

Well, tomorrow, it is going to COME TRUE!

You are going to be able to TALK! You are going to get a MAGIC BOX that will speak for you.

PRISSY: A MAGIC BOX? A MAGIC BOX that will talk for me?

HD: Now you must sleep again..... (HD leads Prissy back to her chair.)

HD: Sleep sleep sleeeeeeeep..... And dream of tomorrow. **(EXITS)**

BO: (Awakes with a start and scratches ear.)

I just had the strangest dream.

Felt like a little flea or a mosquito buzzing around saying things about Prissy getting a MAGIC BOX and talking! Strange things are going on.

I wonder if dreams do come true? (**EXITS** with Prissy.)

SCENE FOUR: BIRTHDAY PARTY – CENTER STAGE

(Enter Prissy, Bo, Granny, Heart's Desire, and 3 kids from class. All singing Happy Birthday.)

MOM: Prissy, just like your wheelchair helps you walk, this Talker will help you TALK! (Hands paper ECO to Prissy.)

BO: The MAGIC BOX! (Gives a victory howl.)

MOM: What is the first thing you want to say Prissy?

PRISSY: (Touches device and speaks each of her lines with 1 hit.)

My name is Prissy Mae Jefferson **(ALL: CHEER)**

My name is Prissy Mae Jefferson (louder) **(ALL: CHEER)**

My name is Prissy Mae Jefferson (louder) **(ALL: CHEER)**

PRISSY: (Touches device 2 times for each “word/phrase” as she speaks each of her lines.)

Everybody listen UP!

I want to say something. **(ALL are quiet)**

I want to tell you a joke.

What does a three hundred pound, six foot canary say? (1 hit message)

Here Kitty, Kitty, Kitty (1 hit message)

ALL: (Wild laughter.)

PRISSY: (Touches device 2 times for each “word/phrase” as she speaks each of her lines.)

Now, I am going to sing a song!

ALL: SONG SONG SONG **BO:** BARK BARK BARK

PRISSY: (Sings first verse of “Hound Dog” - 1 hit message.)

ALL: (Cheer.)

PRISSY: (Touches device 2 times for each “word/phrase” as she speaks each of her lines.)

I love my MAGIC BOX!

Love LOVE LOVE!

I love you BO!

Mom I love you, love you, love you.

ALL: Happy Birthday Prissy. **(EXITS)**

BO: Dreams really do come true! **(EXITS)**

SCENE FIVE: NIGHT TIME – CENTER STAGE

(Mom stands beside Prissy on her bed. Bo alongside the bed. Talker on the bed with her.)

MOM: Prissy. You need to go to sleep now. You have a big day tomorrow! Remember, Granny will be here in the morning to see you off to school.

I have to pick up Dad at the airport. I am leaving Granny this note about your new TALKER. (Mom puts note on Talker. Mom kisses Prissy good night.)

Good Night. **(EXITS)**

BO/PRISSY: (Make sleeping sounds.)

IGGY: (Enters after third big snore. Walks over to see Prissy and the Talker.)

Technology! I HATE technology.... I really hate THIS technology!

I bet you are wondering who I AM. Well, let me tell you. (Sings “Iggy’s Song.”)

“IGGY’S SONG”

Iggy, I’m Iggy. Such as BIGGY!
Piggy, Wiggy, Biggy, the Technology Witch.
HA HA HA HA HA

But you can tell me Iggy.
My friends call me Iggy.
Piggy, Wiggy, Biggy, the Technology Witch.

I bow to Ignorance.
I create all Ignorance.
How I LOVE all the Ignorance.
HA HA HA HA HA

I’m the one who causes sudden power surges.
Ya ever heard of a computer virus. (BIG SNEEZE)
Compliments of GUESS WHO! My dearies.

When you dial a number and it rings someone you didn’t want.
Courtesy of, YOU KNOW WHO! My lovies.

When the credit union says the computers are down.
And you can’t get NO MONEY, Honey.
Let me take a bow. My sweeties.

Confusion. I am proud of the confusion I cause.
HA HA HA HA HA (SPINS)

Glitch Witch..... Uggy Buggy..... Virus Piris

Cables plugged in wrong ports.
Pins never matching.
Switches never working.
Smart switch..... Dirty switch..... I take all the credit!

And you can tell me Iggy.
My friends call me Iggy.
Piggy, Wiggy, Biggy, the Technology Witch.

IGGY: Let me see what I can do to help out with Prissy's new TALKER.
(Evil laughter.)

A little rain might help. (Squirts water gun.)

What's this? A note to Granny! (Evil laughter.)

"Dear Granny, Prissy got a new talking device for her birthday.
It's very expensive. Please take good care of it! See you tonight.
Love, Mom."

I have got a brilliant idea. (Evil laughter.)

I'll zap Granny! Where is that old bat? **(EXITS)**

BO: (Awakes with a start.)

I had an awful nightmare! I'm glad it's morning!

GRANNY:(Enters and crosses over to Prissy.)

Good morning Prissy. How ya' doing, my baby?

What's this here? (Sees note and reads it.)

"Dear Granny, Prissy got a new talking device for her birthday.
It's very expensive. Please take good care of it! See you tonight.
Love, Mom."

OHHHHHHHHHHH..... Very expensive.

IGGY: (Enters and zaps Granny with gun. Quiet evil laughter.)

GRANNY:OHHHHHHHHHHH..... Very expensive.

I better put this here so it will be safe and nothing will happen to it. (Takes Talker from Prissy and puts it away.)

IGGY: (Laughs, rubs hands, and **EXITS**.)

PRISSY: (Throughout is protesting and shaking head NO.)

BO: (Throughout is protesting and howling.)

GRANNY:What’s the matter Prissy dear? (Sings a version of “The Twenty Questions Rap” in a very granny voice.)

“THE TWENTY QUESTIONS RAP”

I don’t understand you, Prissy dear!

Not so fast. Just slow down.

Together we’ll figure it out.

You don’t have to shout!

Don’t worry Prissy dear.

Guessing’s not cool.

We’ll figure it out..... Later.....

GRANNY:Now go to school.

There’s the bus! Let’s run along dearie. Bo will see you this afternoon.

BO: (Barking.)

PRISSY: (EXITS, being pushed by Granny, but protesting and looking back at her Talker all the way.)

BO: Prissy is supposed to take the Magic Box with her everywhere she goes.

And she had a terrible day at school. You wouldn't believe what we had to go through to get that Talker back in Prissy's hands.

First, Mom had to tell Granny that Prissy needed it ALL the time. And the mess at school with her teacher and speech therapist. The teacher didn't want Prissy talking in class and the speech therapist wanted to take Prissy's Talker home with her to study it. What were they thinking!

Prissy got it back just in time for the field trip to Graceland, which by the way is TOMORROW. I can't wait.

SCENE EIGHT: ON THE BUS - CENTER STAGE

(Prissy is in front and everyone lined up standing behind her. Each kid has a paper device - Vantage, Vantage Lite, Springboard. Iggy is on the side. As people tell their stories, Iggy falls apart and dies. Graceland music is playing loudly at first, then fades with dialogue.)

ALL: (All dancing to “Graceland” music on bus.)

KID 1: I am so glad you got your Talker, Prissy, so you can sing with us!
I remember when Mr. Jim Nasium took mine away during class.

IGGY: (Evil laughter.)

KID 1: But, I got it back!

IGGY: (Screams in pain.)

KID 2: Me too! I am soooooo glad you got your Talker back so we can tell jokes together! I remember with Miss Tongue Tied took mine away to program it for 6 months!

IGGY: (Evil laughter.)

KID 2: But, I got it back!

IGGY: (Screams in pain.)

KID 3: Well, guess what happened to me?

My aide set my Talker down outside and the bus ran over it!

IGGY: (Rising to laugh again wickedly, but weakly.)

KID 3: But, I got a new one!

IGGY: (Screams and dies!)

PRISSY: Look, there's Graceland. Let's go see ELVIS! (All **EXIT** but BO.)

BO: Well, that's our story. I hope you enjoyed it. And I know you learned an important lesson.

Everyone needs to be able to talk for themselves. (Howls)

Bye now. (**EXITS**)