



# THE RUBBISH FISHERMAN AND THE GRUMPY GENIE

**A play for two actors  
from Roustabout Theatre Home Delivery**

This play is written for you to practise and put on at home.

You could perform it for the people in your household, or why not try filming it on a video call to others in your family, or friends!

There are ideas and hints to help you. The only rule is to **HAVE FUN!**



## Did you know?

This play is based on a story from **The Thousand and One Nights**, an ancient collection of folk tales from the Middle East.

## The Characters

There are two characters in the play. Decide who you would like to pretend to be!

 **FISHERMAN**

 **GENIE**

## Costumes

What do you think that the **FISHERMAN** and the **GENIE** could wear? The **FISHERMAN** needs to look poor. They are not very good at fishing, and never catch any fish. The **FISHERMAN** could, of course, be a **FISHERWOMAN**.

The **GENIE** needs to look magical. They have been trapped in a bottle for ten thousand years, and they're very grumpy! Perhaps you could look at pictures of genies in your books, or on films, to get ideas.

## Props

The things that actors use in a play are called props. They don't have to be real, you can make-believe! For this play, you will need:

- |                                        |                                        |                                        |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A fishing net | <input type="checkbox"/> An old bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> A bag of gold |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An old pan    | <input type="checkbox"/> A posh dinner | <input type="checkbox"/> An old shoe   |

Tick them off to make sure you have everything!



## How to Put on the Play

The words next to the characters' names are what they say.

The words in **green boxes** are called stage directions, and tell you what the characters do.

### A Suggestion!

You could use a sheet tied between two chairs to be the sea, or why doesn't the **FISHERMAN** sit on the back of the sofa? Then the **GENIE** can hide ready to appear. The actor playing the **GENIE** can also put what the **FISHERMAN** is catching into his net without anyone seeing it!

---

## Checklist:

**Have you decided which character you will be?**

**Have you got your costume?**

**Have you collected your props?**

**You are ready to go! Here is the script. Let's play!**



4

Here you will find what you need to say!  
Read the words in black.



**FISHERMAN**

I am a rubbish fisherman.

I come here to the beach every day.

I throw my net into the sea, and then I pull it out again.

I never catch any fish but I have got a very clean net.

If I don't catch anything today, then I am going to get another job.

*The **FISHERMAN** throws his net into the sea.*

**FISHERMAN**

I've got something! I've got something!! I've got something!!!

*He pulls in the net. In the net is an old shoe.*

**FISHERMAN**

An old shoe? I told you that I was a rubbish fisherman.



@WEAREROUSTABOUT

ROUSTABOUT  
THEATRE  
SILLY. STIRRING. INSPIRING STUFF

SHOUT@ROUSTABOUTTHEATRE.CO.UK



5

Because that is all I catch. Rubbish.

Perhaps I could open a shoe shop.

No, I'll try again.

*The **FISHERMAN** throws his net into the sea again.*

**FISHERMAN**

I've got something! I've got something!! I've got something!!!

*He pulls in the net. In the net is an old pan.*

**FISHERMAN**

An old pan? Perhaps I could be a cook.

No, I'll try again.

But this time I will wish, really, really hard.

*He closes his eyes and wishes.*

**FISHERMAN**

'I wish for a net full of yummy fresh fish.'



@WEAREROUSTABOUT

ROUSTABOUT  
THEATRE  
SILLY. STIRRING. INSPIRING STUFF

SHOUT@ROUSTABOUTTHEATRE.CO.UK



6

*The **FISHERMAN** throws his net into the sea again.*

**FISHERMAN**

I've got something! I've got something!! I've got something!!!

*He pulls in the net. In the net is an ancient bottle, sealed with a cork.*

**FISHERMAN**

An old bottle. I should have wished a bit harder.

Perhaps this is a bottle of rum. I could be a pirate. Yo-ho-ho! Aargh!

*He pulls out the cork.*

*The **GRUMPY GENIE** comes out of the bottle in a cloud of smoke.*

**FISHERMAN**

What are you?

**GENIE**

I'm a Genie.

**FISHERMAN**

A Genie?

**GENIE**

Yes, a Genie. I've just come out of a bottle in a cloud of smoke.



@WEAREROUSTABOUT

**ROUSTABOUT**  
THEATRE  
SILLY. STIRRING. INSPIRING STUFF

SHOUT@ROUSTABOUTTHEATRE.CO.UK



7

**FISHERMAN**

Now, I didn't expect that.

**GENIE**

What did you think was in the bottle? Rum?

**FISHERMAN**

Well, I was kind of hoping... Do I get three wishes now?

**GENIE**

No.

**FISHERMAN**

Why not?

**GENIE**

I've been trapped inside that bottle for ten thousand years!

**FISHERMAN**

How do you feel?

**GENIE**

How do you think I feel?

**FISHERMAN**

Happy to be set free and ready to give me three wishes?

**GENIE**

No. I feel really, really grumpy. And so, I'm going to turn you into a slug.



@WEAREROUSTABOUT

**ROUSTABOUT  
THEATRE**  
SILLY. STIRRING. INSPIRING STUFF

SHOUT@ROUSTABOUTTHEATRE.CO.UK



8

**FISHERMAN**

No! Wait. I've got a question.

**GENIE**

Yes?

**FISHERMAN**

How magic are you?

**GENIE**

Very, very, very, very, very magic.

**FISHERMAN**

Are you magic enough to turn that old shoe into a bag of gold?

**GENIE**

Of course.

*The **GENIE** turns the old shoe into a bag of gold.*

**GENIE**

Easy peasy.

**FISHERMAN**

Are you magic enough to turn that old pan into a posh dinner, complete with wine?

**GENIE**

Of course.

*The **GENIE** turns the old pan into a posh dinner, complete with wine.*



@WEAREROUSTABOUT

**ROUSTABOUT**  
THEATRE  
SILLY. STIRRING. INSPIRING STUFF

SHOUT@ROUSTABOUTTHEATRE.CO.UK





● GENIE

Lemon squeazy.

■ FISHERMAN

But I bet you're not magic enough to fit inside that bottle.

*He points at the bottle.*

● GENIE

You think I can't do that? Of course I can. Just watch.

*The GENIE shrinks to a tiny size and disappears into the bottle.*

*The FISHERMAN puts the cork back in.*

● GENIE

Hey, let me out.

■ FISHERMAN

I don't think so. I haven't any more need of you.

A bag of gold and a posh dinner, complete with wine.

Not bad for a day's work. I think I'll be a fisherman for a bit longer.

**The End.**



@WEAREROUSTABOUT

ROUSTABOUT  
THEATRE  
SILLY. STIRRING. INSPIRING STUFF.

SHOUT@ROUSTABOUTTHEATRE.CO.UK