

## Daphnis and Chloe for Puppets

### Cast

Daphnis Lover (puppeteer 1)

Chloe Lover (puppeteer 2)

Lamo (Daphnis' adopted father) Family

Dorco (Chloe's suitor) Warrior (puppeteer 3)

Pirate King (Despoiler) Renegade (puppeteer 4)

Pirates (Despoilers) Renegade

Fifi (Seductress) Lunatic (puppeteer 5)

Lord of the Manor (All Powerful Master) Healer (puppeteer 6)

Prologue (separate animation or shadow show)

### Act One

SCENE ONE (Dorco p3, Chloe p2, Daphnis p1)

THE SCENE OPENS IN A WOODED GLADE. DAPHNIS AND CHLOE ARE TENDING THEIR FLOCKS AND DALLYING WITH EACH OTHER.

LORD OF THE MANOR (VO)

It was a lovely spring day when the two lovers...

CHLOE

Actually, we're not lovers yet..

DAPHNIS

We're attracted to each other.

CHLOE

Who says?

LORD

As I said, it was a lovely spring day, when the two young friends Daphnis and Chloe, who would eventually become lovers, but not yet, were tending their flocks on a secluded hillside.

DAPHNIS

There, shoo. (TRIES TO SWAT AWAY A BEE FROM CHLOE'S HAIR)

CHLOE

OWWWW. Damn.

DAPHNIS

You shouldn't swear.

CHLOE

You made that bee sting me.

DAPHNIS

I didn't, I ..I was trying to shoo it away.

CHLOE

Well it didn't work...Now I'll have a bump on my forehead.

DAPHNIS

Here, let me kiss it.

CHLOE

Yuck, that's so slimy.

DAPHNIS

It won't be, I'll wipe it off after.

DAPHNIS KISSES HER. DORCO ENTERS FROM RIGHT.

CHLOE

Oooooowww. That's gross.

DAPHNIS

It will make it better.

CHLOE

It won't, get away.

DAPHNIS

(TRYING TO COMFORT HER) Just let me..

LORD

Things were not going that well at this point, but..

DORCO

Is this man troubling you darling?

CHLOE

Who are you?

DORCO

I am Dorco, a knight errant and general purpose savior. Get away callous youth or I shall fight you.

DAPHNIS

What? I was trying..

DORCO

It's obvious what you're trying to do. Leave this maiden alone.

CHLOE

Go away, I love him!

DAPHNIS

You do?

CHLOE

Not yet, but I will...or not.

DAPHNIS

(SEEING HIS OPPORTUNITY, PUSHING DORCO) Stand aside.

DORCO

You reptile!

DAPHNIS

Swine!

DORCO

En Garde! (holds up his sword)

DAPHNIS

But I have no weapon.

DORCO

Then I shall slay you!

CHLOE

Wait, this is ridiculous. We're shepherding.

DORCO

It's a matter of honor.

DAPHNIS

I have an idea. We shall make three boasts and the winner shall have a kiss from the beautiful Chloe.

CHLOE

But...

DORCO

It's a matter of life and death. You sir, are a penis!

DAPHNIS

I'm not..I have one, but..You are a wretched hunch-backed toad.

DORCO

Weasel

DAPHNIS

Horse's arse

DORCO

Whoreson bull's pizzle

DAPHNIS

Clubfooted twerp!

DORCO

You shall regret that!

CHLOE

(STEPPING IN) You are a twerp and I hate you!

DORCO

But this is preposterous

CHLOE

Go away, I love him!

DAPHNIS

You do?

DORCO

Crap! This isn't the end of this.

LORD

And so things worked out for the best. The twerp Dorco left in a huff, and the lovers discovered each other. In bliss...

CHLOE

Quiet! (DAPHNIS AND CHLOE KISS)

DORCO

(DISGUISED AS A WOLF, ASIDE) I'm back. This young cockroach is most certainly a coward and I shall drive him away with this fearsome suit. But, don't tell anyone. ROARRRRRR!

CHLOE

AHHHHHH! Help! It's that man!

DAPHNIS

YOU! Begone!

DORCO

I am a ferocious wolf and I will eat you.

DAPHNIS

You won't! (STRIKES A FIGHTING POSE)

DORCO

ROARRRRR! (RUSHES AT HIM, WOLFSKIN FALLS INTO HIS EYES, HE STUMBLES INTO BRAMBLE BUSH) AHHA! Damn! Devil!

CHLOE

(LAUGHING) Daphnis, help him...(ASIDE) This is so ridiculous.

DORCO

If I am able to extract myself from this bush will you kiss me?

CHLOE

No, go away.

DORCO

(DAPHNIS EXTRACTS HIM) Crap! We could have been the "it" couple, but now..

CHLOE

GO, I shall never kiss you.

DORCO

Perhaps an embrace? (SHE POINTS OFF) He blows her a kiss.

CHLOE

Uggggg!

DAPHNIS AND CHLOE KISS PASSIONATELY.

SCENE TWO (Pirate King p4, Pirates p3, Chloe p2, Daphnis p1, Pan p5)

SOUND OF PIRATES SINGING OFF.

PIRATES

Fifteen men on a dead man's chest

Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum

Drink and the devil had done for the rest

Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum.

PIRATE SHIP PUPPET COMES INTO VIEW. IT SAILS DOWNSTAGE  
AND THE PIRATE KING ENTERS.

PIRATE KING

Avast, ye landlubbers, where are ye?

THE PEOPLE (OFF)

Help, help, run for your lives! Pirates! Hide your daughters!

PIRATE KING

This way men. Black Jack, Smee over there. Round up those beasties and  
get em on the ship.

PIRATES 1

Aye Cap'n after we've had our way with the girlies.

PIRATE KING

Do what you will boys and make it nasty. For these dames'll belong to us  
soon enough.

PIRATES 2

Come 'ere little darlin'

THE PEOPLE

Ahhhh..OWWW...Help us...Help Us. Get your swords boys! Sound the alarm!

CHLOE

AAAAAAHHHH! Help, Daphnis! (TO PIRATE KING) Get away from those sheep!

PIRATE KING

(LAUGHS) Ho, ho that'll be the day, come over here my sweetie! Men get them sheeps aboard.

CHLOE

Unhand me or I'll bite you.

PIRATE KING

HA! Now I've got you!

CHLOE

Cad!

PIRATE KING

Give us a kiss, now.

CHLOE

Ugggg! Your breath smells like liquor.

PIRATE KING

Of course it does, I've been drinkin' and smokin cigars and cuttin people's heads off.

CHLOE

Devil...you shall go to hell for this.

PIRATE KING

That don't mean nothing to me. Now that's a cute little arse you got.  
(PINCHES HER)

CHLOE

Get away from me..Daphnis...Let go you brute!

DAPHNIS ENTERS WITH A SWORD. HE'S NOT PARTICULARLY SKILLED.

DAPHNIS

I'll save you! (FLAILS AROUND THEN DROPS SWORD, PIRATE KING GRABS IT)

PIRATE KING

There now I've got ye. Boy, I'd eat ye alive, but this little morsel will have to tide me over.

HE TRIES TO KISS HER

DAPHNIS

Let her alone. We're to be married.

CHLOE

What?

DAPHNIS

Eventually..

CHLOE

What about saving me? This pig is hurting my arm! AHHHHH!

PIRATE KING CARRIES HER OFF. PIRATES 1 & 2 FIGHT WITH DAPHNIS

DAPHNIS

I'm outnumbered, ...Dammit.

PIRATES EXIT AND SHIP HEADS OFF TO SEA

DAPHNIS

Now I'll never have a girlfriend again. But wait, I'm feeling tired...very sleepy...I'm falling asleep (HE FALLS ASLEEP)

LORD (OFF)

And so, in the midst of the growing chaos, the Pirate King and his awful brood carried off the lovely Chloe along with her entire flock. Daphnis, unable to affect the outcome, fell into a deep sleep. (SOUND OF DAPHNIS SNORING) But then who should descend from the clouds but the god Pan, son of Venus, goddess of love.

THE GOD PAN DROPS IN FROM ABOVE

PAN

Slumbering youth? It is I, the God Pan, here to save the day.

DAPHNIS

(SNORES) What, what...

PAN

You must take this golden pipe. For when you blow upon it, the sheep the pirates have stolen will revolt and run to the near side of their filthy ship and when all the weight has shifted, the vessel will capsize. You can then save your love and rescue the sheeps.

DAPHNIS

(WAKING UP) What was that? I dreamed I...The pipe! I shall blow upon it and save my love. (HE BLOWS ON THE PIPE)

PIRATE KING (OFF)

Avast! Hell and damnation! Corral them sheeps men

CHLOE (OFF)

I'm free!...(BITES PIRATE KING) You bastard!

PIRATE KING

AAAAHH! She bit me, the tart!

SOUND OF A SPLASH AS CHLOE JUMPS INTO THE WATER.

DAPHNIS

I'll save you darling....There, put your arms around my neck!....ACCLKKK.. Not so tight. You're strangling me. There, that's better. Kick your feet, it will make us swim faster

CHLOE

I can't I'm tied up.

DAPHNIS

You poor darling..They'll pay for this, the bastards!

CHLOE

Daphnis, darling is that a shark fin?

DAPHNIS

Yes, I mean no...hold on! (THEY DIVE UNDER WATER) HELP!

LORD

The two lovers struggled mightily to reach shore. Fortunately, the ravenous sharks feasted on the besotted pirates as their vessel sank to the bottom of the lagoon never to rise again. When they finally reached shore, the winter winds enveloped them and the two were scooped up by their anxious parents to while away the frigid months in their tiny hovels until spring came to them once again. (TWO HOUSES APPEAR IN WINTER SCENE p3 and p6) And now, a brief interlude.

MUSIC UP AS MISS FIFI APPEARS IN THE SHADOW SCREEN AND DOES A BRIEF BURLESQUE NUMBER FOLLOWED BY THE DRUNKEN CRIES OF THE DEAD PIRATES.

LORD

That bit of irrelevant nonsense was regrettable, but Miss Fifi has been in great demand from a certain segment of our audience who shall remain nameless

PIRATES

HAR, HAR..(THERE IS WHISTLING)

LORD

Stop it! You've been eaten by sharks. (THEY DISAPPEAR) Now then, as winter turned to spring, passions were kindled in the souls of our young lovers

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE (Daphnis p1, Chloe p2, Fifi p5)

THE RUSTIC HILLSIDE WITH SHEEP AND FLOWERS. BEES ARE BUZZING AND BIRDS ARE SINGING.

DAPHNIS

Hark! The snow has melted and the warm breezes of spring have returned. My body aches for my Chloe, my love. (CROSSES TO HER HOUSE)

Chloe, darling, come out..It's spring.

CHLOE

Daphnis, my love, I have missed you so.

DAPHNIS

Your hair is like sunlight, your breasts heaving...

CHLOE

Heaving?

DAPHNIS

When you breathe, they heave...You know what I mean..I must kiss you now!

CHLOE

(HE TRIES TO KISS HER) MMMMMMMMAWWW. You're too bold.

DAPHNIS

But darling, it's been so long.

CHLOE

Just because it's spring and my breasts are heaving does not mean that you can just grab me and slobber all over.

DAPHNIS

I don't think I was slobbering. I've been practicing with Fido..

CHLOE

Yuck. (SHE STOPS OFF)

DAPHNIS

Chloe, baby..come back. We won't kiss. I shall just fondle you..or hold your hand in mine and then...

CHLOE

Not now...it's not the right time.. I have a headache.

DAPHNIS

Drat!

FIFI

Hello baby

DAPHNIS

Hello..I mean, nice to meet you..

FIFI

Touch me anywhere..

DAPHNIS

Thank you.. I mean I hardly know you..

FIFI

I feel like I've always known you...like we've been lovers...in another life.

DAPHNIS

Really? Yes, I know..I feel the same...it was..

FIFI

Torrid!

DAPHNIS

Torrid?

FIFI

Hot...we were hot together..

DAPHNIS

Yes I know..your breasts were...

FIFI

Heaving..I was breathless...we rolled in a bed of roses...It was..

DAPHNIS

Prickly,,

FIFI

Sublime,,

DAPHNIS

Yes sublime..crazy really..torrid. But who are you?

FIFI

Who am I? We made love..

DAPHNIS

Yes of course I remember..I held you close..

FIFI

We knew each other...Biblically. MMMMMMMMMmmm. It was overwhelming,

DAPHNIS

UMMM..a

FIFI

Fifi! You bastard, you don't even remember me.

DAPHNIS

I do..Fifi...I'm out of breath..

FIFI

Of course you are. Hold me...Out your hand here...and here..Now kiss me..Use your tongue.

DAPHNIS

My tongue..yes..I'm feeling faint..

FIFI

Perfect, let yourself go...I'm yours!

DAPHNIS

Yes..YES!

CHLOE

(ENTERING) Daphnis..what are you doing?

DAPHNIS

I'm...helping this lady find..her contacts...Yes, they're lost.

FIFI

I thought you loved me..

DAPHNIS

No, (PANTING) not that..helpful..I was being helpful..Here they are..are they blue?

FIFI

You fool!

DAPHNIS

Not blue..Can't find them then. Goodbye

FIFI

Bastard! (SHE RUNS OFF)

CHLOE

Who was that woman?

DAPHNIS

My Aunt Fifi

CHLOE

Your aunt? And I thought you loved me..

DAPHNIS

I did..I mean I do..Chloe, come back..(HE RUNS OFF AFTER HER)

SCENE TWO (Chloe p2, Daphnis p1, Suitors p3, Pan p5, Pirate Ship p4)

CHLOE RUNS BACK IN OUT OF BREATH

CHLOE

I can't believe I gave my heart to that unfaithful beast..Daphnis I hate you!...I hate you.

DORCO ENTERS

DORCO

(ASIDE) I see that the lady has had a change of heart..this may be my big chance. (TO

CHLOE) Lovely lady I see that you are exasperated.

CHLOE

You again.

DORCO

I know we may have gotten off on the wrong foot, but I do think of you often and wish to make amends. (SHE BEGINS TO CRY) But why are you crying?

CHLOE

(ALLOWING HIM TO COMFORT HER) My boyfriend had jilted me for another woman.

DORCO

The fool...Fortunately, I am available, a great hero with a substantial fortune.

CHLOE

But I love him.

DORCO

The man jilted you and he is surely a snake without morals. Whereas I...

DAPHNIS (OFF)

Chloe, darling..come back!

CHLOE

Go away...I am in love with...uh..

DORCO

Dorco.

CHLOE

Dorco now...and he is..

DORCO

A great hero with a substantial fortune.

DAPHNIS

And I, a simple goatherd, penniless, illiterate..

DORCO

That settles it. Chloe is mine and we shall be wed on the morrow. Begone fool! Come with me darling (HE CARRIES HER OFF)

DAPHNIS

Oh woe, my darling gone, and I more wretched than any man alive. (HOLDS UP DAGGER) There is but one remedy for this sadness..

LAMO

But wait!

DAPHNIS

Father, this is embarrassing I was about to end it all.

LAMO

But why?

DAPHNIS

My darling Chloe has been carried off by a rich lord and I have been left alone and unworthy.

LAMO

(HOLDING UP CROWN) But behold this crown. When I found you on that cold night beneath the live oak tree this crown was left at your side.

DAPHNIS

Do you mean?

LAMO

Yes, you are the son of a lord, the greatest of them all. I sent for him and he is but a few moments hence from this place.

DAPHNIS

A few moments hence?

LORD

I am here! My son you were stolen from me as a small babe by the evil sorcerer Dorco who plotted to kill you and abscond with my fortune.

DAPHNIS

Dorco, he is the very one who has carried off my beloved. I shall find him and bring him to justice.

LORD

I shall go with you, excelsior!

LAMO

And I too!

THEY RUN OFF IN THE DIRECTION TAKEN BY DORCO AND INTO THE AUDIENCE.

FINALE Daphnis p1, Chloe p2, Parents p3 and p5, Lord p4)

DORCO WITH CHLOE OVER HIS SHOULDER COMES INTO THE CLEARING.

DORCO

Allright baby, from now on we're going to do things my way.

CHLOE

Are you out of your mind, put me down this instant. Do you hear me?

DORCO

From now on, I'm going to be giving the orders around here. (SETS HER DOWN). You'll stay home in the castle while I'm out saving people and conquering stuff.

CHLOE

I'm not doing that.

DORCO

Don't make this difficult. (HE RESTRAINS HER)

CHLOE

Let me go! DAPHNIS!

DORCO

It's no use, that little prick is powerless against me. I could smack him into the middle of next week with my little finger.

DAPHNIS

(ENTERING WITH CROWN ON HIS HEAD) Stand back and unhand my beloved!

DORCO

So, I suppose you think you can fool us into believing you're a prince with that fakey plastic crown.

DAPHNIS

I am the long lost son of the lord of this manor and I order you to leave the premises forthwith. Begone!

DORCO

Runt...(GRABS HIM AROUND THE NECK)

DAPHNIS

AHHHH...Let go...I can't breathe!

CHLOE GRABS DORCO'S SWORD AND WITH A FEROCIOUS SCREAM, RUNS HIM THROUGH WITH IT. HE FALLS TO THE GROUND AND EXPIRES.

DORCO  
Drat!..I'm killed..

DAPHNIS  
Chloe, darling...nice work..will you marry me?

CHLOE  
I can't..I am only a poor goatherder's daughter. I could never marry a prince.

DAPHNIS  
But I love you, darling

LORD  
(RUSHING IN WITH CROWN FOLLOWED BY PARENTS) Wait! There has been a mistake. Your father Dryas is not actually your father after all. When he found you lo these many years ago a golden crown was found by your side too.

CHLOE  
Does that mean?

LORD  
Yes! You are the long lost daughter of my neighbor the Duke of Lucidity. You are most worthy, my dear and the heroine who has rid our land of the dreaded Dorco. The wedding can take place immediately.

CHLOE  
I do love Daphnis, but we have always been happy with our sheeps. (THEY WHISPER TO EACH OTHER)

DAPHNIS  
Yes, much as princing sounds like fun. We wish to live forever in this valley as lovers and sheep herders for our loving parents.

CHLOE  
Yes, but these crowns are very cool and we will keep them. (THEY EMBRACE AND KISS)

LORD

Very well...So the two lived forever in this pleasant glade fended off the occasional pirates and wore their crowns as symbols of their good fortune.