

LAUGH OFF BLAST OFF
By Madalena Provo

NARRATOR, Grandfatherly & omniscient
JOSEPHINA, Plucky young girl
JIM, Well-meaning sidekick

(NARRATOR stands upstage left, addressing the audience. JOSEPHINA stands proudly in the centre.)

NARRATOR: This is our hero, Josephina.

JOSEPHINA: Hey! I'm Josephina.

NARRATOR: Today is a day for adventure. She's going to Pluto.

JOSEPHINA: I'm going to Pluto!

NARRATOR: She's smart. She's creative. She's caring. And, yes, her face always looks like that.

JOSEPHINA: Ummm?!?

NARRATOR: What? It does. Your face never changes. I like it like that.

JOSEPHINA: Thanks!

(NARRATOR joins JOSEPHINA centre stage.)

NARRATOR: Hey! Since when can you hear me?

JOSEPHINA: A few years now.

NARRATOR: And you never thought to tell me? I've been over here talking away all this time... this is so embarrassing. Anyway, back to our story. Josephina's going on an adventure to Pluto.

JOSEPHINA: First I'm gonna ask my friend, Jim, to join me.

NARRATOR: Teamwork makes the dream work.

JOSEPHINA: You know it!

(JOSEPHINA runs all around the stage, seemingly forever. She jumps, she twirls, she rolls on her belly. Finally, she makes it to Jim's house.)

NARRATOR: The thing about Jim's house is that instead of ringing, his doorbell makes this a strange sound. In fact, it's the strangest. The silliest. The most UNBELIEVABLE sound you've ever heard.

(JOSEPHINA presses the bell. NARRATOR makes the STRANGEST. SILLIEST. MOST UNBELIEVABLE sound you've ever heard.)

JOSEPHINA: I don't know if Jim heard the doorbell. Better try again.

(NARRATOR makes an even STRANGER. SILLIER. And MORE UNBELIEVABLE sound. LOUDER!)

JIM: I'm coming!

(JIM opens the door.)

JIM: Hello, Josephina!

JOSEPHINA: You ready to go to Pluto?

JIM: You bet!

NARRATOR: Josephina and Jim start to build their spaceship.

(JIM & JOSEPHINA stack toilet rolls together to make a spaceship.)

NARRATOR: 10 seconds to blast-off! 9...8...7...6..5..4..3..2..1

JIM & JOSEPHINA: BLASTOFF!

(There's no blast-off. JIM and JOSEPHINA look at each other, then at the NARRATOR.)

JOSEPHINA: Narrator, we have a problem.

NARRATOR: You do. Do you know what it is?

(JOSEPHINA looks at the spaceship they've just put together.)

JOSEPHINA: We forgot to put in energy! Gasoline! POWER, BABY!

JIM: Oops!

NARRATOR: I happen to have these solar-powered battery packs.

JIM: Perfect! GIMME GIMME GIMME!

NARRATOR: I'll give you the packs, but first you need to tell me a good joke. I love to laugh.

JIM: DEAL!

NARRATOR: I'll give you 3 tries to make me laugh.

(JIM pushes JOSEPHINA towards NARRATOR.)

JIM: Go ahead, Jo, you're the funny one.

JOSEPHINA: Oh gosh, ok, um... Why did the sun stop studying?

NARRATOR: I don't know.

JOSEPHINA: Because he couldn't get any brighter!

NARRATOR: That's not nearly funny enough.

JOSEPHINA: I mean, it was a little funny, right?

NARRATOR: Meh.

JOSEPHINA: Ok, how 'bout this one? What kind of space ship runs on avocado toast? A Millennial Falcon!

NARRATOR: That one was pretty good.. But still not funny enough.

JOSEPHINA: Well, I don't think I'll even bother telling you the one about the flying spaceship.

NARRATOR: Why not?

JOSEPHINA: Because it'd go over your head anyway.

JIM: BURN!

NARRATOR: HAHAHAHHA, rude, but funny! Here's the battery pack, enjoy!

JIM: We will! We're going to Pluto!

(JIM and JOSEPHINA start scooting over to their spaceship. JOSEPHINA stops suddenly.)

JOSEPHINA: Hey wait, Narrator? Would you like to come with us? A party on Pluto wouldn't be as fun without you.

NARRATOR: I thought you'd never ask!

JOSEPHINA: Battery packs are in, but I think they'll connect better if we sing to them.

(NARRATOR sings in his loudest, most obnoxious opera voice. It's TERRIBLE.)

JOSEPHINA: You know what? I think the batteries are actually working just fine.

JIM: Alright, let's get to Pluto!

NARRATOR, JOSEPHINA, JIM: 3...2...1... BLAST OFF!

NARRATOR: THE END!

THE END