

The logo for Offbeat Theatre features the name in a black, ornate, cursive font. The text is centered within a horizontal, wavy banner that has a yellow-to-orange gradient. This banner is set against a solid blue background with faint, decorative swirl patterns in a darker blue or purple hue.

Offbeat Theatre

Speed

A short sketch
by
Barbara Hockley

Please visit

www.offbeat-theatre.co.uk

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Youth Theatres and Schools

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Speed

by Barbara Hockley

Cast:

Lottie (a speedy girl – could be a boy if you change the name!)

3 Friends

There is no particular set for this, but it needs to come to life with imaginative action!

At particular points in the action Lottie runs around, across the stage, around the friends. Often they stop & watch, sometimes they try to ignore – it should look comic! Lottie enters at a run and whizzes about the stage (cartwheels & other impressive speedy tricks would look great)

The friends enter very slowly and make their way to centre stage

Friend 1: We will tell you a tale
Of haste, speed and flying
Of banana skins
That result in one dying

Friend 2: It is a sad tale
But please take heart
It may save your life
And that sets it apart

Friend 3: From stories of evil
Or horror without goal
And the whole thing starts
With us out for a stroll

Lottie runs up and stops in front of the friends

Lottie: I don't care to stroll
I like to run fast
I don't look around
I go with a blast!

Lottie runs offstage

Friend 1: **We** like to walk slow
To take in the feeling
Of everything around
From the floor to the ceiling

Friend 2: We're creatures of sloth
We like to sit still
We never go quick
Especially uphill

Friend 3: Sometimes we stop
To slowly look round
And our legs start start sprouting
And root in the ground

They friends get stuck to the ground as they turn into trees

Friend 1: It is quite unusual
To turn into a tree
But sometimes it happens
And it's hard to get free

Lottie runs on again & speeds around the stage as before

Friend 2: So when Lottie turned up
And we needed a hand
We called and we shouted
But we could not command

Friend 3: Her attention at all
Not even a bit
She just ran past
And that was it

Friend 1: Our friend is well, different
She's not like we are
She flies like a bat
Without any radar

Friend 2: She runs like a cheetah
Without any design
And life is so fast
She can never resign

Friend 3: Herself to be quiet
To sit and be still
To relax and unwind
To vege out or to chill

Friend 1: I shouted out "LOTTIE"
Lottie: "Sorry can't stop
I'm not one to just
Stand there and flop"

Friend 2: I shouted out "BUT .."
Lottie: "Must go in haste
All this hanging around
It's just such a waste"

Friend 3: I shouted out "PLEASE"

Lottie “Now I really must go
Why don't you move
You're incredibly slow!”

Lottie runs off

Friend 1: And with that she was off
And we were perplexed
But we cannot be blamed
For what happened next

Friend 2: I reached in my pocket
And found something slimy
Then threw it away
It was all old and grimy

Friend 3: I caught it right then
It fell in my hand
And I panicked a bit
But I just hadn't planned

Friend 1: For it to fall on my head
I looked such a fool
So I chucked it away
I felt so uncool

*Lottie enters running & eventually slips on the banana skin which (rather ironically)
might look rather good in slow motion ..*

Friend 2: Then it fell on the floor
And when Lottie ran past
She slipped and she slithered
Then finally at last

Friend 3: She lay on the ground
And ceased to move
And I have to admit
That I did approve

Friend 1: Of this new style Lottie
Not running, instead
Unmoving and tranquil
In fact she was dead

Friend 2: Well, now you can see
That being fast is no good
It's best to be still
And turn into a wood

Friend 3: But if you're passing by soon
Please lend us a hand
We're branching out slowly
And becoming quite grand

The friends get quite speedy & manic for the last few verses

Friend 1: But we're not quite ready
To stay put evermore
We miss our beds
So we really implore

Friend 2: You to get some speed on
To hurry and race
Don't waste a minute
Just up your pace

Friends: **Run faster, be quicker**

Friend 3: Get here right away
And we promise to be active
Well, maybe someday

Friends: (shouting) **HURRY UP!**