

(instead of the shared approach used here) and cast readers whose height and weight fit the individual witches.

ENTRANCES:

King enters in a regal manner, carrying his script binder. He walks to the center of the reading area (in character) and acknowledges the audience. He then places himself in front of his stool and behind his music stand, positions and opens his script, and waits. Wizard enters carrying his script binder and with a wizardly flourish. He bows to the audience, then to the king, and positions himself behind his music stand. The reading begins:

(King clears his throat. He has something difficult to say and is having trouble getting started)

READER 1/King: I don't want to hurt your feelings, Merlin. You've been a good Court Wizard and I have nothing against you personally. It's just that I'm tired of wizards and I want a Court Witch for a change.

(Mournfully)

READER 2/Wizard: Oh, Your Majesty, after all my years of faithful service, you can't do *this* to me!

READER 1/King: Don't feel bad, Merlin. I'm going to give you a large bag of gold when you leave, and I'm sure you'll find a good job with another king.

READER 2/Wizard: When do you want to make the change?

READER 1/King: Well, this would be a good day. It's Halloween! Could you find me a witch today? You know some witches, don't you?

READER 2/Wizard: Certainly. I know a lot of witches.

READER 1/King: Good. Get me a Court Witch today and then you can leave. I'll get your bag of gold.

*(King sits on stool and turns back to audience.
Wizard addresses audience)*

READER 2/Wizard: That's gratitude! For years I've served him, done all kinds of magic, worked spells when he needed them and now - out I go just because **he** wants a change. Well, I'll fix His Royal Majesty! When I get through, he'll wish he never ever saw a witch. If my plan works, I'll have my job back in ten minutes!

(King turns to face audience and stands)

READER 1/King: I'm back with your bag of gold, Merlin. Here it is. I wish you good luck in the future. But don't forget, before you go, find me a witch!

(Smiling)

READER 2/Wizard: I have already found you a witch, Sire.

(Looking around)

READER 1/King: You have? Where?

READER 2/Wizard: You are going to produce her yourself -- through a magic spell.

READER 1/King: Wonderful! As you know, I **love** magic spells!

READER 2/Wizard: Now, listen carefully: I'm going to give you some words to say, *but don't say them till after I'm gone*. Here they are:

Tadpoles and lizards
Let's make a switch!
Instead of a wizard
I want a witch!

READER 1/King: Is that all?

READER 2/Wizard: That's all, but don't say the words till I'm gone. I'll say them once more so you'll remember them. Listen carefully...

King listens intently and nods head)

Tadpoles and lizards
Let's make a switch!
Instead of a wizard
I want a witch!

READER 1/King: Got it!

READER 2/Wizard: Good. Well, goodbye, Your Majesty, and best of luck with your new Court Witch.

READER 1/King: Thank you, Merlin. And good luck to you, too.

*(Wizard sits on stool and turns back to audience.
King addresses audience)*

READER 1/King: I can't wait to try the new spell!
Here goes...

Tadpoles and lizards
Let's make a switch!
Instead of a wizard
I want a witch!

(READER 3 enters, walking on knees, from off stage. READER 3 tries to look very small and is dressed in a tiny witch's costume complete with very tiny hat. READER 3 stops just beside where the King stands. READER 3 speaks in a tiny, high squeaky voice.

READER 3/Witch 1: At your service!

(Jumping)

READER 1/King: Who are you?

READER 3/Witch 1: Your new witch.

READER 1/King: *You? A witch?* You look more like a mosquito.

READER 3/Witch 1: You want something bigger?

READER 1/King: Of course I want something bigger.
(Disgusted)

READER 3/Witch 1: Then say the spell again -- but say it **louder**.

(Witch 1 exits on knees, grumbling all the way out)

READER 1/King: I certainly will. That witch was about as big as my pet-poodle. Maybe you folks in the audience could help me with the chant. That way it would be louder! Say it with me. Here I go again...

(Repeats spell in a louder voice)

Tadpoles and lizards
Let's make a switch!
Instead of a wizard
I want a witch!

(READER 4/Witch 2 enters, walking on in a squat position, like a Russian dancer, from off stage. READER 4 tries to look small and is dressed in witch's costume which is a little bigger than the Witch 1, but not by much. READER 4 stays on floor and stops just beside where the King stands. READER 4 also speaks in a tiny, high squeaky voice):

READER 4/Witch 2: You rang?

READER 1/King: Huh? But, you're not much bigger than the first witch.

READER 4/Witch 2: You want something bigger?

READER 1/King: Certainly.

READER 4/Witch 2: Say the spell again, but say it **louder**.

*(Witch 2 exits from same direction he/she entered,
grumbling all the way out)*

READER 1/King: Even louder, eh? All right, everybody,
help me out again and make it LOUDER!

(Repeats spell in a very loud voice)

Tadpoles and lizards
Let's make a switch!
Instead of a wizard
I want a witch!

(READER 3/Witch 3 enters from off stage, walking with knees bent and in a hunched over position. READER 4 tries to look small, but larger than Witch 2, and is dressed in witch's costume which is a little bigger than Witch 2's, but not by much. READER 3 stops just beside where the King stands. Witch 3's voice is just a bit louder and stronger than Witch 2's)

READER 3/Witch 3: Will I do?

READER 1/King: Well, you're a pretty good witch, yes,
you're *quite a* good witch, but maybe . . .
just a *little* bit bigger?

(Disgusted)

READER 3/Witch 3: You know what to do!

*(Witch 3 exits from same direction he/she entered,
grumbling all the way out)*

(To audience)

READER 1/King: This time help me say the words as loud
as we possibly can!

**Tadpoles and lizards
Let's make a switch!
Instead of a wizard
I want a witch!**