

Distribution:

Production:

Lauren Faust
Chris Bartleman
Kirsten Newlands-Davidson
Rob Renzetti
Sarah Wall
Jayson Thiessen
James Wooton
Angela Belyea

Discovery/Hasbro:

Donna Ebbs
Scott Pennington
Chris Mehl

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Lisa Licht
Linda Steiner
Mike Riley
Brian Lenard
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro IP:

Mark Wiesenhahn
Matt Mattus

Hasbro Global Brand:

Valerie Jurries
Michelle Hogue
Donna Tobin

Hasbro Design:

Liz Knight
Dean Carley

Ed Consult:

Jordan Brown

MY LITTLE PONY

"No Talent Show"

EP018

Outline by
Cindy Morrow

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TEASER

Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, and Scootaloo, a.k.a. The Cutie Mark Crusaders, find out that Applejack has found the perfect club house for the three little ponies. It's Applejack's own clubhouse when she was pre-cutie mark! They rush to the farm to claim their new "Cutie Crusaders Clubhouse." Applejack leads the way to the edge of the farm. There, in front of them, stands a dirty, old, crusty wooden shed, covered with leaves and cobwebs. "So where's the clubhouse?" asks Apple Bloom innocently. "This is it!" Applejack looks at the clubhouse fondly. "Well, it hasn't been used in a while, but it's empty, secluded, and private...and it's yours!" The Crusaders scrunch their noses in disappointment. "This stinks!" scowls Scootaloo. "What're we going to do with this?" Applejack smiles sweetly. "Perhaps you'll get your cutie marks in CLEANING!"

ACT I

Scootaloo eyes the view of the Golden Oak Library. With a pencil in her mouth, she bends down and draws a tree on a scroll she has spread apart with her hooves. She completes a hand drawn map of Ponyville. She rolls it back, sticks it in her messenger bag, hops on her scooter and zips off. She swiftly travels through Ponyville, deftly maneuvering around the marketplace, expertly hopping over puddles, taking tight precise curves around structures. She makes it back to the clubhouse. There, Apple Bloom is putting the finishing touches on the trim of the newly painted clubhouse. It looks good as new. Apple Bloom sees Scootaloo. "Hey! Back already? That was quick! You're pretty sharp on your scooter!" Scootaloo is too impressed with the clubhouse to comment. "Wow, Apple Bloom, you did all this?" "Yup," declares Apple Bloom, "I fixed the broken shutters, sanded off the splinters, rebuilt the roof, painted..oh, and sewed all the curtains." "I'm impressed! Hey, where's Sweetie Belle?" Behind the clubhouse, Sweetie Belle sings a tune with the most beautiful voice. Apple Bloom comments, "You have the best voice ever! What're you singing?" Sweetie Belle blushes. "Oh, thanks....I was just making up our Cutie Crusaders Theme Song." "Cool-O!" exclaims Scootaloo. "Teach us?" "Sure!" Applejack walks by, impressed by the superb looking clubhouse. But she hears awful singing in the back, along with a beautiful voice. Looking inside, she discovers Scootaloo, Apple Bloom, and Sweetie Belle singing their new song. While Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom have pretty good voices, Scootaloo's is atrocious. "Well I'll be! Crusaders, what a plumb good job you've done with this place. So, what's next?" The Crusaders point to their map and discuss their next plan of action. They decide to hit all the major points of interest in Ponyville with the hopes of discovering their talents and earning their cutie marks.

The Cutie Mark Crusaders embark on their mission, followed by enormous attempts and humorous flops. In a montage, the little ponies try out farm tasks, like milking cows or feeding the pigs—with no success (we don't actually see them milking the cows, just the sfx and aftermath). They attempt to pull taffy in the Sugarcube Corner, only to get themselves caught up in webs of stickiness. They offer free hair styles at the Carousel Couture (unfortunate dyeing fiasco—good thing dye is temporary!), try their hand at snorkeling, mountain climbing, mindreading. It seems the harder they

seek, the harder they fall. Twilight Sparkle and Cheerilee walk into the Golden Oak Library, only to find the Cutie Crusaders in a heaping pile of messy papers and strewn about books. "What are you three doing?!" Twilight gasps. Apple Bloom is frustrated, "Well, we sure aren't getting our cutie marks for being librarians!" Twilight explains to the Crusaders that perhaps they should try doing things that they actually enjoy already; maybe that will help them discover their talents and help them get their highly desired marks. Cheerilee is putting up a poster, and pipes in, "And I have the perfect event for discovering your talents!---The First Annual Ponyville School Talent Show!" With prizes to be awarded for Best Dramatic Performance, Best Comedy and Best Magic Act among other categories. The Cutie Mark Crusaders are excited beyond belief. What will they do? Who will do what? How will they do it? Acting? Juggling? Tiger taming? There's so much to decide! Again, Twilight reminds them that they won't go wrong if they just think about what they already enjoy doing. Whatever it is, they'll do it as a team!

ACT II

Scootaloo is pulling away from the Carousel Couture on her scooter, with a wagon in tow. Inside the wagon are Applebloom and Sweetie Belle. It's also filled with fabric, notions, & ribbons. Rarity runs out of the store. "Sweetie Belle! Come back with my supplies!!" "I need them for the talent show!! Don't worry Sis, we promise we'll bring them back!" They race off, leaving Rarity shaking her head in frustration. Back at the clubhouse, they strategize and discuss what makes a great talent routine. They throw out ideas. "A great dramatic song!" "Extravagant costume, awesome background and props!" "Mind blowing dance moves!" Now all they have to do is figure out which ideas they're best at, and fly with it! Immediately, Apple Bloom comments on Sweetie Belle's beautiful voice, but Sweetie Belle has other ideas. "No way! I'm not singing in front of a crowd! Besides, I want to be a designer like my sister---so I'll do all the costumes, scenery and props!" Sweetie Belle says to Scootaloo, "You're great at maneuvers on your scooter. You'd be perfect at choreography!" Scootaloo shakes her head. "Nah. Besides, I want to sing an AWESOME ROCK BALLAD! Why don't you do the choreography Apple Bloom?" Apple Bloom shrugs. "Well, I DO like kung fu. I'm sure I could come up with something!" It's settled!

They immediately begin practicing and prepping, coaching each other along the way. Apple Bloom is frustrated trying to work out dance moves. She seems to have FOUR left feet! Scootaloo checks out what Apple Bloom is doing, and helps her out. It's clear that Scootaloo has a knack for moves and stunts, but they're too naïve to figure out that they should each be doing something else. Sweetie Belle is having a hard time piecing the costumes together. Apple Bloom, who was so adept at making those curtains for the clubhouse, gives Sweetie Belle some helpful tips. She also shows her how to paint neatly and work with wood. And meanwhile, Scootaloo is shattering glass with her attempts at singing. Not only is Sweetie Belle coaching Scootaloo with her vocal range, but she helps Scootaloo with her rock ballad lyrics. If only they could realize their own talents!

The ponies are rehearsing in their clubhouse. Applejack peeks in secretly to catch a little of their performance pre-show. How cute those Cutie Mark Crusaders must be!

Applejack hears awful singing. The audience sees her facial expressions (but not the rehearsal) as the audience hears a few “oops, sorry, Apple Bloom!” and “thump! My bad, Sweetie Belle!” Applejack sneaks away from the clubhouse looking very worried! “Well gosh! I sure wasn’t expectin’ that!”

ACT III

The marquee is brightly lit and the audience is packed. The acts are under way. Snips and Snails are doing a silly magic act. Backstage, Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, and Scootaloo are anxiously awaiting their turn. The audience claps and Snips and Snails clomp off. Cheerilee announces the next act. As another little pony goes onstage with a juggling act, the trio look on, nervous. Twilight Sparkle finds the Cutie Crusaders backstage and gives them an encouraging pep talk. “Don’t worry girls! You’re going to do fine! Remember, just stick to what you know best! I can’t wait to hear you sing, Sweetie Belle!” Sweetie Belle looks at Scootaloo. “Why does everypony always think I’m going to sing?” Scootaloo informs Twilight that she’s the one singing, and that Apple Bloom is in charge of choreography, and Sweetie Belle has put together all the costumes. Twilight can’t believe her ears. “Apple Bloom, choreography?? Sweetie Belle, costumes?? Er, are you sure?” Twilight looks at the ponies; they seem so excited. The audience claps for that last act. Cheerilee lets the girls know they are on next. Twilight shrugs. “Well, my little ponies, do your best! And have a good time!”

The stage is dark. Hard rock chords, akin to the beginning of “Holding Out for a Hero” from the “Footloose” movie soundtrack, fill the air. The audience is captivated. The spotlight shines on Scootaloo, on a pedestal in a dramatic costume. With the chords, two other spotlights hit the other ponies, also dressed dramatically. Just then, all the lights go onstage, and Scootaloo breaks into song with horrible sounding vocals. (The lyrics are actually the Cutie Crusaders theme song that Sweetie Belle was singing earlier). What ensues is a mish mash of bad song, bad dance moves, bad set design....bad choices! Scootaloo tries to sing while coming down from the pedestal, stepping on her costume and ripping it, while Sweetie Belle attempts to slide out comically bad scenic backdrops with difficulty. Apple Bloom tries to twirl and leap, bumping into Sweetie Belle. The music (which is the only thing that’s good) plays the whole time and Scootaloo keeps beat, but the audience doesn’t know how to react. Brandy, the dog, howls in the audience while Scootaloo sings. One of the backdrops falls over, hitting Scootaloo on the head, and with the spotlight suddenly on Apple Bloom, she breaks out into kung fu moves! She spins and kicks—right through one of the props. She begins hopping about, as Sweetie Belle tries to pull the prop off of Apple Bloom’s feet. Scootaloo crawls from under the backdrop and turns on a fan, which is supposed to increase the “drama effect.” But she turns it on too high, and props & costumes start to blow away. Sweetie Belle finally pulls the prop off, but loses her balance and bumps into the record player. The song screeches as the needle scratches across the record! The last two chords of the song hit and the music stops. The fan stops, and the girls freeze in uncomfortable poses. They look at each other, compose themselves, and line up together to bow. There is a large silent pause as the girls bow. Then suddenly, instead of clapping, there is a huge roar of laughter. The girls look at each other confused, and run

offstage.

"They're laughing at us!" cries Apple Bloom. "We'll be the laughing stock of Ponyville," cries Sweetie Belle. The three look disappointed and embarrassed. Cheerilee rushes to the girls. "Hurry, you need to go back onstage. They're going to announce the winners of the talent show!" Scootaloo, "Do we have to. What's the point?" Cheerilee explains, "Now, let's be good sports. You made a great effort. So go on out there." The three ponies trudge out in their ripped costumes and messed up manes. They stand by the other groups of ponies.

All of a sudden, the Cutie Mark Crusaders have won!----in the COMEDY Devision!

The audience cheers and gives them a standing ovation. The girls have big smiles on their faces as they take a bow. Cheerilee hands them ribbons. Maybe this wasn't so bad! After all, they did set a goal, they tried their hardest, and they had fun while doing it! Alas, they still don't have their cutie marks. And they think they know why. Twilight Sparkle approaches them backstage to commend them on their win.

"Congratulations, Ponies! A job well done." "Thanks, Twilight. We sure learned A LOT." Twilight is surprised. "You did? Tell me—I'm sure the Princess would love to know." Scootaloo begins. "Well, even though everything worked out in the end, we still didn't get our cutie marks. We were trying too hard." Twilight smiles, realizing that the girls have finally learned their lesson. Sweetie Belle continues, "And maybe, instead of forcing ourselves to do something that's not meant for us..." Apple Bloom completes Sweetie Belle's sentence, "We should be embracing our true talent!"

Twilight is impressed. "And that is?..." The Cutie Mark Crusaders looks at each, smile, and exclaim in unison: "COMEDY!!"

The Cutie Mark Crusaders rush off to be congratulated by the rest of the ponies, leaving Twilight Sparkle laughing to herself. "One day....one day...."

The End.