

Distribution:

Production:

Devon Cody
Jim Miller
Denny Lu
Mike Myhre
Zoe Borroz
Nicole Dubuc
Josh Haber
Jada McDermott

Discovery Family:

Linda Shima Tsuno
Beth Mohammed

MY LITTLE PONY

Season 8

Yakity-Sax

Ep 818

Outline by: Mike and Wil Fox

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Kathy Page
Meghan McCarthy
Eliza Hart
Daniel Barnes
Finn Arnesen
Nina Scales
Graham Stephen
Tyla Bucher
Loretta Masters
Narae Song
Bill Cheungcp
Molly Shaffer
Emily Thompson
Rachelle Little
Kristen Riley
Michael Kelly

Hasbro Brand:

Jamie Cipolla
Yusun Hwang
Kevin Evans
Andrea Ehret
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Kristen Riley
Katherine Padilla
Brian Chapman

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YAKITY-SAX

Outline by Michael P. Fox and Wil Fox

Logline: When Pinkie Pie develops a strange new passion, her friends learn that it's okay to love doing something you're not very good at - as long as it makes you happy.

TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. EVERFREE FOREST – NIGHT**

We open on Twilight and Spike walking through the forest in the dark of night. Spike seems to be especially nervous, jumping at every sound and shadow. Spike: "I know that everypony's been hearing weird, spooky sounds coming from this forest, but why do WE have to be the ones to investigate it?" Twilight assures him that there's probably a very reasonable explanation for the sounds – it's not like they're going to come across a giant noise making monster or anything! Just as Twilight finishes talking, they reach a clearing and see a MONSTROUS FORM emerging from the shadows. Trees shake from the creature's horrible thumping and screeching sounds. Spike turns to Twilight, "You were saying?" Twilight, "I was saying... RUN!"

ACT ONE**SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – DAY**

Meanwhile, Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, Applejack and Rarity exchange theories on the source of the horrible sounds they've been hearing for the past few nights. Fluttershy worries it's some poor, wounded animal in desperate need of help, while Applejack is sure she knows that sound - it's a malfunctioning apple grinder that just needs some oiling. Rainbow Dash is positive it's a rare Griffinstone nor'easter storm cloud - and she's just the pony to burst it! Rarity, who's clearly been missing sleep and has huge bags under her eyes and a frazzled mane: "Well I don't care what it is - it just needs to stop interrupting my beauty sleep!" Just then a crazed Twilight and Spike rush in and slam the door behind them, trying to bar the door as the creature pursuing them bangs and bashes from outside. Twilight explains that they found the source of the sound and it's terrifying, it's horrifying, it's... Suddenly the door swings open and the giant figure emerges from the shadowy hallway and into the light as they all shout in unison, "PINKIE PIE!" Pinkie looks out at them from her crazy-looking one pony band-like instrument (the source of the sound and her monstrous appearance). It's part accordion, part bagpipe, part vuvuzela and part kazoo with a snare drum surrounded by tambourine bells somehow right in the middle of it. Pinkie Pie looks to Twilight and Spike, "Is marching band time over?"

Pinkie explains that her new instrument is the Yakyakistanian Zenithrash and it's the best thing ever! Of course the ponies are immediately supportive of Pinkie and her new hobby. And even though it's not the most pleasant sounding of instruments, they all agree that with the amount of time Pinkie's been playing, she's bound to be get better soon. Excited Pinkie Pie tells them to check out the new song she just wrote. She immediately starts playing - causing one of the stained glass windows to shatter, while the birds who have been fluttering around Fluttershy a la Snow White, try to cover their ears with their wings, then immediately fly out the broken

window in sonic distress. The everypony else turn to Pinkie with forced smiles. Being supportive of her new hobby is going to be harder than they thought.

SC. 3 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAY

Applejack tells Pinkie: “It sure is nice of you to play for us while Rainbow Dash helps me with some chores.” As Pinkie begins to play, Rainbow Dash and Applejack wince at the sound. Applejack quietly admits to Rainbow Dash that this music is kinda hard to listen to. Rainbow Dash, being Rainbow Dash, immediately makes this into a contest. She challenges Applejack to see which of them can listen longer. They both stop what they’re doing and focus all of their attention on Pinkie’s music. Applejack yells to Pinkie: “Is that the loudest ya’ll can play?” Rainbow Dash: “Yeah, turn it up!” It’s on! Pinkie Pie happily plays even louder.

SC. 4 - INT. FLUTTERSHY’S COTTAGE – DAY

Fluttershy has little beds set up and is doting on sick and recovering animals – paying special attention to the birds with sore ears. Then she tucks in the sheets for a tiny chipmunk, whose foot is up in traction. She advises him to keep off his foot and he’ll heal up in no time. Suddenly, Pinkie Pie comes bounding in. She has a great idea - music therapy for all of Fluttershy’s animal friends! Nothing beats the healing power of music, right?! As she plays, the animals react to the horrible sounds. The birds immediately fly for the window, but it’s shut and they smack into it. The others jump out of their various beds and can’t exit the cottage fast enough. The chipmunk in the cast drags himself towards the door. Fluttershy: “Edgar! You’re not supposed to be on your feet for another two moons!” The chipmunk shrugs her off and gives her the thumbs up. Pinkie Pie: “See, Fluttershy? It’s working already!” She continues playing as Fluttershy looks annoyed.

SC. 5 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – LATER

Applejack and Rainbow Dash are on stools, with Pinkie playing in front of them. They stare at each other - each waiting for the other to break. ECU: Sweat pours down Applejack’s face. ECU: Rainbow Dash’s bloodshot eyes. ECU: Applejack’s throbbing ears. ECU: Rainbow Dash’s shaking hoof. Suddenly the music stops. Pinkie: “Mind if I take a quick five?” Applejack looks to Rainbow Dash, narrows her eyes and challengingly responds: “Are you kidding? I was just getting into it!” Rainbow Dash: “Yeah, whatever that was, is my favorite song ever! You can’t stop now!” As Pinkie starts playing again, they stare at each other, grit their teeth and wait for the other to break.

SC. 6 - INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE – DAY

Rarity is cutting a pattern as Pinkie marches back and forth, playing right outside her window. Every time Rarity goes to make a cut, Pinkie hits a sharp note. Rarity winces and miscuts the pattern. Pinkie sticks her head through the window. Pinkie: “You like? Is my music inspiring you?” Rarity: “Well, it’s certainly doing... something, dear.” As Pinkie happily goes back to playing, Rarity picks up a needle and thread. Every time she tries to thread the needle, Pinkie hits a note and Rarity misses the hole by a mile. Rarity sighs and puts it down. She heads over to the

sewing machine and fires it up. As she tries to run a straight seam, Pinkie hits a series of staccato notes, causing Rarity to continually jerk at each one.

Rarity holds up the dress she's working on: it's a hodge-podge of miscut patchwork material with zigzagging threadwork. Rarity sighs and tosses it on top of a nearby pile of similarly botched gowns.

SC. 7 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – LATER

Applejack and Rainbow Dash both look as though they've run a marathon - they're panting, wincing, physically pained and dripping in sweat. Both fight with every fiber of their being to stay seated on their stools. As Pinkie hits a long out of tune note, they both grab their stools and bear down. The note goes up an octave and even more out of tune. Both Applejack and Rainbow Dash's entire bodies begin to shake. As the note goes up another octave and even more out of tune, they can't take it anymore. They both jump out of their seats and yell: "I give!" Pinkie stops playing and is touched they're giving her a standing ovation.

SC. 8 - EXT. PONYVILLE CAFE – DAY

Twilight is happily reading a book when Rainbow Dash and Applejack run up to her. They need to talk about Pinkie's playing. Twilight looks at them strangely, then removes a set of earplugs. She explains that she thought protecting her ears would be a good idea while Pinkie was still learning those yakpipes of hers. She asks them to repeat what they just said, but before they can, Fluttershy and Rarity rush in. Everypony starts talking at once - all saying the same thing. They want to be supportive but Pinkie's been playing for moons and if anything, she's less skilled now than when she started. Aside for the having to put up with the sound, shouldn't they stop her from wasting time on something she's not particularly good at? Twilight suggests they all talk to Pinkie about her playing.

SC. 9 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – DAY

Pinkie Pie stares at her Zenithrash, deep in thought when there's a knock at the door. She opens it, revealing Twilight, Rarity, Applejack, Fluttershy and Rainbow Dash. They need to talk to her about her Zenithrash playing. But before they can say anything, Pinkie solemnly tells them she has an announcement to make. She's come to realize, while she loves the Zenithrash, there's just something missing and not right when she plays. The ponies are relieved - until she announces that's why she's stepping up her game! She spins around in a whirlwind, and when she stops, she's now wearing a full on, Alpine (Yak) outfit (Lederhosen, hat, yak braids, etc.) and plays the Zenithrash while dancing in traditional yak smashing shoes, (i.e., wooden clogs). Off the others looks of shock...

ACT TWO

SC. 10 - EXT. PONYVILLE TOWN SQUARE – DAY

It's a quiet scene of ponies shopping at an outdoor farmer's market when suddenly, Pinkie Pie bursts into the scene. As she plays and dances, she unknowingly bumps into ponies and stalls, knocking over fruit and racks of clothes - generally leaving a trail of chaos in her wake. As she knocks over a tray of oranges and apples, Cranky Doodle begins to slip and slide. Pinkie mistakenly thinks he's dancing along to the music and tries to match his "moves" while she plays.

We pull back to see the other five watching from across the town square. They need to do something to get her to stop playing - like now. Rainbow Dash can't understand why Pinkie Pie seems to be enjoying playing so much. She's sooo much better at baking, party planning, and pretty much anything and everything else. This gives Twilight an idea. In order to get her to stop playing, they'll just have to remind her of the hobbies she's good at!

SC. 11 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – DAY

Pinkie Pie is behind the counter happily playing when Rainbow Dash and Rarity run in. Rainbow Dash: "Pinkie Pie, quick! We've got a cupcake emergency. We need a hundred baker's dozens!" Rarity: (STILTED) "Oh, no. Why to make that many cupcakes, she'd surely have to put down her Zenithrash. Oh, well. It is an emergency." While continuing to play, Pinkie uses one hoof to reach under the counter and pulls out a huge stack of boxes. Luckily she always keeps a couple hundred emergency baker's dozens cupcakes on standby. Rainbow Dash and Rarity defeatedly thank her.

SC. 12 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – BARN – DAY

Applejack and Fluttershy are with Sweetie Belle and Octavia Melody. They remind them the plan. When Pinkie Pie gets there, Sweetie Belle will try to get her to sing, and once she sees how much better she is at that than playing the Zenithrash, she'll hopefully put it down forever. And if that doesn't work, maybe Octavia Melody can convince her to play the cello instead - since she clearly has fiddling skills. When they spot Pinkie playing in the distance, they wave her over. She looks back and forth between Sweetie Belle and Octavia Melody. To everypony's surprise, she actually stops playing. Pinkie tells them she's figured out their plan and knows exactly what they're doing. As Applejack and Fluttershy try to backtrack, Pinkie says that if they wanted to jam with her, all they had to do was ask! She begins to play. Octavia Melody and Sweetie Belle shrug and join in. Applejack and Fluttershy sigh and then half-heartedly clap along to the music.

SC. 13 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – LATER

Twilight paces around the empty hall when Pinkie comes in playing. Twilight tells Pinkie she just remembered she has to throw a last minute surprise birthday party for Princess Celestia. A passing Spike overhears this and is confused. Her birthday isn't for many, many moons. Twilight: "Well, she's going to be really surprised then, isn't she?" Twilight points to boxes and boxes of party supplies and tells Pinkie she'll probably have to put her Zenithrash down to help set up the decorations. Without missing a beat, Pinkie grabs the boxes and shoves them into the

open end of her Zenithrash. Sucking in a ton of air, she blows as hard as she can (until she's red in the face). The boxes explode out, into the air. When the cloud of balloons, confetti and streamers settle, the entire room is instantly decorated. Twilight thanks her and sighs. A minute later, Princess Celestia enters. "Hello, Twilight. I happened to be in the area and thought I'd swing--" Spike jumps out from behind a table and yells "Surprise!" Princess Celestia looks confused as Twilight sighs again.

SC. 14 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – THRONE ROOM – NIGHT

Rainbow Dash and Applejack drag themselves in and are shocked to see the rest of their friends already there. A frazzled Rarity points out that due to Pinkie's playing (which can be heard in the distance) nopony can sleep. Fluttershy is also there with a bleary-eyed Angel. They all turn to Twilight, happily reading a book. Rainbow Dash and Applejack exchange a look and then each remove an earplug from Twilight's ears. Rarity's eyes go wide and she immediately begs Twilight for a pair. Twilight happily passes around earplugs. After they put them in, they all smile and yell how great the earplugs are. They can barely hear a thing! As they shout to each other how perfect the plugs are for blocking out Pinkie's awful music, they don't realize Pinkie has actually walked in. They can't believe with all of her playing, not only is Pinkie not better, but she's actually gotten worse. Welling up, Pinkie steps forward and apologizes. She promises to make sure her new hobby doesn't bother them ever again. With that she rushes out. Dash takes out her earplugs and turns to the others, "Do you think she heard what we said?"

ACT THREE

SC. 15 - EXT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER – LATER

Wanting to apologize, Twilight, Applejack, Fluttershy, Rarity and Rainbow Dash knock on Pinkie's door, but there's no answer. Fluttershy thinks she's probably too depressed to even get out of bed - especially after what she heard them saying about her Zenithrash playing.

SC. 16 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER - PINKIE'S BEDROOM - SECONDS LATER

Twilight and the others enter Pinkie's room, all apologizing at the same time - but Pinkie isn't there. Where in Ponyville could she be at this time of night? Fluttershy wonders if Pinkie is even in Ponyville at all. She holds up a flyer for a Zenithrash competition at the Ice House Snow Club's Yaktobertfest celebration in Yakyakistan. Rainbow Dash hopes Pinkie hasn't run off to Yakyakistan - reminding them how Yaks hate all things that aren't perfect - and perfect certainly isn't the word she'd use to describe Pinkie Pie's playing. There's only one thing to do - they have to go to Yakyakistan to stop Pinkie from playing and getting Yak-smashed!

SC. 17 - EXT. ICE HOUSE SNOW CLUB – LATER

The ponies are happy to finally reach the venue - and quickly head to the entrance. As they near the front door, they see the Yak bouncer/doorman throwing a Yak patron out. His hair is braided right over left and ever yak knows yak hair is braided left over right. Since it's not perfect, he has

to go! The ponies are now even more worried about Pinkie's performance, but when the bouncer hears that they're friends of Pinkie's, much to their surprise, he ushers them right in.

SC. 18 - INT. ICE HOUSE SNOW CLUB – CONTINUOUS

The Yaktobert celebration is in full swing. An oompa-type band plays on stage. While some Yaks enjoy their traditional dance (their version of the Chicken Dance – but with smashing stuff), others are wrestling and roughhousing. As two Yaks toast huge mugs of yak juice, some spills out all over Rarity. Rarity stresses the sooner they find Pinkie, the sooner they can leave. Just then, Twilight spots Pinkie waiting in the stage's wings. Twilight: "There she is! Let's go stop her!" Rainbow Dash is disappointed. "But it was my turn to wrestle next. Sorry Yorgen!" Applejack pulls her away from a saddened Yak bruiser.

SC. 19 - INT. ICE HOUSE SNOW CLUB - BACKSTAGE – CONTINUOUS

Pinkie is shocked to see them there. She's touched they came all this way to hear her play. Rainbow Dash: "Well, actually..." They're here to do the exact opposite. They unsuccessfully try to convince Pinkie Pie that she shouldn't play. Playing the Zenithrash just isn't her thing. She really should go back to doing something else she's better at like baking, party planning, or literally anything else. Pinkie: "But I love playing more than baking and party planning and even laughing." Twilight: "Really?!" Pinkie: "No, but I am having a good time." As Twilight tries to warn and remind Pinkie about the Yaks intolerance for anything that isn't perfect - Pinkie is called to the stage. She quickly walks out, while the rest of the ponies exchange worried looks and head into the audience.

SC. 20 - INT. ICE HOUSE SNOW CLUB - STAGE – CONTINUOUS

Pinkie begins to play. Like always, she is horrible, but clearly is having the time of her life. When she finishes, the crowd is silent. Crickets are heard. The ponies wince, expecting the worst – until the place suddenly explodes in deafening applause and stomps of approval. Rainbow Dash and the rest of the ponies don't get it. They thought yaks only like things that are perfect. How could they like Pinkie Pie's playing? The Bouncer explains. It's clear Pinkie's playing makes her happy, and seeing her so happy makes them happy. And the whole point of playing the Zenithrash is to spread happiness – therefore Pinkie's playing is perfect! This lands with the ponies. As Pinkie catches the bouquets of hay and snow flowers that are tossed to her, the other ponies approach the stage. They tell her they've learned something today. They've come to realize it's okay to love doing something you're not all that good at, as long as it makes you happy. So about her performance they only have one thing to say... She looks at them dubiously until they all shout in unison: "Encore! Encore!" The whole crowd quickly joins in. Pinkie Pie: "With pleasure!" As she happily starts jamming away again, we...

FADE OUT

END OF EPISODE