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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

Horse Play
Ep 807

Teleplay 1st Draft

Premise: Kaita Mpambara
Outline: Kaita Mpambara
Teleplay 1st Draft: Kaita Mpambara

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TEASER

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SC. 1 - EXT. PRINCESS CELESTIA'S CASTLE - ESTABLISHING - DAY**PUSH IN as we hear TWILIGHT inside:**

1 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Princess Celestia, I have an idea
for your Onesversary!

SC. 2 - INT. PRINCESS CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - CONT.

TWILIGHT beams at PRINCESS CELESTIA, who stands on the dais.
SPIKE stands next to Twilight, holding a BASKET. Celestia
cocks her head, slightly amused.

*

2 CELESTIA
My...Onesversary?

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
The one thousand one hundred
eleventh year anniversary of when
you first raised the sun.

4 SPIKE
Good thing Pinkie Pie reminded us,
or we woulda forgot to celebrate!

5 CELESTIA
You're not the only ones. (then)
What did you have in mind?

6 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
To commemorate your first sunrise,
I've written a play. We hoped to
perform it in Ponyville. (hopeful)
If you don't mind...

Celestia surprises Twilight and Spike by giving an excited
prance like a young filly.

7 CELESTIA
Mind?! Of course not. I think a
play is a fantastic idea!

Spike's jaw is still open. He sottoms to a shocked Twilight--

*

8 SPIKE
Did she just...Prance?

Celestia notices their surprise, and covers, regal again.

9 CELESTIA
Forgive me for getting so excited.
It's just...

Twilight watches as Celestia gazes wistfully out a window,
remembering...

10 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
When I was a filly, my friends
often put on plays. It was so
wonderful; everypony coming
together to create a magical
experience to share with others...
(then, to Twilight)
I've always believed theatre brings
out the best in us, and forges a
special bond of friendship.

Twilight is surprised at this revelation, and intrigued!

11 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I didn't know you used to act.

12 CELESTIA
(shakes her head)
Oh, not me. I was always too busy
with my magic lessons to be part of
any plays myself.
(wistful)
But still, it's something I always
wished I could experience.

13 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(getting an idea)
And you still can! Princess
Celestia... We would be honored if
you would be the star of our play!

Celestia looks surprised. Spike whips his head to Twilight
in shock--

14 SPIKE
WE WOULD?!

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 3 - INT. PRINCESS CELESTIA'S CASTLE - DAY - RESUME

Spike is still looking at Twilight in astonishment. But
Celestia's eyes are shining with hope.

15 CELESTIA
You want me to be in your play?

16 SPIKE
(to Twilight)
Yeah, when did that happen exactly?

17 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(to Celestia)
If you'll excuse us for a second, I
just need a moment with my
director's assistant...

Twilight floats Spike over to a corner of the room and puts
her head near his in conference. This is all STAGE-WHISPERED:

18 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Don't you see, Spike? It's perfect!
Princess Celestia has always wanted
to be in a play, and this one's
about her!

19 SPIKE
(sotto)
I guess... But she's the ruler of
Equestria. Giving her directions
is gonna be a little awkward,
dont'cha think?

20 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(sotto)
I think Celestia is our friend.
She's always kind to everypony. So
if we have a chance to finally do
something for her, we should!

Spike considers this.

21 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(sotto)
C'mon, how many times has Celestia
helped us? Guided us. Been a warm
calming voice over our shoulder--

Celestia pokes her head right behind Twilight's shoulder.

22 CELESTIA
Twilight?

23 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
<startle> (then) I mean, yes
Princess Celestia?

24 CELESTIA
Your invitation is very kind. But
are you certain you wish to cast me
in the lead role? I must warn you,
I have no acting experience at all.

25 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Experience? Psssh! You'll be
playing yourself. And all my
friends will be there to help you.
Please? It'd mean so much to
everypony if you were in our show.

Celestia takes this in - and then beams, truly excited.

26 CELESTIA
Well, if you're sure...

Twilight nods hard, then nudges Spike, who also nods.

27 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
Then I would be delighted to join
your theatre troupe!

SC. 4 - EXT. OUTDOOR THEATRE STAGE - DAY

PINKIE PIE happily <BLASTS> herself out of a confetti cannon!

28 PINKIE PIE
Confetti is ready! Hee hee!

Pinkie reaches maximum altitude up in the air, then pulls out
an umbrella to float gently back toward the ground in a cloud
of confetti, landing on a flat set piece (resting on the
stage) that APPLEJACK is painting. Apple jack spits the
paintbrush out and frowns at Pinkie. *

29 APPLEJACK
Wormy applecores, Pinkie! How many
times have I told ya to keep your
special effects away from my sets?

30 PINKIE PIE
Three hundred twenty seven. Ooh!
Unless you just DID. Then it's
three hundred twenty eight!

Applejack rolls her eyes. NEARBY, STARLIGHT GLIMMER flips
through a script with FLUTTERSHY.

31 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I can't believe you've memorized
your lines already, Fluttershy.

32 FLUTTERSHY
Oh, thank you. Now I just hope
Princess Celestia says we can do
our play.

RARITY, sewing costumes, speaks up--

33 RARITY
Once she sees these fabulous
costumes I'm making, all she'll be
able to say is 'brava!'

RAINBOW DASH is hanging lights above. She calls down,
pointing at who she sees approaching --

34 RAINBOW DASH
Heads up! Here comes our answer.

The other ponies turn as Twilight runs up to the stage, Spike
riding along.

35 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wonderful news, everypony!

36 APPLEJACK
Yeeeha! We get to put on our show?

37 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Even better. Princess Celestia is
going to be our star!

Everypony's jaw drops. Spike nods.

38 SPIKE
Yeah, that's how I felt too.

39 FLUTTERSHY
(nearly hyperventilating)
Celestia? Is going to be starring?
In the same play? As us?

Twilight waves a hoof - no big deal!

40 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
She was a little nervous at first,
but I told her not to worry. With
us helping, it'll all go smooth as--

41 RARITY
SILK!

Rarity hurls aside the costume she was working on, and dives
head-first into a TRUNK of fabric, tossing swatches and
swathes aside in a frantic search for the perfect one.

42 RARITY (CONT'D)
I simply must find the silk! If Celestia is going to be in our play, none of my old costume ideas will do! We have to take everything up to the next level!

43 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Higher than "brava"?

44 RARITY
(ready for battle)
Ohhhh...We are at code diva!

45 PINKIE PIE
Yeah! Forget my regular party cannon. For princess-size effects, we're gonna need "Big Bertha!"

Pinkie rushes off-screen... Then comes back, trying to wheel a GIGANTIC 890 CALIBER CONFETTI CANNON on stage, only to have it get stuck half-way in the wings due to its massive size! It <SCRAPES> painfully along the set edges.

46 APPLEJACK
PINKIE!

47 PINKIE PIE
Three hundred and twenty-nine!!!

48 RAINBOW DASH
This is amazing! I gotta go tell everypony I know.

Rainbow Dash zooms off into the sky, creating a <SONIC RAINBOOM> in her excited wake. Applejack shakes her head.

49 APPLEJACK
Why in tarnation are y'all gettin' so star-struck? We've met Princess Celestia before. Plenty-a times.

50 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Those were formal things - galas, world-saving. This is different. Imagine doing sweaty acting warm-ups in front of a princess. Blowing your nose in front of a princess. Sitting around just...talking with a princess.

51 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm a princess. You talk to me.

52 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
That's different. You're not a
PRINCESS princess.

Twilight raises a sardonic eyebrow.

53 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
...Thanks.
 (then, to her friends)
Celestia just wants to experience
the special friendship that show-
ponies have with each other. If you
want to give her that, the best way
to do it is to be yourselves.

54 FLUTTERSHY
You...you really think so?

55 APPLEJACK
Aw, quit frettin'. It's just a
coupla pals gettin' together and
puttin' on a show. What could go
wrong?

SC. 5 - EXT. OUTDOOR THEATRE STAGE - NIGHT

Twilight and Spike sit in DIRECTOR chairs, looking at the
fully completed theatre stage. Spike is dressed like an old-
timey DIRECTOR - riding pants, beret. Into a MEGAPHONE:

56 SPIKE
Places, everypony. We're here to
rehearse "A New Day in Equestria!"

Twilight <COUGHS>. Spike rolls his eyes.

57 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Directed by, written by, and
produced by Twilight Sparkle.

Twilight smiles. Uses her magic to open the script.

58 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Page 1, Act 1, Scene 1. ACTION!

The curtains open, and Fluttershy begins narrating.

59 FLUTTERSHY
Once upon a time, before Celestia,
Equestria was suffering terrible
hardship.

A group of SIX UNICORN EXTRAS (One of them dressed as
STARSWIRL THE BEARDED) come sadly trudging onto the stage.

60 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Raising the sun every morning was
so hard that it took five great
sorcerers plus Starswirl the
Bearded to do it.

The Six unicorns form a circle on stage and strain their faces, concentrating with all their might.

BACKSTAGE: Pinkie Pie pulls a switch.

ONSTAGE: A TRAP DOOR opens in the stage, and up through the trap door rises a tall pole, on top of which spins "The Sun" (a shiny Disco Ball).

61 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
And every day, the unicorns helping
Starswirl would use so much magic,
they lost their powers... Forever!

The five unicorns around Starswirl (over-acting a little) all put their hooves to their foreheads and faint dramatically.

62 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Things looked bleak. Soon,
Equestria would lose all its magic-
users! Then, the land would be
covered in darkness for all
eternity.

BACKSTAGE: Pinkie flips the switch again, and "The Sun" drops back down below the stage.

IN THE DARK AUDIENCE, Twilight giddily whispers to Spike:

63 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Even I can't believe how good my
play is. The sets, the props, the
outfits, they're all great!

Spike points to Celestia, stepping majestically on stage.

64 SPIKE
And here comes the best part.

65 FLUTTERSHY
But then, an Alicorn named Celestia
discovered she had the power to
raise the sun all by herself.
Without draining her magic!

Celestia stands on stage, looking regal and...does nothing.

There's a long silence as everyone looks at her. Twilight prompts her kindly.

66 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Um...that's your cue, Celestia.

Celestia looks surprised, then nods--

67 CELESTIA
Oh! Right! Of course. <ahem>
(then, super-quiet)
It's time for a new day in
Equestria.

Twilight and Spike look at each other.

68 SPIKE
Um. What?

69 CELESTIA
I said...
(super-quiet)
It's time for a new day in
Equestria.

Twilight grits her teeth in a smile. Cheerleads:

70 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
And your delivery was...great. But
maybe you should try it a tiny bit
louder. Just so the ponies in the
back row will be able to hear you.

71 CELESTIA
Of course. Thank you, Twilight.
(at the top of her lungs)
IT'S TIME FOR A NEW DAY IN
EQUESTRIA!!!!

All the "collapsed" ponies on stage jump up, covering their ears in surprise. Celestia looks around, embarrassed.

72 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
Oh goodness, that was a bit too
loud wasn't it. My apologies. I'm
still learning to "hone my craft."

73 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, no you're doing...fine. Why
don't we try it just one more time.
Just like you're talking to me.

74 CELESTIA
(flat, emotionless)
It's time for a new day in
Equestria.

75 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
One more time. A bit more energy.

76 CELESTIA
(near-hyperactive)
It's time for a new day in
Equestria!

BACKSTAGE: Applejack, Pinkie, Rarity, and Starlight share a worried look.

77 RARITY
Well, at least she's passionate.

IN THE AUDIENCE, TWILIGHT flips through script pages.

78 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Y'know what? Why don't we just
skip ahead. Narrator? Scene 5?

79 FLUTTERSHY
And that's when Celestia made
another great discovery.

80 CELESTIA
(terrible overacting)
Forsooth! By raising the sun, I
have not only saved Equestria, but
as you can see--

Celestia turns so the audience can see her flank, but in so doing, accidentally bumps into "Starswirl the Bearded," knocking him off the stage!

81 STARSWIRL ACTOR
Aaaaah!

<THUD>! Celestia looks unsure of what to do, then powers through, finishing her speech.

82 CELESTIA
I've-also-earned-my-Cutie-Mark!
(a beat)
Um...How was that?

Applejack, Pinkie, Rarity, and Starlight step from the wings.

83 APPLEJACK
Honestly...?

Twilight <TELEPORTS> on stage to cover Applejack's mouth with a wing.

84 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Great! Wow! It's hard to believe
you've never done this before!
Let's move on to the dance number.

SC. 6 - EXT. THEATRE STAGE - LATER

*

ON SPIKE, holding his megaphone as he choreographs the ponies OS. Music <VAMPS> behind him.

85 SPIKE
Again! Step, buck, leap touch...
Again! Step, buck, leap touch...
Got it? Going on. Five, six,
seven, eight!

As happy <MUSIC> plays, Celestia and the six unicorns stand in a line on stage, and DANCE in choreography.

86 CELESTIA
(awful acting)
Come ON, StarsWIRL! Throw OFF that
musty HAT, and let's have A dance!

Celestia grabs "Starswirl's" hat in her teeth and playfully tosses it off-stage.

Unfortunately, the hat lands on Pinkie's LEVER backstage... which opens the theatre's TRAP-DOOR!

ALL SIX of the unicorn actors plummet through the trap-door!

87 ACTORS
<YELL>

<CRASHHHH!!!> Celestia looks down through the hole in the floor, seems upset by what she sees, and calls to Twilight, who is watching backstage (with Starlight, AJ, PP and Rarity).

*
*

88 CELESTIA
Ummm... I think we have a problem.

Applejack leans over and whispers to Twilight.

89 APPLEJACK
Yeah. Our lead actress cain't act.

Twilight, who knows it's true, looks suitably horrified.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**SC. 7 - EXT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT**

*

Twilight paces in worry in front of Starlight, Rarity, Pinkie, Fluttershy, Applejack and Spike.

90 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What are we gonna do? If I tell Celestia she's a terrible actress, it'll hurt her feelings. And I'll be a bad friend. But if I keep her in the show, she'll be the laughing stock of Equestria. And I'll be a worse friend!

91 APPLEJACK
That's a sticky spot of applesap alright.

92 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm open to suggestions!

93 SPIKE
Why don't we just cancel the show?

94 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Any real suggestions?

95 SPIKE
No, think about it. Right now, most of Equestria doesn't even know there is a play. If we shut it down-

96 RARITY
No pony will ever miss it!

97 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
So they'll never find out Princess Celestia is a bad actress.

98 FLUTTERSHY
And she won't be embarrassed.

*

99 PINKIE PIE
It's the perfect plan!

Just then, Rainbow Dash comes ZOOMING IN!

100 RAINBOW DASH
Alright! I just finished telling everypony I know about our play!

101 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You...did?

102 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah! You should've seen how
excited they got when they found
out Celestia was gonna be in it!
They said they'd tell their
friends, and then their friends'll
tell their friends! Ponies are
gonna come stampeding from all over
Equestria to see this thing!

Rainbow notices all the other ponies looking at each other.

103 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Uh...did I miss something?

104 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Just a bright light of hope being
dashed. But that's okay. If we
can't cancel the show, I know what
I have to do.

105 APPLEJACK
Be honest with Celestia and give
the lead role to somepony else?

106 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Not a chance.

107 APPLEJACK
Twilight...!

108 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I promised Celestia, as her friend,
that this time she could be part of
the play instead of just watching
it. And I plan to keep that
promise.

*

109 PINKIE PIE
So...What are you gonna do?

SC. 8 - INT. TWILIGHT'S SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - NEXT DAY

*

Twilight and Spike present Celestia with a pile of BOOKS.

110 CELESTIA
You want to give me acting lessons?

111 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No ho ho! More like, a special
tutorial. To elevate your
performance from good to flawless!

112 CELESTIA
Thank you so much! If there's
anything I can do to become a
better Equestrian thespian I will.
Where shall we start? What part of
my performance needs the most work?

Twilight and Spike glance at each other.

113 SPIKE
Uh...actually...

114 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Just read these books for now. Then
we'll have you work with some other
actors because--

Twilight searches the room for a plausible explanation. Her
eyes pause on the CHALKBOARD, which has a diagram of the
ELEMENTS OF HARMONY. Inspiration!

115 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
--We need more than one great
actress to make a great play. It's
about everypony working together in
perfect... harmony.

116 CELESTIA
Goodness, what wonderful guidance!
This is what I always knew theatre
must be about. That special bond
of trust and honesty shared by
ponies of the stage.

Twilight and Spike look at each other guiltily.

SC. 9 - EXT. PONYVILLE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY

*

We see a montage of Twilight growing increasingly stressed as
she tries to do too many things at once.

1. Twilight and Spike introduce Celestia to THE METHOD MARES
(A 4-pony acting troupe from Ep. 516.)

117 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Meet the Method Mares. They'll run
you through some acting exercises--

Twilight trots purposefully away, muttering.

118 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
While I go check on the crew.

ON STAGE and RASPBERRY BERET bows to Celestia.

*

119 ON STAGE
Enchente, your majesty. Why don't
we start with "Improv"?

120 RASPBERRY BERET
YES, and...That should be easy. If
we can just get out of this box!

Instantly the four Method Mares surround Celestia and pantomime placing their hooves on an imaginary glass box that's holding them all trapped. Celestia simply walks outside the "Prison" and looks at the Method Mares, confused.

121 CELESTIA
What box?

Spike face-palms. This isn't going to be easy.

2. Twilight walks up to the stage, where Starlight and the Mane 6 are working on the sets/props. The sun-disco ball is SMASHED inside the trapdoor, where the wizards fell on it.

122 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
How's it going?

123 RAINBOW DASH
Well, the bad news is, that sun
will never rise again.

124 PINKIE PIE
But the good news is, I have
something even better!

Pinkie produces a huge, BEAUTIFUL YELLOW BALLOON on a string.

125 RARITY
It's the perfect substitute.

A bird flies by. Accidentally POPS the balloon with its beak! All the ponies (especially Twilight) look distraught as the balloon <TSEEEEEEEWS> its way down to the floor.

*

126 RARITY (CONT'D)
It was the perfect substitute.

3. Twilight walks up to Spike.

127 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Please give me some good news.

Spike (depressed) points to Celestia, talking with LATE SHOW.

128 LATE SHOW
Let's see how fast you can recite
complex lines! "Wunwun was a race
horse, Tutu was one, too. Wunwun
won one race, Tutu won one too!"

129 CELESTIA
(slowly) One one was one race horse
...who won two tutus...at two to
one odds, because Wunwun wanted to?

Twilight slumps.

4. A frazzled looking Twilight walks on stage where the ponies are working on yet another sun. She gives Pinkie a pleading look.

130 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Do I want to know?

Pinkie nods and throws the switch and opens the trap door.
Up rises a pole, and on top of the pole: A GIANT MARSHMALLOW!

131 PINKIE PIE
Wait for it...

<FWOOM!> The Marshmallow ignites in FLAME.

Applejack races in with a bucket of water on her back and bucks it up to SPLASH ON THE MARSHMALLOW, putting it out. She does a slow-burn-glare to Pinkie.

132 APPLEJACK
PINKIE PIE...

133 PINKIE PIE
Whaaaat? It's realistic! The sun's
just like a burning marshmallow.

134 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm gonna pretend I didn't see
that.

5. A worn down and put-upon Twilight trudges toward Spike and Late Show. All three of them stare at Celestia, who is making a series of bizarre incomprehensible gestures in front of the last Method Mare: STARDOM.

135 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
What are they doing now?

136 SPIKE
The simplest acting exercise they
could think of: A game of Charades.

Stardom tries her best to guess what Celestia is acting out.

137 STARDOM
A puppy! A duck-billed platypus!
Antidisestabishmentarianism! Oh, I
give up! What?!

138 CELESTIA
My love for Equestria and all the
ponies in it! (Notices Twilight)
Twilight, you felt what I was
emoting, didn't you?

139 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(Forcing a smile) ...Yeah!

Spike leans over to Late Show.

140 SPIKE
Now that's the best acting we've
seen all day.

SC. 10 - EXT. THEATRE - PERFORMANCE NIGHT

*

As ponies bustle busily back and forth, setting up chairs in front of the stage for the upcoming performance, Celestia talks with Starlight.

141 CELESTIA
Are you certain I can't attend the
pre-show warm-up party? I really
hoped to have one last trust circle
with my fellow actors.

142 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Sorry, but Twilight said the show's
star needs her space before her
performance. To, you know,
mentally prepare for her role.

Celestia arches an eyebrow...

SC. 11 - EXT. BACKSTAGE - PERFORMANCE NIGHT

*

Twilight, at the end of her rope, addresses Spike, Fluttershy, Applejack, Rainbow Dash and Rarity.

143 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Ok. I tried, and tried, and tried.
But we have to face facts.
(MORE)

TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

We can't make Celestia an actress.
So there's only one thing to do.

144 APPLEJACK
Tell her the truth?

145 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No.

146 APPLEJACK / RARITY / SPIKE /
 FLUTTERSHY / RAINBOW DASH
<groan>

Twilight magically conjures a script.

147 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I've re-written the script and
given Celestia a "more artistic"
silent part. With no lines. If we
do this version, we should be able
to get through the play without
anything going wrong.

148 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
And to make sure the show is a hit,
I've whipped up the biggest,
bestest, flashiest fake sun ever!

Everyone looks up to the catwalk, sees Pinkie has taped
together a HUGE BALL OF FIREWORKS (which dangles from the
backdrop by a rope) and the fuse on the main firework is LIT!

149 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Pinkie, that doesn't look safe.

150 PINKIE PIE
Why wouldn't it be safe?

<SHOOM!!> The fireworks ERUPT, BLASTING off the stage and
carrying the backdrop with them as they EXPLODE over the
horizon! Twilight takes in the ruination of the set. She
tries to hold in the stress...Tries... And then...

151 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
AAAAAAAAAAHHH!!! I CAN'T TAKE IT
ANYMORE!! IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A
SIMPLE PLAY! JUST ONE SIMPLE PLAY!
AND THEN EVERYTHING GOES WRONG!
FROM THE STAGE, TO THE PROPS, RIGHT
DOWN TO THE HORRIBLE LEAD ACTRESS!!

Twilight suddenly notices everyone's staring at something
behind her.

Twilight turns to see CELESTIA, Starlight a few steps behind. Twilight winces. How much did she hear?!

152 CELESTIA
I...came because I thought I heard
a scream. Twilight...you really
think I'm a horrible actress?

Uh-oh. Sounds like Celestia heard the whole thing.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 12 - EXT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT - RESUME

*

Fluttershy, Applejack, Rainbow Dash, Pinkie Pie, Rarity, Starlight and Spike watch awkwardly as Celestia confronts Twilight.

153 CELESTIA
If you honestly felt I was a bad
actress, why didn't you tell me?

154 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Princess Celestia, I'm so sorry. I
didn't mean to insult your acting.
It's just...I got so stressed...

Twilight bows her head in shame.

155 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
But that's no excuse for what I
said. You have every right to be
upset with me.

156 CELESTIA
I'm not upset because you insulted
my acting.

157 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(hopeful)
You're not?

Celestia shakes her head - and lets Twilight see the deep hurt in her eyes.

158 CELESTIA
I'm upset because...in all the time
we've known each other, I thought
I'd taught you about the importance
of friendship, trust, and honesty--

*

159 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You have!

160 CELESTIA
Have I? If you didn't trust me
enough to be honest with me...Maybe
our friendship wasn't as strong as
I thought. Excuse me.

Celestia turns and flies away into the night sky.

161 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Celestia! Wait!

Twilight starts to fly after Celestia, but Pinkie Pie grabs
Twilight's hind legs.

162 PINKIE PIE
No! You can't fly away now!

163 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What do you mean? I have to--

164 FLUTTERSHY
Look.

Fluttershy points to a small gap in the curtain.

Looking through it, the ponies can see a large audience
sitting in front of the stage, waiting for the show to start.

165 RARITY
Ponies are taking their seats for
the show!

166 RAINBOW DASH
Standing room only! Did I do a
good job advertising this thing or
what?

Rainbow Dash notices everypony frowning at her.

167 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Sorry.

168 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
We can't put on a show with no lead
actress.

Applejack takes charge and tells Twilight--

169 APPLEJACK
You go find Celestia. We'll figure
a way to stall 'til ya get back.

Twilight nods and takes off flying as fast as she can.

Spike looks at all the remaining ponies and jerks a thumb at the audience outside the curtain.

170 SPIKE
So, which poor schlub is gonna get stuck with trying to tame that?

SC. 13 - EXT. OUTDOOR THEATER STAGE - NIGHT

*

Spike tiptoes timidly out onto the stage, surveys the crowd.

171 SPIKE
Hey, everypony. Who wants to see some juggling?

Spike pulls a series of bowling pins out from behind his back and commences a (kind of lame) juggling act. No response from the audience. It's gonna be a long night.

SC. 14 - EXT THE SKIES OVER EQUESTRIA - NIGHT

*

Twilight catches up with Celestia soaring through the clouds.

172 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Princess Celestia! Please wait!
Can we talk?

173 CELESTIA
I'm afraid I haven't much to say,
Twilight.

174 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Alright then, just listen. I know what I did was wrong. I should've told you the truth.

Twilight summons her inner strength, keeps going.

175 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
But I knew you'd dreamed of being in a play. And after all you've done for me, and for Equestria, I wanted to make your dreams come true.

Celestia looks at Twilight, surprised and moved by this.

176 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
To give you a day where you'd have a chance to be just one of the ponies and share the theatre bond. Not just because you're my teacher, but because you're my friend.

177 CELESTIA
You...really mean that?

178 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Of course I do.

Celestia lands on a cloud. Twilight follows suit.

179 CELESTIA
Thank you, Twilight. But the truth
is always better than a lie. No
matter how well meant.

180 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Well, I sure learned that the hard
way. Thanks to me, I don't think
anypony's going to share the
theatre bond. Heck, I practically
ruined your whole Onesversary!

181 CELESTIA
Well, I don't know about that.
Isn't there an old saying, "The
show must go on"? There may be a
way for us to save the play yet.

182 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But how? I mean, you're my friend,
but if I'm being completely
honest...you're not an actress.

183 CELESTIA
(Grinning) No, but I am a princess.

SC. 15 - EXT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

*

Spike retreats backstage, dodging a hail of FRUIT that's
being thrown by the audience.

184 AUDIENCE
<BOOOS!>

Spike bites into a thrown tomato.

185 SPIKE
Good news, free food. Bad news?
This play is officially a disaster.

186 CELESTIA (O.S.)
Fortunately, I know a thing or two
about how to deal with those.

Spike, Starlight, Rarity, Fluttershy, Pinkie, Rainbow Dash and Applejack all look up to see Twilight returning with Celestia! They float down to the stage from up above, ready to save the day.

187 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
You came back!

All the ponies rush toward Celestia happily!

188 CELESTIA
Yes. But let's celebrate later.
Right now, we have a show to do!

189 RARITY
But how? The audience is about to
riot! We have no backdrop! And
our lead actress is....!

Rarity freezes. The ponies all look at each other awkwardly. No one wants to say anything unkind. Celestia nods, it's ok.

190 CELESTIA
No longer in that role.

191 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
Rarity, Applejack, Pinkie Pie,
Twilight, go calm the audience.
Let them know the play will start
in just a minute.

The selected ponies race to follow her command.

192 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
Rainbow Dash, bring us some clouds
and place them behind the stage.

Rainbow Dash does this instantly at blinding speed. The clouds form a new BACKDROP for the stage.

193 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
There. That's our new backdrop.
It was cloudy that day. Starlight,
do you have a copy of the script?

Starlight levitates one over with her horn. Celestia gives it to Spike.

194 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
Spike, I would like you to narrate
the play. Fluttershy will be our
new lead.

Spike nods, but Fluttershy looks very unsure.

195 FLUTTERSHY
Oh my. Me? Playing you? While
you watch me playing you?

Celestia puts a reassuring hoof on Fluttershy's shoulder.

196 CELESTIA
No matter what you do, anything
will be better than my acting.

Fluttershy gives her a shy smile.

SC. 16 - EXT. OUTDOOR THEATRE STAGE - SOON - NIGHT

*

The curtains open, and Spike begins narrating.

197 SPIKE
Once upon a time, before Celestia,
Equestria was suffering terrible
hardship. Raising the sun every
morning was so hard that it took
five Unicorn Sorcerers plus
Starswirl the Bearded to do it.

The SIX UNICORN EXTRAS (Still limping, bandaged and
bedraggled from their earlier fall through the trap door)
come trudging onto the stage.

THE AUDIENCE LAUGHS at the bedraggled wizards.

198 AUDIENCE MEMBER
You call those great sorcerers?

199 AUDIENCE
<LAUGHTER>

SC. 17 - EXT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

*

Twilight panics to Celestia--

200 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no. Hecklers! What should we do?

201 CELESTIA
(calls to Spike)
Ad lib!

SC. 18 - EXT. OUTDOOR THEATRE STAGE - NIGHT

*

So Spike goes off book--

202 SPIKE
And...raising the sun each day was
super-draining.
(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)

But you can see that for
yourselves, right? I mean do these
guys look beat up or what?

<CHUCKLES> from the audience.

The actor playing Starswirl happens to walk through a puff of
cloud that's floating around on stage. The grey cloud gets
stuck in his long brown beard.

203 SPIKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Look! Starswirl is so stressed
he's already going grey!

<LAUGHTER> from the audience. Fluttershy walks out on stage
wearing gold horseshoes and a crown.

204 SPIKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
But that's ok. Because one day an
Alicorn named Celestia discovered
that she had the special power to
raise the sun all by herself.

205 FLUTTERSHY
(Boldly) It's time for a new day in
Equestria.

Fluttershy strikes a dramatic pose and...nothing happens!

SC. 19 - EXT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

*

Twilight gapes, sweating bullets as she realizes--

206 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no! In all the commotion we
forgot we don't have a sun!

207 CELESTIA
Leave that to me.

Celestia closes her eyes, concentrates...

AND THE AUDIENCE <OOHS AND AHHHS> as THE REAL SUN comes
rising up over the horizon!

The Method Mares (in the front row) are deeply impressed.

208 ON STAGE
Goodness! I had no idea this
production would have such
elaborate special effects!

209 LATE SHOW
Best Onesversary play ever!

As everypony in the audience <CHEERS WILDLY>, the sun gives off a BRIGHT FLASH and we cut to:

SC. 20 - EXT. OUTDOOR THEATRE STAGE - DAY - LATER

*

The show has ended. The audience has left. And Celestia, Spike, Starlight and the Mane Six are cleaning up a large array of flowers that have been thrown onto the stage.

210 CELESTIA
Judging by how many flowers the audience threw, it seems our play was a success.

211 FLUTTERSHY
I just feel bad you never got a chance to actually be in it.

212 CELESTIA
Oh, but you shouldn't. I never felt I had to be on stage to be part of the show. All I ever wanted was to share an honest bond of creativity, artistry, and happiness with my friends. And that's exactly what I got to do.

213 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you for saving our play, Princess Celestia.

214 CELESTIA
You're welcome, Twilight. But from now on, none of you will have to call me "Princess" anymore.

*

215 SPIKE
We don't?

216 CELESTIA
No. I had so much fun tonight I've decided to give up my crown, step down from the throne, and devote all of my time to the theatre!

*

Everyone stares at Celestia, slack-jawed.

217 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You...what?

218 CELESTIA
Gotcha.
(then, smiles)
(MORE)

CELESTIA (CONT'D)

Maybe I'm not such a bad actress
after all.

As the friends share a good <LAUGH>, we pull back and FADE
OUT!

THE END.