

MY LITTLE PONY  
Season 8  
  
**Horse Play**  
Ep 807  
  
Outline by: Kaita Mpambara

**Distribution:**

Production:

Devon Cody  
Jim Miller  
Denny Lu  
Tim Stuby  
Zoe Borroz  
Jada McDermott

Discovery Family:

Linda Shima Tsuno  
Beth Mohammed

Hasbro Studios:

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

Hasbro Brand:

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

Premise: October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Outline: October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**HORSE PLAY**

Outline by Kaita Mpambara

*Logline: Princess Celestia’s fillyhood dream of being in a play is realized when Twilight Sparkle casts her in a production, only to discover Celestia’s talents lie elsewhere.*

**TEASER****SC. 1 - INT. PRINCESS CELESTIA’S CASTLE – DAY**

TWILIGHT SPARKLE enthusiastically outlines her plans to PRINCESS CELESTIA for Equestria’s celebration of the 1,111<sup>th</sup> year anniversary (the “Onesversary”) of the first time Celestia raised the sun. SPIKE helps by holding up Twilight’s checklist/visual aids for the day’s events. But beyond dawn-themed foods and music, Twilight has something special in mind – a play she’s written to reenact that meaningful day. Her Ponyville friends will put on the thrilling production... If Celestia doesn’t mind.

Celestia smiles – she’d be honored. In fact, it makes her a little wistful. She explains (possibly in flashback?) that when she was a young filly, she never got to be in any theatre productions, because she was so busy with her magic lessons. The ponies in the theatre troupe always seemed like such close, special friends. She wishes she could’ve gotten a chance to experience that. Eager to help, Twilight tells the Princess that she can... Because they’d love it if Celestia would play herself in their production. Spike’s jaw drops: “We WOULD?!”

**END TEASER****MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 2 - INT. PRINCESS CELESTIA’S CASTLE – DAY**

Twilight covers for Spike’s outburst, asking Celestia to give her a moment with her “director’s assistant.” Pulling him aside, she asks Spike what’s wrong... “*My idea’s perfect!*” Spike points out that this isn’t just anypony... It’s PRINCESS CELESTIA. They can’t just treat her like one of the Mane 6 – it’s going to be really awkward. Twilight tells him that Celestia is always generous and giving to everypony else. If being part of the theatre group is the one thing she wants, then they’re going to make it happen, whatever it takes.

Twilight turns back from her “conference” to tell Celestia it’s decided. Having the Princess in their play will make the Onesversary even MORE special. Princess Celestia is flattered by the invitation, but she’s a little reluctant. “*I’ve never acted before...*” Celestia says. But Twilight is now dead-set on helping Celestia to fulfill her dream. With an impassioned plea, Twilight makes this not about Celestia, but about the production: “*It will mean so much to everypony if you’re in the play. I wrote the lines especially for you! You’ll inspire the cast and crew by being there!*” Celestia finally

agrees when Twilight assures her that her friends will be around to help Celestia shine in her theatrical debut.

### SC. 3 - EXT. OUTDOOR THEATRE STAGE – LATER

Twilight runs up to the stage, Spike riding along, where STARLIGHT GLIMMER and the MANE 5 are in preproduction for the big show. RARITY is working on sewing costumes, APPLEJACK is building sets, PINKIE PIE is assembling/testing wacky props, actress FLUTTERSHY is running lines with stage-manager STARLIGHT and RAINBOW DASH is hanging lights. Twilight announces the good news to her friends: Princess Celestia said they can go ahead with their play! The ponies cheer – they’re so excited with how it’s coming along. Then Twilight drops the other horseshoe: *“And Princess Celestia is going to be in it as herself!”* The ponies’ jaws drop.

There’s sudden panic among the friends. Twilight tries to calm them down: with all of them working together, the show will run as smooth as... *“...SILK!”* Rarity shouts as she races back and forth, searching frantically through several piles of fabric that lay scattered around the room. *“I simply must find the silk! If Princess 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!”* Pinkie shouts from the wings, *“Yeah! Forget my regular party cannon. We’re gonna need ‘Big Bertha’!”* Pinkie tries to wheel a GIGANTIC 890 caliber confetti cannon onstage (only to have it get stuck half-way in the wings due to its massive size). Rainbow Dash can’t believe that Celestia is going to be in their play. You don’t get any cooler than that. Fluttershy hopes the Princess likes their play once she sees it. APPLEJACK doesn’t know what all the fuss is about. *“As long as Princess Celestia hits her marks and says her lines, everything is gonna go as smooth as apple sauce.”* Starlight agrees, but points out that spending every moment with a Princess might change the dynamic of things. Twilight: *“I’m a princess.”* Starlight: *“That’s different. You’re not a PRINCESS princess.”* Twilight: *“Thanks?”*

Twilight reassures them: it’ll be fine. Panicking won’t help them put on the kind of great show that Celestia deserves. They all just need to be themselves. Celestia has always wanted to be in a play, and now they’re going to give her the true experience. The ponies all agree, nervous but excited.

### SC. 4 - EXT. OUTDOOR THEATER STAGE – NEXT DAY

Twilight and Spike sit in the audience, looking at the closed curtains. Twilight has her play script open, and she calls, *“action!”* for rehearsal to begin. As Fluttershy narrates, EXTRAS (OR PERHAPS THE CMCS) act out the story of how, once upon a time, before Celestia took on the responsibility of raising the sun each morning, Equestria was suffering terrible hardship. The task of raising the sun each day was so difficult that it took two Unicorn Sorcerers PLUS Starswirl the Bearded to do it. And the ordeal was so draining that, EVERY DAY, whichever two Unicorns helped Starswirl would end up using ALL THEIR POWER and lose the ability to cast magic forever. The situation looked bleak. The way things were going, it seemed as if all the magic-users in Equestria would soon be drained of their power, and when that happened, the kingdom would be shrouded in darkness for all eternity. Twilight calls for everyone to stop and congratulates

her friends. The sets looks great. The costumes are perfect. Pinkie Pie even figured out a way to make a huge prop sun.

*“We’re ready for the next scene!”* Twilight calls. BACKSTAGE, Starlight smiles to Princess Celestia, *“That’s your cue!”* Celestia nods and walks onstage as Fluttershy narrates the story: But then, a pony by the name of Celestia made a life-changing discovery. She learned that she was special, and had the power to raise the sun, all by herself, without draining her magic!

Celestia stands onstage, waiting. There’s silence as everyone stops, unsure what to do. *“Um, now it’s time for your line, Celestia,”* Twilight prompts kindly. Celestia nods and says her line – too quiet to hear. Twilight encourages her to try a little louder. Now Celestia shouts the line. The ponies onstage jump. Celestia apologizes...She’s still getting the hang of this. She delivers her line at normal volume...With no acting. *“Great!”* Says Twilight a little too brightly, *“Now, try it with some real passion!”* Celestia delivers her line the same way. Even with different prompts – with energy, with fear, naturally...The line comes out the same. Backstage, Applejack and Starlight share a worried look.

Twilight smiles tightly – why don’t they skip ahead? Starswirl and Celestia start their next scene, but Celestia’s delivery is horrible and she mouths Starswirl’s lines too, dropping props. Spike gapes to Twilight – this is horrible! At the end of the scene, a hopeful Celestia asks how she did – it was her first time, and she knows she’s still getting the hang of it. *“Honestly...”* Applejack says, about to lay the truth out... But Twilight covers. *“Great! Wow! It’s hard to believe you’ve never done this before! Let me just talk things over with my crew... Why don’t you take five?”*

#### **SC. 5 - EXT. BACKSTAGE – DAY**

Starlight, Rarity, Pinkie Pie, Applejack, Fluttershy, and Spike are all horrified by what they just saw. If Celestia performs like that during the actual play, they’re gonna have a real problem on their hooves. Twilight tries to defend Celestia, saying sometimes it just takes awhile for an actress to get into character. (Applejack says that excuse doesn’t really make any sense here, since Celestia IS the character.) Twilight says they should just keep calm and move to the dance number. Celestia will probably do better as she warms up – no problem!

#### **SC. 6 - EXT. OUTDOOR THEATER STAGE – DAY**

In a “Chorus Line” type sequence, Rarity lays out the choreography for the actors (*“left hoof right twirl walk walk walk, AGAIN!”*). At first, Celestia is keeping up. But the archway prop the ponies dance through doesn’t give her taller head enough clearance and she knocks it over. The actors leap away from the falling prop and in a domino-like disaster, the sets crash down (and Pinkie’s sun prop is destroyed). In the wings, Applejack says what everypony is thinking. They’ve got a problem all right: The star of their show is a TERRIBLE PERFORMER!

#### **END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO****SC. 7 - EXT. BACKSTAGE – DAY**

Twilight paces in worry in front of her friends. What are they going to do? Spike suggests Twilight cancel the show. Right now, most of Equestria doesn't even know they were planning on doing a play. If they shut it down now, nopony will ever miss it, and they'll never find out that Celestia is a bad actress, and they can save Celestia from embarrassing herself in public. Twilight smiles, *“That's a great idea, Spike!”* Just then, Rainbow Dash comes zooming in. *“Alright! I just finished posting all the fliers about our play! You should've seen how excited everypony got when they found out Celestia was gonna be in it. They're gonna come stampeding from all over Equestria to see her!”* Rainbow Dash looks at all her friends' distressed faces. *“What'd I miss?”*

Twilight says she knows what they have to do. *“Be honest with Celestia, tell her she's a bad actress, and give the role to somepony else?”* Applejack asks. But Twilight says no. She promised Celestia that this *wouldn't* be another experience where other ponies get to put on a play, and Celestia has to sit on the sidelines and just watch. They'll all just have to make an actor out of her, whatever it takes!

**SC. 8 - INT. CHEERILEE'S SCHOOLHOUSE – NEXT DAY**

Twilight and Spike present Celestia with a pile of books: *“I dug up every book I could find on how to be a great Equestrian thespian, and I'd love to give you some special tutoring to help make sure you give your best performance!”* *“Thank you, Twilight!”* Celestia says honestly, *“I really appreciate your help. I'd hate to be the weak link in this play.”* Twilight blanches, *“What? No ho ho! It's just... y'know... the thing about giving a good performance is... it takes more than just one great actress. It's about all the actors on stage, working together in perfect harmony.”* Celestia nods – that's what she always knew theatre must be about. That special trust and honesty shared by ponies onstage. Twilight winces.

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

We see a montage of several quick one-off scenes with Spike, Starlight and the Mane 6 all trying to make an actress out of Celestia:

- Movement exercises with Fluttershy and her animals – *“Don't just move like a crab...BE the crab!”* But whatever Celestia tries, she does far too gracefully.
- Tongue twisters with Pinkie Pie that Celestia says very slowly.
- Running lines with Rainbow Dash (hitting different em-PHA-sis everytime.)
- Improv with Starlight. (*“Here, Celestia, take this crystal.”* *“But that's not a crystal.”*)
- Finally, Twilight tries the *easiest* exercise she can think of. A game of Charades. But even here, when Celestia goes up in front of the group and tries to act something out, no one can guess what it is. When they finally give up and ask Celestia what she's trying to express, she says, *“My love for Equestria, and all the ponies in it! Did you feel what I was emoting?”* Twilight forces a smile: *“...Yeah!”* Applejack mumbles to Rarity, *“Now that's the best acting we've seen all day.”*

**SC. 10 - EXT. BACKSTAGE – PERFORMANCE NIGHT**

Everyone bustles around getting ready on the night of the performance, convinced it's going to be a disaster but trying to hide it from Celestia. She's picking up on their strangeness as she tries to bond with them, wishing everyone good luck. She has to admit to Starlight... This isn't quite what she thought theatre would be like, especially when she is uninvited by Twilight from the cast's “warm up/break a leg” bonding moment so that Spike can run lines with her one last time.

Twilight finally admits defeat to her friends – they can't make Celestia an actress. *“You're finally gonna tell her the truth?”* Applejack asks, relieved. But Twilight has something else in mind – she's re-written the script and given Celestia a “More artistic” silent part, with no lines. If they have the cast to do THIS version of the script, they should be able to get through the play without anything going wrong. Just then, stage manager Starlight comes running up and frantically tells Twilight that something's gone wrong. So much for that theory.

IN THE CATWALK – Pinkie Pie is putting the final touches on even better/flashier fake sun with magic fireworks she's gotten from Trixie, and the backdrop it dangles from is bending precariously. Twilight tells Pinkie it's too much, when the fireworks go off early and BLAST the sun off the stage, carrying it and the backdrop with them as they EXPLODE over the horizon. (Oopsie.) Applejack is furious – Pinkie is destroying her set! And that's the straw that broke the pony's back. Twilight erupts! She can't take it anymore! She goes into a huge tirade about how this was supposed to be a simple play, but everything's gone wrong! From the stage, to the special effects, right down to their terrible lead actress! As Twilight shouts, she notices that everyone is staring behind her. She turns around, and sees Celestia standing behind her. *“Twilight... You really think I'm terrible? Why didn't you tell me?”* Uh-oh. Celestia heard the whole thing.

**END OF ACT TWO****ACT THREE****SC. 11 - EXT. BACKSTAGE – NIGHT – RESUME**

Twilight tries to apologize, but Celestia is deeply hurt. Not because Twilight insulted her acting, but because well... in all the time Celestia and Twilight have known each other, Celestia thought she had taught Twilight important lessons about friendship, trust, and honesty. But if Twilight didn't trust her enough to be honest with her... maybe Celestia wasn't as good a teacher as she thought. As Celestia flies away, Twilight calls after her, stopped by Fluttershy, who reports that the house is full – standing room only! What should they do? Twilight tells Spike to stall while she goes after Celestia.

**SC. 12 - EXT. OUTDOOR THEATER STAGE – NIGHT**

Spike heads out onto the stage, tries to distract the audience by juggling and bad miming. It's gonna be a long night.

**SC. 13 - EXT. THE SKIES OVER EQUESTRIA - NIGHT**

As Celestia soars through the night sky, Twilight catches up with her. Twilight says she can totally understand why Celestia doesn’t want to speak to her: *“I should have told the truth. But I knew you’d dreamed of being in a play...And after all you’ve done for me, all you’ve done for Equestria, I wanted to make your dreams come true for once. 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.”*

Celestia lands on a cloud and looks at Twilight, *“Thank you, Twilight. But the truth is always better than a lie. No matter how well-meant.”* Twilight answers, *“I’m sorry. Thanks to me, I don’t think anypony’s going to share the theatre bond. I don’t think there’s even going to be a play.”* Celestia smiles, *“We might be able to save the play yet. Isn’t there an old saying, ‘The show must go on?’”* *“But how?”* Twilight asks. *“I mean, you’re my friend, but if I’m being completely honest... you’re not an actress.”* *“No,”* Celestia grins, *“But I am a princess.”*

#### **SC. 14 - EXT. BACKSTAGE – NIGHT**

As Twilight’s friends peek out from behind the curtain and see a restless audience throwing rotten fruit at Spike, Celestia returns and forges order out of chaos by giving directions like the righteous ruler she is. First, she saves Spike by pulling him backstage and telling him he doesn’t need to stall anymore – she’ll take it from here. She greets the audience and gets a round of applause for the beleaguered Spike’s efforts. Then Celestia smoothes over the tiff between Pinkie Pie and Applejack. And finally she tells everypony to take their places and get ready to perform the play, with Fluttershy as the lead (since as narrator, Fluttershy already knows the entire play by heart). Fluttershy is nervous about playing Celestia in FRONT of Celestia. But Celestia gives Fluttershy confidence: *“Anything you do will be better than my acting!”*

#### **SC. 15 - EXT. OUTDOOR THEATER STAGE – SOON – NIGHT**

The play begins, and things go well enough, with Spike as narrator and Fluttershy as Celestia, until Twilight gasps and makes a startling realization: *“What about the big sunset piece?”* *“Leave that to me,”* Celestia says – and sure enough, she raises the real sun at the moment it’s needed in the play. Best special effect ever! Everypony cheers!

#### **SC. 16 - EXT. BACKSTAGE – DAY**

When the play is over, and Celestia, Spike, Starlight and the Mane Six are cleaning things up backstage, Fluttershy says that she feels bad Celestia never got a chance to actually be in the play. But Celestia doesn’t see it that way. *“You don’t have to be onstage to be part of the show,”* she smiles. In fact, she explains that she’s thrilled – because what she wanted more than anything was to share the bond of creativity with her friends... And that’s exactly what she got to do. *“You saved our play, Princess Celestia,”* Spike says. *“Oh, Spike,”* Celestia replies, *“From now on, you don’t have to call me ‘Princess’ anymore. I had so much fun tonight I’ve decided to give up my crown, step down from the throne, and devote all my time to the theatre!”* Everyone stares at Celestia, slack-jawed. *“Gotcha,”* Celestia quips. *“Maybe I’m not such a bad actress after all.”* As the friends all share a good laugh we pull back and...

**END EPISODE.**