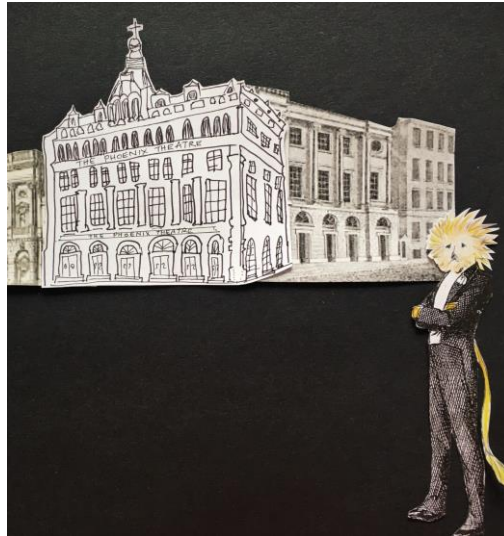


TEN WORD TALES No. 8

Llama Drama

by The Story Spinner

CHAPTER 4



As Luciano stepped onto the stage to introduce Freddie the fire-eating frog he stepped on the metal box where Freddie kept his flames.

The box fell open and a tiny spark caught hold of Luciano's gloriously golden tail, then it leapt to a curtain.

The smallest mouse who had seen this, kept shouting his loudest. The llama sisters heard him and so did the Bat Ballet, standing ready

for their turn. The llama sisters dashed forward and squashed the flame on Luciano's tail. The bats flew through the audience, telling them to leave the theatre in an orderly way. Freddie grabbed a bucket of water to attack the flames on the curtains. The animals in the audience kept calm and left quickly. Wonderfully, the cats helped all the mice escape safely.

By the time the fire engine had arrived and the hoses were in action, the theatre had emptied; Papa and Mama Llama had gone backstage and got all the performers and theatre workers safely out of the building. Luciano waited to hear what the firemen would say. At last, the chief fire officer came over.

"It's good news and bad news. Everyone is safe. That's amazing and well done on your health and safety. But there is some serious damage to the oldest part of the theatre and our experts think it will take 2 or 3 months before things can be repaired. You'll have to close."

Luciano stood on the pavement with tears running down his golden nose. "We must cancel the show. Forgive me crying but I'm not a robot," he said. "This breaks my heart."