Plays for Young Audiences

A partnership of Seattle Children’s Theatre and Children’s Theatre Company-Minneapolis

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Strega Nona Meets Her Match

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Strega Nona Meets Her Match was first presented by The Children’s Theatre Company for the 1993-94 season.

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**Characters:**

Strega Nona  
Strega Amelia  
Big Anthony  
Bambolona  
Paolo  
Papa Bambo  
Mayor  
Mayor’s Wife  
Two Nuns  
Priest  
Alicia  
Teodoro  
Signora Rosa  
Clotilda  
Piero  
Bald Tourist  

Ensemble: Students, Townspeople
STREGA NONA is replenishing the herbs and mixing things for potions and cures. She’s got the table strewn with flowers and plants. STREGA NONA uses a wooden rolling pin instead of a mortar and pestle to crush the herbs. With his ear pressed to the door is BIG ANTHONY, desperate to hear about the magic, and deeply confused about how magic can come from weeds. The goat, needing to be fed, is braying – the bird makes noise – BIG ANTHONY shushes them.

STREGA NONA (Singing) OH, IT’S TIME TO MAKE THE POTIONS AND LOTIONS AND POWDERS AND CHOWDERS AND EVERYTHING, TIME TO MAKE THE POTIONS AND LOTIONS AND ALL THE CREAMS THAT MAKE THE MAGIC, STREGA NONA, SHE GIVE THANKS TO ALL THE FLOWERS, NONA, NONA, SHE GIVE THANKS TO ALL YOU FLOWERS.

(Speaking) Oh, little rosemary plant.

STREGA NONA kisses some of the blossoms and one of the weeds and sneezes.

STREGA NONA ...you make me sneeze. I always forget that. (Singing again.) OH, IT’S TIME TO MASH THE STEMS AND THE STALKS AND SOME PRETTY BLUE ROCKS AND EVERYTHING, TIME TO STEW THE BREWS AND WALE THE ALES AND WARM THE CHARMS FOR MAGIC, STREGA NONA, SHE GIVE THANKS TO ALL THE PLANTS, NONA, NONA, I EVEN THANK THE ANTS,

Speaking to the ants she’s found in the weeds.

. Hurry along home. I don’t need you, little ants. There you go. Bye, bye. Watch out for Big Anthony - he’s right outside the door.

. BIG ANTHONY No, I’m not, Strega Nona! I’m feeding the goat. (Goat brays.)

STREGA NONA I hope so. The goat is very hungry.

BAMBOLONA enters, carrying a bag of more weeds and flowers, garlic, etc.
BAMBOLONA  (Sings) OH, IT'S TIME TO CRUSH THE PETALS AND NETTLES AND POSSOMS AND BLOSSOMS AND EVERYTHING, TIME TO MIX WITH MIXES THAT MAKE THE ELIXIRS THAT SIMMER UP THE MAGIC, BAMBOLONA, SHE GIVES THANKS TO ALL THE WEEDS, BAMBOLONA, SHE GIVES THANKS TO ALL THE SEEDS.

STREGA NONA  (Singing) OH, IT'S TIME TO CRUSH THE PETALS AND NETTLES AND POSSOMS AND BLOSSOMS,

BAMBOLONA  AND TIME TO MIX WITH MIXES THAT MAKE THE ELIXIRS THAT SIMMER,

BAMBOLONA & STREGA NONA  AND TIME TO MASH THE STEMS AND THE STALKS AND THE PRETTY BLUE ROCKS, AND TIME TO STEW THE BREWS AND ALES AND WARM THE CHARMS FOR MAGIC,

BAMBOLONA  BAMBOLONA, SHE GIVES THANKS TO ALL THE PLANTS,

STREGA NONA  STREGA NONA,

STREGA NONA & BAMBOLONA  I (SHE) EVEN THANK(S) THE ANTS.

BIG ANTHONY sees a line of ants walk out from STREGA NONA'S door.

BAMBOLONA  Big Anthony, what are you doing?

BIG ANTHONY  What do ants call their mother's sister?

BAMBOLONA  Big Anthony - please take care of these plants.

BIG ANTHONY  These weeds? I'll just feed them to the goat. (Goat brays)

BAMBOLONA  No, don't! This isn't just a weed - it's a powerful cure for laziness.

BIG ANTHONY  How can a weed cure someone of laziness?

BAMBOLONA  Strega Nona uses all these things for her magic. Maybe she should
give you some and cure you of your laziness.

BIG ANTHONY  I'm not lazy, Bambolina. I work very hard.

BAMBOLONA  You work very hard at making messes! Now watch these plants while I go get another bag.

BIG ANTHONY  Watch the plants.

BAMBOLONA  And tell Strega Nona I'll be right back.

*BAMBOLONA hands BIG ANTHONY the bag of lazy-cure and exits.*

BIG ANTHONY  Huh?

*The goat sees the weeds and begins to munch on them taking the bag from BIG ANTHONY's arm. Having forgotten what he's supposed to do, BIG ANTHONY crosses to the door of the cottage. The goat really digs into the lazy-cure now.*

BIG ANTHONY  Strega Nona? Can I come in?

STREGA NONA  Not right now, Big Anthony. The door will make a breeze. Everything is sorted in just the right piles. (Inventory) Let's see - lemon balm: an excellent furniture polish; rosemary, grows hair and prevents baldness and (STREGA NONA sneezes) - yes! Causes sneezing. Now, I need more purple ponga for my wart cream and more bojar buds to mix with the lazy-cure, so it's not so strong.

BIG ANTHONY  Strega Nona! Bambolina is corning with more weeds, She told me to tell you. (Opens door. STREGA NONA throws herself over her piles of weeds to keep them all from flying around.) Uh-oh.

STREGA NONA  Don't move. Let me carefully put everything back in its proper pile. Oh dear, the herbs are all mixed up. The cure for baldness is mixed with the furniture polish and the garlic is in everything. (*The goat burps. STREGA NONA starts sorting everything.*) Shut the door carefully.

*BIG ANTHONY shuts the door carefully, with STREGA NONA making sure he is on the outside of it. The goat stops eating and begins to tremble a bit. BAMBOLONA enters with the purple ponga and the bojar buds.*
BAMBOLONA  Strega Nona, here's the purple ponga and the bojar buds!

BIG ANTHONY  Be careful, Bambolona. All the herbs are mixed up.

BAMBOLONA  Big Anthony! What did you do?? And where's the lazy-cure?

The goat begins to shake - steam comes out of its ears and nostrils. BIG ANTHONY and BAMBOLONA stare in horror. STREGA NONA opens the door and, just then, the goat, in high warp heads for the hills.

BIG ANTHONY  After the goat. (Arrivederci!)

BAMBOLONA  Big Anthony!! How can you be so stupid!!

STREGA NONA  Bambolona. Now, let's calm down and begin to sort. We can put this all right. It will be good practice for you. All Stregas should be able to know what their herbs and plants and blossoms and all their ingredients for magic look like. Especially the secret ingredient.

BAMBOLONA  Secret ingredient? What is it, Strega Nona?

STREGA NONA  You have to find it for yourself.

BAMBOLONA  But what is it.

STREGA NONA  It's hard to make the magic work without it.

BAMBOLONA  Strega Nona, tell me. What is the secret ingredient?!

STREGA NONA  You'll find it, Bambolona.

A dove flies over carrying a letter.

BIG ANTHONY  STREGA NONA!! STREGA NONA!!

BAMBOLONA  (Throws herself in front of the door.) Don't you DARE come in and mess everything up again!

BIG ANTHONY  It's a letter! Strega Nona! The dove has brought a letter!

STREGA NONA and BAMBOLONA leave the house to get the letter. BAMBOLONA grabs
letter from BIG ANTHONY and they fight over it.

STREGA NONA   Stop now! Bambolona. You may read it to me.

BIG ANTHONY tries to horn in.

BAMBOLONA   *(Reading letter aloud.)* "Cara Strega Nona-" Dear Strega Nona. "I would like to pay you a visit. Would next week be convenient? Please let me know. Amore e baci-

BIG ANTHONY &
BAMBOLONA   "Love and kisses."

BAMBOLONA   "Strega Amelia."

STREGA NONA   Oh, Amelia! (She enters the house to write a response.)

BIG ANTHONY   Who is Strega Amelia?

BAMBOLONA   She's an old friend of Strega Nona's. She lives way over on the other side of the hill. Isn't that right, Strega Nona?

STREGA NONA   Si. Yes. We've known each other all our lives.

BIG ANTHONY   I knew that.

BAMBOLONA   Did not.

BIG ANTHONY   Did to

BAMBOLONA   Not

BIG ANTHONY   Did.

*They continue back and forth until STREGA NONA interrupts them.*

STREGA NONA   "Si, Amelia. Avanti." Come at once! *(As she sends the dove off with her answer.)* It will be so wonderful to have real company. I can't remember the last time I had someone overnight, to eat and chat. *(Then it hits her)* Oh my goodness! We have to clean up this house!
BAMBOLONA goes to work on the house. She sweeps and shakes out bedding.

STREGA NONA  Now, Big Anthony, try to behave and pay attention to what you’re doing while Strega Amelia is here.

BIG ANTHONY  I’ll be so good you won’t recognize me.

BAMBOLONA  *(Dusting the rafters.)* ACCCK!

STREGA NONA  What is it, Bambolona?

BAMBOLONA  *(Holding a long piece of pasta.)* Snake!! Snake!!

STREGA NONA  Well, bring the little fellow down and we’ll let him go.

BAMBOLONA  BIUUUURG SNAKE!!

BIG ANTHONY  That’s not a snake, Bambolona. It’s just a long piece of spaghetti.

STREGA NONA  Yes, it’s only harmless pasta, Bambolona. How did it get up there, I wonder?

BIG ANTHONY  I wonder.

BAMBOLONA  I DON’T WONDER!! I DON’T WONDER AT ALL!! That pasta is left over from the time you used Strega Nona’s magic pasta pot without permission and you cooked so much pasta that it filled Strega Nona’s house and spilled over into the village!!!! SURELY YOU HAVEN’T FORGOTTEN THAT!

STREGA NONA  Into the compost pile. *(She exits to the compost pile with the spaghetti.)*

BIG ANTHONY  Just one little mistake, Bambolona. I’ll be good for Strega Amelia.

BAMBOLONA  *(Sings.)* BIG ANTHONY, BIG ANTHONY, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU WORE A DRESS AND CHANGED YOU NAME, JUST SO YOU COULD PRETEND THAT YOU WERE ANTONEEYA YOU TRIED TO MAKE A SWITCH! SO YOU COULD BE THE FIRST BOY
WHO EVER WAS A WITCH!

BIG ANTHONY I just wanted to learn some magic.

BAMBOLONA (Sings.) BIG ANTHONY, BIG ANTHONY, YOU SNUCK INTO THE HOUSE, AND TOOK THE MAGIC BOOK OF SPELLS AS QUIET AS A MOUSE. WE FOUND YOU FAST ASLEEP ON IT WHEN THE MORNING CAME WHAT IF THE GOAT HAD EATEN IT THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A SHAME!

BIG ANTHONY Sorry.

BAMBOLONA YOU SAY, "OOPS!" - YOU SAY, "SORRY!" AND "I WON'T DO THAT AGAIN,"
YOU SAY, "GOSH, BAMBOLONA, REMEMBER I'M YOUR FRIEND." YOU'VE BEEN MAKING DUMB MISTAKES SINCE I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN. BIG ANTHONY, I'M TELLING YOU, THE NEXT TIME IS THE END!

BIG ANTHONY The next time is the end. But the goat didn't eat it, Bambolona. And I'm not dumb.

BAMBOLONA BIG ANTHONY, BIG ANTHONY, I'VE ONE MORE VERSE TO SING, I KNOW THAT YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU TOOK THE MAGIC RING AND SAID THE WORDS SO YOU BECAME AS HANDSOME AS A PRINCE, BUT ALL THE GIRLS CHASED YOU SO MUCH, YOU HAVEN'T WISHED THAT SINCE!

BIG ANTHONY I'm sorry, Bambolona.

BAMBOLONA (Sings.) YOU SAY, "OOPS!" - YOU SAY, "SORRY!"
(BIG ANTHONY: Oooooops) "AND I WON'T DO THAT AGAIN."
(BIG ANTHONY: I won’t)
YOU SAY, "GOSH, BAMBOLONA,
(BIG ANTHONY: GOSSSH!)
REMEMBER I’M YOUR FRIEND.
(BIG ANTHONY: Friend?)
YOU’VE BEEN MAKING DUMB MISTAKES
(BIG ANTHONY: I’M NOT DUMB!)
SINCE I CAN’T REMEMBER WHEN.
BIG ANTHONY, I’M TELLING YOU,
THE NEXT TIME IS THE END!

STREGA NONA enters, carrying some other plant she has found.

STREGA NONA I found some more purple ponga, my children.

_The goat whizzes up a distant hill. STREGA NONA and BAMBOLONA can’t help but laugh a lot._

BIG ANTHONY I’ve learned my lessons. I will be so good you won’t recognize me!

BAMBOLONA I’m telling you.
(Sings.)_THE NEXT TIME IS THE END._

**Scene 1, Act 2**

_Calabria - the small village below the house of STREGA NONA. PAPA BAMBO is sitting in the palazzo, drinking espresso with PRIEST and MAYOR. SIGNOR LUIGI is trying to sell them more espresso, but they wave him away, sipping leisurely on the cups they have._

SIGNOR LUIGI More espresso? Some fruit? Another cuppa? A newspaper? Anything???? Mama! (LUIGI goes to his wife, disappointed he can’t sell anything.)

PAPA BAMBO (Sings.)_OH, IT’S MORNING IN CALABRIA, AND THE LIGHT IS VERY LOVELY, WE ARE SIPPING OUR ESPRESSO IN OUR VERY QUIET TOWN, WE ARE SIPPING OUR ESPRESSO, AND WE LOVE IT HOW IT GETS SO – VERY QUIET IN THIS TOWN!_
The goat whizzes by. People in the palazzo see it but shake heads in disbelief.

PAPA BAMBO Buon giorno, Signor Mayor.

MAYOR Good morning, Papa Bambo

MAYOR & PIERO (Sings.) OH, WE SIT IN THE PIAZZA, AND THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON.

PAPA BAMBO, MAYOR & PIERO OH, WE SIT IN THE PIAZZO, AND WE LOVE IT HOW IT GOT SO VERY QUIET IN OUR TOWN.

LUIGI Si!

MAYOR HOW IS BUSINESS, PAPA BAMBO?

PAPA BAMBO & SIGNOR LUIGI IT'S THE SAME AS YESTERDAY.

SIGNOR LUIGI WHY AREN'T YOUR OVENS FILLED WITH DOUGH? YOU WON'T GET RICH THIS WAY.

PRIEST Buon giorno, Papa Bambo.

PAPA BAMBO Buon giorno to you, Padre.

PRIEST (Sings) I SEE THE LORD HAS BLESSED US WITH ANOTHER PERFECT DAY.

PAPA BAMBO, MAYOR & PRIEST THAT'S RIGHT - THE LORD HAS BLESSED US WITH ANOTHER PERFECT DAY.

PRIEST How are you, Signor Mayor?
MAYOR I'm sorry I was yawning.

PRIEST (Sings.) I SAID TO YOU, "BUON GIORNO"

MAYOR I AM WELL, HERE COMES MY WIFE.

PRIEST I SAY TO YOU, "BUON GIORNO."
AND GOOD MORNING TO YOUR WIFE.

PAPA BAMBO (To MAYOR'S WIFE.) DO YOU WANT YOUR PANNETONE?

MAYOR'S WIFE I 'LL BUY ANOTHER ONE TOMORROW.
WE HAVE HALF A LOAF LEFT OVER
FROM OUR BREAKFAST YESTERDAY.

STREETSWEEPER THEY HAVE A HALF A LOAF LEFT OVER
FROM THEIR BREAKFAST YESTERDAY.

TWO NUNS Buon giorno, everybody.

ALL Good morning to you, Sisters.

TWO NUNS (Sing.) IT'S ANOTHER PERFECT MORNING
AND WE'RE VERY, VERY BORED.
(Speaking.) Oh, forgive us. We meant "pleased."

(Sing.) IT'S ANOTHER PERFECT MORNING
AND WE'RE VERY VERY PLEASED -
WE JUST LOVE THAT SUMMER BREEZE.

MAYOR I do wish something would happen!

MAYOR'S WIFE Si! We need a change!

LUIGI Si! (He begins to pick up the chairs, expresso cups, etc.)

PAPA BAMBO What are you doing?

LUIGI I AM CLOSING UP MY BUSINESS
I AM MOVING FAR AWAY
I AM CLOSING UP MY BUSINESS
I CAN’T LAST ANOTHER DAY
EVERY DAY IS FAIR AND SUNNY
AND I CAN’T MAKE ANY MONEY
WHEN I JUST ENJOY THE DAY
ARRIVEDERCI!

MAYOR  Don’t go! Wait!

SIGNOR LUIGI  You all say you wish something would happen! It is! I am going to look for work in Abruzzi. I can’t make any money selling one cup of espresso in Calabria! (Sings.) ARRIVEDERCI!

MAYOR  Who made that wish? Who wished something would happen?!

PAPA BAMBO  Don’t look at me! Well, then, who was it?

ALL except MAYOR  It was you!

MAYOR  No.

MAYOR’S WIFE  Yes, my love, it was you. I take it back!

MAYOR  I take it back!

SIGNOR LUIGI puts a sign in his shop that says “SHOP FOR RENT”.

ALL  (Sing.) OH, IT’S MORNING IN CALABRIA,
AND WE’RE LOSING BUSINESS FAST,
OH, IT’S MORNING IN CALABRIA,
OUR ECONOMY WON’T LAST!
WE CAN’T DRINK OUR DEAR EXPRESSO
AND WE’RE FEELING MORE DEPRESSO
AND OUR BREATHING NEARLY STOPS
WHEN WE SEE AN EMPTY SHOP
NOW WE’RE WORRIED AND WE DEFINITELY
DON’T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

LUIGI  ARRIVEDERCI! (SIGNOR LUIGI exits with his suitcase.)

MAYOR  I HAVE A HEADACHE!

ALL  (Sing.) WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR TOWN.

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Act 1, Scene 3

One week later, late afternoon. BAMBOLONA is in the house cooking supper. STREGA NONA is pacing out in front of her house, waiting for STREGA AMELIA. There is a table set up outside with a tablecloth and chairs.

STREGA NONA  Big Anthony! Big Anthony!

We hear the goat come whizzing back home and see it collapse into a heap in its window, exhausted.

STREGA NONA  Signora Goat, you’ve returned! (Goat brays feebly.) Well, at least, you saw a lot of our Calabria - it is beautiful country, is it not? (Goat brays feebly.) Yes, well, you were running around the hills for nearly a week. (Goat brays feebly.) There, there. You rest now.

BAMBOLONA  (Noticing the goat has returned.) Signora Goat! (To STREGA NONA.) Where is Big Anthony?

STREGA NONA  I haven't seen him since the goat came home. (About the tiramisu.) Bambolona, did you make tiramisu?

BAMBOLONA  That's my secret. Just let me say that you and Strega Amelia will have a wonderful supper.

STREGA NONA  I am very excited, Bambolona.

PAOLO enters with luggage.

PAOLO  She’s here! She’s here! Strega Nona, your friend is here!

STREGA NONA  Si, Paolo!

PAOLO  I showed her the way!

STREGA NONA  Grazie, Paolo.

STREGA AMELIA  (Offstage, breathless.) Nona?

STREGA NONA  Here, Amelia!
STREGA AMELIA appears, carrying a large bag - her luggage.

STREGA AMELIA Ciao! Ciao! It is I!

STREGA NONA Amelia!

STREGA AMELIA Si! Now will someone take this bag? I packed too much!

STREGA NONA (To BAMBOLONA.) Bambolona! Amelia! Ciao!

STREGA AMELIA Nona! Ciao! Ciao! A thousand times - ciao! (They hug.) Isn't this just too fabulous!? You! Me! Together again in the hills of Calabria!

BAMBOLONA (As exits the house with 2 soup bowls.) Big Anthony!

STREGA NONA And this is Bambolona.

STREGA AMELIA Ciao, Bambolona.

STREGA NONA Bambolona! Here. This is Strega Amelia, my oldest friend.

STREGA AMELIA She means "oldest" only in the sense that we have known each other for a very long time.

STREGA NONA Bambolona is learning to be a Strega with me. And somewhere is Big Anthony, my assistant.

STREGA AMELIA Bambolona, I love your…hair.

BAMBOLONA I’ll serve the zuppa.

STREGA NONA Well, let’s sit down and chat.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, comes a concierge/maitre d’ extraordinaire, with a towel on his arm. It is BIG ANTHONY wearing a false mustache and a head scarf ala’ a gypsy waiter.

BIG ANTHONY Dinner is served. (Holding the chair for STREGA AMELIA.) Allow me.

STREGA AMELIA Grazie, grazie, amore. How gracious!
STREGA AMELIA sits in the chair. BIG ANTHONY holds the chair for STREGA NONA and she starts to sit in it, carefully, not sure BIG ANTHONY is capable of holding it still.

PAOLO (Whispers.) Big Anthony! What are you dressed up like that for?

BIG ANTHONY turns toward PAOLO, taking the chair with him. STREGA NONA freezes mid sit.

BIG ANTHONY Shhhhh.

BIG ANTHONY turns back to the table and, realizing what he’s done, gently lowers STREGA NONA into the chair.

STREGA NONA Amelia, this is my assistant, Big Anthony.

BIG ANTHONY I don't know this “Big Anthony.” I am Antonio, at your service. (BIG ANTHONY bows and burns his forehead on the candle.)

STREGA AMELIA Well, Antonio, you spectacular boy - you may take my bag.

BIG ANTHONY Your wish is Antonio's command. (Bows.)

BAMBOLONA Big Anthony!

BIG ANTHONY Scuzie

STREGA AMELIA He's delightful!

PAOLO He's so funny, Strega Nona!

STREGA NONA Si.

BIG ANTHONY takes bag into the house.

STREGA AMELIA Where ever did you find him?

STREGA NONA He just came to me one day.

STREGA AMELIA Oh! I can’t believe I waited this long to visit you! And to come back to this place where we were both young girls - and you were so full of mischief.
PAOLO Mischief?

STREGA NONA Si. (She realizes it is PAOLO she is talking to and quickly changes the subject.) Paolo, have Bambolona give you some of that special tea your mother likes. And, you should go home before it gets dark.

STREGA AMELIA Here, Paolo - a magic box to help you with your math. Turn the crank, and the answer shows here.

PAOLO Oh, Strega Amelia! Grazie! Thank you! Thank you! (PAOLO exits to go home.)

STREGA NONA Paolo, the tea… (But he is gone.) ...Oh, Amelia, shouldn’t he learn his sums the regular way first?

STREGA AMELIA Oh, it’s too boring, Nona. Let the boy have some fun! Life is too short, and so are we!! (She cracks herself up and STREGA NONA too.) Oh, look at this place and this valley! The sky! The hills! The dead goat?

STREGA NONA No, no, no. She’s just resting. Aren’t you, my dear? (The goat brays.)

STREGA AMELIA Amazing. This is all so amazing. This was my first home. And yours, too. The difference is, I left!

STREGA NONA To do wonderful things somewhere else.

STREGA AMELIA Oh, Nona, so many years. And you know, you’re getting to look just like your Grandma Concetta.

STREGA NONA Oh, Grandma Concetta! - she loved you so.

STREGA AMELIA Si! And she tried so hard to teach us the magic.

STREGA NONA Si!

STREGA AMELIA (Sings.) STREGA NONA, WE’RE HERE TOGETHER, AS IF THE TIME HAD NEVER PASSED, SINCE WE WERE YOUNG GIRLS DOWN IN THE VILLAGE WE WORKED TO LEARN THE ART SO FAST
BUT MAGIC CAN’T BE LEARNED TOO FAST.
IT TAKES SOME TIME, IT TAKES SOME TIME,
TO LEARN TO BE A STREGA.
YOU CAN’T BELIEVE, YOU CAN’T BELIEVE
HOW VERY SLOW THE DAYS GO.
AND THEN ONE DAY, ONE HAPPY DAY,
YOU KNOW IT MUST BE TRUE,
YOU CURE SOMEONE, YOU HELP SOMEONE,
AND YOU’RE A STREGA, TOO!

STREGA AMELIA and STREGA NONA have left the table. They have gotten into the mood
and are beginning to dance to their song. BIG ANTHONY takes the pasta, gets caught up in
their song and puts the pasta near the goat - the inevitable happens.

STREGA AMELIA (Sings.) YES, WE WERE FOOLISH, AND WE WERE WILD
YOU WERE MUCH OLDER - I WAS A CHILD.

STREGA NONA (Sings.) NO, WE’RE THE SAME AGE - I’M SURE I’M RIGHT.

STREGA AMELIA (Sings.) PERHAPS THAT’S TRUE. LET’S KEEP IT QUIET.

STREGA AMELIA & NONA (Sing.) IT TAKES SOME TIME, IT TAKES SOME TIME,
TO LEARN TO BE A STREGA,
YOU CAN’T BELIEVE, YOU CAN’T BELIEVE
HOW VERY SLOW THE DAYS GO.

STREGA NONA Oh, Antonio. You dance, too?

BIG ANTHONY Si!

STREGA AMELIA & NONA AND THEN ONE DAY, ONE SPECIAL DAY,
YOU KNOW IT MUST BE TRUE,
YOU CURE SOMEONE, YOU HELP SOMEONE,
AND YOU’RE A STREGA, TOO!

BAMBOLONA (Not happy at missing all the fun.) DESSERT!!!! Dessert is served

STREGA NONA Bambolona makes very good tiramisu.
BAMBOLONA   ANTONIO! OH, ANTONIO!!!!

STREGA NONA   It’s the lightest, fluffiest tiramisu in all Calabria!

*BIG ANTHONY* gets the plates from the goat and takes them to the kitchen. The plates have big bites taken, out of them. The STREGAS hurry back to the table.

BAMBOLONA   They enjoyed the pasta so much, they ate the plates, too?

BIG ANTHONY   Roughage.

BAMBOLONA   I spent too much time on this tiramisu to trust you with it. It’s my masterpiece.

*BAMBOLONA* unveils a very tall tiramisu mountain, with lots of mascarpone on top.

BIG ANTHONY   Antonio can do it.

STREGA AMELIA   Fantastico!

BAMBOLONA   Bambolona will help.

BIG ANTHONY   ANTONIO CAN DO IT! !

BAMBOLONA   BAMBOLONA WILL HELP!!!

BIG ANTHONY   ANTONIO!!!

BAMBOLONA   BAMBOLONA!!!

BIG ANTHONY   ANTONIO!!!!!!

BAMBOLONA   BAMBO - Oh NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

_The tiramisu flies off the plate and up, up into the sky. They all look up._

STREGA NONA   Bambolona’s tiramisu is very light.

STREGA AMELIA   It’s looks so fabulously yummy from down here.

BIG ANTHONY   That’s good. Because here it comes.
The tiramisu comes down in flakes.

BAMBOLONA Get your spoons ready!

STREGA AMELIA It's snowing dessert! My gown! (STREGA AMELIA puts up an umbrella to protect her gown.) How truly maravelliosa, Bambolona!

They all catch what they can in their mouths and on their spoons.

STREGA AMELIA Nona, what a stupendous surprise!

BIG ANTHONY I've got another surprise. For all of you. I am not Antonio. (He takes off his bandanna headdress and throws away his waiter's towel.) I told you I'd be so good you wouldn't recognize me. See, Strega Nona? See?

STREGA NONA I see! Bravo!

BAMBOLONA Oh, let me be sure. (BAMBOLONA snaps BIG ANTHONY'S false mustache onto his forehead.)

BIG ANTHONY OW!

BAMBOLONA Why, he's right. It's Big Anthony! JUST IN TIME TO HELP ME CLEAN UP!!! (They take the table and chairs offstage and exit into the house.)

STREGA AMELIA I envy you, Nona. And such wonderful assistants. Remember the old days when we were assistants.

STREGA NONA I will make up your bed, Amelia.

STREGA AMELIA I'll be in in a moment.

STREGA NONA exits into the house. AMELIA sings.

STREGA AMELIA LITTLE VALLEY, HOW I LOVE THEE,
     THESE BROWN HILLS OF MY BIRTH,
     WHERE THE BRIGHT WHITE STARS ABOVE THE TREES,
SMILE DOWN UPON THE SWEETEST PLACE ON EARTH.
IN ALL CALABRIA, IN OUR DEAR COUNTRY,

*BIG ANTHONY enters from the house. He carries a quilt.*

THIS VALLEY WAS MY HOME,
HOW COULD I HAVE EVER LEFT THEE
WHY DID I GO, WHY DID I EVER ROAM?

BIG ANTHONY  Strega Amelia?

STREGA AMELIA  Yes, Antonio?

BIG ANTHONY  I'm really Big Anthony. Strega Nona has your bed ready.

STREGA AMELIA  Good-night, Big Anthony. It was very nice meeting you.

BIG ANTHONY  Grazie.

STREGA AMELIA exits into the house. BIG ANTHONY snuggles up with the goat who kisses him. BIG ANTHONY kisses him back, tasting some of the dessert.

BIG ANTHONY  Hmmm. Bambolona does make good tiramisu.

*Act 1, Scene 4*

*The next morning. BIG ANTHONY is asleep by the goat house. BAMBOLONA crosses to him.*

BAMBOLONA  Big Anthony! Big Anthony! Go away.

BIG ANTHONY  Go away.

BAMBOLONA  *(As she hands BIG ANTHONY the broom.)* Thanks for ruining my supper last night.

BIG ANTHONY  I didn’t ruin your supper. Everyone enjoyed it  *(Goat brays and BIG ANTHONY sees STREGA NONA.)* - didn't they, Strega Nona!

STREGA NONA  It was a wonderful supper. Now, shhhhh, both of you.
BIG ANTHONY Is Strega Amelia up yet?

BAMBOLONA Strega Nona says "shhhhhh." Now, clean up the yard. People will start arriving any minute now, and then there won't be time.

BIG ANTHONY Bambolona! Why do you boss me so much?

BAMBOLONA Because you wouldn't do any work unless I told you to.

BIG ANTHONY I wish Strega Amelia were awake. She wouldn't make me sweep. She thinks I'm a spectacular boy!

STREGA AMELIA enters from the house in an exercise outfit.

STREGA AMELIA Oh, Big Anthony, you spectacular boy. Good morning.

She stretches out in the yard, torn between doing her exercises and not messing up her hair.

BIG ANTHONY Good morning. I'm sweeping the yard.

STREGA AMELIA I love it here. One. It's so quiet. Two. But I can't help but notice that Strega Nona's business is not as busy as mine. Three.

BIG ANTHONY Just wait.

STREGA NONA (Entering from the house.) Amelia, I made some tea.

STREGA AMELIA (Finishing her exercises.) Nine, Ten. All done. Grazie.

STREGA NONA Watch out Amelia. I'd get out of the way. Here they come.

Sound of a crowd as lots of villagers enter, arguing over who is going to start the line.

MAYOR Well, I am the mayor and I should be first!

SIGNORA ROSA Well, I am Signora Rosa, Strega Nona's best friend!

PAPA BAMBO WELL, MY DAUGHTER, BAMBOLONA, WORKS FOR STREGA NONA, AND, BESIDES, I HAVE A BAKERY TO RUN!

MAYOR I have the town to run!!
MAYOR’S WIFE  And I have the mayor to run. Everyone needs attention, Strega Nona! We're all worried about our town.

ALL  Si, we're worried about our town!

MAYOR  I have such a headache.

MAYOR’S WIFE  Me, too.

TWO NUNS  Us, too.

MAYOR’S WIFE  (To PRIEST) Padre?

PRIEST  Business isn't exactly booming, is it, sisters?

TWO NUNS  He's right.

ALICIA  Strega Nona, I need you most.

TEODORO  No, it is I who needs you most, Strega Nona. Please. Violetta. Violetta. Wake up!

MAYOR  (Sings.) STREGA NONA, STREGA NONA, MY POOR HEAD IS GONNA TO BURST.

SIGNORA ROSA  STREGA NONA, JUST IGNORE HIM, AND PLEASE WAIT ON ME FIRST.

PAPA BAMBO  STREGA NONA, I'VE A TOOTHACHE THAT'S THROBBING LIKE A DRUM.

NUNS  STREGA NONA, GRANDMA STREGA, WHATEVER YOU GIVE HIM, BE SURE TO GIVE US SOME.

ALL  STREGA NONA, GRANDMA WITCH, WE BEG YOU ON OUR KNEES. STREGA NONA, GRANDMA STREGA, STREGA NONA, CARA STREGA, STREGA NONA, GRANDMA STREGA, CARA STREGA,
WILL YOU CURE US, PLEASE?

STREGA NONA EVERYBODY, JUST CALM DOWN, IF IT TAKES ME ALL THE DAY, I’LL SEE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, THAT’S STREGA NONA’S WAY.

BAMBOLONA THAT’S STREGA NONA’S WAY.

ALICIA STREGA NONA, IT’S MY BOYFRIEND - MY HEART IS GOING TO BREAK.

TEODORO STREGA NONA, IT’S MY GIRLFRIEND - I CAN’T KEEP HER AWAKE.

PRIEST STREGA NONA, I’VE A BALD SPOT - MY HAIR IS LEAVING FAST.

SIGNORA ROSA STREGA NONA, GRANDMA STREGA, SEE THIS UGLY WART! PLEASE TELL ME IT WON’T LAST.

ALL STREGA NONA, GRANDMA WITCH, WE BEG YOU ON OUR KNEES. STREGA NONA, GRANDMA STREGA STREGA NONA, CARA STREGA STREGA NONA, GRANDMA STREGA, CARA STREGA WILL YOU CURE US, PLEASE?

BIG ANTHONY & BAMBOLONA EVERYBODY, JUST CALM DOWN. IF IT TAKES HER ALL THE DAY, SHE’LL SEE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, THAT’S STREGA NONA’S WAY.

STREGA NONA THAT’S STREGA NONA’S WAY.

PAOLO rushes in.

STREGA NONA Hello, Paolo!
PAOLO (Sings.) I'VE GOT A TUMMY ACHE. AND I'M BRINGING ALL MY COUSINS,

COUSINS IT IS SOMETHING THAT WE ATE.

*Cousins point to Papa Bambo while Bambolona strains her eyes to see the end of the line.*

Bambolona Strega Nona -

Strega Nona Bambolona?

Bambolona (Sings.) THE LINE IS VERY LONG THEY'RE TWICE AS MANY PEOPLE AS EVER I REMEMBER - IT'S MIGHTY THRONG,

Men (Sing.) WAIT A MINUTE! I WAS HERE! STREGA NONA, SEE ME FIRST!

Women (Sing) WAIT A MINUTE! STOP YOUR SHOVING, AND YOUR PUSHING AND YOUR CRUSHING, AND YOUR SQUASHING AND YOUR BUMPING,

Bambolona OR I HIT YOU WITH MY PURSE!

Strega Nona, Big Anthony & Bambolona EVERYBODY, JUST CALM DOWN. IF IT TAKES ME ALL THE DAY, I'LL SEE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, THAT'S STREGA NONA'S WAY.

Big Anthony THAT'S STREGA NONA'S WAY.

Bambolona ALL RIGHT!!!! EVERY ONE IN LINE BY HEIGHT!!!! SMALLEST FIRST!!

Papa Bambo But Bambolona, I'm your father.

Bambolona And I'm Strega Nona's apprentice!
(Sing.) STREGA NONA, GRANDMA WITCH, WE BEG YOU ON OUR KNEES. STREGA NONA, GRANDMA STREGA, STREGA NONA, CARASTREGA, STREGA NONA, GRANDMA STREGA, CARA STREGA WILL YOU HELP US, PLEASE?

They all line up according to height. PAOLO goes to the front of the line and STREGA NONA starts administering to him.

STREGA NONA Now I'll give you something for all your cousins. But, first, let me feel this tummy ache. (She puts her hand on PAOLO'S stomach.)

PAOLO Ahhhhhh. I feel better already, Strega Nona.

STREGA AMELIA Big Anthony? Is that all she does?

BIG ANTHONY She uses some weeds and things, too.

STREGA AMELIA All these clients? And all she uses is the old ways! Why everyone in the valley must come to her. Hmmmmm. I have to go. Thank you, Big Anthony. Yoo-hoo, Nona? I'm off now! I'll send for my other bags later. Had a fabulous time!

STREGA NONA So soon?

STREGA AMELIA Have to get back to Mascarpone, my darling little dog. And MY clients! Ciao, amores! (BAMBOLONA gives STREGA AMELIA her bag.) Arrivederci, Bambolina. Wonderful supper. Arrivederci, everyone! ciao! (STREGA AMELIA exits.)

ALL Ciao!

BIG ANTHONY Boy, she left in a hurry.

BAMBOLONA Yes, she did. I've got a bad feeling about this.

BIG ANTHONY Get Strega Nona to give you something for it. Now I can finish my nap.

STREGA NONA administers to her people and making clucking and comforting noises at them.
BAMBOLONA stares after STREGA AMELIA and looks worried.

STREGA NONA  Bambolona! I need you. Francesco, Graziella, Angelina...come in now.

BAMBOLONA looks at the sleeping BIG ANTHONY and gives him a little kick.

BAMBOLONA  Nap!

BIG ANTHONY  Ow.

BAMBOLONA crosses to STREGA NONA and helps her, passing her creams and cups of healing tea.

BIG ANTHONY  (To the goat.) You saw the world, didn't you? (Goat brays.) What was it like? (Goat brays.) I thought so. Still, I wouldn't mind living in the village someday.

(Sings, as time passes.) ASK ME WHAT I LIKE FROM LIVING AND I'D SAY A LOT OF SLEEPING I LIKE HELPING STREGA NONA WHEN SHE NEEDS ME 'CAUSE IT'S FUN. I LIKE HELPING STREGA NONA WHEN SHE NEEDS ME 'CAUSE IT'S FUN,

The crowd shifts as new people enter the house and others move to get closer.

STREGA NONA  No, not now Gino. Theresa, si.

The goat becomes inspired and starts to bray along with BIGANTHONY.

BIG ANTHONY  I LIKE LOOKING AT THE BLUE SKY I LIKE COUNTING ALL THE CLOUDS I LIKE WATCHING ALL THE BIRDS FLY I LIKE SINGING VERY LOUD

BAMBOLONA  BIG ANTHONY, WILL YOU AND THAT GOAT KEEP QUIET!!!

STREGA NONA  It's all right, Bambolona. I don't need silence to work.

BIG ANTHONY  (shushes the goat)
I LIKE LEARNING LOTS OF MAGIC
SO ONE DAY I'LL BE A STREGA
AND I'LL STAND OUT IN THE CROWD.

Just then, a dove flies over and drops some leaflets.

GUIDO Look the dove!
SISTER MARIA What's it carrying?
GINO Looks like leaflets.
CLOTILDA What does it say?
PIERO What is it, Concetta?
CONCETTA Look!

(STUDENTS (Reading one aloud.) ”Opening soon in the village. Strega Amelia's Helpful Services-"
BAMBOLONA (Grabbing it from PAOLO.) WHAT!?? Strega Amelia's Helpful Services?!
BAMBOLONA, TEODORO & ALICIA "Husbands found for young ladies,...
BAMBOLONA & MAYOR ...headaches cured...
BAMBOLONA & SIGNORA ROSA ...warts removed...
BAMBOLONA Other remedies. Latest scientific equipment -"
ALL Ohhhhhhhhh.
PAPA BAMBO (Reads aloud.) ”Free sweets and coffee with every visit."
ALL AHHHHHHH!
PAOLO And a free coupon!

ALL Free coupon!

TWO NUNS We forgot why we came.

*They all exit, except for PAOLO.*

PAOLO My stomach is all better, but I won't leave, Strega Nona.

BIG ANTHONY Why did everybody go away? Was it my singing?

BAMBOLONA "STREGA AMELIA'S HELPFUL SERVICES"? ! ! ? THE NERVE!!! I'm going into the village and give that other Strega a piece of my mind.

STREGA NONA Now, Bambolona, you mustn't do that. Besides, I don't think there's anything to worry about.(TWO NUNS re-enter.) See?

TWO NUNS Paolo, your cousins are in the village, getting free sweets from the other Strega.

STREGA NONA You'd better go, Paolo. Free sweets aren't good for their sick tummies.

PAOLO I'm sorry, Strega Nona.( He exits.)

TWO NUNS We really did forget why we came. (TWO NUNS exit.)

STREGA NONA Don't worry. They'll be back.

BIG ANTHONY Are you sure it wasn't my song? The goat can't carry a tune, you know.

BAMBOLONA Oh, Big Anthony! You are so…

STREGA NONA Now, children, be nice to each other. And do your chores.

*BIG ANTHONY feeds the goat and BAMBOLONA goes into the house. STREGA NONA sits and waits as the day turns to night.*
STREGA NONA I guess no one's coming back today. Tomorrow will be better. Good night, children.

*STREGA NONA exits into the house.*

BIG ANTHONY G'night. Strega Nona. G'night.

BAMBOLONA Big Anthony? In one week we're going to go into the village.

BIG ANTHONY Why?

BAMBOLONA I'm giving these people, including my papa, one week to shape up. If they don't, we take things into our own hands. one week.

BIG ANTHONY Why?

BAMBOLONA Why? Strega Nona's business is in trouble? She'll have no money soon - what will she do? And what will we do?

BIG ANTHONY She said there was nothing to worry about. And Strega Nona is always right.

BAMBOLONA What if she isn't? What if, just this once, Strega Nona is wrong?

BIG ANTHONY Uh-oh.

BAMOLONA Uh-oh is right. One week. (She exits.)

BIG ANTHONY I LIKE LOOKING AT THE NIGHT SKY
I LIKE STARING AT THE MOON
I LIKE SINGING TO THE FIREFLIES
CAUSE THEY LIKE TO HEAR ME CROON.
*The goat joins BIG ANTHONY on the croon.*
I LIKE LEARNING LOTS OF MAGIC
SO ONE DAY I'LL BE A STREGA
SO ONE DAY I'LL BE A STREGA
AND I KNOW IT WILL BE SOON.

*BIG ANTHONY curls up to sleep on the house steps.*
Act 1, Scene 5

*The same morning in the village. STREGA AMELIA’S HELPFUL SERVICES have taken over. MAYOR has STREGA AMELIA on his arm. TOURISTS enter and watch.*

MAYOR (Sings.) FELLOW CALABRIANS!
FELLOW CALABRIANS!
(Speaks.) Listen to me! Lend me your ears!
(Sings.) STREGA AMELIA HAS BROUGHT US BUSINESS LIKE WE HAVEN’T SEEN IN YEARS!

GINO OUR STREETS ARE FILLED WITH PEOPLE.

PAPA BAMBO MY OVEN IS FILLED WITH DOUGH.

PRIEST OUR CHURCH WILL HAVE A STEEPLE!

TWO NUNS A COAT OF PAINT, AND SO -

ALL AMELIA, WE WELCOME YOU!
AMELIA, WE WELCOME YOU!

PAPA BAMBO & MAYOR YOU’VE BROUGHT A BLOOMING BUSINESS BOOM LIKE WE HAVE NEVER SEEN
OH, WHERE, WERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
WITH ALL YOUR GREAT MACHINES?

ALL CALABRIANS! CALABRIANS! CALABRIANS!

*STREGA AMELIA’S shop is revealed upstage.*

STREGA AMELIA (sings.) YOU SEE BEFORE YOU
A HUMBLE PEASANT MAIDEN FROM THIS TOWN.
I KNOW IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE JUST LOOKING AT MY GOWN.
FABULOUS GOWN, FABULOUS GOWN,
FABULOUS TOWN, FABULOUS TOWN!
(MAYOR hands AMELIA a key to the city.)
LOOK AT THESE CHEEKBONES, LOOK AT THESE EYES,
MY BEAUTY MAY FOOL YOU, BUT I AM SO WISE!
(Spoken as she hands a jar to the MAYOR 'S WIFE.)
It's all in the magic cream, cara.

OH, CALABRIANS, I'M MOST FLATTERED,
YOU CAN SEE I'M MOVED TO TEARS.
I'M DELIGHTED TO BRING YOU BUSINESS
LIKE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN
I'M DELIGHTED, I'M DELIGHTED
TO BRING YOU BUSINESS
LIKE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN YEARS.

Dance.

STREGA AMELIA  Yes. Today, at Strega Amelia's Helpful Services, I am offering a fabulous two-for-one coupon. Buy one treatment on my Truly Wonderful Love Machine and get, FREE, one sitting in my Stupendous Headache-Be-Gone-Chair!

MAYOR          And cappuccino.

ALL             Cappuccino

MAYOR'S WIFE   I'll take a coupon! Romance, headaches, what's the difference?

PAPA BAMBO     Listen everyone! I'm offering a special too! Buy two loaves of my panettone and receive one treatment with Strega Amelia's Miracle wart Remover!

GINO brings out a cart containing cappuccino and bakery items.

MAYOR & GINO   (Sings.) WE'D LIKE TO SAY A WORD
               FOR CAPPuccino,
               my mama gave it me as a bambino,

MAYOR          AND NOW I SEL IT WITH MY BROTHER GINO,

MAYOR & GINO   THAT'S WHY WE LOVE A CUP OF CAPPuccino.

PAPA BAMBO    (Sings.) I'D LIKE SING THE PRAISE OF MY zEPPOLE,
IT'S JUST A BRANDY CAKE WITH A BIG HOLEE
I MAKE IT SIMPLY EACH TIME IN A BOWLEE,
BECAUSE I EAT THEM I AM ROLLY-POLLEE!

ALL CAPPUCINO AND ZEPPOLE
PANETTONE AND MACHINES!
MAGIC THAT IS SCIENTIFIC
IS THE ANSWER TO OUR DREAMS!

AMELIA and PAPA BAMBO begin to waltz, During this BAMBOLONA and BIG
ANTHONY enter.

BAMBOLONA (Hitting him with her purse.) PAPA!???

PAPA BAMBO Bambolona!

BAMBOLONA What are you doing?!

PAPA BAMBO Dancing. Dancing and singing with Strega Amelia.

PRIEST &
2 NUNS Cappuccino?

BAMBOLONA But Strega Nona is your friend,

SIGNORA ROSA I love Strega Nona and she is my dearest friend, but her magic is old-fashioned,

PAPA BAMBO Strega Amelia’s magic is new!

STREGA AMELIA Well -

TWO NUNS That terrible-tasting tea Strega Nona made us drink.

STREGA AMELIA Who needs tea?

CONCETTA And she always took so much time with each person.

GUIDO ...very bad for someone as busy as any of us!

STREGA AMELIA In this new world, things must move quickly to keep up!
PIERO And the talking took time.

CLOTILDA And the touching where it hurt.

STUDENTS Who need touching and talking with a wonderful Headache-be-Gone chair?

STREGA AMELIA Well, my chair is pretty fabulous!

CHORUS CAPPUCCINO AND ZEPPOLE!

PANE...

*BAMBOLONA is winding up her purse arm and about to whack everyone around her.*

CROWD 00000000000000000!!!!!!

BIG ANTHONY (Seeing her off stage) Hello, Strega Nona.

BAMBOLONA stops. Everyone is quiet. STREGA NONA enters.

STREGA NONA Big Anthony! Buon giorno, my friends! Hello, Amelia! What a beautiful and strange shop! Whose is it?

STREGA AMELIA Mine, Nona dear. Isn’t it fabulous?

STREGA NONA What do you make in it?

ALL Magic!

STREGA NONA Ah. Of course. I heard dancing and singing as I was walking here. Please continue! I love dancing and singing. I just came to talk to Bambolona and Big Anthony. *(Crowd doesn’t move.)* Go on!

PAPA BAMBO Zeppole, everyone.

*Everyone gathers for their free cappuccino as BAMBOLONA and BIG ANTHONY are taken aside by STREGA NONA.*

STREGA NONA My children, I’m glad you’ve already come here to the village. I have looked at mia borsa, it is nearly empty. I won’t be able to pay
you anymore. I’m afraid there is no work at my house. You must stay here and see what you can find. I am sorry.

BIG ANTHONY and BAMBOLONA don’t know what to say. BIG ANTHONY gets distracted by STREGA AMELIA who is waving at him, BIG ANTHONY wanders over to STREGA AMELIA during BAMBOLONA’s next speech.

BAMBOLONA I can go back to work for my papa in the bakery - he seems to be busy enough. But, Strega Nona, what will you do?

STREGA NONA I’ll be fine. Don’t worry.

BAMBOLONA I will come twice a week to help you, anyway.

STREGA NONA Ah, my sweet Bambolona. You are so good. But I am worried about Big Anthony. What can he do? He gets into trouble when I don’t watch him. How can he work for someone else?

BIG ANTHONY (Running over to STREGA NONA.) Strega Nona! Strega Nona! You’ll never guess!

BAMBOLONA What, Big Anthony?

BIG ANTHONY I have a new job!

STREGA NONA What is it?

BIG ANTHONY I’m going to - I get to be - Oh, I’m so excited!

BAMBOLONA TELL US NOOOOOWW!

BIG ANTHONY You’re looking at Strega Amelia’s new assistant!

BAMBOLONA You’re what?

BIG ANTHONY I’m going to work for Strega Amelia! (BAMBOLONA hits BIG ANTHONY with her purse.) Stop! Stop!

STREGA NONA Bambolona! Stop, now.

BAMBOLONA stops. The entire village is looking at her.
BAMBOLONA  (To everyone.) Well, he deserved it! And so do all of you!

_They are embarrassed - they know she’s right._

STREGA NONA  Bambolona, my dear Bambolona. Someday you will be a great Strega. But you have much to learn. _To BIG ANTHONY._ Buona fortuna! Good luck! _To everyone._ Arrivederci, my friends!

_STREGA NONA exits humming her little ingredients song._

BAMBOLONA  Well, Papa. Bambolona is back. And I tell all of you one thing! This zeppole will be much better now that I am making it! But you should all be ashamed of yourselves.

BAMBOLONA exits into the bakery to get back to work.

MAYOR  (To PAPA BAMBO.) Well?

PAPA BAMBO  What?!

_PAPA BAMBO starts and others add in until the whole town is signing again._

CHORUS  CAPPuccino AND ZEPPOLE! PANEttone AND MACHINES!
MAGIC THAT IS SCIENTIFIC IS THE ANSWER TO OUR DREAMS!
CAPPuccino AND ZEPPOLE! PANEttone AND MACHINES!
MAGIC THAT IS SCIENTIFIC IS THE ANSWER TO OUR DREAMS!

_Intermission_