

Charlie and Jay are your typical house pets. Or are they? Jay has been the queen of the house for years. Charlie is a newly-acquired puppy. They can and do get into the same adventures as the children in their audiences. Charlie, short for Prince Charlemagne de Coquille, is a French Briard puppy. The Briard, sometimes called the Chein Berger de Brie, is an Ancient French herding dog. Jay is short for Jaida de les Etoiles (Aye-twa-lay) - French for Jaida of the Stars. She is a Persian Red Point cat.

Together, they have the run of their Master and Mistress' house and the all-important backyard (and beyond). All of the four plays herein cater to a child's endless imagination by engaging them in the plot, and by getting them interactively involved to help our dynamic duo through their (mis) adventures! Included are:

You're in Trouble Now, Charlie!

Master and Mistress are at work. Charlie and Jay begin their day in the backyard. Jay deliberately leaves the backyard to sun bathe, while Charlie is left to the confines of the backyard. Charlie, showing his breed, spirit and initiative, decides to follow Jay by digging a hole under the fence. He reappears with a pie in his mouth. Two raccoons, watching from the neighbor's yard, try to deceive Charlie into surrendering his newly found prize, by posing as "backyard police," but with the help of Jay, the two teach those raccoons a well-deserved lesson. ~50 minutes running time, depending upon the activities of the actors, and the response from the audience.

This is Not our Backyard, Charlie!

Master and Mistress take a trip to the forest with Charlie and Jay. Upon arrival, Charlie jumps out of the car with Jay close behind. They are lost in the forest and eventually become very hungry and tired. In the afternoon, they meet new animals and plants, the occupants of the forest backyard. Their new-found friends try to find them food and shelter, and voice their concerns for their "backyard," of which they are quite protective. ~60 minutes running time, we learn the dangers as well as the pleasures of the forest backyard from the antics and interaction of the characters.

Wake Up, Jay! It's Christmas!

Charlie and Jay wake on the eve of Christmas. They become deeply embroiled in their breeding credentials as Jay teaches Charlie the art of singing Christmas carols. They continue singing, which disturbs and wakens the Master and Mistress. Unknown to them, Mistress is pregnant with their first child, and it is due momentarily. ~ fifty minutes running time.

Stop Snoring, Jay! I'm Dreaming of Christmas!

A 45-minute one-act children's Christmas play with Christmas songs for the entire family with child actors.



Four short plays for children by Thomas M. Kelly

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