

Jack & the beanstalk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**by Inspire Festival, Lymington
16th September 2022**



Jack was a happy and fun young boy, though he and his mum were very poor. Jack liked to imagine exciting things and often pretended to be a superhero and dream that he had special powers. They had a lovable cow called Squirty Cream who they both adored, and whose milk they sold in the marketplace.

Unfortunately, one summer, her milk dried up! With much sadness, they decided that Jack should take Squirty to market to sell. They knew they would miss her very much, but they had no money for food, and nothing else to sell. As Jack made his way to market however, he met a very peculiar little fellow, who persuaded Jack to swap Squirty for some magic beans. The strange, pixie like character told Jack that the beans would bring him riches. When Jack got home and told his Mum that he had swapped Squirty for some beans, she was absolutely furious and threw the beans out of the window, into their garden.

Jack decided to sing a special song that he knew for making plants grow and miraculously, a really tall beanstalk grew in his garden. The bean seller had been telling the truth! Jack decided to climb the beanstalk in search of riches and adventure.

Up, up, up he climbed until he reached the very top.....

As he stepped up through the clouds, he was shocked to see a monster with long arms, sharp teeth and as big as a castle. Jack immediately ran away, found a house and knocked at the door. A woman answered, who also had sharp teeth but Jack didn't even notice. She asked if Jack had any cookies, and when he said no and she tried to eat him! Jack ran away again and ended up back with the first monster he'd met, who turned out to be quite friendly and just wanted to give him food. The monster invited Jack to his home, in a cave, somewhere that looked like the Amazon rainforest. The monster went in but Jack stood around outside because he was scared there might be other monsters. Turns out there was another monster, the nasty brother of the kind girl monster Jack had just met.

Squirty Cream, Jack's faithful old cow, had also gone up the beanstalk and was hiding in the cave too, having been tricked into going there by the bad monster, who was trying to eat her. They ended up having a big fight, which Squirty Cream won and left the bad monster exhausted on the cave floor. Jack finally decided to go into the cave, which made the good monster very angry. She gave him an onion, which was so hot Jack could barely hold it, and sent him and Squirty away. They walked until they reached a forest. It was dark and a bit creepy but Jack found a light switch on a tree and flicked it down, lighting up the forest. He was fascinated by the idea and had lots of fun, flicking the switch on and off and on and off and on and off and on, enjoying watching the forest go light and dark.

The next morning, Jack awoke to discover that both his Mum and the bean seller had also climbed the beanstalk. The bean seller had been spying on Jack for a while, from up a tree and celebrated finding him by doing a funny little dance!

The bean seller put a spell on Squirty, turning her into a giant. The Squirty giant then ran off. Jack and his Mum couldn't believe it and said "What happened?"

Jack was feeling very bad about Squirty killing the bad monster in the fight and headed back to the cave, to discover that the bad monster wasn't dead at all and was now wide awake. As soon as Jack entered the cave, the monster started boxing with him. The bean seller was the referee and the monster, with its great power, won the fight. The prize was a small feather. Then the good sister monster challenged her bad brother monster to a boxing fight and won! She gave Jack lots of money and Jack decided to return home. The bean seller decided to stay with his new monster friend.

Suddenly, when all looked well, The Squirty giant staggered back to them, seemingly in great distress. She shuddered and then all traces of the Giant left her body and she was plain old Squirty again.

Squirty, Jack's Mum and Jack himself decided that they'd had enough adventure for one day. They took the money that the kind monster had given them, climbed back down the beanstalk to their home where they all lived Happily Ever After.....