

Working for the MOUSE!  
(excerpt)

by  
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## FIRST DAY “IN-PARK”

ONE ACTOR PLAYING ALL THE ROLES SLIPS  
IN AND OUT OF DIFFERENT CHARACTERS TO  
TELL THE FOLLOWING STORY.

### NARRATOR

It's seven. A.M. I'm in the “Head Room.” I've only been with the company a week and I'm getting ready for my shift.

### JIMMY

There's been a slight change in plans. You're not going to be going to the Hotel.

### NARRATOR

It's Jimmy... my “Lead” and he says-

### JIMMY

We've had an opening. You're going to be in the “Fab-Five” unit today. Now, I want you to get your costume together and get down to the Egg House Break area. Since this is your first day, I'll assign you a buddy. Ask for Gary, ( SMIRKS) he's going to be your buddy.

### NARRATOR

I'd never been “in-park” before. I went over and took my head off the shelf. It was light, only about 20 pounds. I grabbed my body off the rack and threw it over my shoulder. I picked up my paws and ran down the service road to the break area. When I got there I set my costume down on a bench and looked around. There were all these disembodied character parts scattered around, arms legs, tails everywhere. Then I saw the face characters. Peter Pan. And Alice in wonderland. And the whole Snow White unit going out on set. I couldn't wait to get out there. Now I had spent three summers as a character at Great America during high school and I thought I had seen and done it all. So in my senior year I made the trip down south to audition for the parades department. But, I didn't make the cut. Partly because I had two left feet. No really, when my big moment came... after they taught us the basic dance routine, we were supposed to do it in partial costume but the paws I got were not only too big, but they were BOTH left feet. I did my best... and I tried to explain... but the Dance-Captain was not amused. But... I got a lot of laughs... So they told me to come back for the “atmosphere-characters” auditions in a couple of weeks. They were all non-union... minimum wage. But I didn't care. I was floating on air. I was one step closer to my dream. I asked the nearest person without a head which one was Gary. He gave me one those looks and he pointed at a bench. Lying on it was... a pair of duck feet... and a duck's body wearing a sailor suit... topped off by a man's head and it's snoring. And he's like the shortest person I've ever seen. He wakes up and sees me staring at him-

GARY

(A midget with a voice like a cement mixer.)

What are you lookin' at? (BEAT) Your buddy? Who sez? (BEAT) Jimmy, huh? That fat little Nazi. Okay. Hey kid, have you ever done this before? Hotel Breakfast! Oh shit! (BEAT) Huckleberry Hound and Cpt. Caveman? Never heard of 'em. Where? Great America? What the fuck's so great about it? Look... park it rookie. Put your feet on. That one goes on your right. Your other right. I've got three rules of thumb for ya... One! Never let 'em get behind you. When you get out there... it's "back against the wall." Clear field of vision. So's you can see who's coming at ya. Two! Never stand in direct sunlight. That's death. I've seen guys get dehydrated in half an hour. It's not a pretty sight. Yeah, I don't care how much they beg you to get into better light. Stay in the shade. That's why God invented flashbulbs. Three! Watch your ass. The suits are everywhere. Yeah, the "Ice Princess" only comes out of her air conditioned office to check up on us. But "the Leads" are out to get you. Hell, one time Jimmy popped out from behind a bush and he sez "I saw what you were doin'" Bullshit! He didn't see nothin'. It wasn't even my stogie, somebody dropped it, I just picked it up. I was gonna put it out... eventually. Okay, let's get you zipped up. Bend down I can't reach you. That's better. Hey, uh Cpt. Huckleberry? You do know you got your freakin' head on backwards. (laughs)

NARRATOR

I knew that. I was just checking the head gear. And I watched as he put his head on and I followed Donald Duck out "on stage".

BLACKOUT