

SYNOPSIS: *The Velveteen Rabbit*

The company tells us the story of how Boy receives a Rabbit made of velveteen for Christmas but quickly sets it aside. Other, slicker toys such as Boat and Lion tease Rabbit for being too simple and thus not “real.” But old and wise Skin Horse reassures Rabbit that toys become real by being loved, and after that Rabbit desires nothing else.

One night, when Boy cannot find one of his favourite toys, Nana hands him Rabbit instead, and after that Rabbit and the Boy become close companions. Nana sings them both to sleep. Time passes as Boy and Rabbit play together. They cuddle and share an “Eskimo kiss.” One day, Boy leaves Rabbit outdoors in the rain, and Nana goes out to get him. Boy insists that Rabbit is real and not just a toy, which overjoys Rabbit.



When Summer arrives, Boy takes Rabbit to play outside, where he meets two wisecracking forest bunnies, Hoss and Pfeffer. They say he is not a real rabbit like they are, because he has no hind legs. They hop away and Boy comes for Rabbit. As time passes, Rabbit becomes more worn from being played with.

One day, Boy comes home from playing with hot, red cheeks. He falls extremely ill with scarlet fever, and the Doctor and Nana discuss how serious his illness is. Rabbit begs Boy not to go, and eventually he recovers. Nana takes Boy to the shore to recuperate, but the Doctor orders that all his old toys be burned to prevent contamination, including Rabbit. Nana distracts Boy with promises to buy him a new toy, “something with lights and lots of fun noises.”

Rabbit is taken out in a sack and left behind a shed in the garden. He remembers his happiness with Boy and is sad thinking there was no point in being real and loved only to end up thrown away. A tear falls, and a mysterious flower grows where it fell. A Fairy appears from the flower and makes him real to everyone, not just Boy.

Now real, Rabbit joins Hoss and Pfeffer. One day they are playing outside when Boy and Nana appear. Hoss and Pfeffer tell Rabbit to be careful of humans. Boy approaches with a carrot and notices how much this rabbit looks like his lost Rabbit toy. When Rabbit gives Boy an “Eskimo kiss,” Nana is stunned. The company tells us that Rabbit lived a long and happy life and Boy often remembered his meeting with Rabbit.

If you would like to ask any questions about the play or share your thoughts and pictures about it, you can write us a letter or email us: education@carouseltheatre.ca