

Free Range

Adapted / Written by Steven Brown with Helen Brown and Rachel Conroy

(Inspired by Christmas Turkeys by Morecambe and Wise (1971))

- Cast:** Farmer, Posh Lady, Turkey 1, Turkey 2, Turkey 3 (Very scared of everything), Turkey 4.
- Costumes:** Farmer's look; Lady in fur, dress and high heels; Turkeys as Turkeys.
- Props:** None
- Front of Curtains:** Farm Shop Sign, Turkey Coop
- The Scene:** Posh lady comes to farm looking for a turkey, turkeys are unsure of why she is wanting a turkey, two turkeys are clued up!
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Farmer and the posh lady walk across the stage, from stage right talking.

They walk past the coop

Farmer You've left it a bit last Miss, I have only a couple left *(gestures to turkeys)*

Lady I'll have a look at them

After they have past the turkeys walk out of the coop, "gobbling", calling and scratching.

Turkey 1 There's nobody about is there?

Turkey 2 No - funny that

Turkey 1 It's quiet here today!

Turkey 3 It was packed tight in there yesterday, packed tight, couldn't move

Turkey 4 to turkey 1 It's was feather to feather

Turkey 1 It's true what they have been saying you know

Turkey 4 Tell everyone what you where saying in there, what you where saying earlier

Turkeys 2/3 What? Go on – *(excreta...)*

Turkey 1 Every word of it is true!

Turkey 4 You're not trying to scare us are you?

Turkey 2 Scared, why should we be scared?

Turkey 1 You see humans...

Turkey 3 Yes *(Shaking)*

Turkey 1 Every year.... You know what humans are don't you?

Turkey 2 Yes those tall things on sticks!

Turkey 1 Every year they celebrate something called Christmas...

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Turkey 3 Do they?

Turkey 1 Yes, and they gorge themselves on food and drink.

Turkey 2 Food and drink... Sounds like heaven to me.

Turkey 1 Ah, but what do you think is their favourite food at this time of the year?

Turkey 3 Millet..

Turkey 2 Corn..

Turkey 1 & 4 US!

Turkey 4 We've got to get out of here, I don't fancy laying on me back, in boiling hot fat with a potato between me knees!

Turkey 2 I'm allergic to potatoes!

Turkey 3 I don't like the sound of that!

Turkey 1 And that's not that half of it.

Turkey 3 Ey! Half of it

Turkey 1 Just before they put you in the oven they *(they all lean in to hear what turkey 1 has to say. Turkey 1 whispers into their ears)*

Turkey 2 *(all break away with disgust on their faces)* The dirty devils. That's not nice, that's not... I don't like that!

Turkey 3 *(Faints and falls to the ground whilst "gobbling")*

Turkey 2 I'm not having that I'll fight back.

Turkey 4 How are you going to do that with your legs tied behind your head?

Turkey 3 I'm allergic to string *(faints again)*

Turkey 1 You've heard of "Sage and Onions" haven't you?

Turkey 4 No

Turkey 1 Well you will!

Turkey 3 Onions make my eye's water – you know that *(to Turkey 2)*

Turkey 1 That's nothing – sometimes they use hot chestnuts!

Turkeys 2, 3 & 4 all faint!

Turkey 4 We've got to get out of here!

Turkey 3 Look out here come the humans

All Turkeys gather together, cawling, next to the coop

Farmer Well, what do you think Miss?

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*(Inspired by Christmas Turkeys by Morecambe and Wise (1971))**Turkeys start pointing each other saying "him, him/her, her"*

Lady

I only want one!

Farmer

Have you made up your mind?

Lady

No, I'll have to contemplate it. I'll go inside and get my vegetables and return later.

Both exit.

Turkey 3

I don't want to die, I don't want to die. Don't you understand... I.. do not... want to... die! *(says the words whilst grovelling on the floor shuffling towards where the farmer and lady have just exited – other turkeys appear to be crying)*

Turkey 4

I knew it, I knew it *(picking turkey 3 from floor).*

Turkey 3

(Now standing) What?

Turkey 4

You've turned chicken!

Turkey 1

It's the chop for one of us you know?

Turkey 2

(to Turkey 3) Well, I'll miss you

Turkey 3

Why me?

Turkey 2

Well they won't take us will they? We're too thin; you're the little plump one. You're the one they're after!

Turkey 3

Get away, you've got some lovely drumsticks there *(to Turkey 2)*

Turkey 2

Gerroff, gerroff *(said as Turkey 3 grabs Turkey 2's knee)*

Turkey 1

And you have some lovely breast *(to turkey 4 – stroking Turkey 4 breast)*

Turkey 4

Gerroff – You take your hand off my white meat!

Turkey 1

(to turkey 3) and you're lucky you haven't been deep frozen for three months!

Turkey 3

That's true – there's no hope, it's all over. *(Dramatically clutches chest and pretends to die)* I can see a white light, mother is that you...

Turkey 4

Behave, here come the humans again.

Farmer

Have you made up your mind yet Miss?

Lady

What do you think?

Farmer

Oh there's no doubt about it, the little plump one *(Turkey 3 starts crying)*
He should taste delicious and cook really well.

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(Inspired by *Christmas Turkeys* by Morecambe and Wise (1971))

Lady But I don't want to cook him

Farmer What, I thought you wanted them for the Christmas table?

Lady No, I am going to breed my own birds. I have a huge family and it seems
cost effective to breed and cook my own. I want him for breeding!
(Turkey 3 starts strutting around the yard)

Farmer Well what about the other ones?

Lady Oh I'll take those three for the families' ovens!

Turkeys 1, 2, and 4 *All Faint*

Black out.

Approximately 5 minutes