



Wednesday and the Monster Family

(Fourth version)
Playlife Arts & G3 Teatre

This play is written for one actress/puppeteer (performs mainly as WEDNESDAY) and a second performer (actor or actress) who is also a puppeteer.

ACTRESS #1 Wednesday, Morticia, and Thing.
Puppeteering: Pugsley.

ACTOR/ACTRESS #2 Grandmother, Gomez, Principal, Teacher, Uncle
Fester, Wednesday #2 and Thing.
Puppeteering: Cousin Itt, Bully Kids.

At certain moments, **both** performers will play Thing, the animated hand of the Addams Family.

Staging note. Thing always appears from behind Gomez's armchair, which has a black-cloth screen with holes. This screen also serves as a quick-change station.

Set. A tall tree with wide branches is hung with portraits, puppets, and objects. Through object theatre and puppetry, these elements make up Wednesday's extended family. Puppets can be hung and un-hung as needed.

#01 In the Addams Garden

(Gloomy atmosphere, howling wind, distant thunder. A giant tree with portraits of the family stands centre stage.)

GRANDMOTHER The skull of a blackbird who died of old age, three coconuts, the entrails of a hanged man... and a pinch of cinnamon. Then add three frog eyes that have been left out all night under the full moon...

WEDNESDAY (*Sipping calmly from a skull-shaped mug*) Good morning, Grandma. Lovely weather today... looks like a storm is coming.

GRANDMOTHER Good morning, Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY What are you doing?

GRANDMOTHER Making a poison.

WEDNESDAY A poison?

GRANDMOTHER For your birthday!

WEDNESDAY Ah, for my birthday! That's in two days. On Friday the 13th. The best date in the world to turn thirteen... What's the poison for? For Pugsley? Can I poison Pugsley in front of the whole family? He's poisoning himself in front of me all the time and laughing while doing it.

GRANDMOTHER No, my dear. This poison is for you.

WEDNESDAY For me?

GRANDMOTHER Yes. It's an old Addams tradition to be poisoned on one's thirteenth birthday. It's very strong—strong enough to make every Addams shiver. It's a decisive poison.

WEDNESDAY And why for my birthday?

GRANDMOTHER When an Addams turns thirteen, you have to make a very serious decision about your life. At midnight on your birthday, you join together with all your family—living and dead, and those who haven't yet decided if they are alive or dead—and choose whether to be an Addams forever... or to be something else.

WEDNESDAY Something else?

GRANDMOTHER Yes, something else. That is: a normal girl.

WEDNESDAY A normal girl?

GRANDMOTHER Yes. A boring and grey boring person. With very little personality. Like your classmates.

WEDNESDAY Ugh, that's disgusting! To be a normal girl! Must be a terrifying experience.

GRANDMOTHER Yes: study like a normal girl, do sports like a normal girl, have a normal family, a normal home, a normal job. A boring and grey existence until you die... and become a normal ghost!

WEDNESDAY Stop! You're scaring me! Why would I want to be a normal girl if I'm an Addams?

GRANDMOTHER Oh, I don't know... Sometimes an Addams may want to stop being an Addams and just be... normal. That's why at thirteen you can decide to do things your own way.

WEDNESDAY I never...

GRANDMOTHER Yes, but maybe it crosses your mind sometimes...

WEDNESDAY And what would happen if someone drinks the poison before turning thirteen?

GRANDMOTHER Oh, nothing. It tastes disgusting. But that's all. If you die you'll never set foot in Nevermore Academy.

WEDNESDAY And if Pugsley drank it?

GRANDMOTHER It's so disgusting he might actually like it. Now go to school. You'll be late.

WEDNESDAY Understood...

GRANDMOTHER You still have two days to decide if you'll keep being one of us... (*Exits.*)

WEDNESDAY This is so stupid. Who wouldn't want to be an Addams? I mean: who would want to be something different, be a normal person? Who would want to avoid the problem of always having lots of problems? Who would turn down the chance to go to Nevermore Academy... ?

GOMEZ (*Entering*) Pugsley: school time!

WEDNESDAY Hi, Dad!

GOMEZ Pugsley... where are you? Pugsley... Have you seen your brother?

WEDNESDAY No...

Comentado [JH1]: ¿¿¿¿????

GOMEZ Pugsley...
PUGSLEY (*Hidden*) Hehehehe...
GOMEZ Pugsley...
PUGSLEY (*Pops out with an axe, attacking his father*) Hehehehehe!
GOMEZ (*Dodging the blow*) Ever so charming, Pugsley! Come on, off to school.
PUGSLEY Hehehehe...
GOMEZ **That's** a lovely axe. I'm sure many of your classmates will appreciate how beautiful it is when you use it to chop up the Principal's desk.
PUGSLEY Hehehehe...
GOMEZ Keep an eye on your brother, Wednesday. Make sure he goes to school. I have to stay here at home, with your mother.
WEDNESDAY Come on, Pugsley. Let's go to school. At least there someone will notice me... (*WEDNESDAY exits with the PUGSLEY puppet.*)

#02 At the Addams Cemetery

GOMEZ Oh, Morticia. Where are you, Morticia? You are like a werewolf's howl in the middle of the night that makes children cry and their parents shiver. You are like a half-open coffin in an abandoned morgue. You are like a vampire who quenches his thirst drinking the blood of the innocent...

MORTICIA Gomez, my love... I am here, in the cemetery. Oh, Gomez, *mon poison.* (*GOMEZ kneels and kisses her from the fingertips up her arm to her shoulder.*)

GOMEZ My beloved Morticia. Every minute without you is like a whole night without a moon.

MORTICIA Deliciously grim. Absolutely grim...

GOMEZ Our son has a new axe. I hope he knows how to use it properly and proves what an great executioner he is.

MORTICIA And our daughter...?

GOMEZ (*Confused, while kissing*) What daughter...? Ah, yes: Wednesday. She wants an axe too? I thought she was happy with her guillotine.

MORTICIA Soon she'll be thirteen... her time has come. Her time to finally become part of the family.

GOMEZ So what...? She'll be one of us. She won't drink the poison...

MORTICIA Are you sure? All her ancestors will be coming from beyond. The dead and those who still haven't decided if they are or not... And they'll sing "Happy Birthday" to her.

GOMEZ **Are you afraid** they'll forget how to sing it?

MORTICIA No! I want it to be truly terrifying!

GOMEZ Do you think we should teach the song to our cemetery friends and family? The oldest, most medieval ones may not know it.

MORTICIA Yes. They don't know how to act, so we'll have to teach them how to howl and shriek "Happy Birthday" properly. Do you think they'll know how to...?

GOMEZ Try it...

MORTICIA Oh, ancestral spirits: Morticia Addams summons you to my presence to ask a favour...

(*The lights come up. The audience becomes the spirits of the ancestors. Select a few students to rehearse the scariest possible "Happy Birthday." After a short try, they thank the audience and the scene returns to normal.*)

MORTICIA Grim. Absolutely grim!

GOMEZ Terrible. The worst I've ever heard.

MORTICIA With so many good singers, it's obvious that Wednesday will want to be an Addams forever. I'm certain of it. I hope they sing right into her ear.

GOMEZ They will, surely...

#03 At School

WEDNESDAY Well, here we are...
PUGSLEY Hehehehe...!
WEDNESDAY Where are you going, Pugsley? (*PUGSLEY hides.*) Oh, here come the bullies... (*The BULLIES appear: a triple puppet that insults and harasses WEDNESDAY.*)
BULLIES Creepy! Freaky! Weirdo!
WEDNESDAY Good morning, boys.
BULLIES Creepy! Freaky! Weirdo!
WEDNESDAY Yes. I also think you're a nuisance.
BULLIES Creepy! Freaky! Weirdo!

(*PUGSLEY appears with his axe and scares them.*)

BULLIES Aaaaah! Creepy! Freaky! Weirdo!

(*PUGSLEY hides again. The PRINCIPAL enters.*)

WEDNESDAY Pugsley... where are you now?
PRINCIPAL Late again. What's the excuse today, Miss Addams?
WEDNESDAY (*Impassive*) None at all, Principal.
PRINCIPAL I don't know what you and your brother are doing in a decent school like this. Maybe you should be in a centre for the maladjusted—because that's what you are. I'm going to call your parents... (*PUGSLEY appears and lunges at the PRINCIPAL with the axe, then hides.*)
PUGSLEY Hehehehe...
WEDNESDAY Pugsley...
PRINCIPAL (*Terrified*) All right! No need to call your parents. Everything is fine, Miss Addams.
WEDNESDAY Maybe you *should* call my parents.
PRINCIPAL Truly—not necessary.
WEDNESDAY Maybe it is necessary. And you, kiddo. Give me the axe. (*Takes off the axe from PUGSLEY's hands*)
PUGSLEY Hehehehehe... Eh!
WEDNESDAY Quiet, Pugsley. I'm negotiating.
PRINCIPAL Well, if you'll excuse me...
WEDNESDAY Don't go... Why won't you call my parents? I'm not scary enough?
PRINCIPAL No, no... well... I don't know (*PUGSLEY bites PRINCIPAL*) Aaaaagh! You're freaks! Monsters!
WEDNESDAY (*Serious*) Call. My. Parents. Now.
PRINCIPAL **No need!** (*Runs away*)
WEDNESDAY Pugsley... (*Hides the PUGSLEY puppet.*) And now what do I do? How can I prove I'm Addams enough? That silly and cowardly man ... What am I supposed to do now?

#04 At Home

(*WEDNESDAY gets home tired, drops her backpack, and greets COUSIN ITT. Only the Addams understand him.*)

COUSIN ITT 𐄂 𐄃 夕 .
WEDNESDAY Hi, Cousin Itt.
COUSIN ITT 𐄃 人月 𐄄 𐄅 𐄆 𐄇 支 𐄈 𐄉 𐄊 .
WEDNESDAY Yeah, school was fine today.
COUSIN ITT 火 𐄋 𐄌 𐄍 𐄎 𐄏 𐄐 𐄑 𐄒 𐄓 𐄔 .
WEDNESDAY Pugsley? He's playing guillotine with Dad.
COUSIN ITT 𐄕 𐄖 𐄗 𐄘 ?
WEDNESDAY No. They're having plenty of fun on their own. I don't need to go.
COUSIN ITT 乙 𐄙 𐄚 𐄛 𐄜 ?
WEDNESDAY No. I'm not in the mood.

GRANDMOTHER What did you say, cousin?
COUSIN ITT 三 'B じ 4 '9t .
MORTICIA You think so, cousin?
COUSIN ITT ≦ ∴ 13. じ 小鱼 じ .
GRANDMOTHER If that's what you think. But we can't talk her out of it if she chooses one thing or another.
COUSIN ITT ㄹㄹ ← [⇒] . (Exits.)
MORTICIA Our cousin has such a strange temper sometimes.
GRANDMOTHER Itt always knows what to say, and always finds just the right words. I don't know why people don't listen to him more.
MORTICIA Envy—pure envy—at having such an eloquent member of the family.
GRANDMOTHER I'm off to brew more potions... (GRANDMOTHER exits. MORTICIA remains.)
MORTICIA Let's do a little gardening... I want to see my roses! (She walks over to her small garden.) Oh, they've bloomed... so marvellous in their imperfection... But they can always be better—much better. (She takes scissors and starts cutting off the rose heads.) ...Oh, yes. Better. Much better. Now they are even more imperfect. Which makes them even more perfect. I love it...!

(Insert a game to identify names and family members. After that, we cross to the other side of the stage, by GOMEZ's armchair.)

Comentado [JH2]: Who?

GOMEZ Remember when I was little? Hello? Hey? Thing... you there?
 (THING pops from behind the armchair. They interact.) Oh, Thing! There you are! I thought you'd got lost in the woods, or the cemetery. Remember when I was small... when I was twelve? What a time! And thirteen... wow! That felt like an jumping off a cliff. Jumping off a cliff! And it was terrifying. But staying still was worse than watching Uncle Fester pick his nose while I thought, I want to be like him. So I jumped off headfirst! Literally—you know... (THING dives headfirst and disappears.) And I rolled down the mountain! Hahaha! What a laugh! Then I fell into a bramble bush and got pricked all over until I reached a wild river that swept me out to sea and... Hahahaha! Two wonderful weeks under the ocean! I met mermaids, krakens, and all sorts of charming creatures! Best holidays of my life—until I found Morticia. Oh, mon poison...

#06 Back at School

(WEDNESDAY reads an essay. The other performer manipulates the multi-puppet BULLIES and also plays the TEACHER.)

TEACHER Wednesday, read us the ending of your essay about the forests you visited on your last holidays.
WEDNESDAY ...And the crows there in the forest around Mount Fuji in Japan—called the "Forest of the Hanged", always sing, like in an Edgar Allan Poe tale, "Nevermore, nevermore..." because those who enter never return. At least, not alive. (She smiles.)
BULLIES Creepy! Freaky! Weirdo!
TEACHER Thank you, Wednesday. Utterly terrifying. But it's not quite what I asked for, which was to talk about nature or a forest you really have visited.
WEDNESDAY It isn't made up. It's a real place.
BULLIES Creepy! Freaky! Weirdo!
WEDNESDAY And the hanged men were there. I saw them...
BULLIES Creepy! Freaky! Weirdo! (They run off.)
TEACHER I don't know how much of it is true. But you have a huge talent for writing—and giving people the creeps.
WEDNESDAY Thank you.
TEACHER It seems you've read a lot. Kids your age don't do that. It's a gift...
WEDNESDAY Thanks. Maybe it's because I'm not like the other kids.
TEACHER And why do you want to be like them? Maybe if you're like the rest, you wouldn't write so well.
WEDNESDAY My father has a big library and I've read many of his books.
TEACHER Which authors do you like most?
WEDNESDAY Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, H. P. Lovecraft and

the *Cthulhu Mythos*, also the work of Charles Addams... Everything!

TEACHER You have talent. Don't let it drown in the vulgar crowd around you. Believe me—that's the best thing you can do. (*Exits.*)

WEDNESDAY Did you hear that, Pugsley? I'm good at scaring people! And I don't even need an axe! Take this, dumb boy. (*PUGSLEY recovers his axe*)

#07 In the Attic of the Addams Mansion

(*WEDNESDAY rummages through the set.*)

WEDNESDAY I know there was a record player somewhere around here... (*She rummages more.*) Here... um... What's this? (*Uncovers a framed mirror.*) Oh, it's a mirror... but I can't see my reflection... Mother never told me I was a vampire. (*She looks closely. On the other side of the stage, the other performer steps forward as WEDNESDAY #2.*) Ah, it's my reflection... just arriving a bit late. Hello. I'm Wednesday Addams.

WEDNESDAY #2 Me too.

WEDNESDAY I'm twelve. Soon I'll be thirteen.

WEDNESDAY #2 Me too.

WEDNESDAY Shall we dance?

WEDNESDAY #2 Let's dance!

(*WEDNESDAY starts the record player while WEDNESDAY #2 waits. WEDNESDAY stands before the mirror and they dance in sync. The music begins eerie, then, at a certain point, turns cheerful. WEDNESDAY stops, but WEDNESDAY #2 keeps dancing. She may remove some accessory or similar, becoming brighter and/or more colourful.*)

WEDNESDAY What are you doing?

WEDNESDAY #2 Dancing!

WEDNESDAY But you're my reflection! You shouldn't be dancing if I'm not.

WEDNESDAY #2 Dance.

WEDNESDAY Never!

WEDNESDAY #2 You want to go to Nevermore?

WEDNESDAY Yes!

WEDNESDAY #2 No doubts?

WEDNESDAY Never!

WEDNESDAY #2 Never say never. (*She exits. WEDNESDAY remains, stunned.*)

WEDNESDAY How is that possible? Why is she making me doubt like this? I've always wanted to scare people and have fun with monsters. Why would I change just because sometimes I have more responsibilities? Why would I change who I am because of a stupid mirror that only tells lies? No. No... I know who I am. I know who I want to be... I've always known...

FESTER (*Entering, also holding the COUSIN ITT puppet*) Wednesday... Where are you? Today is Friday. Friday the 13th...

COUSIN ITT ㄟ v ◆ ㄨ .

FESTER Yes, cousin. We're going to the party now.

WEDNESDAY Here!

FESTER Uh, why is this mirror uncovered? I thought your father threw it away.

WEDNESDAY What is this mirror?

FESTER It's a haunted mirror. A spirit lives in it and it likes to play with people. When it finds someone who doubts, it makes them doubt even more.

COUSIN ITT (ㄨ ' .

FESTER Yes, that too. You see him?

WEDNESDAY See who?

FESTER The spirit. It takes whatever form is most useful, often the form of the person looking into the mirror.

COUSIN ITT ㄟ ?! ㄨ X ㄨ T Δ 高 .

FESTER Hahahaha! That's right! I once saw him as me, but well dressed!

Like one of our neighbours!

WEDNESDAY Weren't you scared?
FESTER Of course! I even tried to be normal, whatever that means. At least for a while...
WEDNESDAY Oh, yeah?
FESTER Yes. The five most terrible minutes of my life. At first it was fine, but then everything was so boring... I couldn't jump into the fireplace and roll in flames because they said I frightened people. Or dive into the sea to play with my shark friends! I don't like being ordinary. I like being an Addams.
COUSIN ITT ☺ [Q ✨†☆ .
WEDNESDAY What will I do?
COUSIN ITT ☹ ☹ ☹ .
WEDNESDAY Yes, I know it's almost midnight.
FESTER Well, we'll leave you alone. Come down before midnight, whenever you like. We'll all be there. *(Exits.)*
WEDNESDAY What's that noise? ...Pugsley? *(She brings out PUGSLEY.)*
PUGSLEY Hehehehe...
WEDNESDAY Pugsley, can you stop laughing hysterically all the time?
PUGSLEY Hehehehehe... Sure. What's up?
WEDNESDAY You saw the mirror, right?
PUGSLEY Hehehehe... Yes.
WEDNESDAY And it didn't scare you?
PUGSLEY Hehehehehehehehehehehehe... No, it didn't.
WEDNESDAY Why not?
PUGSLEY You're not scared, Wednesday. You're doubting because life isn't a bed of roses. You're smart and I'm dumb, but I love being myself because I'm happy choosing my way, as you. You'll go to Nevermore and your life will change for the better because you'll be whatever you want to be, like me when I follow you there. Meanwhile I'll be surrounded by silly bully boys who can't understand a thing. They'll try to hurt me as they did with you, but they're stupid and can't be anything but a crowd of bullies. That's why I choose to be myself and scare them! *(He attacks.)* Hehehehe...
WEDNESDAY #2 *(Returning from the mirror)* Are you afraid?
WEDNESDAY No, I'm not afraid of that. I'm better than that...
WEDNESDAY #2 You don't look better.
WEDNESDAY You wouldn't understand...
WEDNESDAY #2 I understand. I'm you...
WEDNESDAY No, you don't understand anything... *(She grabs the axe from PUGSLEY and smashes the mirror. WEDNESDAY #2 runs off.)* Never underestimate an Addams. An Addams can have her doubts, but never fear. If you consider yourself a winner it's because you're a loser. Come on, Pugsley! Let's end this.

#08 In the Garden

(GRANDMOTHER waits in the Addams garden with all the puppets neatly arranged, along with figures of the rest of the family. When she notices WEDNESDAY and PUGSLEY arriving, they begin to sing.)

GRANDMOTHER Welcome, Wednesday. You see this tree? It's your family tree. Here are your parents, your brother, and you. There's also your uncle, your cousin, and a whole host of relatives, from witches burned at Salem to krakens. All of them are part of your family... The ones who came from the other side of the world are here, and even the dead -those who come from beyond- as well as those who still haven't decided if they are completely dead or not. They've all have come here today. Are you ready?

WEDNESDAY I'm ready.

GRANDMOTHER Wednesday Addams. Now, at the start of your birthday... *(The twelve chimes begin.)* Are you ready to either become a fully-fledged Addams or renounce your family inheritance forever and become a simple mortal who leaves behind midnight games and forswears the afterlife?

WEDNESDAY I'm ready.

GRANDMOTHER (*Offering the vial; WEDNESDAY takes it*) Then you know what to do. Drink it—or throw it far away to banish even the shadow of a doubt.

WEDNESDAY (*Smiles, opens the vial; everyone watches. A tense pause. She puts it to PUGSLEY's mouth.*) Pugsley, your turn.

PUGSLEY Hahahahaha... (*He drinks, writhes, and "dies" once, twice, three times...*)
Hahahahaha! Nothing like being eleven.

GRANDMOTHER Are you an Addams?

WEDNESDAY Always.

PUGSLEY Hehehehe... (*He attacks them both.*)

GRANDMOTHER You're an Addams too, Pugsley. We all are. We will always be the Addams.

- THE END -