

Epico the Dragon Script



Creature Encounters 2023

www.creature-encounters.com

(Ten minutes before show time, music plays from a large green tent as the audience gathers to sit around the arena. Announcements are made by Sir Aurelious Jones every three minutes encouraging people to gather...)

JONES:

(over the speakers)

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, in but 7 minutes time we will be risking our lives for your entertainment. Gather yee! Gather yet!

Boys and girls, friends old and new. Open your eyes and witness the wonders I have seen, here by the Green tent. Front row seats may still be available! 4 minutes to show time!

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, give us your arms! We are about to begin!

BUTTERS:

(Enters the arena from the tent bum first. Dust the various props. Interacts with the children.)

JONES:

(Enters the arena, inspects the props and claps.)

BUTTERS:

(Runs to attend and perfume Aurelious, spraying under his arms, his mouth and his bottom.)

JONES:

(Noticing audience for the first time.)

I didn't see you there. Ha! Tasteful fade, tasteful fade
(turns down the music.)

Good afternoon, good people of...²² *(studies his palm)* Sheffield. Good afternoon?

AUDIENCE:

Good afternoon

JONES:

That's more like it. Right. I am, of course, the living legend, Sir Aurelious Jones. No doubt you've heard of me?

AUDIENCE:

No

JONES:

No? What, not at all? Perhaps you know me by another moniker, perhaps, uhm, LLAJ? Ladies love Aurelious Jones? Well, prepare to be schooled my friends, prepare to be schooled...
??? ??? ??? have not yet reached these provincial back waters...

...

May I introduce my butler, Mr Rancid Butter? I call him that because whenever I want him, I find he's gone off. Haaa. Anyway I know it's not me you're here to see, ladies and gentlemen. You are here today to see Epico, the last living dragon. But the dragon, my friends, is a vain creature. ??? ??? heaven knows I've a lot to be vain about... No...

The dragon, and he won't come out unless he thinks there's a lot of people here who are very, very, very excited to see him. Now fear not madam, old Aurelious has a plan. I shall start over here next to my mother. Hello, mother, how are you my darling?

(KISSES HAND)

Look at the family resemblance. Yes, good looks run in our genes, don't they, my darling, they do.

We are what you might call a couple of lookers ??? ???

Right, I'll start over here. I walk to centre of the arena, throw my arms in the air thus, proclaim aha and bow, and you, the good people of Sheffield, go mad with applause and scream my name, Aurelious Jones... Are you ready?

AUDIENCE RESPOND

JONES:

Woeful, woeful. Are you ready!?

AUDIENCE RESPOND

JONES:

That's more like it. Right, I start over here. Brace yourselves... hold, hold, hold... AAhhaa!

Oh he's so good looking that I can only pray that he's single. He is unfathomably. How can such a rare specimen still be...? Ahh, no sign of... I tell you what... this time I'll start ??? next to my

agent. Hello, sir. Gets me all of my work, by which I mean (?) very little. I'll start next to my agent, at length... brace yourselves. I shall run around the arena in slow motion, demonstrating my athletic prowess. When I get to the centre I'll proclaim aha and bow, and this time my friends, adults throw your children in the air, children shout my name, we'll make so much noise the mother of Troy (?) herself, Mr Butters, will be out (?) to see what all the commotion is all about. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, a slow... hand... clap. Please, that's it ??? ???? come on everybody. ??? here I come... What a specimen, ladies and gentlemen... look at that. Ahhaaa

APPLAUSE

JONES:

Thank you, thank you, dear friends for that spontaneous round of applause. I am Sir Aurelious Jones, ladies' man... Ladies' man... Don't patronise me, madam, don't patronise me. Sounds like somebody's put the chips in (?) When I say 'ladies' man', ladies, do not suppress the natural urge to go Oooooooo... Just let it flow through you. Here we go... Sir Aurelious Jones, ladies' man...

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

Well done, girls, and you, sir, I like it. Yes. Adventurer.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

Some of you ??? When I say 'adventurer', we'll slap our thighs and go Aaarrrrggg... got that? Excellent, thank you. Yes. If you know what's happening, just nod, don't stare at me blankly.

Right, here we go. From the top. Sir Aurelious Jones, ladies' man...

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

You get better in repetition, girls... Adventurer...

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

Very good. And capturer (?) of exotic peoples (?) Ooooooo.... Feel it ripple through the crowd...

Last year, dear friends, I brought you an undead monk from the Himalayas... Three years in a French ??? school. Thank you, Mr Butters. The year before that the most beautiful mermaid of the Adriatic... the dutiful (beautiful?), Mr Butters. ??? What a spiffing fellow. Right back you go??? But this year, dear friends, I bring you the last living dragon. Before we go any further, there is one amongst us whose destiny was chosen for this day, a gilded child born of a courageous heart, unafraid to step forward... where other fear to tread.

Boys and girls, do you like to help?

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

And are you feeling helpful todaaay?

RESPONSE

If you wish to assist me, put your hand in the air like you just don't care. Marvelous. I shall call upon the finger of destiny to find the child. Oh, it's off... No, no, leave him alone. Sorry, sir.

Naughty finger, naughty... ???

Aahhh the finger has spoken. Young lady, step through the barrier. We're gonna open this. Don't get crushed. That's it, through you come, my darling. Excellent. Is she yours? I shall return her

to you, no problem. Here you come, my child.

Excellent. You stand here. On the trap door. Marvellous. What's your name, my dear?

CHILD:

Grace

JONES:

Grace, what a lovely name. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, a round of applause for Grace.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

JONES:

Come on, grace, give them what they want... bow you fool, bow. That's right. Excellent. Marvellous. Now, Grace, before we go any further you must pass three tests. They're very easy, don't worry. Test number one, my dears, is test of strength. Grace, are you feeling strong?

CHILD:

[Nods yes.]

JONES:

She is. Show us your guns. Grace. Aawwww. Come on, you miserable lot. Again, Grace. Aawwww. Very good, excellent. Grace, when you're ready I want you, as hard as you can, to squeeze my finger... *[wailing and balling]*.

Take your finger, take your finger ??? Deceptively strong, Grace, yes. Ha, well done.

Test number two, my dears, is a test of courage. Grace, are you feeling brave?

GRACE:

[Nods yes.]

JONES:

She is, but we'll be the judge of that, won't we, friends? Yes. Rooooaaarrrr. Nothing at all???

GRACE:

[Shakes her head no]

JONES:

Oh, how embarrassing. No doubt you ??? very, very brave. She has passed the test of strength, she has passed the test of courage. But Grace, can you pass the test of honour? Can you do

what you know in your heart to be right? Weee shall see. How do you think it is going, sir? Average? Brilliant... Oh... what an honest young lady. Thank you, Grace. My ancient and valuable coin. Ladies and gentlemen, a round of applause for Grace.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE.

JONES:

Well done, well done. Marvellous. Now then... Grace has proven herself. Do it with me, Grace. Strong. Courageous. And honest. Marvellous. And that means you've won the right to wear the silver breast plate. Oooooo...

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

JONES:

Come on the rest of you, Oooooo.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

JONES:

There we go. Are you jealous? Yeah, they're jealous. Sing with me now, Grace. And everybody else join in. [*singing*] Thanks for that interaction at a high level. Well now, Grace, not only do you get to wear the silver breast plate, but Grace, you and I will ride together like knights. This is not a horse's head on the stick, *au contraire*... (That's French.) This is your noble steed. Grace, my darling, copy me exactly. Very good. Aahaa. Excellent. Aahaa.

GRACE:

Aahaa

JONES:

And now, Grace, let us ride together like knights of the realm... Aahaa. Brilliant. Follow me, my champion... *[Gallop]* Look at that thing ??? ???

Marvelous... marvelous...

And now, Grace, let's ??? in slow motion. Come on, Grace, slow motion, wave to your adoring fans. See how they ??? Or is that boredom? It looks ???

Well done, Grace. You and I have arrived in the land of the ??? Where

I... ??? Sir Aurelious Jones, ??? ??? ????

Grace, stand here, my darling... You have proven yourself ready. But you, good people of Sheffield, are you ready?

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

JONES:

Are you ready for danger?

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

JONES:

Are you ready for mayhem?

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

JONES:

Are you ready for the draaagoon?

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

JONES:

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, I give you the last living dragon, EPICOOOO

EPICO

(Enters smoking)

Roooooaaaaar!

JONES:

Don't be alarmed, my dear, ??? ??? ??? No sudden movements(?). ???

Ooo, he likes you, madam... That's it, Mr Butters, wrangle (?) that dragon...
wrangle that dragon. Get him in the corner...

(Butters holds Epicos tail and leads him back into the corner placing a stool under his bottom.)

And now, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, observe (a little more, Mr Butters, a little more...
back it up, beastly, back it up...) observe my mastery of the beast. Epicooo... sit.

(Epico sits.)

There you are, my dears. You wouldn't see that at Crufts.

Now then, Grace, my darling... Ladies and gentlemen, Grace will now ??? ??? while I ??? ???
this fearsome beast. Grace, what I'd like you to do, walk to the dragon, hold out your hand and
stroke that dragon on the nose. Good luck, my darling. Off you go.

(The child walks to Epico, Butters to assist if nervous)

Oh yes, he's having a sniff. That's it, Grace. Give him a stroke.

(The child strokes Epico nose.)

Oo he likes it ????? And now he's ??? Give that dragon a scratch behind the ear.

(The child scratches Epico ear, he turns his head into it and wags his leg like a dog.)

Oh he loves it, look at that. We all like a good scratch, don't we? I know I do. And now, Grace, give that dragon... a hug. Ohhh... Ladies and gentlemen, a round of applause for our brilliant young knight. Well done, Grace. Return to me, return to me!

(The child returns to Aurelius)

You're doing fantastically well, Grace. Excellent. Ladies and gentlemen, now that Grace has proven him safe... I mean has proven her bravery, I, Aurelius Jones, will demonstrate the true secret of dragon taming using this ancient Nepalese coin

(Aurelius produces coin from bag.)

and the dark art of hypnosis. Thank you, madam, I told you it would get better!

Epico, feast your eyes upon the coin. You... are... feeling... sleepy. Very, very sleepy. Not you, dear friends, you're having the time of your lives... Let it show on your face, madam, the time of your life. And three... two... one... sleeeeeppppp.

(Aurelius walks to Epico counting as he goes, Epico follows his movements and lowers his head to the floor.)

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, ??? I hold this dragon's mind in the palm of my hand and he won't wake up unless I command him to do so

(Epico wakes, smiles at audience and sleeps)

AUDIENCE RESPOND

JONES:

What? ??? ... I'm doing my bit at the moment. Honest to God, what a scene-stealer... Oh yes... I hold this dragon's mind in the palm of my hand and he won't wake up unless I ...

(Epico wakes, smiles at audience and sleeps)

AUDIENCE RESPOND

The dragon is asleep! Grace, get back over here! Honestly... I give you a start in show business and this is how you repay me. She gets her foot in the door and suddenly she's got to hog the limelight. Some people! Where was I before I was so rudely interrupted? Ah yes, I hold this dragon's mind in the palm of my hand and he won't wake up...

(Epico wakes, smiles at audience and sleeps)

AUDIENCE RESPOND

See what you started, Grace, I hope your proud of yourself!

Young man, observe the evidence of your eyes rather than the fevered witterings of your imagination. That dragon is asleep!!!

I know there are those of you who doubt my mastery of the beast.. the haters. But I shall prove it to you by taking young, innocent Grace's head and thrusting it into the dragon's mouth. Are you alright with that, Grace?

GRACE:

No / Yes

JONES:

Are you sure? This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. You don't want to do it?

GRACE:

No

JONES:

Ahhh... Ladies and gentlemen, it appears we have an opening for a stunt double. Wooohooo.

Somebody brave.

(Aurelius chooses a child.)

Excellent, Grace, I've got your stunt double. What's your name, my dear?

Child 2:

[response]

JONES:

You two know each other? Oh Abby, Grace, Grace, Abby. Magic friendships born every moment(?). Right, come help me over here, my dear. Not you, don't need you anymore. Abby, yes, I've got you a present, Abby. Some onions and some garlic for protection. And of course, no adventurer would set out without a little bit of magic dust. Right. Abby, my dear, do you have a brother or sister?

You've got a brother, excellent, an heir and a spare! Alright. Epico... open your mouth. When you do this, Abby, the audience will go wild with applause. In your own time, walk to the dragon and stick your head inside the dragon's mouth.

(Child 2 puts their head inside Epico's mouth.)

Ladies and gentlemen, a round of applause for our stunt double, Abby.

[Applause]

JONES:

Abby, return to us, return to us. You were very good. Excellent. Come and stand here next to Grace. See nothing happened. Ladies and gentlemen, now that Abby and Grace have proven it is safe.. [squeaks]... I mean have proven their bravery.

Aurelious Jones, will place my, no offence Abby, much more beautiful and much more valuable head inside the dragon's mouth. Grace I have an important job for you, my hat.

(Aurelious thrust his hat a little too vigorously at the child)

Thank you, my dear. Now then, ladies, the moment you've been waiting for, this seems to me a kiss-for-luck moment... Anybody?

(Rancid runs in.)

Not you, Rancid, got a bit of sick in my mouth now. Get over there.

(Rancid retreats)

Anyone? Anyone at all? Gentlemen? Nobody?

(Aurelious locks eyes with a lady or man in the audience.)

Ma'am! Yes you! What a creature. I look into your eyes and every cell in body explodes! Don't fight it. Surrender to your desire! Kiss me on my rubbery cheek.

(Kiss)

Very nice, but I think I'm going to need a bit more luck than that... tell me are you two sisters?
Ladies and gentlemen, fortified by feminine energy I will place my head inside the dragon's mouth.

Risking life and limb for your entertainment. Epico, open your mouth.

(Epico raises head from the floor and opens his mouth rumbling as he does so.)

On second thoughts, anyone want to see Abby do it again?

Abby! Abby! Abby! No? Gawd. This is my moment. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, prepare yourselves for beauty and the beast. Right, you two, if anything goes wrong you will help me, won't you?

CHILD 1/2:

Yes

JONES:

Yes, yes, you all saw it, they said yes. And you, Mr Butters. Here we go. Ladies and gentlemen, count with me now. Three... two... one.

(Aurelius places his head inside the dragons mouth.)

Applause

Ahaah, thank you, thank you. Oh come on you miserable bunch. I make it look easy, but it's really rather difficult

(Suddenly Epico eyes open he stands and he starts chewing Aurelius!)

JONES:

Help me, help me!

(Rancid and the children help pull Aurelius free, he runs to the corner)

EPICO:

(laughing)

JONES:

How humiliating! I thought he was going to squeeze my brains through my nose!

(withdrawing his feather sword and walking toward Epico.)

You beast. How dare you? *(he strikes Epico.)*

EPICO:

Huh?

(Epico starts building toward a roar.)

JONES:

(to the audience.)

Don't you aaah him. No, no, no. He's just like dog, he needs to understand who's boss. And we all know who the alpha male is here, don't we, sir? Yes its meeeeeee

EPICO:

Roooooaaaaar!

JONES:

Arghhhh. Grace, protect me. Arghhh,

(Aurelious grabs the children and runs screaming in a circle around the arena.)

EPICO:

Roooooaaaaar!

(Epico rotates on the spot.)

JONES:

(Pausing in the top corner he hides behind the child)

Human shield! Human shield! Take the child but spare my life! Take the child but spare my life!

EPICO:

Huh!

(Epico starts laughing again.)

JONES:

He's laughing. He's laughing at me, Grace and Abby. Get back. You naughty... naughty...
naughty...dragon

AUDIENCE:

Aahhhh.

JONES:

Don't you aahhh him! Who side are you on? He is playing you lot like a fiddle. Hah! What a bunch
of latte-drinking-hipster-do-gooders. Honestly!

(Rancid Butters stands with the children as Jones argues with the audience.)

Put him on the naughty seat Butters!

(Rancid protests.)

Put him on the naughty seat Butters or I will send you back to Mud Island! Just do it! You dirty old
toilet!

(Rancid complies returning Epico to the corner and sitting him on his stool.)

Bad dragon, that's right. Get him back in the naughty corner. Back you beast, back, back. Sit on that seat. And think about what you've done. You bad boy. I had the audience in the palm of my hand. These two sisters have been giving me the glad eye since the start of the show! And he ruined it, didn't he? He made me look stupid infant of everybody

AUDIENCE:

(Reaction)

JONES:

Honestly, I don't understand it. He loves you two.

(Epico nods)

But he doesn't like me.

(Epico shakes his head)

Why doesn't he like me? Because I'm cruel to him? I'm mean?

(Aurelious interacts with the audience.)

JONES:

I don't understand. I keep in a dungeon at night. I hit him with a stick when he's naughty. I feed him rotten fish... I can only eat the caviar madam, I have a very sensitive stomach amongst other things. Why doesn't he like me?

(interaction.)

JONES:

Because I hurt him? Epico, do you think I'm mean?

EPICO:

Ugh-huh

(Nodding)

JONES:

(to the children.)

Do you think I'm mean?

Mr Butters, do you think I'm mean?

BUTTERS:

[nods]

JONES:

I know! You're good at being friends with the dragon. OK, show me what you did. Show me how you stroked him on the nose.

(the children stroke Epico.)

This will be really easy. She goes over there. Ha! Easy! Alright, don't milk it, I'm the star! Get back over here! How old are you child? Well if 6 year old Grace can do it for a grown man like me it will be child's play. Watch and learn, ladies and gentlemen.

(Aurelius walks to Epico, extends his hand and Epico turns away.)

You set me up! You made me look stupid! Is there anything I need to say to the dragon?

AUDIENCE:

(interaction)

JONES:

Sorry? Hang on we have a comedian! Haha! Good one!

AUDIENCE:

(interaction.)

JONES:

What? You want me to say sorry to that!?

AUDIENCE:

Yes

JONES:

Alright fine! I've got this, I've got this. Cometh the moment, cometh the man... Epico... Grace and Abby told me I've got to say I'm very, very, very, very.....(*speaks inaudibly*)

AUDIENCE:

(interaction.)

JONES:

Apparently that wasn't loud enough so I have to say it louder. Epico... Grace and Abby told me I've got to say I'm very, very, very, very.....SORRY!!! (*he shouts.*) Ha! Aced it!

AUDIENCE:

(interaction)

JONES:

Alright, alright. What do I need to do? I've got to do it nicely. Ladies & Gentlemen, oh happy day! We have an expert in our midst! Give me an example. You say sorry to me nicely so I know how to do it.

(volunteer says sorry nicely to Aurelius)

Well, I should think so to. Interrupting me in the middle of my show!

BUTTERS:

(whispers something to Jones)

JONES:

Oh... sorry. Oh I did it, I can do it!

Can you come with me, Grace, I'm a bit scared. And you, too, my dear, come on, Abby. Epico?
Grace and Abby have told me that keeping you in the dungeon, and feeding you rotten fish, and
calling you names, I've got to say I'm very, very...sorry. And I wondered if you could find it in your
big scaly heart to forgive me?

(Epico turns away to think.)

I don't think he's going to forgive me. I think I pushed him too far. I think I ruined everything.
[crying]. Im just gonna go. I have lots of fan mail to respond to. It seems everyday more people
want a signed picture of my face. Or to send me their underwear in the post. Im not a dry cleaning
service! Butters can finish the show.

EPICO:

(Turns back into the centre)

BUTTERS:

(points to Epico, runs to fetch Aurelious)

JONES:

Epico? Will you forgive me?

EPICO:

Uuh-huh

(nodding)

JONES:

Does that mean we can be BFFs and go on play dates?

EPICO:

Errrrh

(turns away)

JONES:

Best not to rush things. Abby and Grace, if it wasn't for you two, I never would have been friends with this dragon. I am going to knight you. Ladies and gentlemen sing with me now as we remove the silver breastplate.

[high pitched signing as he removes breastplate].

EPICO:

Lah-lah-lah

(singing)

JONES:

Well done, thank you. My darlings, kneel before me thusly. I knight you Lady Grace the Generous, and Lady Abby the Amazing. Members of the Order of Aurelious. Defenders of Dragons! Arise, young ladies, arise. Hip-hip. Hooray! Hip-hip. Hooray! Hip-hip. Hooray!

AUDIENCE:

[Applauds]

JONES:

And now I return you to the ordinary world transformed! Make sure I give you back to the right people. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls a round of applause for the star of our show Epico the Dragon

(Epico stands and bows)

I have been brilliantly assisted today by the beautiful Madame Butters

(Butters bows)

And Im the greatest man who ever lived! Sir Aurelious Jones!

(Aurelious bows)

And of course you have been the best looking audience we have had all day!

EPICO:

Ahhh

(starting a pre-sneeze)

JONES:

Easy. Easy boy.

EPICO:

Ahhh!

JONES:

What is it? Tell me

EPICO:

Ahhh-chooo

(sneezing over Aurelious)

JONES:

(Sneezes passing it down the line to Butters)

Eergh. My eyes all gummed up with dragon snot! My eyes!

I can't see... Mr Butters, Mr Butters, give me a handkerchief.

BUTTERS:

(Pulls some grubby oversize pants from down their trousers, passes to Jones.)

JONES:

(Placing the pants on his face)

Oh, that's better. Yes, that's better.

(interaction)

Pants? Butters, you dirty rogue. I'm keeping these!

Ladies and gentlemen, we're here again??? Get on Facebook, tell your friends. Tweet is out. There's a handsome stranger in town. Wave goodbye to the dragon as he comes around. Until we meet again, remember this was the day you met Sir Aurelious Jones!

(Children interact with Epico until all are back in the tent.)