

Just Another High School Musical

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STORY OF THE PLAY

A group of high school actors, abandoned by their drama teacher for good reason, have to fend for themselves opening night in front of a live audience. Their first song, "We Apologize in Advance," shows just how unprepared they are! The student assistant director and the stage manager find a box of scripts which they pass out to the cast, and they try to throw something together. What follows is a rollicking show full of physical comedy, gags, and satirical re-writings from Shakespeare ("Life Is Like a Snow Globe") to Louisa May Alcott ("Dress Them Up in Drag"). Even melodrama gets a nod with a boisterous, under-a-minute-long song.

But it doesn't help. In desperation they sing the song "Intermission" with the lyrics, "This means our show is more than halfway done. Maybe Act Two will be better than Act One." In Act Two ("Back Down to Business"), the actors put their own spin on Dickens ("A Christmas Carol Rap") and Thornton Wilder ("Our Town, This Town"). Finally, they perform their "Gratuitous Number." Will it be enough to rescue this disaster before their teacher returns—if he ever does? A final number, "A Spotlight Big Enough for All," closes the show on a comically uplifting note!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Widely cast 10 – 40; plus drama teacher)

Featured in Both Acts

Stage Manager, Assistant Director, Announcer

Act I

Stagehand, History of Theatre Narrator, Male Thespian, Female Thespian, Romeo, Othello, Oedipus, Proctor, Tom, Carrie, Teena, Craig, Noel, Logan, Grad Student, Extra in Melodrama Scene, Female Lead, Male Lead, Beth, Meg, Jo, Amy, Male Beth, Male Meg, Male Jo, Male Amy, extras

Act II

Ghost, Scrooge, Tiny Tim, George, Emily, Stagehand, Tom Jones, David Copperfield, Tom, Carrie, Teena, Craig, Noel, Logan, Drama Teacher, extras

CAST WITH MAXIMUM DOUBLING

(4 m, 4 w, 2 flexible, drama teacher)

Flexible:

1. Assistant Director
2. Stage Manager

Female roles:

1. Beth, Stagehand, Plant 1, Female Lead, Carrie
2. Meg, Extra in Melodrama, Plant 2, Teena
3. Jo, Ghost, Plant 3, Noel
4. Amy, Female Thespian, Emily, Grad Student

Male roles:

1. Male Beth, Narrator, Romeo, Tiny Tim, Tom
2. Male Meg, Oedipus, Scrooge, Logan
3. Male Jo, Male Thespian, Othello, Tom Jones, George, Craig
4. Male Amy, Announcer, Proctor, David Copperfield, Male Lead

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND SONGS

(A Rehearsal/Production CD is available from the publisher.)

ACT I

Scene 1: Opening Scene

Music # 1 - Overture

Music # 2 - We Apologize in Advance

Music # 3 - This Is the Opening Song of Our Show

Music # 4 - Scene Change 1

Scene 2: History of Theatre: 5000 Years in 5 Minutes

Music # 5 - Scene Change 2

Scene 3: Male Leads and Their Tales of Woe

Music # 6 - Life Is Like a Snow Globe

Scene 4: Questions From the Audience and Improv Game

Music # 7 - Scene Change 3

Scene 5: Melodramas in 60 Seconds

Music # 8 - Melodrama

Scene 6: Little Men and Surrealism

Music # 9 - Dress Them Up in Drag

Music # 10 - Intermission

ACT II

Scene 7: On With the Show

Music # 11 - Back Down to Business

Scene 8: A Christmas Carol Rap

Music # 12 - A Christmas Carol Rap

Scene 9: Our Town, This Town

Music # 13 - "Our Town, This Town" Theme

Scene 10: Gratuitous Number

Music # 14 - Gratuitous Number

Scene 11: Tom Jones and David Copperfield

Music # 15 - Something Unusual

Music # 16 - Scene Change 4

Scene 12: Scene Work

Scene 13: The Drama Teacher Cometh

Music # 17 - A Spotlight Big Enough for All

Music # 18 - Bows and Exit Music

ACT I

SCENE 1: OPENING SCENE

MUSIC #1: OVERTURE

ANNOUNCER: *(Offstage on a microphone.)* Before the show begins, the producers would like to make a few apologies prior to your viewing of this fine piece of theatre.

MUSIC #2: WE APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE

(This song can either be sung from the booth or the ANNOUNCER, complete with geeky tech headset, can enter and deliver the song like a Vegas lounge singer. Throughout the song, have the following stage action take place in mute:

- 1. An actor crosses the stage with a push broom.*
- 2. An actress walks down center and takes a picture of the crowd.*
- 3. A stagehand brings on a ridiculous prop that you already own, like a giant cactus wearing a sombrero.*
- 4. A techie enters with a boom mike and checks the levels of the room.*
- 5. An actor flirts with another actress down left, gets caught by his girlfriend who starts to yell at him in mime; he chases after her.*
- 6. An obvious prima donna walks across the stage with a bottle of water and a minion following close behind. She stops, gargles some water, motions for the minion who offers her a cup to spit in, and they exit.*
- 7. A makeup artist helps to apply a mustache on a pretty actress.*
- 8. A couple of boys help each other slip dresses over their street clothes.*
- 9. An actor has a script and practices his monologue, trying not to look at the script, but having to cheat again and again.*
- 10. The stagehand removes the giant cactus wearing a sombrero.)*

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ANNOUNCER:

WE APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE.
PARDON US FOR BEING SO DEFENSIVE.
WE APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE
IF ANYONE SHOULD FIND OUR SHOW OFFENSIVE.
TO REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS,
GREENS AND LIBERTARIANS.
WE APOLOGIZE TO LUMBERJACKS, MORTICIANS,
AND LIBRARIANS.
WE APOLOGIZE TO THOSE OF YOU
WHO HAVE A SENSE OF STYLE.
AND TO ANYONE NAMED LYLE.
WE APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE.
EXCUSE US IF WE'RE FAR TOO ENTERTAINING.
WE APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE
IF THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU
SHOULD START COM-PLAINING.
TO FISHERMAN AND LAWYERS,
TO PEOPLE WEARING PANTS.
TO ANYONE FROM PORTUGAL, AUSTRALIA, OR FRANCE
WE APPRECIATE YOU BEING HERE,
WE'RE GLAD YOU TOOK A CHANCE.
YET, WE APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE.

ANNOUNCER: And now, without further delay we are very proud to present *Just Another High School Musical* !

(Spotlights begin to shine all over the stage as a BIG MUSICAL FANFARE plays. After awhile the ANNOUNCER takes a breath and the spotlights stop.)

ANNOUNCER: Uh...*Just Another High School Musical* !

(Again spotlights begin to shine all over the stage as a BIG MUSICAL FANFARE plays. After a long awkward pause, STAGE MANAGER pops his head out and starts motioning to someone in the audience. The spotlights stop on Stage Manager and she/he looks up at the spots with a grimace.)

STAGE MANAGER: Um. Good evening. How's everybody doing tonight? Good, good...I'll be right back.

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(SM disappears offstage and can be heard snapping at someone.)

SM: *(Offstage.)* Don't give me that. You're in this as deep as I am. Deeper. Get out here...now!

(STAGE MANAGER pushes ASSISTANT DIRECTOR out onto the stage. The SM is the uptight serious one and AD is the goofy one.)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: *(Smiling at audience.)* Hello, everyone. I'm *(name of actor)*, the assistant director of this show and this *(Roughly pulling SM out.)* is *(name of actor)*, the show's stage manager.

SM: *(Visibly nervous.)* Hi again...we met earlier.

AD: And we want to thank everyone for coming out tonight to...to...our play.

SM: Musical.

AD: I'm sorry? Did you say musical?

SM: Yes. Musical. So, when you're ready with *Fiddler on the Roof* ... *(AD shakes his head no.)* in *Oklahoma* *(AD shakes his head again.)* on a *Carousel*? You mean you don't know what musical we're putting on?

AD: Well, I thought *you* knew.

SM: You're the assistant director!

AD: You're the stage manager! Didn't you show up to rehearsal?

SM: Well...um...no...I had that thing and I had to...

AD: Oh right, that important date with that girl (guy) from *(name of nearby town)* with the hairy forehead.

SM: (S)he does NOT have a hairy forehead, (s)he just has a pronounced hairline. And besides, where were you?

AD: Well, I...uh...my grandmother died.

SM: I've known you for twelve years now and in that time you've gone through at least six dozen grandmothers!

AD: I come from a big family.

SM: Sounds more like a cult!

End of Freeview

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