HOSPITAL HIJINX

By R. Eugene Jackson

Performance Rights

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy or reproduce this script in any manner or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Contact the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information.

The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Co."

Eldridge Publishing Company
www.histage.com
© 1994 by Eldridge Publishing Company

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/hospital-hijinks

STORY OF THE PLAY

If ever there was an emergency, it's the emergency room at Calamity University Hospital! The two on-duty doctors have been mysteriously shipped out of the country, essential medical supplies keep disappearing, and four student nurses, whose grades were so low they had to get down on their hands and knees to read them, have been assigned there.

Add to the mix Nurse Blair, who gets hysterical over something like a split fingernail; Zeola, a student who accidentally glues herself to her desk during a test; and Professor Throttlebots, who tries to freeze-dry himself for posterity, and you have the makings for a hilarious hospital romp.

The unscrupulous Dr. Popov, owner of a rival medical center, along with his henchmen, the handsome young Leo and the clumsy bruiser, Crusher, has conspired to deplete the resources of Calamity Hospital so that he will have a monopoly on medical care for the area.

The student nurses may not know how to take a patient's temperature or blood pressure, but they do enjoy a thrilling adventure as they disguise themselves as a doctor, a nurse, and a sanitation engineer (floor mopper) in order to thwart the conspiracy. In doing so, the "doctor" is forced to "operate" on four villains simultaneously as the "nurse" wraps them in bandages until they are incapacitated mummies.

A desk, some chairs, and possibly a wheelchair comprise the entire setting in this easy-to-stage comedy. It's riotous fun!

CHARACTERS

(5M, 11W, extras as patients)

Carol Baines.....Head nurse
Nurse Goffer.....Another nurse
Bedford Pinchpenny .....Hospital administrator
Ms. Broadside..... Mr. Pinchpenny's secretary
Professor Throttlebots..... Wants to freeze-dry himself
Nurse Blair.....Tends to get hysterical
Frannie..... Student nurse
Darlene..... Another
Carylyn.....Another
Boots..... Another
Zeola..... Student "stuck" to her work
Leo..... A handsome thief
Crusher..... A big brute
Dr. Popov..... Rival medical center owner
Mrs. Withernight..... Examiner from the bank
Miss Pitoomie..... Mrs. Withernight's assistant
Extras..... As patients

TIME: The present.
PLACE: Emergency room, Calamity University Hospital.

SETTING

The setting is the emergency room of Calamity University Hospital. At SL are double swinging doors leading outside. At USL are chairs which serve as the waiting area. At about CS is the check-in desk covered with papers, charts, file, and a telephone. At right is a gurney on wheels. (NOTE: If a gurney is not available, any substitute, such as a tall table or cot, is fine.) At DSR is an exit into the exam and treatment rooms, while USR is a hallway leading to the rest of the hospital.

COSTUMES

Nurses Baines, Goffer, and Blair are in traditional white uniforms; the four girls are in casual, college clothes (including cowboy boots and hat for Boots); Pinchpenny is in a business suit and tie; Broadside looks like an airhead in a dress that is tacky and tight; the Professor has a long white beard and wears a long lab coat over his clothes; Zeola, with wild, frizzy hair, wears hippie, gypsy, or alternative style clothes; Leo and Popov wear gangster style dark suits with white ties while Crusher wears an ambulance driver's uniform; Mrs. Withernight and Miss Pitoomie wear severely-styled dresses, unattractive shoes, and carry briefcases.

PROPS

Act I: Files at desk; pad and pen for Broadside; letters for Frannie; armload of towels for Leo.

Act II: Sling for Carylyn's arm, bandages for Darlene's leg; towel for Frannie's head; thermometer and watch for Boots; mirror for Zeola; purse for Darlene; wallet for Leo; ties and gags for Leo and Crusher.

Act III: Scissors for Goffer; student desk for Zeola; green scrubs and name tag for Frannie; nurse's outfit for Boots; old dress and cart of cleaning supplies including a mop, pail, soap powder and trash can for Carylyn; gun for Leo; deck of cards for Frannie; gauze for Boots; small recorder and badge for Broadside; additional medical supplies off SL; handcuffs on Popov; "frost" (soap powder) on Professor.

Act I

(AT RISE: Head Nurse CAROL BAINES, a middle-aged, business-like woman, stands DS of the desk, while NURSE GOFFER, a young woman wearing glasses, is seated behind it. BOTH are looking over a file. MR. PINCHPENNY, the hospital administrator, chases MISS BROADSIDE, his young, not-too-bright secretary, onstage from USR. SHE carries a pad and pen.)

PINCHPENNY: *(As HE pauses for breath)* I've got you this time, Miss Broadside. *(As HE leaps for HER, she steps aside. He grabs NURSE BAINES instead.)* Aha! *(HE laughs.)*

BAINES: Mr. Pinchpenny!

PINCHPENNY: I...huh? Nurse Baines! Uh, how did you get into my arms?

BAINES: I believe you wrapped them around me, sir.

PINCHPENNY: Impossible! I was strolling leisurely down the hall with my arms open, and you purposely walked into them.

BAINES: Either way, you can let me go now.

PINCHPENNY: Huh? Oh, yes, of course. Humph! *(HE does.)* Miss Broadside, as I was saying, take a memo.

BROADSIDE: Certainly, sir. Where would you like me to take it to?

PINCHPENNY: You don't take it anywhere. You write it.

BROADSIDE: But I don't know what to say.

PINCHPENNY: *(Aside to HER)* It should remind me to give you a physical examination as soon as we get back to my office.

BROADSIDE: Why? I'm not sick.

PINCHPENNY: That's okay. I'm not a doctor, either. *(HE laughs and rubs his hands in glee.)*

BROADSIDE: *(Innocently)* I don't think I understand.

BAINES: Mr. Pinchpenny?

PINCHPENNY: What? Huh? Oh, Nurse Baines, are you still here? Can't you see I'm busy? *(Pause)* Well, what is it?

BAINES: Mr. Pinchpenny, for weeks I've been pleading for more medical supplies. When are we going to get them? We don't have enough bandages to wrap a hangnail.

PINCHPENNY: They should be arriving at any moment, Nurse Baines. I personally ordered them days ago, didn't I, Miss Broadside?

BROADSIDE: Oh, no, sir. The purchase orders are still sitting on your desk.

BAINES: Mr. Pinchpenny!

PINCHPENNY: *(Aside to BROADSIDE)* Shhhh. *(To BAINES)* Well, I MEANT to order them days ago.

BROADSIDE: But, sir, you told me to destroy the purchase orders.

PINCHPENNY: Miss Broadside, will you please stay out of this!

BAINES: Sir, I don't think you understand. We have an emergency in the emergency room. The bank examiners will be arriving at any time to determine if our mortgage should be renewed; and we're so low on supplies that, if somebody needed stitches, we'd have to take them out of one patient to put them into another.

PINCHPENNY: Let's not exaggerate, Nurse Baines.

BAINES: Exaggerate? Mr. Pinchpenny, instead of giving whole blood, we're now giving half blood. Instead of giving heart transplants, we're taking out the old heart, giving it a new coat of paint, and putting it back in. We're desperate, Mr. Pinchpenny. And I'm also shorthanded.

BROADSIDE: Shorthanded? Your hands look as long as mine.

BAINES: *(Pause. SHE and PINCHPENNY give BROADSIDE a look.)* Well, Mr. Pinchpenny?

PINCHPENNY: Oh, all right. I'll go upstairs and sign those purchase orders...*(Under HIS breath)...*as soon as daisies start growing out of my head.

BROADSIDE: *(SHE shakes her pen.)* I won't need this pen any longer. *(SHE starts to drop it in a wastebasket.)*

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/hospital-hijinks

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!