

Just Another High School Play

By
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Just Another High School Play

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*Dedicated to Jon Turner
Be Loud. Be Seen. Be Great.
Drama Forever!
The Playwright, Bryan Starchman*

STORY OF THE PLAY

A group of high school actors, who apparently have been abandoned by their drama teacher, have to fend for themselves opening night in front of an impatient audience. Their teacher has left them hanging because no one has been showing up to rehearsals and no one is really quite sure what they are supposed to do.

The student assistant director and the stage manager step in, find a box of scripts which they pass out to the cast, and try to throw something together. What follows is a rollicking show full of physical comedy, gags, and satirical re-writings of many plays from Shakespeare to Albee.

This comedy covers nearly every angle of the typical high school play with a dose of history and improvisation thrown in for good measure. The next time your high school wants to do a play, do them all ... in under 90 minutes!

This play is fully customizable so that you can include your own local flavor by adding the names of your communities, actors, and teachers. (See Production Note #1.) It offers opportunities for audience participation, plus it includes a part for your drama teacher.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Minimum cast of 10 plus drama teacher; maximum of 40.)

Characters in both acts. All 3 are flexible parts.

STAGE MANAGER: Uptight, straight, tries to keep the show on track.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Comedic fool who keeps the show off track.

ANNOUNCER: An actor in the booth or offstage with a microphone.

Characters in Act I

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Stagehand | Narrator | Male thespian |
| Female thespian | Tom | Carrie |
| Teena | Craig | Noel |
| Logan | Hamlet | Shakespeare |
| Marlowe | Barkeep | Grad student |
| Extra | Female lead | Male lead |
| Beth | Meg | Jo |
| Amy | Male Beth | Male Meg |
| Male Jo | Male Amy | Extras |

Characters in Act II

| | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|
| Ghost | Scrooge | Tiny Tim |
| George | Emily | Tom Jones |
| Copperfield | Romeo | Juliet |
| Puppeteer | Narrator | Tom |
| Carrie | Teena | Craig |
| Noel | Logan | Drama teacher |
| Extras | | |

IF DOUBLING using 4 m, 4 w, 2 flexible, Drama Teacher

ACTRESS 1: Beth, Stagehand, Juliet, Plant 1, Female Lead, Carrie

ACTRESS 2: Meg, Puppeteer, Barkeep, Extra in Melodrama, Plant 2, Teena

ACTRESS 3: Jo, Narrator for Romeo and Juliet, Ghost, Plant 3, Noel

ACTRESS 4: Amy, Female Thespian, Emily, Grad Student

ACTOR 1: Male Beth, Narrator for History of Theatre, Tiny Tim, Marlowe, Tom

ACTOR 2: Male Meg, Romeo, Scrooge, William Shakespeare, Logan

ACTOR 3: Male Jo, Male Thespian, Hamlet, Tom Jones, George, Craig

ACTOR 4: Male Amy, Announcer, David Copperfield, Male Lead

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

- Sc. 1: Opening Scene
- Sc. 2: History of Theatre: 5,000 Years in 5 Minutes
- Sc. 3: Questions From the Audience and Improv Game
- Sc. 4: To Be, or Not to Be: That Is the Digression
- Sc. 5: Christopher Marlowe: The Elizabethan True Hollywood Story
- Sc. 6: Melodramas in 90 Seconds
- Sc. 7: Little Men and Surrealism

ACT II

- Sc. 1: On With the Show
- Sc. 2: A Christmas Carol Rap
- Sc. 3: Our Town, This Town
- Sc. 4: Tom Jones and David Copperfield
- Sc. 5: Romeo and Juliet: A Puppet Show
- Sc. 6: Scene Work
- Sc. 7: The Drama Teacher Cometh

PROPS

| | |
|---|--|
| Cell phone – AD | Note for Stagehand |
| Box of scripts – SM | Stage knife - Female Thespian |
| Leather jacket/poodle skirt - Thespians | |
| 2 apples – Thespians | 2 sheets - Thespians |
| Bag of popcorn – AD | Items to juggle - Female Thespian |
| Questions to read – SM | Card with "SUIT" written on it |
| Shiny pen – Carrie | Bar glasses and towel - Barkeep |
| Glove, rubber chicken - Shakespeare | |
| Long balloon, blood packet - Marlowe | |
| Watch – AD | Sunglasses - Extra |
| Dresses – Male Little Women | Bowl, banana – Both Megs |
| Grim Reaper costumes – Jo, Amy | Coin - Jo |
| Monkey mask – Male Beth | Animal hand puppets – Male Jo |
| Bubbles – Male Amy | Fairy wings - Male Amy, Jo, Meg |
| Ukulele – Tiny Tim | Poles, shoes, dark sheet - Copperfield |
| Romeo and Juliet puppets | Projections or poster boards |
| Black marker – Puppeteer | Badge, handcuffs – Cop |
| Fake brain | Flashlights |
| Bic lighters | Bible |
| Girl Scout sash | T-shirt with red letter "B" |
| Kazoos | Oven mitt |
| Chef's apron | Umbrella |
| Cheese wheel | Box of Jello |
| Book | Tiki torch |
| South American flag | Top hat, monocle |
| Bag of flour | Tiara |

(See end of script for additional production notes.)

ACT I

Scene 1: Opening Scene

(Cast: Announcer, Stage Manager, Assistant Director, Stagehand, Extras.)

ANNOUNCER: *(Offstage on a microphone.)* Before the show begins, the producers would like to make a few apologies prior to your viewing this fine piece of theatre. We would like to apologize to the people of *(Insert name of your town.)* _____. We would also like to apologize to the people of *(Insert the names of surrounding counties.)* _____, _____ and _____. To the people of *(Insert name of rival high school.)* _____, we apologize if some of the jokes go over your heads; we'll try to speak slowly. In addition, we'd like to apologize to anyone named Robert, Rob, or Robby. King Tutankhamen. The family and friends of *(Insert drama teacher's name or director's name.)* _____. Anyone who has a pet Chihuahua. The United Federation of Lumberjacks. All Republicans. All Democrats. Anyone lacking a sense of smell or humor. England. Anyone born between the years 1782 and 2005 excluding those born in 1953, 1972, and 1821. And finally Thespis, the father of theatre. And now, without further delay, *(Insert the name of your school.)* _____ is proud to present "Just Another High School Play"!

(SPOTLIGHTS begin to shine all over the stage as the ANNOUNCER sings in a fanfare style. After awhile the Announcer takes a breath and the spotlights stop. Then he begins the song again and the lights continue to move. After about 30 seconds of this the STAGE MANAGER pops his head out and starts motioning to the Assistant Director in the audience who gets up and moves into the wings. The spotlights stop on SM and she/he looks up at the spots with a grimace.)

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STAGE MANAGER: Um. Good evening. How's everybody doing tonight? Good, good ... I'll be right back. *(Disappears offstage and can be heard snapping at AD.)* Don't give me that. You're in this as deep as I am. Deeper. Get out here ... now!

(SM pushes AD out onto the stage.)

AD: *(Smiling at all the people.)* Hello, everyone. I'm *(Insert name of actor.)* _____, the assistant director of this show and this *(Roughly pulling STAGE MANAGER out.)* is *(Insert 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 ... *(Turning to SM.)* What show is this?

SM: *(Quietly to AD.)* What!?! You mean you don't know?

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 *(Insert 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!

(SFX: A cell phone starts to ring. SM rolls his eyes; the cell phone rings a few times and stops.)

SM: *(Smiling at the audience.)* Ahem, as I was saying

(SFX: The cell phone starts ringing again.)

End of Freeview

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