Onstage!

Book by Nancy Zelenak

Music and Lyrics by C. Michael Perry

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Sixteen students have been invited to a week-long audition for a summer production at the Professional Actors School of Theatre and they are vying for the top eight leads. Working under the take-no-prisoners stage manager, we see the students in private moments of triumph and disaster as they learn lines, songs and dance routines. Penny misses her deceased father who used to encourage her so much; Jake is frantic because his assigned reading requires him to cry; and Melanie may have to go back home to help with the family finances. The exuberance and determination these talented wannabes bring to the stage is inspiring. Some 20 songs including such titles as “Rehearsing!” “Visions of Broadway,” Showtime,” and “Easy for You.” Easy setting, either a stage or a rehearsal room, and no special costumes, only rehearsal clothes, are recommended. There is plenty of opportunity for splashy dance numbers but it all can be tailored to the needs of the individual producing group. About 2 hours.

PRODUCTION NOTES

During the original production, the cast who is chosen for the eight leads in the final scene changed for each performance, giving each actor a chance to be accepted or rejected. Also, during improvisational scene you may use different actors for each performance, with the exception of the final improv.

A. 1 m, 1 w: You’re babies playing in a sandbox. You’re not more than 2 years old.
B. 2 w: You’re in a very fancy restaurant, you and your friends are very proper ladies and you both find a foreign object in your food.
C. 1 m, 1 w: You’re on a date, one of you wants very badly to kiss the other one, but he/she has terribly bad breath.
D. 2 m: You’re in a row boat, with a bucket of fish. One of you discovers you’re allergic to fish.
E. 2 w: You are both young mothers in a doctor’s waiting room and through conversation you discover you’re married to the same man.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

6 m, 10 w, 2 flexible

LORI: *(Flexible.)* Adult. Stage manager. Army-sergeant type. Very capable but not used to working with teenagers.
MR./MRS. DELVECCHIO: *(Flexible.)* 45-ish, Loves kids, professional and likeable.
SIDNIE: 17-years old. Singer. Knows her craft. Solo singer.
SUZANNE: 15-years old. Dreamer, comic. Dancer.
ALLISON: 17-years old. Strong voice, strong personality. Streetwise. Solo singer.
STEPHANIE: 16-years old.. Bombshell blonde. Conceited but has talent to back it up. Streetwise. Solo singer.
PENNY: 15-years old. Shy. Loves people. Solo singer and dancer.
DANIELLE: 17-years old. Very pretty, very talented. Confident but not conceited. Solo singer and dancer.
ERIKA: 16-years old. Struggles with anxiety. Plain looking. Actress.
REBEKAH: 14-years old. Very innocent. Everyone's little sister. Singer.
NICOLE: 15-years old. Has a famous mother. Emotional extremes. Actress. Streetwise.
MELANIE: 14-years old. Too skinny. Awkward. Star-struck. Singer.
ALEX: 17-years old. Good-looking, talented and personable. Singer-dancer. Half-brother to Jake.
JAKE: 15-years old. Jock. Streetwise. Singer-dancer. Half-brother to Alex. Tired of living in his half-brother's shadow.
CHARLES: 17-years old. Lanky. Insecure, negative. Streetwise.
MATT: 13-years old. Very into theatre. Makes friends quickly. Cute but still shy around girls. Singer-dancer.
GLEN: 14-years old. Loves girls! Comic. Dancer.
BRAD: 16-years old. Nervous-type. A loner.
EXTRAS: crew members

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

#1 Overture	
Scene 1 -- DAY ONE	
#2 WHAT AM I DOING HERE?	Full cast
#2A Tag	
#3 CREAM OF THE CROP	Mr. D & Lori
#4 LIKE ME!	Cast
#5 ONSTAGE!	Full Cast
#6 REHEARSING!	Full Cast
#6A Scene Change	
Scene 2 -- DAY TWO	
#7 THE HIGHWAYMEN	The Boys
#8 VISIONS OF BROADWAY	Full Cast
#8A Scene Change	
Scene 3 -- DAY THREE	
#9 BOSOM FRIENDS	Melanie & Rebekah
#10 SHOWTIME!	Full Cast
#10A Playout	

Optional Intermission

#11 PRELUDE	
Scene 4 -- DAY THREE	
#12 DADDY	Penny
#12A Scene Change	
Scene 5 -- DAY THREE	
#13 IT'S ALL RIGHT TO CRY	Danielle
#13A Scene Change	
Scene 6 -- DAY FOUR	
#14 A MOVIE STAR	The Girls
#15 ONSTAGE! *(Reprise)*	Full Cast
Scene 7	
Scene 8	
#16 EASY FOR YOU!	Jake & Alex
Scene 9	
#17 MIRACLES	Nicole, Alex, Sidnie, Jake, Matt, Allison
#17A Scene Change	
Scene 10 -- DAY FIVE	
#18 WHAT AM I DOING HERE? *(Reprise)*	Full Cast
#19 Curtain Call	Full Cast
#20 Exit Music	

ACT I

MUSICAL #1 – OVERTURE

Scene 1 – Day One

(AT RISE: A lobby or courtyard area. We see a restless crowd of STUDENTS. They are seated, standing, entering, waiting, talking, bored, excited. Each of them has a letter in an envelope which a few of them take out and begin to read.)

REBEKAH: "Dear Rebekah..."
ALEX: "Dear Alex..."
SIDNIE: "Dear Sidnie..."
PENNY: "Dear Penny..."
NICOLE: "Dear Nicole..."
MATT: "Dear Matthew..."
CHARLES: "Dear Charles..."

(Then over the P.A. system we here the contents of the letter written/read by MR. DELVECCHIO.)

MR. DELVECCHIO: "It is my pleasure to invite you to an audition for the Performing Arts Academy. You may be wondering how you were selected for this opportunity. It was upon the recommendation of your public school instructors, more specifically, your drama, music and/or dance instructors. You are invited to spend a week with my assistants and me, to prepare and perform an audition for possible selection into our elite school of the arts. Auditions will begin on day one and continue through the fourth evening whereupon a final selection will be made on the fifth day. Please call the number below to verify your acceptance as soon as possible, and to receive further instructions and a list of all your assignments. It will be my privilege to work with you. Sincerely, Mr. Delvecchio and Staff."

(ALL look around. They are overwhelmed, unsure, insecure, and a little bit frightened.)

MUSICAL #2 -- WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

GROUP 1:
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
GROUP 2:
WHY AM I ALL ALONE?

GROUP 1:
WHY DID I EVER LEAVE HOME?
GROUP 2:
CAN I MAKE IT ON MY OWN?
MY MOTHER SAID, “GET OUT OF THE HOUSE!”
GROUP 1:
MY FATHER TOLD ME IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR ME!
GROUP 2:
“A GREAT EXPERIENCE!”
GROUP 1:
“TIME WELL SPENT!”
GROUP 2:
“YOU’LL BE GLAD YOU WENT!”
GROUP 1:
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
WHY AM I ALL ALONE?
GROUP 2:
WHY DID I EVER LEAVE HOME?
GROUP 1:
CAN I MAKE IT ON MY OWN?
MY MOTHER SAID, “GET OUT OF THE HOUSE!”
GROUP 2:
MY FATHER TOLD ME IT WOULD BE
GOOD FOR ME!
GROUP 1:
A GREAT EXPERIENCE!
GROUP 2:
TIME WELL SPENT!
ALL:
AM I GLAD I WENT?
NOT YET!!
GROUP 2:
STRANGE PLACES!
GROUP 1:
STRANGER PEOPLE!
GROUP 2:
WEIRD FACES!
GIRLS:
HOPE THAT CREEP’LL STAY AWAY!
JUST LET HIM TRY SOMETHING!
GROUP 1:
WHAT A MESS!
GROUP 2:
WHAT A BLUNDER!

End of Freeview

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