The High-Schooler's Guide to the Galaxy

By Bryan Starchman

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Dedication

For all my students who continue to inspire me and keep me in touch with what is funny.

Originally performed February 22 and 23, 2008
at Mariposa County High School, Mariposa, CA.

Cast

Spencer: ..... Bryce Millard
Chuck: ..... Chad Baker
Melody: ..... Chandra Brenner
Beth: ..... Amanda Moczygemba
Author: ..... Nasheena Chavez
Editor: ..... Sierra Arney
Gym Teacher: ..... Josh Strickfaden
Lunch Lady: ..... Mayan Resendiz
Cindi: ..... "Sarah" Pierson
Mindi: ..... Jordan Ashton
Windi: ..... Wendy Burr
Biff: ..... Daniel Eastwood
Tad: ..... Luke Harbin
Teacher: ..... Megan Fitzhenry
Bus Driver: ..... Jesus Ortiz
Noah (originally Spencer in Scenes 5, 8, and 9) ..... Seth Foulks
Tony (originally Chuck in Scenes 5, 8, and 9) ..... Ryan Delgado
Jessica (originally Melody in Scenes 5, 8, and 9) ... Bri Summerlin
Rachel (originally Beth in Scenes 5, 8, and 9) ..... Tiffany Shaw

Tech/Crew

Assistant Director/Stage Manager: ..... Amanda VonRaeder
Lights and Sound Booth: .... Sarah Standen, Emily Bullis
Stage lights/Prompter/ Set Design: ..... Jessica Furlan

Story of the Play

Four students stare out at the audience. They are trying to get some sleep, but this is the last night of their summer break and tomorrow morning they will lose their freedom as they begin their freshman year of high school. There are so many things to worry about: class schedules, bullies, cafeteria food, dating, parents' expectations, what to wear, and worst of all … gym class! Every adult in America has had to deal with these same problems, why hasn't anyone written a survival guide to help freshmen through high school? Well, luckily for these four freshmen that's exactly what this play attempts to do…with hilariously embarrassing and awkward results.

Watch as our guides take us through the gauntlet that is high school. Find out the appropriate way to boogie down at high school dances, discover creative ways to get out of gym class, and take a peek into the most top secret of all rooms on campus: the mysterious teachers' lounge. With minimal sets, a flexible cast of 15 to 40+, scenes we can all relate with, and non-stop laughs, *The High-Schooler's Guide to the Galaxy* is sure to be a hit with your students and your audience alike.

Scenes and Cast

This script allows for a very large cast but considerable doubling is possible. The largest roles are that of Author and Editor. If you like, you can have multiple students play those parts to lighten the load on those actors. See additional notes on the next page.

Scene 1: The Night Before … *Spencer, Chuck, Melody, Beth, Editor, Author.*

Scene 2: Gym Class … *Jessica, Gym Teacher, Editor, Jimmy, Harold, Gretel.*

Scene 3: A Special Message From the Lunch Lady … *Author, Lunch Lady.*

Scene 4: What to Wear … *Author, Cindi, Mindi, Windi, Lisa, Sarah, Greg, Jeff.*

Scene 5: Fights and Bullies … *Editor, Biff, Tad, Teacher, Mindi, Windi, Kevin, Ralph, Troy, Cindi, Gina, Nina.*

Scene 6: The Bus Driver … *Bus Driver.*

Optional Intermission

Scene 7: Staff Meeting … *Principal Mopes, General Paine.*

Scene 8: Teacher Translator … *Author, Teacher, Eli, Lloyd, Trish, Vicky, Tina.*

Scene 9: Class Clubs … *Author, Mark, Nelson, Raven, Milly, Antoinette, Fifi, Ethan, Trent, Noelle.*

Scene 10: Dances and Dating … *Editor, Helen, Linus, Victor, Jillian, Gym Teacher, Teacher, Lunch Lady, Bus Driver.*

Scene 11: Get a Job … *Guidance Counselor, Secretary, Timmy, Larry, Anita, Francine.*

Scene 12: Final Thoughts … *Spencer, Chuck, Melody, Beth, Editor, Author.*

DOUBLING: *Below is just one example of how you could double the large cast to work with as few as 15 actors.*

1. Spencer, Jimmy, Greg, Kevin, Mark, Linus, Timmy
2. Chuck, Harold, Jeff, Ralph, Ethan, Victor, Larry
3. Melody, Jessica, Lisa, Gina, Milly, Jillian, Anita
4. Beth, Gretel, Sarah, Nina, Noelle, Helen, Francine
5. Author, Counselor
6. Editor, Secretary
7. Gym Teacher, General Paine
8. Lunch Lady, Principal Mopes
9. Cindi, Trish, Raven
10. Mindi, Vicky, Antoinette
11. Windi, Tina, Fifi
12. Biff, Eli, Nelson
13. Tad, Troy, Lloyd, Trent
14. Classroom Teacher
15. Bus Driver

Props

Scene 1: Four chairs, four blankets, small notepad, paper bag, impressive-looking book.
Scene 2: Excuse note.
Scene 3: Ladle, trash can, wooden suggestion box with notes inside.
Scene 5: Spray bottle of water.
Scene 6: Large chair to represent bus driver's seat, steering wheel.
Scene 7: Lectern, bottle of Pepto-Bismol, eyeglasses, scroll, pencil, "used" briefs.
Scene 8: Five chairs, note for Lloyd.
Scene 9: Four club signs, clipboard, T-shirt, marker, dollar bills, name tags.
Scene 10: Ruler, "Censored" sign, books, two chairs, giant soda cup, bag of popcorn.
Scene 11: Desk and two chairs.
Scene 12: Four chair, four blankets.

*NOTE: See **Costume Notes** at end of script.*

SCENE 1: THE NIGHT BEFORE

(*Lights fade up on four students, SPENCER, CHUCK, MELODY, and BETH, sitting in chairs, facing full front, with different blankets wrapped around them as if they are lying in bed. They are each in their own individual bedroom and should be spaced out across the stage to represent this separation. While one talks, the others listen and from time to time interact.)*

SPENCER: (*Dark and ominous.)* It's coming.
CHUCK: Like some unwelcome guest, relentlessly scratching at the door.
MELODY: You can't ignore it. You can't stop it any more than you can stop the sun from rising.
BETH: And don't try to sleep. That never works. That's when the nightmares start and believe me, it's much better to just stare at the ceiling and pray for a miracle. There could be a snow day in August … right?
SPENCER: *(Getting nervous.)* It's coming.
CHUCK: No matter how hard you try to put it off, there's no use.
MELODY: You wake up every morning for three months and yell out "Carpe diem! Seize the day! This is the first day of the rest of my summer!"
BETH: But you can't enjoy yourself, not really, because in the back of your mind you know that the end is near.
SPENCER: *(Screaming out in fear.)* It's coming!
CHUCK: This year I tried to savor every moment. I even kept a record. *(Pulls out a small notepad.)* One hundred twenty-three popsicles eaten, 324 hours spent in the pool, 464 miles riding in the back seat of the car on the way to or from vacation destinations, 8 sunburns, 4 bee stings, 1 summer crush, and 2,842 grains of sand removed from my Speedo.

(The OTHERS stare blankly at him.)

CHUCK: What? I'm one quarter French.

End of Freeview

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