

Ten Actors in Search of a Cell Phone

A one-act comedy

*By
James Rayfield*

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Just as the stage manager is getting ready to call places for the school play, everything comes to a screeching halt. Brandy has discovered that her cell phone is missing and refuses to go on until she finds it. What follows is not only the quest for a cell phone but a trip through a tangle of who said what to whom -- and a very funny look at how gossip gets started and where it goes. Does everyone learn a lesson? Heard any good gossip lately?

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

"Ten Actors in Search of a Cell Phone" was first produced at Blake High School for the Arts in Tampa, Florida. The production was directed by the author. Karina Martins was the stage manager. The original cast was as follows:

Brandy: Brandy Saffell

Stage Manager: Victoria Tuzzolino

Tony: Ben Pace

Katie: Jenna Goldman

Kevin: Chris Jackson

Christine: Mikayla Stanley

Nicky: Rachel Davis

Trey: Christian Stewart

Pizza Boy: Scott Perez

Toni: Erica Dennison

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 M, 6 W)

BRANDY: High school student, dressed as a teen of today.

STAGE MANAGER: Student stage manager. She wears the traditional all black clothes techies wear.

TONY: Student in the play. He is in costume as a pizza delivery boy.

KATIE: Student in the play. She is costumed as someone's mother in a wig and long dress.

KEVIN: Brandy's boyfriend. He is very serious about acting, perhaps too serious.

CHRISTINE: Student in the play, dressed as an alien from another planet, perhaps Mars. Her costume and make-up are not hideous but just space age.

TREY: Nicky's secret boyfriend. Student in the play dressed like a truck driver or worker of some sort.

NICKY: Trey's secret girlfriend. Student in the play dress like a waitress.

TONI: The famous "she" Toni that everyone talks about. Not in the play, she comes from her home where she was dressed in the latest casual wear.

PIZZA DELIVERY BOY: Student who looks a lot like Tony, especially since he is wearing an identical uniform.

SETTING

The action takes place on a nearly empty stage which the Stage Manager tries to ready with set pieces.

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(AT RISE: BRANDY comes out before the play starts or seems to have started. She speaks to the audience.)

BRANDY: Excuse me. *(Getting no response.)* Excuse me. Uh, I think I've lost – uh, sorry, I know we're getting ready to start, but could you just – check around your seats? Do you mind? I lost my cell phone. Could you just look around a little? Do you mind? I lost my cell phone. Like look – under your seat? *(Gesturing vaguely.)* I was over there for awhile – and then I was sitting.... Actually, I've been all over this place.

STAGE MANAGER: *(From wing.)* Brandy, psst, Brandy! What are you doing? We're starting the play here –

BRANDY: Uh, just a second.... *(To audience.)* That's the stage manager. She thinks nothing matters but this play we're suppose to do – but if she knew.... My cell is one of the picture-taking ones – anybody see it? I really need to find it.

STAGE MANAGER: *(Sticks head out further.)* Brandy, you cannot do this – I'm calling places.

BRANDY: Well, I'm not calling places – because I've lost my cell phone.

STAGE MANAGER: *(Coming onto stage with head phones on carrying a clipboard. She speaks to audience.)* I'm sorry, ladies and gentlemen, uh – I just wanted to say that we're getting ready to start our play, "The Pizza from Mars," and just a reminder that there should be no flash photography. Would you take a moment now to silence all cell phones and pagers.

BRANDY: I'd love to – but I've lost mine. Okay? So it could just go off at any moment and ruin the entire play – that very serious scene at the end where the mother reveals that Katie's not really her daughter, but an adopted extraterrestrial.

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STAGE MANAGER: Uh, uh, Brandy--spoiler alert! Spoiler alert! *(To audience.)* Just erase that from your minds, folks. That is not what happens.

BRANDY: Does so!

STAGE MANAGER: Please! Look, uh, uh, if I help you find your phone, will you let us get the play started?

BRANDY: Fine.

STAGE MANAGER: Very simple. I'll call your phone, we'll hear it ring and viola!

BRANDY: Great, let me see your phone.

STAGE MANAGER: Mine is just for emergencies. My father said not to let anyone—

BRANDY: You want to start this thing or not?

STAGE MANAGER: *(Reluctantly takes out her cell phone.)* Just one call. What's the number?

BRANDY: Right. I'm going to broadcast my number to this bunch of freaks.

STAGE MANAGER: Brandy, they're not freaks – they're our audience.

BRANDY: Same thing. *(Takes the phone from STAGE MANAGER.)* Who goes to plays anymore – freaks. *(SHE pushes buttons and holds phone to ear.)* If anybody answers, they stole it

STAGE MANAGER: Is it ringing?

BRANDY: Yes. *(Starts singing a song.)* Ring tone. That's my ring tone.

STAGE MANAGER: Shhhh – we've gotta listen for it – then find it. *(Calling offstage.)* Hey, listen back there for a phone ringing.

BRANDY: *(Singing her ring tone.)* That's it. *(Sings it again.)*

(KATIE enters in costume. She is dressed and made-up to be a mother type.)

KATIE: What is going on? Are we doing this or not?

STAGE MANAGER: Shush – we're listening.

KATIE: Well, obviously not to me. I'm ready to start this –

BRANDY: I've lost my cell phone.

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KATIE: (*Instant sympathy.*) Oh, my god, I lost mine once – it was the worst! No text messaging for a week! It was –

STAGE MANAGER: Be quiet! We're listening for her phone.

BRANDY: (*Sings the ring tone.*) That's mine.

KATIE: Mine goes ... (*SHE sings another ring tone.*)

STAGE MANAGER: Quiet!

(*There is a moment of silence as THEY listen.*)

BRANDY: (*Still on phone.*) It's my message. (*Speaking along with the message.*) You know how much I miss you when I miss your call, so, leave a message and make it hot!

STAGE MANAGER: That's disgusting! Can't you just say something simple?

KATIE: Why? That's not creative. (*To BRANDY.*) Have you heard Gerald's?

BRANDY: Yes! Yes!

(*BRANDY and KATIE both make a guttural noise "Blahhhhhh!"*)

STAGE MANAGER: What?

BRANDY and KATIE: Blahhhhhh!

STAGE MANAGER: That's it?

BRANDY: What about Alex's? "Hi ... uh, huh" It takes forever to realize it's a recording.

STAGE MANAGER: This is not helping us find your phone.

BRANDY: (*Chastened.*) Right.

KATIE: When did you last use it?

STAGE MANAGER: I saw you with it over there.

BRANDY: Oh, yeah, that was earlier ... I can't remember.

KATIE: Look, when I lose something –

BRANDY: My parents are going to be so mad.

STAGE MANAGER: It's insured, isn't it?

BRANDY: I think there's coverage for one more loss -- or not.

But there's stuff on that phone -- numbers, pictures. Oh, my god, pictures! There are pictures.

KATIE: What kind of pictures?

End of Freeview

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