

Louder Than Words

A Mime Collection

By Linda Dumas

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A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

At the middle school in Texas where I teach, we use the mime show as an opportunity for theatre arts to perform and as a way to raise money for our department. It is a seven-year tradition now, and is eagerly anticipated by the student body.

We first perform for the nearly 700 students at our school, charging a nominal sum. We then do a special evening performance for families for no charge.

We do what you might call "Red Skelton" mime. That is to say, we might use minimal props and costuming, but lots of music. About 18 - 20 skits make a good show. Everybody takes part in at least two numbers and changes in and out of crew.

Recently, we have experimented with some numbers where we interpret a story, as well as some music interpretation. It is our show and we do it our way because it works for us and we have a great time. I'll tell you how we staged the numbers and then you will find that variations and improvements will occur to you as you go along.

We begin and end the skits with either a dynamic freeze, a resting position, or a true entrance or exit. There is an easel at extreme apron right. A placard announces The Mime Show as the audience enters. House lights dim and the placard is replaced by one bearing the title of the first mime. It is replaced with new titles in a stylish vaudeville manner by attractive young ladies who alternate, so that they too, can participate in the skits.

The ideas that follow are in no special order. Arrange to fit cast, crew, and time requirements, keeping in mind contrast and variety for the audience as well as dynamic and effective opening and closing numbers. Have fun!

The Playwright,
Linda Dumas

A Note About Music: Occasionally song suggestions have been included in this script. *If a song is under copyright, be sure to obtain permission before using.* If permission cannot be obtained, feel free to substitute a similar song for which permission has been granted or use a song out of copyright. For short mimes, gradually fade out the music.

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SUGGESTED COMBINATIONS FOR A COMPLETE MIME SHOW

Here are the combinations used by the author in producing her annual mime productions. When creating your own show, keep in mind contrast and variety for the audience as well as dynamic and effective opening and closing numbers.

First year (13 total)

Dr. Frankenstein, Drill Team, In the Park, By the Sea, The Decoys, The Spectators, The French Chefs, The Operation, The Flasher, The Wallflower, Modern Art, Getting Ready, Spring Training.

Second year(16 total)

Follow the Leader, Bennie Ha Ha, Cross-Country Race, I Love New York, The Game Room, Computer Dating, Bus Stop, The Cheerleaders, The Baby Sitter, General Hospital, Richard Simmons, Bowling, The Scout, Obedience School, Big Top, Copacabana.

Third year (18 total)

Hooked on Swing, Goodnight Kiss, A Visit to the Dentist, Dr. Frankenstein, The Spectator, The Wallflower, Centipedes, Sole Survivor, Acme Driving School, Bus Stop, Girls' School, Modern Art, Family Portrait, Spring Training, Contagion, School Bus, Silent Movie, Unemployment.

Fourth year (18 total)

Obedience School, The Jogger, Bowling, Fishing Trip, The Toy Shop, Spy vs. Spy, A Beauty Pageant, Richard Simmons, Bonnie and Clyde, The Flasher, Bedtime, Maternity Ward, Rocky XVII, Marionettes, Feudin', Hooked on Classics; A Bargain Sale, Follow the Leader.

Fifth year (18 total)

General Hospital, The Anniversary, The School Bus, Witches' Brew, The Matador, Mad Barber, Getting Ready, Girls' School, Goodnight Kiss, Boy Scout, Beauty and the Beast, Bennie Ha Ha, Last Night at Sal's, Spring Training, Wagon Train, Wallflower, Silent Movie, Hooked on Swing.

Sixth year (19 total)

Greed and Granddaughters, The Engagement, The Cheerleaders, French Chefs, Metamorphosis, The Ballet, Decoys, Bowling, The Grass Skirt, Lost in the Fifties, Women's Lib, A Night With the Nerds, Killing for Treasure, I Love New York, The Cure, Driving with Dad, Computer Dating, Bottom of the Ninth, Cross-Country Race.

7th year (21 total)

By the Sea, Beauty and the Beast, Drill Team, Contagion, Family Portrait, Maternity Ward, The Baby-sitter, Hooked on Classics, Obedience School, Witches' Brew, Big Top, The Toy Shop, The Work Out, Spectators, Girls' School, A Visit to the Dentist, Bus Stop, Feudin', Goodnight Kiss, Centipedes, Surgery.

End of Freeview

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