WINGIN' IT

Scenes about Growing Up

By Stephen Murray

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STORY OF THE PLAY

From the day we're hatched to the day we spread our wings and fly on our own, there are requisite, riotous rites of passage that must be experienced. This collection of humorous scenes explores the innocent squawk of infancy, the terrible twos, the treacherous teens and everything in between.

There are survival courses on how to handle any kind of baby-sitter … from the perfect to the perfectly insane. There are tactics for dealing with those who endeavor to shape, stretch and warp our minds and bodies - like gym teachers, substitute teachers and those cafeteria culinary queens, the "Little Lunch Ladies."

From the angst of adolescence and part-time jobs, to the dangers of driver's ed. and dealing with the dreaded kid sister, this is a hilarious, high-flying adventure. Whether you're a feather short of adulthood or have a bird's-eye view of growing up, this play soars with laughter.

Scene and Character Breakdown

NARRATOR, ENSEMBLE

Scene 1 - Happy Birthday
MOM, DAD, NURSE, CHLOE, WENDY

Scene 2 - Good Sitter / Bad Sitter
WILLAMINA, GOOD SITTER, BAD SITTER, KIDS 1-6

Scene 3 - Military Baby-sitter
SITTER, BABY, KIDS 1-2, MOM, DAD

Scene 4 - The Perfect Baby-sitter
MOM, DAD, KIDS 1-2, LAZY KID, CARRIE COPPINS, CARPET CLEANER

Scene 5 - School Days: Chloe in School
CHLOE, WENDY, DAWN, MARIE, LOUISE

Scene 6 - Gym Class
GYM TEACHER, SWEENEY, JOHNSON, BAKER, SMITH, BROWN, MARTIN

Scene 7 - The Substitute Teacher
TEACHER, STUDENTS 1-5

Scene 8 - The Little Lunch Lady
STUDENTS 1-5, LUNCH LADIES 1-4

Scene 9 - Driver's Education
TEACHER, JAN, MARCIA, CINDY, ALICE

Scene 10 - The New Job
MANAGER, MELBA, JUDY, MOM, CUSTOMERS 1-3, THIEF

Scene 11 - Little Sister
MOM, DAD BIG SISTER 1-2, LITTLE SISTER 1-2, TOMMY, RODNEY, CLERK/USHER

Scene 12 - Chloe Leaves Home
MOM, CHLOE, SUSIE

Scene 13 - Finale

SETS

Settings may be as suggested or complicated as you like. Several scenes call for a neutral, open stage. Others require side by side living rooms, school desks, a lab bench, a cafeteria set-up, a fast food counter with register, a movie lobby with concession stand and movie seats, a bedroom. Scene changes can often be accomplished by acting out scenes in front of the curtain or on the front half of the stage, while the scenery changes behind.

PROPS

Props may be mimed or real. Infant doll, a baby doll, baseball glove, papers, pencils, glue stick or bottle, phones salad tongs, a bottle of alcohol, a box of dental floss, paper money and change, an umbrella and carpet bag, sock, shirt, toy, vacuum, beakers filled with different colored fluids, cafeteria trays, plates, serving instruments, fake food, a sneaker in a plate of mashed potatoes, a Barbie and Ken, two big tubs of popcorn, two mugs with squiggly straws, a suitcase.

COSTUMES

Costumes are contemporary street clothes. You will also need costumes to identify moms and dads, a nurse, teachers, baby-sitters. Special costumes include baby clothes for grown actors, little kid ensembles for grown actors, a woman's business suit, gym clothes, lunch lady aprons, hair nets and rubber gloves, a turn-of-the-century nanny outfit, three fast-food uniforms, a bag lady outfit, a movie clerk/usher outfit.

SOUND EFFECTS

Infant cry, fairy tale theme music, explosion, car racing, wheels squealing, brakes screeching, a car crash, sinister music, muted movie dialogue.

Scene 1
Happy Birthday

(A NARRATOR steps into the light.)

NARRATOR: Welcome to *Wingin' It*, a journey through life from the first cries of infancy to the first day of independence. It's our training period, our apprenticeship as we strive for that imaginary certificate of adulthood. Let's begin with day one. Birth. The most common first word of newborns is … *(An infant's cry is heard.)* That may not mean much to you and me, but research has discovered that, in the language of infants, it has a very special meaning: "Happy birthday to me!"

(MOM and DAD enter, followed by NURSE carrying infant doll.)

NURSE: Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson; it's a girl!
MOM: She's beautiful!
DAD: What a sweetheart! She's got your eyes.
MOM: Oh, and she's got your ears!
DAD: And, ow! *(DAD is being pulled toward baby.)* She's got … my … nose! *(HE breaks free.)* What a grip!

(MOM, DAD and NURSE exit.)

NARRATOR: The first years of life are full of activity for both the child and the parent. The child is busy learning numerous basic tasks that will later be taken for granted. Meanwhile, due to the basic helplessness of infancy, the parent has a lot of baby maintenance work to do. There is a theory that babies are born cute so the parent will look into that little face and feel that the endless work or child raising is all worthwhile.

(MOM and CHLOE, dressed as a baby, enter. MOM is encouraging her daughter to learn to walk.)

MOM: Come on Chloe, you can do it. Walk for Mommy! I have a little present for you. Walk over here so you can play with it. *(CHLOE stands and walks to MOM.)* Good girl! You did it! I'm very proud of you! Here's your present. *(MOM pulls a doll out from behind her back or from a box on the floor.)* Your very own dolly. You stay here and play with your new dolly and I'll be right back.

(MOM exits. CHLOE joyfully holds her doll. Another baby, WENDY, enters crawling, holding a baseball glove.)

WENDY: What's that?
CHLOE: It's a doll. My mother gave it to me for walking a few steps.
WENDY: What a great deal! We do some silly thing and they give us a present.
CHLOE: I know; I got a new rattle once just for making a drool bubble. What's that?
WENDY: It's a baseball glove.
CHLOE: What do you do with it?
WENDY: I don't know, but my Dad keeps saying things like, "Olympic softball team" and "college scholarship." I haven't figured out what he's talking about yet.
CHLOE: Just burp and smile - maybe he'll give you something.
WENDY: Good advice. Ooh, I think I need changing. I'd better go.
CHLOE: I could use a fresh diaper, too. I'll see you later.

(THEY exit crawling in opposite directions. Fade out.)

End of Freeview

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