THE WIZARD OF CLODS

or

A Big Wind Brings a Lot of Hot Air

By R. Eugene Jackson

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STORY OF THE PLAY

At Emerald City High School, Lavester has a habit of leaving food on his mouth so he can lick it off whenever he gets hungry; Equilla wants to get her car running, but someone has stolen her motor; and Toto wants the classes to be more challenging, while Marsha sues the school to ensure that everyone gets straight A's without having to study. Then a cyclone hits the school and things really get crazy!

Dorothy, who refers to the others as Munchkins, demands that Toto, whom she insists is her own dog, lead her to the Wizard of Oz who will help her return to Kansas. Following the yellow broken-tile floor, they experience several exciting adventures. But to resolve the drama, Toto provides Dorothy with a bus ticket home and helps solve the other school problems. These students not only read *The Wizard of Oz* for class, they lived it!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Flexible cast, approx. 4 M, 12 W, extras if desired

TOTO - An average teenage girl. Her hair is fixed so that swatches fall over each ear, like puppy ears.
EQUILLA - A female "grease monkey" who wears greasy overalls and is rebuilding an engine for automotive shop.
DONNIEBELL - A southern belle.
GAGA - A girl with straight, blonde hair who is less than bright.
DOROTHY - Of *The Wizard of Oz* fame.
***TRINA -** A high school student.
***IFFY -** The indecisive type.
***MARSHA -** A complete snob.
***OTHERS -** Extra high school students, as desired.
BRUNSON - Teenage boy with a crush on Toto.
BROUGH - A tough, sour boy desperate for a date with Equilla.
LAVESTER - A "slob" with glasses and his shirttail half out. Constantly slobbers over Donniebell.
MRS. EAST - English teacher.
***MRS. SENTINEL -** The principal's secretary.
MRS. WEST - Math teacher.
THE GOOD WITCH OF THE NORTH - Just that.
MR. L. FRANK BAUM - Author of *The Wizard of Oz.*

***** Could be either male or female.

TIME: The present.
PLACE: Emerald City High School.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: Mrs. East's classroom. Mrs. East's desk is at SR, a few student desks and/or chairs are at CS, and the entrance is SL. The stage is empty.)

TOTO: *(Off SL.)* Ouch! *(SHE rushes on stage holding her right hand. She turns toward the door SL.)* Brunson, why did you do that?
BRUNSON: *(Enters SL looking innocent.)* Do what?
TOTO: Bite my hand?
BRUNSON: I didn't bite your hand. I kissed it.
TOTO: With your teeth?
BRUNSON: Hey, I was kissing it, you jerked your hand away, and it brushed my teeth. Big deal.
TOTO: Well, I don't want you kissing my hand any more.
BRUNSON: OK, I won't.
TOTO: Good.
BRUNSON: I'll kiss your mouth instead. *(HE puckers his lips really big, smacks a few times, and moves toward HER.)*
TOTO: I don't think so.
BRUNSON: Hey, what is this?
TOTO: I don't want you kissing any part of my anatomy any more. You got that?
BRUNSON: Not even your neck?
TOTO: Brunson, you don't kiss, you bite. My neck looks like I've been attacked by a herd of vampires.
BRUNSON: It could be worse.
TOTO: How?
BRUNSON: You could have been kissed by Lavester. He slobbers all over his victims.
TOTO: Look, that's Donniebell's problem, not mine.
BRUNSON: Or what about Brough? I hear the only girl he's ever kissed is his cat. And she may be a <u>he</u>.
TOTO: Equilla doesn't seem to complain.
BRUNSON: That's because Equilla is more interested in her car than she is in boys. She's never been kissed by anybody.

BRUNSON: *(Continued.)* Her dog won't even lick her when she's holding a dog biscuit in her mouth.
TOTO: You are cruel.
BRUNSON: Cruel? Because I tell the truth? Toto, what's come over you? I thought you liked me. Everybody else does. After all, I am the best looking guy in school.
TOTO: And you have the sharpest teeth.
BRUNSON: And the sharpest mind.
TOTO: You? You have a sharp mind?
BRUNSON: Well, hey, I make straight A's in school.
TOTO: Brunson, Donald Duck could make straight A's in this school. They give away grades here like Santa gives away toys. Emerald City High School has the highest grade point average and the stupidest students in the state.
BRUNSON: You're jealous because my grades are as good as yours.
TOTO: No. I'm angry because I want a good education and I'm not getting it.
BRUNSON: Oh, forget about that and give me a great big smackeroo right here on these moist, sensual lips. *(HE puckers.)*
TOTO: Brunson, look. You and I, we have different interests.
BRUNSON: No, we don't. I like to kiss, and you like to be kissed. That sounds like the same interests to me. *(HE starts toward HER.)*
TOTO: *(Holds HIM off.)* Well, I'm giving it up.
BRUNSON: Giving up kissing?!
TOTO: Yes.
BRUNSON: You, you can't do that. You can't give up kissing. Why, that's ... that's un-American!
TOTO: Call me a traitor.
BRUNSON: Toto! Who am I going to gnaw on Saturday night?
TOTO: Why don't you try an apple? *(Sits in one of the desks.)*
BRUNSON: What ... what's come over you?

TOTO: Let's just say I think there's more to a relationship than huntin' and peckin'.

(A VOICE is heard over the public address system. It is obviously a woman's voice that is as low as she can possibly speak trying to imitate a forceful male voice.)

VOICE: Students. Students, this is your principal speaking. *(Dramatically.)* THIS ... IS ... MR. WILLARD. The school bell is broken this morning. Someone pelted it with bubble gum last night, and it is stuck in the non-ringing position. Therefore, I will tell you when it's time to start classes. *(Pause.)* It's time to start classes. *(Pause.)* Well, homeroom anyway. Start now.

(Instantly, there are loud noises off SL as the STUDENTS enter the classroom. Included are LAVESTER, DONNIEBELL, EQUILLA, followed by BROUGH, TRINA, IFFY, and GAGA, who carries a cap, MARSHA, and OTHERS as desired. They ad-lib loudly as they enter and noisily take their places. Some sit in desks and others on the floor. The noise level rises and falls to accommodate the conversations.)

LAVESTER: Hey, Donniebell, you look swell.
DONNIEBELL: *(In HER Southern accent.)* Hey, Lavester, is that slobber hangin' out of yore mouth?
LAVESTER: *(HE wipes his mouth and looks at his hand.)* Naw, Donniebell. That's breakfast.
DONNIEBELL: *(Rolls HER eyes and pretends to throw up.)* Ohhhh! *(As HE starts to sit, SHE pulls his desk away and sits in it herself. He falls to the floor.)*
LAVESTER: Ouch! I was going to sit there.
DONNIEBELL: Now, Lavester, you know the school is so short of funds we can't have a desk for everybody. And you don't want little ol' me sittin' on that dirty ol' floor, do you?

End of Freeview

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