

# BASIC DRAMA SKETCHES

## Vol. II

Five Short Plays to Involve Your Entire Class

*By Judy Millar*

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*Here's a perfect resource book for producing plays in your grade school or junior high classroom. All of the plays have 11 to 25+ roles which are mostly flexible in gender to include as many students as possible. The plays have interesting plots and short, easy-to-learn lines. Your student actors will have fun developing and portraying the varied characters.*

**CABIN CALAMITY** 17 characters

Page 3

Two brothers and their families are sharing the cost of a vacation cabin in the woods. Their sister, a Hollywood movie star, is also joining them. The two brothers are twins - one a jock, one a nerd. One has a set of college-age twins who turned out the same. Tension mounts as they discover there are some thieves and murderers in the area. The neighbors, in another cabin, suspect these families and the families suspect the neighbors. Comedy and mayhem take over as the case is solved.

**DINER'S DELIGHT** 16 characters

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It's a somewhat typical morning and the breakfast crowd at a greasy spoon diner is about to enter. Many customers are in a hurry this morning, including a pregnant woman, a couple trying not to be seen by their boss and some sisters rushing to get their mother on a bus and out of their hair. Things are cooking until a couple of bumbling idiots try to hold up the diner and capture an influential customer for ransom. The bus is leaving without Mom, the pregnant woman is in labor, and the bad guys can't decide who is in charge. Fast-moving laughter makes this play a favorite.

**ALOHA FISH** 13 characters

Page 29

A group of college sorority sisters plan a relaxing camping trip after finals. Some fraternity guys, who have it in for one of the sisters, plan to ruin their trip by causing them to think they're losing their minds. A woman, who practices hypnotism, lives in the woods with her little girl and gives the group more trouble than they bargained for. She forces the guys to give up their clothes. The audience will laugh like crazy as the guys are forced to wear luau costumes.

**STOWAWAY** 21 characters

Page 43

A nasty sea captain runs a tight cruise ship, but not tight enough to keep a female stowaway from coming aboard. When the captain disappears, the crew and passengers begin blaming each other. Everyone, from the movie star to the hillbillies, has an explanation. Comedy and fear hit the high seas as the captain falls for the stowaway and turns the cruise into a honeymoon trip.

**UNHAUNTED** 11 characters

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A family is buying a home that has been inhabited for two hundred years by ghosts who were killed before they were able to marry. In order for them to be released from the house, they must be married by a minister. Only Beth and Jonathan can see and communicate with the ghosts. The other family members don't understand the strange happenings around the house. Gladys knows she doesn't want to live there and the teenagers are sure Mom and Dad have flipped.

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## **CABIN CALAMITY**

CAST OF CHARACTERS *(8 males, 9 females)*

**BORIS:** Groundskeeper. *(Could double as Max or Luke.)*

**BEVERLY:** Ed's wife.

**ED:** A jock, Beverly's husband and Ernie's brother.

**ABBY:** Their daughter, 13.

**BERNARD:** Their nerd son, college-age. Twin of Brandon.

**BRANDON:** Twin of Bernard, but much cooler.

**JACI:** Movie star, sister of Ed and Ernie.

**MAX:** Jaci's servant.

**ERNIE:** A nerd, Nancy's husband, Ed's brother.

**NANCY:** Ernie's wife.

**KAYLA:** Their daughter, 13.

**ALEX:** Their other daughter, an older teenager.

**NICK:** College student with Brandon.

**LUKE:** Newlywed.

**LISA:** Newlywed.

**DOTTIE:** Old lady.

**JEANETTE:** Another old lady, Dottie's sister.

**SETTING:** One interior - a cabin.

**TIME:** Present.

**COSTUMES:** Camping clothes.

**PROPERTIES:** Book, suitcases, phone, headphones, fish net, radio, glasses of water on tray, sunglasses.

**PLAYING TIME:** 30 - 35 minutes.

## CABIN CALAMITY

*(BORIS, ED, BEVERLY, BERNARD and ABBY enter and stop.)*

**BORIS:** Here it is. Exactly the way you left it.

**BEVERLY:** It's dirty. I thought you said it was kept up.

**BORIS:** It hasn't been disturbed since you shut it up last summer.

**ED:** You mean you didn't even come in and clean it?

**BORIS:** You didn't ask me to clean it. You asked me to take care of it. There was no one in it the entire winter. How could it get dirty?

**BEVERLY:** I don't believe this. Aren't you the manager?

**BORIS:** That's right -- been managing these cabins for going on fifteen years now.

**ED:** And what, exactly, do you manage?

**BORIS:** I managed to keep everybody out of your cabin all year.

**BEVERLY:** But ...

**ED:** Forget it, Bev. Thanks, Boris. You've been a real help.

**BORIS:** No problem at all. I'll be in the first cottage a couple of miles up the road by the store if you folks need anything else. *(BORIS exits.)*

**BEVERLY:** Thank you, Boris.

**ED:** A little bit of dirt isn't going to hurt anything. We came here to camp and fish and do woodsman things. If you want clean, go to the Holiday Inn.

**BERNARD:** I'm with Mom. If we could clean it up just a little, the dirt won't bother my allergies. Speaking of allergies, Mom did you pack my inhaler and some Kleenex mini-packs?

**BEVERLY:** Of course, dear.

**ED:** *(Disgusted with his nerd son.)* So much for woodsman things.

**ABBY:** When are Aunt Nancy and Uncle Ernie going to get here? I haven't seen my cousin Kayla since forever.

**BERNARD:** And I just admire Uncle Ern.

**ED:** Yep, Bernard, he is definitely your kind of man. I don't know where they are, Abby. I thought they'd be here by now.

**BEVERLY:** *(Cleaning.)* Well, Ed, you know your brother. He was late for his own wedding.

**BERNARD:** Oh boy. *(Snort laugh.)* I'll never do that.

**ED:** I don't think you'll have to worry about that, *(Pause.)* son. If there's one thing you are, it's punctual.

**BERNARD:** Ah, thanks, Dad.

**BEVERLY:** I'm going to start cleaning the kitchen. If you would all finish straightening up in here, I'd appreciate it. *(BEVERLY exits.)*

**BERNARD:** Dad, I want you to know that I feel sharing the cost of a vacation cottage with your brother and his family, and your sister from Hollywood, was a top-rate idea. Not to mention economical.

**ED:** Thank you, son. Your opinion means a lot to me.

**BERNARD:** *(Same as before.)* Aw, thanks, Dad.

**ABBY:** Dad, are you going to teach me to fish this year? I'm thirteen, and I don't need a license.

**ED:** Sure, Abby. I think you can go along with the guys when we fish. What about you, son? You're old enough to fish. Wouldn't you like to learn to fish this year and go along with the guys? I'm sure Brandon will want to fish when he gets here from college.

**BERNARD:** Ah, Dad. You know fish scales make me break out in hives. My twin brother isn't nearly as sensitive as I am. Besides, I'd rather stay home and help Mom cook what you bring in, and I have some reading to catch up on. *(Pulls out a big book.)*

**ABBY:** *(Looking out the door.)* Somebody is here in a great convertible.

**BEVERLY:** *(Running in, straightening her hair.)* Jacqueline is here.

**ED:** Take it easy, Bev. She's just my sister.

**BEVERLY:** But she's a movie star.

**ABBY:** From Hollywood.

**ED:** Jaci has come here for a vacation. I'm sure she just wants to get away from the big city and relax. Let's not bother her with--

*(JACI flaunts into the room followed by MAX, her chauffeur.)*

**JACI:** Oh, what a drive. I never thought I'd be so happy to see this *(Looks around, pause, sigh.)* cabin.

**BEVERLY:** We're so happy you could be here with us this week Jacqueline.

**JACI:** Oh, please, call me Jaci. I'm on vacation. Although vacationing in this rustic setting will definitely be different than my chalet in the Swiss Alps. Max, did you park the car?

**MAX:** Yes, Madame.

**JACI:** Is there a phone here? I'm expecting a call from my agent.

**MAX:** Pardon me, ma'am, but you could use the car phone.

**JACI:** Not way out here. I'd never get through.

**MAX:** Of course, my mistake.

**ED:** Of course we have a phone, Jaci.

**ABBY:** Aunt Jaci, you have to tell me what it's like to work with *(current male movie star)*.

**JACI:** I would love to in a little while, but right now I need to get freshened up. Would you point me in the direction of the powder room, dear?

**ABBY:** It's right in there.

**JACI:** Thank you, and would you be a doll and scurry on out to my car and get my bag?

**ABBY:** Sure.

**MAX:** I'll show you.

*(ABBY and MAX exit outside, JACI exits to bedroom.)*

**BERNARD:** *(Looking up from his book.)* She's stressed.

**ED:** She needs this vacation.

**BEVERLY:** We need to do what we can to help her learn to relax.

*(SFX: Phone RINGS. JACI comes running in.)*

**JACI:** The phone! Where is it? It could be my agent. I had a screen test with (another male movie star), and I'm on pins and needles.

**BEVERLY:** *(Picks up phone.)* Hello? ... Hello, Brandon, where are you?

*(JACI exits.)*

**BEVERLY:** *(Cont'd.)* Oh, you're very close. Follow that road for about three more miles, make a right, and you'll run right into the cabin.

*(As Beverly is talking, ABBY and MAX enter with suitcases and immediately exit to bedroom.)*

**BERNARD:** He'll get lost.

**BEVERLY:** We'll be looking forward to seeing you. Bye, dear. *(Hangs up.)*

**ED:** That boy gets lost in his own apartment.

*(ERNIE, NANCY and KAYLA enter from outside. MAX enters from bedroom and stands servant-like.)*

**ED:** Ernie! How's my big brother?

**ERNIE:** *(Snort laugh, just like Bernard.)* Ha. That's funny, Eddie. We're twins.

**ED:** Don't remind me.

**BEVERLY:** Nice to see you, Nancy. Hello, Kayla.

**KAYLA:** Hi, Aunt Beverly and Uncle Ed. Where's Abby? Is she here?

**BEVERLY:** Yep. She's in the bedroom with Aunt Jaci. She can't wait to see you.

**KAYLA:** Aunt Jaci is here?

**MAX:** No, I'm just standing here because I couldn't think of anything I'd rather do.

**KAYLA:** Did you see her in that movie with (current male movie star)? I can't wait to see her. And Abby too. *(Exits to bedroom.)*

**BERNARD:** Uncle Ern!!!

**ERNIE:** Bernie, my boy. How are ya?

**BERNARD:** I'm great. I just finished my second Master's degree. I'm about to begin my doctoral thesis on the migration habits of the birds of the world. I'm catching up with you, Unc. I brought this book on the Northern Australian Kappa bird. I thought you'd enjoy it.

**ERNIE:** Wow! This looks great.

*(THEY are looking through the book as ALEX enters.)*

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