

DARLA'S DREAM

by J. Robert Wilkins

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Welcome to Darla's dream world. On this particular night, Darla and her best friend Maxine, set off to find prom dresses, dates and a limo. Along the way, they meet a number of unique individuals and situations. Darla's mother has selected the world's ugliest prom dress for her daughter. A hobo confronts the girls for spare change. Arthur, the nerdy limo salesman, tries to become Darla's prom date. Parker, Darla's history teacher, uses detention time to threaten Darla's attendance at the prom. Ashley, the school's rich girl, reminds Darla that she will never date the school dreamboat, Roger Harcourt. Through all of this Constance, Darla's conscience, tries to keep Darla on the straight and narrow. In the second part of the play, Darla and Maxine find themselves in their future. They arrive at a Christmas party where the characters from high school have become their co-workers. The pursuit of Roger continues and Darla almost realizes her dreams before she wakes up.

Running Time:

Approximately 45 minutes

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 m, 6 w, 2 flexible)

DARLA: A high school senior; casually dressed in jeans and a T-shirt.

MAXINE: Darla's best friend, also a senior; casually dressed.

MOTHER: Darla's mother, in her 50s.

CONSTANCE: Darla's conscience; looks, acts and dresses very much like Darla.

HOBO: A tramp in his (her) 30s with a shopping cart.

OPERATOR/SUPERVISOR: A well-dressed business women in her late 20s.

PARKER/DANFORTH: Darla's high school history teacher and boss. He (she) is in his (her) 50s and is dressed in business attire.

ARTHUR: A typical male nerd in his early 30s.

ASHLEY: Darla's classmate, the typical socialite snob; wears a party dress.

ROGER HARCOURT: A handsome man in his late 20's; dressed in slacks, blazer and tie.

Casting note: The same actress may play the parts of OPERATOR/SUPERVISOR and ASHLEY. As noted, the parts of PARKER/DANFORTH and the HOBO may be played by either male or female actor.

PRODUCTION NOTES

SETTING

The play can be performed on a bare stage; however, the set designer is encouraged to use imagination in creating a dream-like setting. This setting can be as simple or elaborate as the facility and budget allow. In its simplest format, a bare stage and creative lighting will suffice.

PROPS

Dress rack with a variety of dresses
Shopping cart filled with junk
Telephone
White pages telephone book
Yellow pages telephone book
Clipboard
Rope
Bridal veil and bouquet
Sack of empty pop cans
A bill
Pizza box

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(AT RISE: The stage is black. A few LIGHTS come up very dimly. DARLA sits at center. MAXINE is asleep beside her.)

DARLA: She's going. She's almost there. *(A few more LIGHTS come up.)* Come on. That's it. *(Hums a few bars of a lullaby. All the LIGHTS come up. DARLA rises.)* All right! She's asleep. The start of another beautiful day. Come on, Maxine. It's time to get up.

MAXINE: *(Waking.)* What? Is it morning already?

DARLA: Yes, it is. That was a long night. I thought she would never go to bed.

MAXINE: *(Yawns.)* Not quite long enough for me.

DARLA: Come on. Let's get going. Who knows how long she'll sleep today.

MAXINE: What's your rush?

DARLA: I don't know. I have a lot of energy today. I have a feeling there's something important I have to do.

MAXINE: You always have something important to do, Darla. Can't you relax once in a while?

DARLA: Relax? I tried it once but I didn't like it.

MAXINE: Well, I try it every day and I really like it. *(Rolls over.)* Call me if you feel like dancing.

DARLA: That's it! Our prom dresses.

MAXINE: *(Sits up.)* What?

DARLA: We've got to get our prom dresses. It's only three weeks away.

MAXINE: *(Rises.)* Prom is only three weeks away. Why didn't you tell me?

DARLA: I just did.

MAXINE: But we don't have dresses.

DARLA: I know that.

MAXINE: Worse yet, you don't have a date.

DARLA: I am well aware of that fact, Maxine.

MAXINE: Well, what are we going to do? I mean, you don't know that many available guys.

DARLA: Let's take things one step at a time. First, we need dresses.

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(MOTHER enters with a rack of clothes. All of the dresses are extremely ugly, tattered, or ill-fitting.)

MOTHER: Don't worry, dear. I am sure we can find something in the closet for you to wear.

DARLA: I am not going to wear some old hand-me-down to my prom, Mother.

MOTHER: Oh. No. These have never been worn. I've been saving them for a special occasion just like this. *(Takes a dress from the rack. The dress is a very gaudy color.)* Here, try on this one.

MAXINE: That's really not your color, Darla.

DARLA: It's not anybody's color.

MOTHER: *(Puts the dress back on the rack and takes another that is obviously too small for DARLA.)* How about this one?

DARLA: It would be fine...if I was a midget. *(MOTHER puts dress back on rack.)*

MAXINE: Let's go, Darla. We're wasting time.

MOTHER: *(Takes a dress from the rack that is too big for DARLA.)* Here it is. Your dream dress.

MAXINE: More like your nightmare dress.

DARLA: I don't think so, Mother.

MOTHER: Come on, now. Try it on. Do it for me.

DARLA: Oh, all right. *(Puts dress on.)* There. Satisfied now?

MAXINE: Have you lost weight, Darla?

MOTHER: It's perfect. You look so beautiful. *(Begins to sob.)* My baby is all grown up.

DARLA: The dress is too big, Mother.

MOTHER: Nonsense. It's fits you like a glove. *(Sobbing.)* You'll be the belle of the ball.

MAXINE: *(Takes DARLA aside.)* You can't go to the prom in that, Darla. You look like a bag lady.

DARLA: I know. *(Begins to take the dress off.)*

(CONSTANCE enters and crosses to DARLA.)

CONSTANCE: Oh, no, Darla. You can't do that.

End of Freeview

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