

The Four Biggest Guys in Rock and Other Comedies

*An Anthology by
Robert Mattson*

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DEDICATED

To Team Acme: David Sheppard, Kathy Campbell, Tom Berry, J. Mark Baumhardt and Juree James. They make good scripts, great shows, and I'm lucky to know them.

**The Four Biggest Guys in Rock
and Other Comedies**

Their adoring public never suspects these four great men in rock challenge each other with daily mind games. Three soon-to-be driving teens meet their match with their instructor. A man tries to prepare for the worst with a visit to his friendly, neighborhood survivalist warehouse. A teen job seeker shows she's got what it takes to be the next entrepreneur of the year ... as soon as she finishes cheerleading practice. Sherlock Holmes may be living in a retirement home, but the aged detective is as sharp and clever as ever. The bidding war is fast and furious and the contenders are desperate. Who will win the baby-sitting job? A fresh recruit is ready to serve her country but with a shovel? The ten-minute play form is more popular than ever, and the 10 lively short plays collected here can be performed as an evening of theatre or individually.

Flexible cast of 28 (With doubling: minimum cast of 4 m, 4 w)

The Four Biggest Guys in Rock (4 m)

Babysitter Brokerage (4 w)

The Retirement Holmes (2 m)

Boyfriend 2.0 (2 w)

The Drive-Thru Interview (1 m, 1 w)

Grandpa's Rewind (2 m, 1 w)

Jimmy's Survivalist Warehouse (2 flexible)

Mr. Perry's Test (1 m, 3 w)

Playing House (1 m, 1 w)

Weapons of Mass Construction (2 flexible)

THE FOUR BIGGEST GUYS IN ROCK

CAST OF CHARACTERS

ABE

GEORGE

TEDDY

TOM

(AT RISE: LIGHTS up on four men standing from house left to right as follow: GEORGE, TOM, TED, and ABE. Their exact stance and position will become obvious. During the performance they remain still below the neck. They are dressed in black so that only their heads draw focus, but besides the positioning they should not give away who they are. They stand there for 5 to 10 seconds before the opening line.)

ABE: I am so bored.

GEORGE: How many times do we have to hear that?

ABE: Until I'm not bored, I guess.

TEDDY: You guess? Can't you be a little more decisive for a change?

ABE: I guess.

TOM: Leave him alone, Teddy. We're all bored. I wish I had something to read.

ABE: That would be nice.

GEORGE: Well, we could just talk. We never talk anymore.

TEDDY: What is there to talk about? We've talked every subject to death.

GEORGE: The weather?

TEDDY: There's excitement for you. The weather. Bully for you, George! Let's talk about the weather!

ABE: What's wrong with talking about the weather?

TEDDY: Because Tom will say it's nice. George will forecast the coming of rain and you, Abe, will agree with the last thing that was said!

GEORGE: *(To TOM softly.)* What's with him?

TOM: I don't know.

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TEDDY: Don't whisper! I know you're whispering about me!
TOM: Well we wouldn't if you weren't such a pain.
TEDDY: Well ... hurrumph!
ABE: What did you say?
TEDDY: I said ... hurrumph. Didn't anyone say hurrumph
where you come from?
GEORGE: Not unless they were choking on a chicken bone.
TEDDY: Why you What gives you the right to say
anything to me?
GEORGE: Seniority.
TEDDY: Oh, not that again.
GEORGE: I was president before you and I was finished
before you.
TEDDY: I don't care when you were finished!
GEORGE: When were you done, '46?
TEDDY: '39! You stuck up
ABE: Stop that! Both of you! George, you're being mean
and Teddy ... you have bad breath.
TOM: Now who's being mean?
ABE: Hey, you haven't had to be in front of him for 61 years.
TEDDY: Cheap shot, Abe.
ABE: Well, don't make fun of me. Just because I was
educated in the country doesn't make me stupid, you
know.
GEORGE: We know, Abe. I'm sure none of us think you're
stupid.
TOM: You just have rocks in your head.
TEDDY: Oh, I didn't see that coming.
GEORGE: Hold on, guys. Helicopter. Look regal for a
second.

(ALL freeze in the standard Mount Rushmore positions.)

GEORGE: Are they gone, Teddy?
TEDDY: I can't tell. Abe's nose is in the way.
ABE: Please, no nose jokes.
TOM: And ... we're clear.
ABE: I wish I could see west.
GEORGE: Me too.

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TOM: I hear it's overrated.

TEDDY: Heard from who?

TOM: The Boy Scout troop that was here last week. They said that there was a brush fire over there last year and there's not much left.

ABE: I don't feel that bad then.

TEDDY: (*Sneezing.*) Excuse me. Another blasted eagle's nest in my left nostril.

GEORGE: I hate it when they do that.

(Pause for 5 seconds.)

ABE: Anyone want to play a game?

TEDDY: Bully! How about tennis?

ABE: A WORD game, Teddy.

TEDDY: I'd rather play tennis.

TOM: Don't listen to him, Abe. What game?

ABE: I was thinking of a game of "Quotes."

TOM: Not a bad idea.

TEDDY: Of course you don't think it's a bad idea. You've got all the good ones!!

TOM: Well then, let's play differently this time. We'll pick our least favorite quotes from Presidents.

GEORGE: What about Vice Presidents?

TOM: No, because Teddy will just do those stupid potato with an "E" ones all day again.

GEORGE: All right, but it can't be one of your own.

TEDDY: A bad quote from me? Now that's funny. Bully!

ABE: George, will you start?

GEORGE: All right. Let me think. Hmmm. I have one, "I have opinions of my own - strong opinions - but I don't always agree with them."

TOM: Was it William Taft?

GEORGE: No.

TEDDY: Grover Cleveland?

GEORGE: No.

ABE: George Bush?

GEORGE: Now how did you know that?

ABE: I learned it in the country. Tom, you're next.

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TOM: OK, how about "The world is more like it is now than it ever was before."

ABE: Was it Teddy?

TEDDY: Why you ...! If I had arms I'd ...

GEORGE: Looks to me like that has Frank Roosevelt written all over it.

TOM: Then his handwriting must be really bad. Wrong.

ABE: George Bush?

TOM: No.

GEORGE: You just guessed last time, didn't you?

ABE: I'm not saying.

TEDDY: *(Quietly.)* It wasn't me, was it?

TOM: No. Any more guesses? No? Dwight Eisenhower.

TEDDY: I should have known that. He was a putz.

GEORGE: Where'd you pick up the word putz?

TEDDY: The Temple Beth Isreal tour last week. I liked the sound of it. You just can't say "Bully!" all your life.

GEORGE: Your turn, Teddy.

TEDDY: Hmmmm. All right, I have one. "When more and more people are thrown out of work, unemployment results."

TOM: *(Laughing.)* George Bush?

ABE: Stop that! That's not funny!

GEORGE: Tom.

TOM: I'm sorry, George. I'm sorry, Abe. Chester Arthur.

TEDDY: It has to be a President, Tom.

TOM: Chester Arthur was president.

ABE: I don't think so, Tom.

TOM: George! Back me up here, Chester Arthur.

GEORGE: Sounds familiar, but it must have been after my time.

TOM: Every president was after your time, George! Come on. Chester A. Arthur! 1881 to 1885. The son of a Baptist preacher who had emigrated from northern Ireland, Arthur was born in Fairfield, Vermont, in 1829. *(Pauses to see if the OTHERS have "gotten it.")* He was graduated from Union College in 1848, taught school, was admitted to the bar, and practiced law in New York City. *(Pause to check again.)*

End of Freeview

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