

The Funsucker

A One-Act Comedy

by
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SYNOPSIS

Fed up with the disruption and unruliness of his school, hard-nosed Principal Wolfenstein decides to hire Janitor Patton, janitor extraordinaire, and his top-notch cleaning crew to fix the problem. Bobby Franko, leader of the pranksters for all of his six years of high school, and his mafia-like group of friends take offense to this attempt to clean things up. As the war between school officials and unruly pranksters reaches new heights, Wolfenstein decides to call for the return of someone so horribly cruel and void of any joy that she was previously banned from ever setting foot in the school again—The Funsucker.

The Funsucker goes to work restoring order by literally sucking the fun out of every student she encounters, bringing stability at a great price and setting the stage for our noble yet meek hero, John Trueheart, and the love of his life, Jane Flowers.

But before John and Jane unite to save the spirit of the school, they have to bridge the gap between their respective social circles. Jane is the nice girl in the cool group—friendly and honest, but torn between staying in the popular crowd, led by the snippy, arrogant, and ignorant Kimmy, and risking unpopularity by hanging out with John. John, prodded by his “out there” friend Rich and weird fortune-telling guidance counselor, overcomes his fears and talks to Jane as she overcomes her fears of losing her “status” and talks back.

But no time to waste with romance—character’s personalities are dropping like flies thanks to the Funsucker’s rampage of fun-sucking! John and Jane follow the clues, and with the help of the school’s eccentric psychologist, uncover the Funsucker’s mysterious past and find the secret to saving the school’s spirit. To do so, John and Jane unite janitors and prankster alike, survive the helplessly mean-spirited Kimmy and her friends, transform the Funsucker, and restore the life back to their high school, all while providing a fun lesson on the value of kindness, love, and treating others how you would like to be treated.

Approx. 30 minutes

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(Approximately 7 m, 9 w, 4 flexible.)

MALE ROLES

Bobby Franko: Student, king of the social pack, mafia style.

Janitor Patton: Head janitor, dirt eradicator extraordinaire.

John Trueheart: Student, meek hero of the story.

Rich: Student, John's best friend and way "out there."

Principal Wolfenstein: Hard-nosed school principle.

Stubbs: Student, Franko's not-so-bright henchman.

Tommy: Student, Franko's quiet right-hand man.

FLEXIBLE ROLES

Narrator: Narrates with style.

Cowboy: Patton's most enthusiastic janitor.

Charlie: Patton's smartest janitor.

Cupcake: Patton's strangest janitor.

FEMALE ROLES

Freudline: The school psychiatrist, absorbed in her work.

Mrs. Lakely: Guidance counselor/prophet.

Jane Flowers: Student, the story's heroine.

Kimmy: Student, arrogant, and ignorant Queen of Cool.

Julie: Student, Kimmy's assistant. Same attitude.

Tammie: Student, the least bright of the Kimmy group.

Jill: Student, another Kimmy groupie, but a little nicer.

Gretchen: Student, the gossip girl of the school.

Charity/Funsucker: Student, before she turned into the Funsucker.

Also, non-speaking extras may be added as Franko's henchmen, Kimmy's groupies, or additional janitors.

SETTING

Place: A “normal” high school.

Time: Middle of the school year.

Many areas of the school are represented on stage including a school hallway; the office for the principal and guidance counselor; a lunch table for a general meeting area; and the library. In addition, various characters may enter and exit through the theatre aisles.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Unseen, voice amplified with a microphone.)

FUNSUCKER: Kids. The stench of them drips off the walls and saturates every corner their puny, pathetic, little voices echo through the halls, leaving an undying ringing in my ears. Oh, how I loved the thrill of discipline, of seeing them shriek in terror as I caught them red-handed with their ball of gum all ready to stick under some freshly cleaned desk. Detention was my heaven. But they got rid of me. Those fools got rid of me. But I'll be back. Oh, don't you worry, I'll be back. My day of reckoning is near...

(SPOTLIGHT hits NARRATOR, standing SL.)

NARRATOR: So I get this call asking me to investigate a missing person. Apparently this Principal Wolfenstein suddenly disappeared without a trace. It was only when I stepped inside the building that I heard of the Great Transformation. After retrieving countless interviews and reviewing numerous files, I have finally pieced together the story, a story that must be told ... in 28 minutes ... *(NARRATOR walks across towards SR. By his last line, he is next to the principal's desk.)* It all started with a food fight. Kids got a little rowdy – the fries went flying. Everybody's having great fun until some kid misses his target and hits Principal Wolfenstein instead. Principal isn't so happy.

WOLFENSTEIN: These kids are beginning to try my patience, yes they are, Mr. Bumbles *(Talking to his fake gerbil or some kind of stuffed animal.)* But don't worry, Mr. Bumbles, I have a plan. Oh yes, I have a plan. There is a certain janitor– an excellent man of experience and talent – James A. Patton is his name. His presence may just be enough to restore order and respect in this school.

NARRATOR: Janitor Patton wasn't your normal janitor.

(Spotlighted ... PATTON and STAFF walk from the back of auditorium toward the stage.)

NARRATOR: *(Cont'd.)* He could sense a spill a mile away. He could mop and entire gymnasium in 5 minutes. His floors shined like a bald man's head in the middle of a Florida beach in July. His staff was hand-picked from the finest janitors in the state. He took the word janitor and made it ... Janitor.

PATTON: *(Who has now reached the front of the stage, but still below it.)* I can feel the dirt crusting up my boots already, boys. I heard we got trouble here. Some of these kids don't respect the word *clean*. *(OTHERS growl or do something to this effect.)* Well, boys, we've got a job to do. Cowboy, I want a status report of the gum situation in the next thirty minutes. Charlie, inspect all ventilation and heating systems and get back to me ASAP. Cupcake, check for sufficient cleaning supplies and update their inventories if necessary from the materials in the truck. Dust bunnies, say your prayers... *(PATTON'S group disperses.)*

NARRATOR: This school was dirty and fun. And the guy who maintained this standard was Bobby Franko.

(FRANKO enters from SR with TOMMY. As he's walking, he taking his gum out and tosses it on the floor, looks at a piece of paper then chucks it, and does other "trashy" things of this nature. All the while, he's talking on his cell phone and acting like he's bossing someone around verbally.)

NARRATOR: *(Cont'd.)* Held back more times than Yankees won the World Series, respected by the jocks, feared by the nerds – he ran the show. And if there was one person who Patton did not intimidate, it was him.

FRANKO: *(Finishing his cell phone conversation.)* Who do you think I am? You think Bobby Franko is some kinda schmuck whoz gonna let some stinkin' toilet-scrubber get the best of him?

End of Freeview

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