

High School Heist

by Katie B. Oberlander

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High School Heist

- 2 -

DEDICATION

To my son Thomas and the University of Massachusetts Outing Club. Come over anytime - we'll have plenty of cookies waiting. And to Elaine Rombola Aveni, whose multitude of talents enhance each and every production.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Bayport High is on the cusp of victory in a cookie-selling contest until their prized "Golden Bar" treats vanish, snatched by rival school Fairview Academy, and stashed in a campus safe. With time ticking, Bayview's gutsy hall monitor-in-training rallies a crew of students for a daring heist to reclaim their Golden Bars before the delivery deadline strikes. Amidst the chaos, cheerleaders from both schools stage a dance battle, an over-zealous fire marshal patrols the halls, a tyrannical football coach becomes a suspect in the crime, and the owner of the restaurant Bubba Joe's Feedbag waits for his delivery while his cookie-craving son Joe Junior pursues an endless sugar rush. After pulling off a successful fake zombie attack to gain some items they need, the heist team undergoes some setbacks until their quest reaches an epic conclusion during the school dance where they must clear the gym with a "sugar explosion" and dodge moving lasers to achieve their goal of opening the safe in time. This 90-minute comedy features a large flexible cast, simple set and fun theme that can be extended into the lobby for a pre-or post-show cookie sale.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

This show was originally produced through a partnership between Gloucester Stage and Harborlight Montessori in Gloucester, MA in March 2024 with the following cast and crew:

Hazel Hauck, Kaleigh Lopez, Drago Murphy, Juliette Wilson, Wesley Robinson, Juno Kullgren, Claire Ashley Mooso, Silas McHugh, Caitlyn Oakley, Niko Harris, Owen Pario, Riena Banks, Lucian Reznik, Gwen Kelley, Lexa Bond, Keira Faherty, Lena Taft, Aurora Robinson, Poyraz Colak, Logan Brown, Charlotte Kotowski, Linc Winthrop, Ada James, Leo Iglesias Rodriguez, Will Grant, Parker Brown, Nimar Shevchenko, Nevaeh Johnson-DePass, Anna Dollery, Cecilia Frautten, Sam Herman, Lorenzo Aveni, Salvatore Costantino, Maya Fahmy, Jacksanna McAdoo Comer, Ezra Pfohl, Jenna Pario, Benjamin Reynolds, Gabriel Thompson, Aurora Robinson, Sam Brown, Logan Brown, Noemi Polverari, August Taylor Koch, Nolan Costa, Jack Herman, Katie B. Oberlander, Ryan Natcharian, Elaine Rombola Aveni, Sage Brisbois, Karen Goodno-McGuire, Candice Milan, Sue Sullivan and Jen Tarr.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

*Large flexible cast of 26-37, extras and doubling
(3 m, 1 w, 22-33 flexible)*

CLARK: Efficient head hall monitor of Bayport High.
MINT: Rebel hall monitor-in-training.
HALL MONITOR #1: Enthusiastic hall monitor.
HALL MONITOR #2: Another enthusiastic hall monitor.
MARVIN: Science League president.
HARRIET: Overachieving Debate Team captain.
LEAH: Dramatic student director of the Bayport Thespian Society.
DREW: (m) Bayport football team captain and quarterback.
TRACY: (w) Bayport lead cheerleader.
PRINCIPAL STEVENS: Bumbling principal of Bayport High.
COACH CRAIG: Bad tempered football coach.
MRS. LANE: Sweet, athletics office secretary.
THE STALLION: Horse mascot of Bayport High.
CHEERLEADER #1: Bayport cheerleader.
CHEERLEADER #2: Bayport cheerleader.
FOOTBALL PLAYER #1: (m) Bayport football player.
FOOTBALL PLAYER #2: (m) Bayport football player.
SCIENCE LEAGUE #1: Bayport Science League student.
SCIENCE LEAGUE #2: Bayport Science League student.
DEBATE TEAM #1: Bayport Debate Team student.
DEBATE TEAM #2: Bayport Debate Team student.
DEBATE TEAM #3: Bayport Debate Team student.
THESPIAN #1: Bayport student actor.
THESPIAN #2: Bayport student actor.
THESPIAN #3: Bayport student actor.
VERONICA: Fairview cheerleader, a pretend visitor at Bayport.
PRINCIPAL PIKE: Principal of Fairview Academy.
THE WOLF: Wolf mascot of Fairview Academy.
BUBBA JOE: Down-home owner of Bubba Joe's Feedbag.
JOE JUNIOR: Cookie-craving son of Bubba Joe.
BOB BARNES: KQM television reporter.
TRIXIE PHILLIPS: KQM television reporter.
ERNIE: Elderly KQM camera operator.
COBRA SECURITY TECH: Worker from Cobra Security firm.
FIRE MARSHAL: Over-zealous fire marshal.
DJ SWEET TOOTH: Cheesy DJ.
CUBE: Hype man for DJ Sweet Tooth.

CASTING FLEXIBILITY

You may change the names of characters and pronouns of any member of the cast, with the exception of Drew, the football players, and Tracy. You can also have any number of cheerleaders, football players, debate team members, science league members, and thespians. Lines assigned to these characters can be distributed however you want. The roles of Mrs. Lane, Coach Craig, Bubba Joe, Joe Junior, Bob Barnes, Trixie Phillips, Ernie, Cobra Security Tech, Fire Marshal, DJ Sweet Tooth, and Cube can all be doubled by actors who play cheerleaders, football players, debate team members, science league members, and thespians for a total cast of 26.

HEIST TECHNICAL NOTES

Feel free to add technological elements to support the heist elements of the play. Projected titles can be utilized during the heist crew recruitment scene instead of or in addition to having them being revealed by the characters onstage. The musical montage sequence can be a short film that you can show while changing the set to the Sugar Dust Ball. A wind machine can be utilized during the slow-motion walking scene if you wish. The original production used a fog machine and eye safe laser pointers for the laser dance, but colored flashing lights or strobes can also be substituted or added.

SET

A high school gym decorated with a banner that reads "Community Cookie Challenge." There are four tables stacked with boxes of cookies. The tables have signs: "Chunky Chews," "S'mores Galore," "Prune Dandies," and "Golden Bars." Upstage is a platform. Parts of the stage are used to represent the debate room. And for the final scene the gym is decorated with sparkly sugar-themed decorations for the Sugar Dust Ball.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: A high school gym. PRINCIPAL STEVENS and CLARK are surveying the action. Clark is holding a clipboard, and a walkie-talkie is clipped to his belt. He wears a sash that identifies him as Head Hall Monitor. At the "S'mores Galore" table, FOOTBALL PLAYERS eat cookies and DREW practices his football skills using a cookie box. DEBATE TEAM and HARRIET talk on their cell phones at the table labeled "Prune Dandies." THESPIANS count cookie boxes at the "Golden Bars" table. MARVIN types on a laptop at the table labeled "Chunky Chews" as SCIENCE LEAGUE MEMBERS bring boxes of cookies on and offstage. Far upstage is a platform where CHEERLEADERS are cheering on the participants as they work. THE STALLION dances around the room.)

CHEERLEADER #1: Bayport cookies are the best!

We'll sell them all and never rest!

CHEERLEADER #2: Chunky Chews, S'mores Galore,

Great Prune Dandies, and there's more!

ALL CHEERLEADERS: Golden Bars just can't be beat
Bayport Cookies, hey, let's eat! Go Bayport!

(At the end of the routine EVERYONE cheers. CLARK and PRINCIPAL STEVENS step onto the platform.)

CLARK: Thank you to our talented cheerleaders and our spirited mascot, the Bayport Stallion.

THE STALLION: Neigh!

CLARK: And now, Principal Stevens would like to make a brief announcement.

PRINCIPAL STEVENS: OK, OK... Greetings, ladies and gentlemen of Bayport High! Students, teachers and... um, well, anyone else who happens to be here. It's that time again! What time, you may ask? Well, that's a good question. It's... it's...

(CLARK hands HIM an index card and he consults it.)

PRINCIPAL STEVENS: *(Cont'd.)* Oh right! It's the annual Community Cookie Challenge! Yes, it's a cookie sale, or so I've been told. We've had a great day so far and have raised, um... *(CLARK hands over another index card.)* over five thousand for charity so far? Wow, that's a lot! Good job us. Remember, we're not just selling cookies; we're... er, participating in a very... cookie-like endeavor! We have... let me see... *(CLARK hands over another an index card.)* Oh! Just an hour left to sell! And then tonight we can celebrate our accomplishments at the social event where everyone moves their body to music. You know, it's like a... *(CLARK hands over another a card.)* dance! That's right. The Sugar Dust Ball! So, back to the cookie sale. It's happening, it's fun, it's... about cookies. So... let's make sure to enjoy every crummy moment! Go Bayport!

(EVERYONE cheers and gets back to work. PRINCIPAL STEVENS heads to a table and eats some cookies. CLARK oversees everything from the platform. Bayport's Head Cheerleader, TRACY, enters with VERONICA, a Fairview student who is pretending to be a visitor to Bayport.)

TRACY: So, this is our gym. It's where we have, like, exercise and stuff. And today it's the headquarters for the big Community Cookie Challenge.

VERONICA: Wow! It seems like the whole school is here!

TRACY: Oh, totally! The cookie challenge at Bayport is, like, huge! We sell cookies to raise money for charity. It's also a competition against our rival school, Fairview Academy. We have one day to see who can sell the most cookies. It's game on, and trust me, we're ready to crush it!

(CHEERLEADERS cheer from the platform.)

CHEERLEADER #1: Fairview cookies are so gross!

CHEERLEADER #2: Their sugar makes you comatose!

CHEERLEADER #1: Those recipes will make you cry.

High School Heist

- 7 -

ALL CHEERLEADERS: Fairview cookies... Do not buy!

VERONICA: This is all super exciting! Is Bayport winning?

TRACY: I doubt it. Fairview has beaten us for like, the past ten years or something.

CLARK: *(Crosses to TRACY and VERONICA.)* Fairview Academy has held the title of "Community Cookie Champions" for 16 years and 11 months.

TRACY: Thanks, Clark. You're always, like, super helpful. This is Veronica. She's thinking of coming to Bayport and I'm giving her a tour. Showing her the ropes, you know?

CLARK: Hello, Veronica. I'm Clark, Bayport's head hall monitor. May I please see your visitor pass?

TRACY: Slow your roll, Clark. Veronica's here to learn about the school. Why don't you tell her about your genius cookie-selling strategies or something? I need to check in with my girls on the squad. We're going to coordinate our outfits for the dance! *(Runs over to the CHEERLEADERS.)*

VERONICA: A hall monitor is in charge of the cookie sale?

(HALL MONITOR #1 enters and brings CLARK a paper and he looks it over.)

CLARK: I like to think that I'm more than just a hall monitor at Bayport.

(CLARK signs the paper and hands it back to HALL MONITOR #1, who exits. HALL MONITOR #2 enters and brings a tray of boxes for Clark to inspect.)

CLARK: *(Cont'd.)* When I was elected to my position, I knew I was making a commitment to strive for excellence every day. *(Turns to HALL MONITOR #2.)* This box is dented. Remove it from the inventory.

HALL MONITOR #2: Right away, head monitor! *(Exits.)*

CLARK: With that in mind, over the years I've extended my responsibilities beyond the hallways of Bayport and into other aspects of school management.

High School Heist

- 8 -

(SCIENCE LEAGUE #1 walks by pulling a wagon of cookies.)

CLARK: *(Cont'd.)* Tuck in your shirt, salesman. It's not just the cookies that should look their best.

(SCIENCE LEAGUE #1 nods and tucks in his shirt as he crosses to the Science League Table.)

CLARK: *(Cont'd.)* So, when the Community Cookie Challenge rolled around this year, I seized the initiative and took charge.

PRINCIPAL STEVENS: *(Approaches CLARK.)* Now listen, Clark, I hope I did OK up there. Giving my speech and everything. I'm just wondering -- what exactly is going on now? Is the sale over? Did we lose?

CLARK: No, there is one hour of selling left. After that, Bayport and Fairview will reveal their sales figures, and we'll find out which school sold the most cookies. We are going to be that school. We need to think positively, Principal Stevens.

PRINCIPAL STEVENS: You're right. Thank you. *(Returns to one of the cookie tables.)*

VERONICA: Wow, Clark, you really are in charge!

(MINT, enters. She wears a crumpled sash with the words "Hall Monitor (In Training)" on it.)

MINT: *(Unenthusiastic.)* Hey, Clark, we have kind of a situation. Some random fire marshal person is throwing a fit outside the school.

CLARK: I'm sure we can handle this together, Mint. What seems to be the problem?

MINT: Something about our cookie wagons blocking the emergency exits.

(FIRE MARSHAL enters and glares at CLARK.)

FIRE MARSHAL: Hello, Clark.

CLARK: Hello, Fire Marshal. It's been a while.

FIRE MARSHAL: Oh yes, I was last here... Let's see, when was it? 37 days ago!

CLARK: 37 days and 3 hours.

FIRE MARSHAL: When Bayport had that little incident.

CLARK: Routine fire drill.

FIRE MARSHAL: And your hall monitors failed to properly evacuate the third floor!

CLARK: We had that hallway cleared in 10.95 seconds.

FIRE MARSHAL: And now, I've found a clear violation of fire code 5204. "Transportation devices shall not impede the egress of emergency exits."

CLARK: *(Takes a folder labeled "Fire Codes" from his clipboard, opens it and reads aloud.)* Section two point four slash nine states that temporary transportation devices such as wagons are exempt from emergency exit regulations. Here's the documentation.

(CLARK hands FIRE MARSHAL a paper from the folder.)

FIRE MARSHAL: Hmm. I'll need to review this. In the meantime, Clark, I'll be watching. Monitoring. Marshaling. Because I'm the fire marshal. And fires can break out at any time.

CLARK: Mint! Please escort the fire marshal to the nearest clearly marked exit.

MINT: Whatever. Let's go, fire police.

CLARK: Thank you, Mint. Goodbye, Fire Marshal.

FIRE MARSHAL: Goodbye, Clark. I'll be back.

(FIRE MARSHAL points two fingers to his eyes and to CLARK as if to say, "I'll be watching." MINT and Fire Marshal exit. Clark closes the folder and clips it back to the clipboard.)

VERONICA: Mint? Does that stand for something?

CLARK: Monitor-in-Training. Now, where were we?

VERONICA: I'd love to hear more about this cookie stuff.

CLARK: Well, in an attempt to boost sales this year, I advised Principal Stevens to assign each of the top school groups at Bayport just one variety of cookie to sell. The football team is selling S'mores Galore. They're led by their quarterback, Drew.

(DREW stands on a chair at the S'mores Galore table to give an inspirational speech.)

DREW: OK, you guys, it's the bottom of the last quarter and we need to get out there and crush the competition. We're gonna fight, battle, wrestle and claw our way to victory, inch by inch, through sweat, tears and vomit. We are the champions!

(FOOTBALL PLAYERS and CHEERLEADERS cheer.)

DREW: *(Cont'd.)* Now let's go out and win this football game!

(FOOTBALL PLAYER #1 whispers in DREW's ear.)

DREW: *(Cont'd.)* Oh, cookies. Yeah, let's go out and sell some -- what are they called? Oh, right, S'mores Galore. Ok, let's sell some S'mores Galore.

FOOTBALL PLAYERS: S'mores Galore!

CHEERLEADERS: Rules!

FOOTBALL PLAYERS: S'mores Galore!

CHEERLEADERS: Rocks!

FOOTBALL PLAYERS: S'more Galore!

CHEERLEADERS: Rally!

FOOTBALL PLAYERS: Huh! *(Grunting deeply and flexing their muscles.)*

(EVERYONE cheers. FOOTBALL PLAYERS begin crushing empty boxes of S'mores Galore and eating cookies.)

CLARK: The football team is very spirited, but their enthusiasm hasn't quite translated into sales so far.

End of Freeview

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