

Hooray for Hollywood!

By Billy St. John

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STORY OF THE PLAY

A group of high school film students have a chance of a lifetime if one of their films wins a competition. The winner gets a college scholarship and a guaranteed job at the sponsoring studio. Each student pictures himself in a winning "film" which is acted out - everything from a "talkie" melodrama to parodies of lots of popular films including "Frankenstein," "The Terminator," "Pink Panther," "Psycho" and others.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 M, 8 W, Extras)

LEANORA LOFTON: The drama teacher, pleasant and attractive, 30s.

MARK CAMERON: Film instructor, good natured, 30s.

Students considered "outsiders"

BRUCE PHILLIPS: Studious, shy around pretty girls, dreams of becoming a famous filmmaker.

MARVIN SIMMONS: Bruce's best friend, flamboyant, a movie "nut."

MAUDE FOOTE: Flaky, tends to "zone out."

NINA QUINN: Quiet, gentle, has a secret crush on Bruce.

JULIE TAYLOR: Nina's best friend, smart, practical.

Students in the "in crowd"

DEBBIE VAN ZANDT: Attractive, very popular, snobbish unless she wants something from you.

TODD HOLDEN: A male version of Debbie.

ALLISON DE MORNAY: Wants to be a dramatic actress.

MARIA DELGADO: Wants to be a stand-up comedienne.

JOYCE REDFORD: Wants to be a movie sex symbol

HERMAN "HUNK" JACKSON: Muscle bound, wants to be a hero in action films.

EXTRA STUDENTS: Can be in the "in crowd" and play supporting characters in the daydream film sequences; if there are no extras, the main cast will play these roles.

TIME: The present.

PLACE: The stage of Thomas Jefferson High School and places in the students' imaginations.

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I: A Saturday afternoon.

ACT II: Several weeks later. The film competition.

SETTING

The setting is a practically bare stage at Thomas Jefferson High School. A black curtain spans the back of the stage. A pair of black curtains (*legs*) hang at both sides, masking the wings. (*Black flats can substitute for the legs.*) Racks of costumes which the students will don are in the USL and USR corners. UPS are boxes of props. A small movie screen on which graphics will be projected will be lowered USC at several points; or it can be mounted on the proscenium at one side of the stage. Scenery pieces made from flats and painted cardboard are out of sight offstage; they will be brought in for various scenes, along with items of furniture.

GRAPHICS CD

Audiences get to enjoy a bit of the movies during HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD by using a specially created PowerPoint graphics CD. The graphics are used throughout the play, first in the silent film daydream, then to introduce other daydreams, and finally to open and close the two "films" in the competition. Contact Eldridge Publishing at www.histage.com to order your CD today. If you choose not to use the prepared graphics, check at the end of the playbook for additional props needed.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: The CAST except for DEBBIE and TODD are onstage. As it is a Saturday, All are dressed casually. The STUDENTS ad-lib excitedly as some look through the props and costumes and others cross in and out of the wings carrying various small set pieces from one side to the other. The audience should feel they are watching a bustling beehive of activity.)

LEANORA: *(DSC; calling to HUNK who is carrying a chair to the wings.)* There's another chair like that one in the storeroom if you need it, Hunk.

HUNK: Got'cha, Miss Lofton.

MARIA: *(Coming to LEANORA carrying a dress.)* Miss Lofton, I'd like to wear this, but it's too long. Would it be all right if I shorten the hem?

LEANORA: Sure, Maria; just turn it under and baste it.

MARIA: Thanks. *(SHE returns to costume rack.)*

MARK: *(Comes down to LEANORA.)* The kids are having a ball. I appreciate your letting us use your props and costumes - and the stage...especially on a Saturday.

LEANORA: I'm glad to help, Mark. Most of the students are in my drama class as well as your film course. Having them make their own movies is a great idea; I've never seen them so excited.

MARK: They are, aren't they? They'll be even more so when I make my little announcement.

LEANORA: I can't wait to see their faces. I'll bet the competition among them is going to be fierce.

MARK: True, but it will give the kids a taste of what it's really like in the film industry.

(The focus shifts to BRUCE and MARVIN who meet DSR. MARK and LEANORA fade UPS.)

MARVIN: So, Bruce, ol' pal, how's it coming? You and Nina finding what you need for your epic?

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BRUCE: Pretty much. I'll have to make a couple of props, but we're getting there.

MARVIN: I wish Mr. Cameron had teamed us together. We could make another "Star Wars" or "Alien."

BRUCE: Those would be a little hard to match in a ten-minute film, Marvin. I assume you and Maude are making a science fiction flick?

MARVIN: *(With mock insult.)* A "flick"!?! You refer to our masterpiece-to-be as a "flick"?

BRUCE: But our movies have to be short.

MARVIN: *(Dropping to HIS knees and imitating his examples.)* Toulouse-Lautrec was short, but he was a giant among artists! Napoleon was short, but he was a giant on the battlefield! David was short compared to Goliath, but he gave him such a headache!

BRUCE: You made your point.

(MAUDE joins THEM wearing a wide-brimmed hat. MARVIN rises.)

MAUDE: Look what I found, Marvin. Isn't it pretty? Maybe we can use it in the movie.

MARVIN: It would be fine if we were going to remake "Gone With The Wind," Maude, but "Starship X-13" is set in outer space. I hardly think the crew members would be wearing Scarlett O'Hara hats.

MAUDE: But if the spaceship flies near the sun, Zenobia could wear it to keep the sun out of her eyes.

MARVIN: We'll put a visor on her helmet.

MAUDE: Oh...right...well, if you say so, I'll go look for a visor. *(SHE starts to leave, then turns back; in her usual vague manner:)* Oh hi, Bruce.

BRUCE: Hi, Maude, Bye, Maude.

MAUDE: *(Gives HIM a wane smile, then drifts back UPS. To no one in particular.)* Anybody seen a visor?

BRUCE: Nice girl - strange, but nice.

MARVIN: Yeah. She ought to be good at making a movie set in outer space since that's where her brain is most of the time. I'd better go help her.

End of Freeview

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