

I AM A STAR

By Billy St. John

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DEDICATION

Having taught high school freshmen English and Drama for ten years, I will always appreciate the hard work and dedication educators bring to their profession. Therefore, "I Am A Star" is dedicated to all teachers in general, and in particular to those who reveal to their students the beauty of our language, both written and spoken, the English and Drama teachers. Most especially the play is dedicated to the memory of the one teacher above all others whose influence shaped my life, my high school drama teacher:

The Playwright

STORY OF THE PLAY

I AM A STAR! combines the drama of Shakespeare with the craziness of high school! A major movie is going to be filmed at school and a few students will be needed as extras.

When a new girl, Jane, a nerdette, arrives, she is ignored by the in-crowd. Her drama class partner is Tim, the class bookworm. Their incredible acting threatens posse leaders Clarissa, Shelley, and Mary, and everything explodes! (Little do they know Jane is really the pampered, glamorous teen soap opera star, Tiffany! She's undercover to prove she really can act.)

Two tricks, one which lets Tim escort Jane to the prom, and one which transforms the in-crowd into supernerds, add to the hilarity. Other characters include Miss Hickie, the beloved but oh-so-dazed school secretary; Seymour Cash, the Hollywood producer; Scratch Douglas, who is too susceptible to the power of suggestion; and Michelle, who drops a bombshell. Mr. Ellis, the announcement-crazed principal, adds laughs over the loudspeaker. Shakespeare scenes include *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(9 m, 9 w, extras, doubling possible)

KATHRYN REYNOLDS: An actress undercover (aka Tiffany Marshall/Jane Cash).
WARREN KING: Hollywood actor (aka Kyle Conway).
LORETTA: Makeup lady.
BERNICE KOPINSKI: Hairdresser/chaperone (aka Bernice Cash).
CARLTON GREEN: Soap opera director.
SEYMOUR CASH: Movie producer.
CLARISSA DE VILLE: Leader of Terrible Trio.
SHELLY BANCROFT: Member of the Trio.
MARY JENKINS: Member of the Trio.
JASON REED: Clarissa's boyfriend.
SCRATCH DOUGLAS: Shelley's boyfriend.
DON TRASK: Mary's boyfriend.
TIM FISHER: Class bookworm who can act.
MIKE SAMSON: Popular drama teacher.
PAULA CASH: Student, niece of Seymour.
MICHELLE DONNER: Attractive new student (aka Leslie O'Hara).
MR. ELLIS' VOICE: Principal (unseen).
MISS HICKLE: Oh-so-dazed secretary.
EXTRAS: Assistant directors, students.

FLEXIBLE CASTING

The play can be performed by as few as 7M and 8W by doubling. Loretta can double as Miss Hickle; Kyle for Scratch; and Carlton for the voice of Mr. Ellis. It is also possible, though not preferred, that a woman could play Carlton Green and double as the voice of the principal; if so, their names would be changed to Carla Green and Ms. Ellis. This would make the cast 6M and 9W. In the first scene, the TV studio assistant directors are heard more than seen in the darkness; they can be doubled by the main cast or played by the real stagehands.

On the other hand, a large cast can be employed by casting extra students in the classroom and prom scenes; lines are provided for the additional students.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1 - Hollywood TV studio, late April.
Between Scenes - The school intercom. A few days later.
Scene 2 - School drama classroom, a moment later.
Scene 3 - A phone conversation, two weeks later.
Between Scenes - The school intercom, that morning.
Scene 4 - The drama classroom, a few minutes later.

ACT II

Scene 1 - The school auditorium, late May, a Friday.
Scene 2 - The school cafeteria at noon.
Between Scenes - The school intercom.
Scene 3 - Locker area, that afternoon.
Between Scenes - The school intercom.
Scene 4 - A phone conversation, about 7 p.m.
Scene 5 - The school gym, about 8:30 p.m.

SETTING, PROPS, SFX, and LIGHTING are described at the end of the playbook.

ACT I
Scene 1

(The CURTAIN opens partially as the LIGHTS come up DSC. There is a bank of lockers and a bench such as would be found in a school locker room. Two "high school seniors" are there, they are TIFFANY MARSHALL [wearing a formal gown] and KYLE CONWAY [wearing a tuxedo] played by actors KATHRYN REYNOLDS and WARREN KING, although the audience doesn't realize it's watching a scene within a scene at the beginning. AT RISE: Kyle has Tiffany locked in a passionate embrace. After a beat, she pushes him and turns away.)

TIFFANY/KATHRYN: No, Kyle, you mustn't...

KYLE/WARREN: Ah, come on, Tiffany. Everybody else is in the gym dancing. Nobody's going to come down here to the locker room.

TIFFANY/KATHRYN: We shouldn't be here either. I think you lied to me when you said you needed to get some powder to put on your athlete's feet.

KYLE/WARREN: Okay. I lied; I don't even have athlete's feet. My body is perfect from head to toes.

TIFFANY/KATHRYN: *(Tries to brush past HIM.)* I'm going back to the prom.

KYLE/WARREN: *(Grabs HER; says savagely.)* You're not going anywhere...not until I'm through with you!

TIFFANY/KATHRYN: *(Frightened.)* What are you going to do?

KYLE/WARREN: I'm going to have my yay with wou!

KATHRYN: *(Breaking character.)* "My yay with wou?"

CARLTON: *(In the darkness.)* Cut!

KATHRYN: "My yay with wou"! Idiot!

WARREN: Did I say that? I didn't say that, did I?

(LORETTA enters and begins to powder WARREN'S nose and with a deadpan delivery says:)

LORETTA: Your nose is shiny. *(Under HER breath, about KATHRYN.)* And I'd say hers is out of joint.

KATHRYN: *(Calling into the darkness.)* Carlton!

(BERNICE enters and begins to comb KATHRYN'S hair. WARREN exits repeating his line as LORETTA follows, trying to powder him.)

WARREN: "I'm going to have my WAY with you" ... "I'm going to have my way with YOU"... "I'm going to..."

KATHRYN: *(To BERNICE.)* Oh, leave me alone! Carlton!

(BERNICE ignores the order and keeps fussing with KATHRYN'S hair. CARLTON enters.)

CARLTON: I'm right here, Kathryn. You don't have to yell.

KATHRYN: I'll yell if I feel like it! And I feel like it! How do you expect me to act opposite a dunce like Warren King?

CARLTON: I know Warren has a little trouble with dialogue, but he photographs wonderfully - and half the soap fans tune in to drool over the hunks on the show.

KATHRYN: Oh, are you saying that "Storms of Passion" is the TOP soap opera on television because of WARREN and not ME!?!

CARLTON: No! I didn't mean that at all! You're the star of the show; you know that. In fact, you're the most popular teenage star of TV - *Variety* said so.

KATHRYN: Yeah, I know. I just wanted to make sure you don't forget it. *(BERNICE accidentally (?) pulls KATHRYN'S hair with the comb.)* Ouch! Beat it, Bernice. *(Grabs comb.)*

BERNICE: Sorry, Miss Reynolds. *(SHE starts to leave.)*

CARLTON: *(To KATHRYN.)* Mr. Cash is here.

BERNICE: *(Stopping.)* Mr. Cash? The head of the studio? Here on the sound stage? Oh, my! *(Runs comb through HER own hair.)*

CARLTON: *(Still to KATHRYN.)* He wants to talk to you about renewing your contract.

KATHRYN: Good. *(To BERNICE.)* Bernice, ask Mr. Cash to join Mr. Green and me.

BERNICE: I can't.

KATHRYN: You can't? Why can't you?

BERNICE: It's not in my union contract.

KATHRYN: Bernice, didn't you tell me you came to work at the studio so you could meet someone rich and famous to marry?

End of Freeview

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