

I AM A STAR!

The Musical

*Book and lyrics by Billy St. John
Music by Wendell Jimerson*

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Combine the drama of Shakespeare with the craziness of high school! Jane, a nerdy-looking new student, is all but ignored by the in-crowd. They're too involved with trying to get parts as extras for the movie that's going to be filmed there. Little do they know Jane is really the pampered, glamorous teen soap opera star, Tiffany! She's undercover to prove she can act and hopefully earn the lead in the movie. In drama class, Jane is teamed up with Tim, the class bookworm. They look like losers... until they do their Shakespeare scene. That threatens posse leaders Clarissa, Shelley, and Mary, and everything explodes. Two tricks, one which lets Tim escort Jane to the prom, and one which transforms the in-crowd into supernerds, add to the hilarity. A dozen original songs make this show sparkle. They include the upbeat "They're Gonna Make a Movie"; the romantic "I Could Love Her"; the 40's sounding "Popularity"; and "Medieval Melodies," "Miss Hickle Goes Latin," "A Couple-a Nerds," and others.

FLEXIBLE CASTING - *This musical can be performed by as few as 7M and 8W by doubling as follows:*

Loretta/Miss Hickle

Kyle/Scratch

Carlton/Voice of Mr. Ellis.

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. Extras can be used in the classroom and prom scenes.

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.
MR. ELLIS' VOICE: Principal. (Unseen)
MISS HICKLE: Oh-so-dazed secretary.
EXTRAS: Assistant directors, students.

CHARACTER/COSTUME NOTES

KATHRYN REYNOLDS - A beautiful teen TV soap opera star, used to getting her way. In opening scene wears a prom dress and has beautiful long, blonde hair. At the high school, she has mousy hair, wears hardly any make-up, has on unattractive glasses, and drab clothes. Appears to be shy, self-conscious. At the prom her dress is nice without being glamorous and she wears make-up, her hair up.

WARREN KING - A hunk, has the IQ of a hunk of cheese. Wears a tuxedo in opening scene.

LORETTA - The studio make-up lady keeps a poker face, and makes her comments with a deadpan delivery.

BERNICE - The studio hairdresser, has one mission in life: to find "Mr. Right." Scatterbrained but good-natured, and is not intimidated by Kathryn's bossy attitude.

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- CARLTON GREEN - Always stressed out; in his late 30's.
- SEYMOUR CASH - A powerful figure, middle-aged and successful looking. Wears jogging suit in Act I, Scene 3.
- JASON REED - Handsome, self-assured but easily led by Clarissa. In the prom scene turns into a supernerd wearing unbecoming glasses, a suit that shows miles of wrists and ankles - the better to see his white socks and sandals.
- CLARISSA DE VILLE - Attractive and has no time for people who aren't a part of the "in crowd." Like Jason, she turns into a supernerd wearing glasses, a hideous dress, ankle socks and heels.
- SHELLEY BANCROFT - Cute, but does whatever Clarissa tells her to do.
- MARY JENKINS - Clarissa's other cohort. Tough. Being popular is the most important thing in her life.
- DON TRASK - Mary's boyfriend. Has a mean streak and can be very cruel to the students he thinks are beneath him.
- SCRATCH - Has long, stringy hair, baggy, sloppy clothes, and sun glasses. Throughout the play, whenever Scratch mentions a portion of the anatomy, he unconsciously scratches that part of himself. In prom scene, he wears something unusual, a hat, sunglasses, red tennis shoes, loud bow tie, whatever, to be different.
- TIM FISHER - A bookworm, often the butt of jokes and taunts. Wears glasses and his hair is plastered down until the prom scene when he looks very smooth, very hot.
- PAULA CASH - Pretty, intelligent, good sense of humor, has the maturity not to go along with the crowd if she doesn't agree with them. Wears bathrobe in Act I, Scene 3.
- MIKE SAMSON - The drama teacher, is attractive, in his late 20s. He likes his students and they like him.
- MISS HICKLE - Beloved but should have retired ages ago. Wears thick glasses, a simple little-old-lady dress, and a bright turban overflowing with artificial fruit. Later wears another old-lady dress and a nun's wimple. On stage she is dressed like her idol, the late Carmen Miranda, with a fruit turban and a colorful dress with a skirt that is split in the front. A large, fake bosom would add sight gags. Also precariously high platform shoes, lots of jewelry and make-up. For prom wears a formal gown, a wild blonde wig decades too young for her, and a bald cap underneath.
- MICHELLE DONNER - Aka Leslie O'Hara, is a breath-taking beauty. Wears attractive school and prom clothes.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

"I Am A Star!" - Kathryn, Carlton, Bernice
"They're Gonna Make a Movie!" - The Students
"Popularity" - Clarissa, Mary, Shelley
"A Guy I Could Go For" - Kathryn, Bernice
"Kathryn Is a Pain!" - Paula, Seymour
"I Could Love Her" - Tim
"A Fight!" - Hickle, Students

ACT II

"Medieval Melody" - The Minstrels
"Hickle Goes Latin" - Hickle, Dancers
"I'm Yours" - Kathryn, Tim
Prom Music:
"Popularity" (Reprise) - Instrumental
"I Could Love Her" (Reprise) - Instrumental
"A Guy I Could Go For" (Reprise) - Instrumental
"Hickle Goes Latin" (Reprise) - Instrumental
"A Couple-a Nerds" - Clarissa, Jason
"They're Gonna Make a Movie!" - Cast
"I Am a Star!" (Reprise/Finale) - Instrumental

For the Shakespeare Scenes

Period costumes add an elegant touch - Tunics and tights for men, Shakespearean gowns for the women. For simpler costuming, the men should be dressed totally in black and the women should all wear long-sleeved, floor-length silky nightgowns. Either style works fine.

A podium is placed DR corner for Mike Samson. During these scenes, the main curtain is opened a few feet, creating an acting area just large enough for each couple. The curtain is closed between the Shakespeare scenes. For an elaborate set, add portable flats painted to create a marble wall UPS with painted marble columns on both ends, or add free-standing columns. Lower a curtain to create the UPS boundary (and hide the main set) or use black painted flats for simpler settings.

Additional set pieces include a small balcony on a rolling platform, and a marble block to lie on for both Juliet's scenes; a canopied bed for Othello scene; vines hung over the marble wall for Romeo's garden scene, a tapestry draped over it for Hamlet; banners for Macbeth. If simply staged, the ladder can serve as a balcony, a table for bier and bed.

ACT I
Scene 1

(The CURTAIN opens partially as the LIGHTS come up DC. Soap opera MUSIC can be heard softly in the background. 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, SHE in a formal gown and HE in a tuxedo. They are Tiffany Marshall and Kyle Conway played by actors KATHRYN REYNOLDS and WARREN KING. 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: 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, LORETTA follows.)

End of Freeview

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