

I Can't Go Out There!

A One-Act Comedy

by Burton Bumgarner

Performance Rights

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy this script in any way or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co. Inc. Call the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information. The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangements with Eldridge Publishing Co."

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY

www.histage.com

© 2006 by *Burton Bumgarner*

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing

<https://histage.com/i-cant-go-out-there>

STORY OF THE PLAY

Here is a one-act comedy in four scenes which chronicles the different stages of the stage. In elementary school, a frustrated teacher deals with stage fright while trying to direct young children in a play about jackrabbits and a mean old dog.

In middle school, two students who've been cast as Romeo and Juliet realize that the play is a love story, and that kissing may be involved. A third student tries to ease their minds.

In high school, a teacher is holding auditions for a production of "Anne of Green Gables." Actors audition with a rather violent monologue from "Titus Andronicus," a rap version of the soliloquy from "Julius Caesar," a gothic version of Poe's "The Raven," a song from a musical, and a monologue that the student made up.

In community theater, a production of "Dial 'M' for Murder" is missing a lead actor, and the understudy is not prepared for going on stage.

"I Can't Go Out There!" is easy to produce, and absolutely hysterical.

I Can't Go Out There!

- 3 -

CAST OF CHARACTERS

7 m, 8 w, 3 flexible

(minimum with doubling: 2 m, 3 w, 3 flexible)

Scene 1: Elementary School – “The Little Jackrabbit” (2 m, 3 w.)

MRS. CRUMLEY: Elementary teacher, directing a play.

REBECCA: Student, playing a jackrabbit.

CAMERON: Student, playing a jackrabbit.

BRANDON: Student, playing a jackrabbit.

TRACY: Student, playing a dog.

Scene 2: Middle School – “Romeo and Juliet” (2 m, 1 w.)

CLAIRE: Student, playing Juliet.

KYLE: Student, playing Romeo.

BEN: Student, playing Mercutio.

Scene 3: High School - Auditions (2 m, 2 w, 3 flexible.)

DIRECTOR: High school teacher holding auditions for a play.

ACTOR 1: Male, auditions with “Titus Andronicus.”

ACTOR 2: Goth female, auditions with Poe’s “The Raven.”

ACTOR 3: Male, auditions with rap version of “Julius Caesar.”

ACTOR 4: Female, auditions with song from “Annie.”

ACTOR 5: Male or female, auditions with made-up script.

ASSISTANT: Helps the director.

Scene 4: Community Theater – I Can’t Go Out There!

(1 m, 2 w.)

NADIA: Director for “Dial ‘M’ for Murder.”

KELLY: Actress.

CAMERON: Understudy. From Scene 1, now grown up.

I Can't Go Out There!

- 4 -

PROPS AND COSTUMES

Bunny ears
Dog ears
School books
Lunch bags
Backpack
Script
Breath mints
Notepad and pen
Red wig
Tabloid
Cell phone
1940s costume

SETTING

Scene 1: Park bench USC.
Scene 2: The same.
Scene 3: A table and chair.
Scene 4: Several chairs SR.

I Can't Go Out There!
Scene 1
Elementary School – “The Little Jackrabbit”

(AT RISE: MRS. CRUMLEY enters and looks around as if examining her set.)

CRUMLEY: Rebecca! Cameron! Children! Let me see your costumes! *(REBECCA and CAMERON enter. They are wearing bunny costumes. Mrs. Crumley straightens Cameron's bunny ears.)* You've bent your ears, Cameron.

REBECCA: *(Nervous.)* How many people will be here, Mrs. Crumley?

CRUMLEY: A whole lot, I hope. All the parents and brothers and sisters. Probably some grandparents and some aunts and uncles.

CAMERON: Rebecca's chicken.

REBECCA: Am not!

CAMERON: Are so! Your hands are shaking!

REBECCA: Are not! Look! *(Holds out her hands, which are trembling.)*

CAMERON: Looks to me like they're shaking.

REBECCA: Does not! I don't feel good, Mrs. Crumley.

CRUMLEY: I'm sure you'll be fine, Rebecca. Where is our dog?

REBECCA: My stomach hurts.

CAMERON: Rebecca's chicken.

REBECCA: Am not!

CAMERON: Are so!

CRUMLEY: You'll be fine. Remember our rehearsals?

REBECCA: I didn't feel sick then.

CRUMLEY: Let's hear your lines. I bet if you say them you'll feel better. Remember your lines? *(REBECCA nods.)*

CAMERON: I remember our lines.

CRUMLEY: We'll have a little rehearsal right now. Let me hear your lines.

CAMERON: "Run, little jackrabbit! Run home! That dog will eat you!"

CRUMLEY: Very good. Now, Rebecca. Can you say your lines?

I Can't Go Out There!

- 6 -

REBECCA: *(Nods. Mournfully.)* "Run, little jackrabbit. Run home. That dog will eat you."

CAMERON: That was terrible!

CRUMLEY: Cameron! It was not terrible! It could use a little more expression. *(Looks around.)* Where are Tracy and Brandon?

(TRACY and BRANDON enter. Tracy wears dog ears. Brandon wears a bunny costume.)

TRACY: Here, Mrs. Crumley.

CRUMLEY: Where is the rest of your costume?

TRACY: It's at home in the washing machine.

CRUMLEY: Why isn't it here? Doesn't your mother realize the performance is this afternoon?

TRACY: She realizes it, all right. It's just that my little brother messed up the rest of the dog.

BRANDON: How did he do that?

TRACY: I was trying to change his diaper and I was wearing the bottom part of the costume

CAMERON and BRANDON: GROSS!

(REBECCA holds her stomach.)

CRUMLEY: I think we get the picture.

TRACY: Usually I can change them without it making such a big mess.

REBECCA: I don't feel good!

TRACY: But this time I wasn't so lucky.

BRANDON: That's so sick!

CRUMLEY: Okay, Tracy. I know you're a big help to your mother.

TRACY: *(Preen.)* I am. My brother turned into twins, you know.

CRUMLEY: So I've heard.

TRACY: My mother is always losing her mind. That's what she says. How do you lose your mind, Mrs. Crumley? Isn't it stuck inside your head?

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing

<https://histage.com/i-cant-go-out-there>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!