

Just Another Audition

By Bryan Starchman

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Here's a comedy that takes the audience backstage to witness the worst high school auditions EVER where anything that can go wrong, does go wrong! An overzealous assistant director and a slacker stage manager, along with a wacky group of wannabe actors, are left to cast their senior show themselves. The student assistant director has big aspirations, so big in fact they are convinced the show's success could be their golden ticket to college...and maybe even Broadway! What follows is a rollicking show full of accidental auditions, movie and pop culture hits reworked, bad songs, creepy clowns, overbearing drama mamas, and some slithering surprise guests. This incredibly flexible play offers opportunities for any size group from 6 to 34, plus it includes a part for your drama teacher and principal, if desired.

PRODUCTION NOTES

This show has a flexible cast of 6 to 34. None of the roles are gender specific. All roles except AIDY and SAM could also be doubled (or tripled or quadrupled) if you want to work with a smaller cast.

The only scenes that have to be in every show are the opening scene and closing scene. Otherwise, you can include all 26 scenes for a full-length show or cut down to as few as 8 scenes for a one-act.

The set is a typical high school classroom. A teacher's desk, a whiteboard, some random chairs, some posters of Broadway shows and classic movies.

For scene 4 there are many websites out there dedicated to the foley artist and they can teach you how the professionals made sound effects for radio dramas and movies. For instance, you can buy a thunder sheet and a rain stick. Or, if you want to make the audition really awkward and funny, just have Foley try to make these sound effects with their mouth.

Synopsis of Scenes / Cast of Characters

Opening Scene

Aidy: The uptight assistant director.

Sam: The slacker stage manager.

A group of actors

Scene 1: All the World's a Stage

Adam/Abby: A slacker student.

Scene 2: Bring Your Pet to School

Bryan/Bridget: Looking for a lost pet.

Scene 3: Cast for the Very First Time

Chris: A student who is amazed by everything.

Scene 4: Dial D for Drama

Daniel/Danielle: A film noir star with confident swagger.

Foley: The assistant dressed in black.

Scene 5: Exit, Stage Left

Ernie/Emily: Aidy's ex.

Scene 6: For Your Own Safety

Frank/Francie: Tall and muscular with a stern expression.

Scene 7: Gator Boy, I Said See You Later Boy

Gary/Geri: A big fan of Steve Irwin, the crocodile hunter.

Scene 8: Hot Chocolate, Hair Braiding, and Horror Movies

Hank/Hannah: A student who misunderstood.

Scene 9: I'm Just Here for Moral Support

Iggy/Inez: A young student under a lot of pressure.

Mom: Overbearing.

Scene 10: Just a Little Nervous

Jack/Jackie: Nervous and fidgety. Watches too many movies.

Scene 11: Kazoozical

Ken/Kennedy: A young director.

Kim/Kevin: A playwright.

Scene 12: Let Me Rest!

Liam/Lisa: A disheveled and tired student.

Intermission

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Scene 13: Moment in Time

Marty: A visitor from the future.

Scene 14: NOT Just for Lunch Anymore!

Nick/Nancy: A professional student on a mission.

Scene 15: Only Three Easy Payments

Owen/Olive: Won't take no for an answer.

Frank/Francie: Tall and muscular with a stern expression.

Scene 16: Porta Party

Porta Partiers 1 -3: A group that's ready for any occasion.

Scene 17: Quite an Appetite

Quentin/Queenie: A disheveled student.

Scene 18: Reggie the Sock Puppet

Ryan/River: A shy student with a brash and annoying sock puppet.

Scene 19: Sing, Sing a Song!

Shawn: Will stop at nothing.

Scene 20: To Supersize or Not to Supersize

Tommy/Tammy: A dramatic (and hungry) student.

Scene 21: Until Death Do Us Part

Undertaker: Over the top with ghost-like makeup and speaks with a spooky high-pitched voice.

Scene 22: VERY Happy Little Trees

Victor/Victoria: A big fan of Bob Ross.

Scene 23: Wink, Wink, Nudge, Nudge

Wells/Wendy: Actor who can't take direction.

Godfather: Used to making things go his way.

Scene 24: X Marks the Spot

Xander/Xena: A singing pirate.

Scene 25: You're Gonna LOVE These Ideas

Principal York: Just needs the theatre for a few events.

Scene 26: Zippy the Clown

Zippy: Traditional clown.

Closing Scene

Entire cast including the drama teacher.

ACT I
Opening Scene

(AT RISE: A typical high school classroom. A teacher's desk, a whiteboard, some random chairs, and some posters of Broadway shows and classic movies. AIDY, the uptight assistant director, and SAM, the slacker stage manager, address the talking, distracted ACTORS as they prepare the open auditions for their upcoming production.)

AIDY: Alright, everyone. Everyone. Let's settle.

SAM: *(Playing on their phone.)* They totally aren't listening to you.

AIDY: You're not helping.

SAM: I'm not trying to.

AIDY: *(Ignoring SAM.)* If you can hear my voice, say "Drama Forever!"

(AIDY smiles a pained smile, obviously not getting through to the ACTORS.)

AIDY: I said, *(Projecting.)* IF YOU CAN HEAR—

SAM: Drama Forever!

AIDY: *(Rolling their eyes.)* I know *you* can hear my voice.

SAM: Oh, *they* can hear your voice too. They just don't care.

AIDY: I'm the assistant director, they better care!

SAM: I'm the stage manager and *I* barely care.

AIDY: What!?! Are you serious? This is our last high school play.

SAM: Woo hoo!

AIDY: No! Don't celebrate! This is a time for reflection. A time for a little sadness. A little nostalgia. A bit of fun. But most importantly, it's a time to focus on leaving our legacy.

SAM: Oh, I already did that. I wrote "Sam was here" with a sharpie in every single bathroom stall on campus. Even the one in the staff lounge that they lock with a key!

AIDY: *(Ignoring them, lost in their vision.)* This high school has never won a Tony before. This could be our year!

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SAM: Uh... yeah. If they moved the school to Manhattan.

AIDY: A Tony would cure my inferiority complex. No longer will I live in the cold and unforgiving shadow of my older brother, the football star! I'll earn an A++ in drama class. And it will look great on my college resumé! (*Coming back to earth.*) But first we need to cast this play!

SAM: (*Putting an arm around AIDY.*) "A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step."

AIDY: (*Really impressed.*) Wow! That's pretty deep.

SAM: Thanks. I read it on a poster in the detention room.

AIDY: (*Shrugging off SAM's arm.*) Ok, people. Settle! Settle!

SAM: (*Checking phone.*) Dude. That's not how you get the attention of a bunch of hungry, hormonal teenagers.

AIDY: You think you can do better?

SAM: (*Turns to the crowd.*) Who wants free pizza!

ACTOR: Pizza!?! I LOVE Pizza!

(SAM grins, it obviously got their attention. You could even plant some ACTORS in the audience to throw up one hand or both hands.)

SAM: (*Cont'd.*) They're all yours.

AIDY: As I was saying—

ACTOR: I want pepperoni.

AIDY: There isn't any free pizza.

ACTOR: But you promised!

SAM: You sort of did. (*AIDY glares.*) I'll make a pizza run.
(*Exits.*)

AIDY: As I was saying, welcome to open auditions for this semester's production of "Just Another High School Play" by Bryan Starchman.

(SAM re-enters and tip toes across the stage, retrieving Aidy's backpack that hangs off a chair, and exits again.)

AIDY: (*Cont'd.*) Since I am a senior, our drama teacher Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____ has put me in charge of auditions. We've asked you all to prepare a little something that shows your acting skills. A sort of "homemade audition," if you will.

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AIDY: *(Cont'd.)* No famous monologues or sides are necessary. I mean, this isn't Shakespeare. But with the right casting we can make it something even better than Shakespeare! *(Becoming a bit manic in their grand visions.)* Even more poignant and profound! Something cutting edge that captures the zeitgeist of the current era! Now that I think about it... it's bigger than Shakespeare! It's Starchman! And it's ME!

ACTOR: Can we start already? I've got clarinet lessons in an hour!

AIDY: Right! Right! Of course. Now if you'll all just line up outside, I'll call you in one by one based on the sign-up sheet in my backpack. *(Turns around and looks for their backpack. Scratching their head.)* That's weird...I could have sworn I hung it on that chair... *(Losing their audience.)* Ok! Ok! Quiet down. Tell you what, line up alphabetically and I'll call you one by one. Does that sound fair?

ACTOR: No!

AIDY: Oh. I'm sorry. Is there a problem...I didn't catch your name.

ACTOR: Zeke *(Or Zoe.)*

AIDY: Ah. Yes. I appreciate your patience and thanks for going last.

ACTOR: I want two slices of pizza.

AIDY: Sure. Whatever. Let's just get started. Who is first?

(ACTORS exit as AIDY takes a seat downstage. The actors will audition in front of the teacher's desk.)

Scene 1: All the World's a Stage

(ADAM/ABBY enters, carrying a copy of "The Crucible" and a composition book.)

AIDY: Welcome! What have you prepared for your audition?

ADAM/ABBY: Uh... John Proctor. *The Crucible.* *(Searching.)* Do you know it?

AIDY: Of course! It's one of my favorites!

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ADAM/ABBY: Oh, thank God!

AIDY: Excuse me?

ADAM/ABBY: Uh... nothing. Do I just... start?

AIDY: Whenever you're ready.

ADAM/ABBY: (*Flipping through the book, a little self-conscious.*) I didn't memorize it.

AIDY: That's fine. Just read it dramatically.

ADAM/ABBY: Ok, here goes. (*Very flat and staccato.*)
"Because it is my name. Because I cannot have another in my life. Because I lie and sign myself to lies."

(*ADAM/ABBY stops and they stare at each other. Awkward silence.*)

AIDY: Is that it?

ADAM/ABBY: Uh, yeah. For that page. (*Beat.*) Hey! I have a fun idea. Let's tell each other what we think it means. You go first.

(*AIDY stares at ADAM/ABBY.*)

ADAM/ABBY: (*Cont'd. Covering.*) I mean obviously I know what it means. But I'd love to hear *your* interpretation... as a director...

AIDY: Well, that's the climax of the play when John Proctor realizes that if he admits he is a witch to save his own life he will be selling out his friends.

ADAM/ABBY: (*Taking notes on the sly.*) Good. That's good. Talk slower.

AIDY: Excuse me?

ADAM/ABBY: And... (*Obviously reading off a homework assignment.*) "What does his name symbolize or represent?"

AIDY: His name is his reputation.

ADAM/ABBY: Reputation. Reput... could you spell that?

AIDY: R-E-P- Hang on... what are you writing down?

ADAM/ABBY: Notes... on my character. I just love this play.

AIDY: (*Dubious.*) So do I... I'm so glad it's taught in junior English.

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ADAM/ABBY: Me too! Such a great class. So important to pass so you don't have to repeat it in summer school.

AIDY: Uh huh.

ADAM/ABBY: I mean, I could talk about this play all day. Like, what's your opinion on the way... *(Again obviously reading off a study guide.)* "Witchcraft is defined in many ways throughout the novel and how do you think Tituba views herself and her alleged powers"?

(AIDY stares blankly at ADAM/ABBY.)

ADAM/ABBY: *(Cont'd.)* Just... for instance... as a conversation starter.

AIDY: This is an audition! I'm not going to help you with your homework.

ADAM/ABBY: Ahhh, come on! I've got a "G" in that class.

AIDY: A "G"?

ADAM/ABBY: Yeah... I don't even have enough points for an "F."

AIDY: Get out.

ADAM/ABBY: *(As they trudge off stage.)* Maybe that stage manager kid will help me. *(Exits.)*

AIDY: Steer clear of him/her. The only thing he/she remembers about *The Crucible* is when the girls are dancing naked in the woods. *(Shaking their head.)* Next!

SAM: *(From O.S.)* Oh! *The Crucible!* Did you get to that part where the girls are dancing naked in the woods?

AIDY: Sam! Get in here!

SAM: *(From O.S.)* Sorry bro... I gotta go.

(SAM enters with a leaning tower of pizza boxes about a dozen high.)

AIDY: *(Sarcastic.)* You think you got enough pizza?

SAM: Doubtful. But this is all I could buy before your credit card maxed out.

AIDY: *(Livid.)* That card is for emergencies!

SAM: And what do you call this? The actors were starving.

AIDY: *(Pulling their backpack off SAM's arm.)* Just give me my backpack and call in the next actor.

SAM: No need to snap at me! Maybe you're hangry. You can have the first slice.

AIDY: I'm lactose intolerant!

SAM: Now you tell me.

AIDY: We've been friends since kindergarten. I've never eaten a slice of pizza in front of you in my entire life!

SAM: I know! It always made me sad! That's why I got extra.

AIDY: Would you just—

SAM: *(Yelling offstage.)* Next!

Scene 2: Bring Your Pet to School

(BRYAN/BRIDGET enters, making kissy noises.)

BRYAN/BRIDGET: Pookie! Pookie! Where are you, my sweet little baby?

(AIDY and SAM exchange a confused look.)

SAM: Uh, excuse me, do you have an audition scheduled?

BRYAN/BRIDGET: Oh, no, no, no. I'm not interested in that. I'm looking for Pookie.

AIDY: Who's Pookie?

BRYAN/BRIDGET: My sweet little baby.

SAM: Awwww. What breed is he?

BRYAN/BRIDGET: Python.

(AIDY and SAM jump out of their seats, clearly alarmed.)

SAM: A python? You mean like a snake?

BRYAN/BRIDGET: Yes, yes, yes. He's my precious little baby, and he's lost.

AIDY: Lost? Where did you lose him?

BRYAN/BRIDGET: Somewhere in the school. He escaped from my backpack, and now I can't find him anywhere.

SAM: Wait, you brought a python to school?

End of Freeview

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