

# Just Another High School Play

*By*  
*Bryan Starchman*

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*Dedicated to Jon Turner  
Be Loud. Be Seen. Be Great.  
Drama Forever!  
The Playwright, Bryan Starchman*

### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

A group of high school actors, who apparently have been abandoned by their drama teacher, have to fend for themselves opening night in front of an impatient audience. Their teacher has left them hanging because no one has been showing up to rehearsals and no one is really quite sure what they are supposed to do.

The student assistant director and the stage manager step in, find a box of scripts which they pass out to the cast, and try to throw something together. What follows is a rollicking show full of physical comedy, gags, and satirical re-writings of many plays from Shakespeare to Albee.

This comedy covers nearly every angle of the typical high school play with a dose of history and improvisation thrown in for good measure. The next time your high school wants to do a play, do them all ... in under 90 minutes!

This play is fully customizable so that you can include your own local flavor by adding the names of your communities, actors, and teachers. (See Production Note #1.) It offers opportunities for audience participation, plus it includes a part for your drama teacher.

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(Minimum cast of 10 plus drama teacher; maximum of 40.)*

Characters in both acts. All 3 are flexible parts.

STAGE MANAGER: Uptight, straight, tries to keep the show on track.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Comedic fool who keeps the show off track.

ANNOUNCER: An actor in the booth or offstage with a microphone.

Characters in Act I

Stagehand	Narrator	Male thespian
Female thespian	Tom	Carrie
Teena	Craig	Noel
Logan	Hamlet	Shakespeare
Marlowe	Barkeep	Grad student
Extra	Female lead	Male lead
Beth	Meg	Jo
Amy	Male Beth	Male Meg
Male Jo	Male Amy	Extras

Characters in Act II

Ghost	Scrooge	Tiny Tim
George	Emily	Tom Jones
Copperfield	Romeo	Juliet
Puppeteer	Narrator	Tom
Carrie	Teena	Craig
Noel	Logan	Drama teacher
Extras		

*IF DOUBLING using 4 m, 4 w, 2 flexible, Drama Teacher*

*ACTRESS 1: Beth, Stagehand, Juliet, Plant 1, Female Lead, Carrie*

*ACTRESS 2: Meg, Puppeteer, Barkeep, Extra in Melodrama, Plant 2, Teena*

*ACTRESS 3: Jo, Narrator for Romeo and Juliet, Ghost, Plant 3, Noel*

*ACTRESS 4: Amy, Female Thespian, Emily, Grad Student*

*ACTOR 1: Male Beth, Narrator for History of Theatre, Tiny Tim, Marlowe, Tom*

*ACTOR 2: Male Meg, Romeo, Scrooge, William Shakespeare, Logan*

*ACTOR 3: Male Jo, Male Thespian, Hamlet, Tom Jones, George, Craig*

*ACTOR 4: Male Amy, Announcer, David Copperfield, Male Lead*

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**SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

ACT I

- Sc. 1: Opening Scene
- Sc. 2: History of Theatre: 5,000 Years in 5 Minutes
- Sc. 3: Questions From the Audience and Improv Game
- Sc. 4: To Be, or Not to Be: That Is the Digression
- Sc. 5: Christopher Marlowe: The Elizabethan True Hollywood Story
- Sc. 6: Melodramas in 90 Seconds
- Sc. 7: Little Men and Surrealism

ACT II

- Sc. 1: On With the Show
- Sc. 2: A Christmas Carol Rap
- Sc. 3: Our Town, This Town
- Sc. 4: Tom Jones and David Copperfield
- Sc. 5: Romeo and Juliet: A Puppet Show
- Sc. 6: Scene Work
- Sc. 7: The Drama Teacher Cometh

**PROPS**

Cell phone – AD	Note for Stagehand
Box of scripts – SM	Stage knife - Female Thespian
Leather jacket/poodle skirt - Thespians	
2 apples – Thespians	2 sheets - Thespians
Bag of popcorn – AD	Items to juggle - Female Thespian
Questions to read – SM	Card with "SUIT" written on it
Shiny pen – Carrie	Bar glasses and towel - Barkeep
Glove, rubber chicken - Shakespeare	
Long balloon, blood packet - Marlowe	
Watch – AD	Sunglasses - Extra
Dresses – Male Little Women	Bowl, banana – Both Megs
Grim Reaper costumes – Jo, Amy	Coin - Jo
Monkey mask – Male Beth	Animal hand puppets – Male Jo
Bubbles – Male Amy	Fairy wings - Male Amy, Jo, Meg
Ukulele – Tiny Tim	Poles, shoes, dark sheet - Copperfield
Romeo and Juliet puppets	Projections or poster boards
Black marker – Puppeteer	Badge, handcuffs – Cop
Fake brain	Flashlights
Bic lighters	Bible
Girl Scout sash	T-shirt with red letter "B"
Kazoos	Oven mitt
Chef's apron	Umbrella
Cheese wheel	Box of Jello
Book	Tiki torch
South American flag	Top hat, monocle
Bag of flour	Tiara

*(See end of script for additional production notes.)*

## **ACT I**

### **Scene 1: Opening Scene**

*(Cast: Announcer, Stage Manager, Assistant Director, Stagehand, Extras.)*

ANNOUNCER: *(Offstage on a microphone.)* Before the show begins, the producers would like to make a few apologies prior to your viewing this fine piece of theatre. We would like to apologize to the people of *(Insert name of your town.)* \_\_\_\_\_. We would also like to apologize to the people of *(Insert the names of surrounding counties.)* \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. To the people of *(Insert name of rival high school.)* \_\_\_\_\_, we apologize if some of the jokes go over your heads; we'll try to speak slowly. In addition, we'd like to apologize to anyone named Robert, Rob, or Robby. King Tutankhamen. The family and friends of *(Insert drama teacher's name or director's name.)* \_\_\_\_\_. Anyone who has a pet Chihuahua. The United Federation of Lumberjacks. All Republicans. All Democrats. Anyone lacking a sense of smell or humor. England. Anyone born between the years 1782 and 2005 excluding those born in 1953, 1972, and 1821. And finally Thespis, the father of theatre. And now, without further delay, *(Insert the name of your school.)* \_\_\_\_\_ is proud to present "Just Another High School Play"!

*(SPOTLIGHTS begin to shine all over the stage as the ANNOUNCER sings in a fanfare style. After awhile the Announcer takes a breath and the spotlights stop. Then he begins the song again and the lights continue to move. After about 30 seconds of this the STAGE MANAGER pops his head out and starts motioning to the Assistant Director in the audience who gets up and moves into the wings. The spotlights stop on SM and she/he looks up at the spots with a grimace.)*

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STAGE MANAGER: Um. Good evening. How's everybody doing tonight? Good, good ... I'll be right back. *(Disappears offstage and can be heard snapping at AD.)* Don't give me that. You're in this as deep as I am. Deeper. Get out here ... now!

*(SM pushes AD out onto the stage.)*

AD: *(Smiling at all the people.)* Hello, everyone. I'm *(Insert name of actor.)* \_\_\_\_\_, the assistant director of this show and this *(Roughly pulling STAGE MANAGER out.)* is *(Insert name of actor.)* \_\_\_\_\_, the show's stage manager.

SM: *(Visibly nervous.)* Hi again, we met earlier.

AD: And we want to thank everyone for coming out tonight to ... to ... *(Turning to SM.)* What show is this?

SM: *(Quietly to AD.)* What!?! You mean you don't know?

AD: Well, I thought you knew.

SM: You're the assistant director!

AD: You're the stage manager! Didn't you show up to rehearsal?

SM: Well ... um ... no ... I had that thing and I had to ....

AD: Oh right, that important date with that girl/guy from *(Insert name of nearby town.)* \_\_\_\_\_ with the hairy forehead.

SM: S/he does NOT have a hairy forehead; s/he just has a pronounced hairline. And besides, where were you?

AD: Well, I ... uh ... my grandmother died.

SM: I've known you for twelve years now, and in that time you've gone through at least six dozen grandmothers!

AD: I come from a big family.

SM: Sounds more like a cult!

*(SFX: A cell phone starts to ring. SM rolls his eyes; the cell phone rings a few times and stops.)*

SM: *(Smiling at the audience.)* Ahem, as I was saying ....

*(SFX: The cell phone starts ringing again.)*

## **End of Freeview**

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