

# So Rude!

A Riff on “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

*A play in one-act  
by James Venhaus*

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## **DEDICATION**

*The playwright would like to thank the following people  
for their support of this script:*

*Cara Tench, Laura Venhaus, Jackie Vetter, and Laura Wild*

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

“So Rude!” is a modern adaptation of the Rude Mechanicals scenes from Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Erin is the leader of her high school drama club, and her senior project is to mount a production of “Pyramus and Thysby.” Everything that can go wrong does, from missing actors, flubbed lines, and malfunctioning costumes and props. By the time the curtain goes up, it could be a triumph or a tragedy. Or both!

## **ORIGINAL PRODUCTION**

“So Rude!” was workshopped at Savannah Country Day School under the direction of Laura Wild with the following cast:

NICO: Brenn Peeples, Max Doremus, Turner Chase

MITCH: Ben Odom, Brenn Peeples, Kimi Moeller, Jayden Giandinoto

ANNA: Caroline Bergmann, Isabella Andolina, Henley Horowicz,  
Hannah Smith

ERIN: Dabney Anderson, Caroline Bergmann, Bea Newell-Stivers,  
Sophie Schwartz

EMILY: Janiyah Johnson, Olivia Kang, Magdalena Indgjer

BREANNA: Isabella Andolina, Janiyah Johnson, Lily Cowart,  
Bowie Southern

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## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(2 m, 4 w)*

**ERIN:** The director. Detail-oriented.

**NICO:** A wanna-be ladies' man.

**MITCH:** A good actor who thinks he is great.

**BREANNA:** A freshman. Nervous and trying to fit in.

**ANNA:** A little mean.

**EMILY:** Stressed out and overscheduled.

## **SETTING**

**Scene 1:** The drama classroom

**Scene 2:** The living room of Erin's house

**Scene 3:** The backstage of the auditorium

**Scene 4:** The auditorium

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### Scene 1

*(LIGHTS up on the inside of a drama classroom. The words "Senior project rehearsals begin today at 4:00. PLEASE BE ON TIME!" are written on the chalkboard. NICO and ANNA enter.)*

**NICO:** So, can I pick you up at eight?

**ANNA:** For what?

**NICO:** Our date.

**ANNA:** Why would I go out with you?

**NICO:** Because I know how to show a woman a good time.

See, first my mother and I will pick you up—

**ANNA:** Your mother?

**NICO:** Yeah, I failed my driving test. Again. Anyway, then, we drive through one of the finest restaurants in town—

*(MITCH enters. Sees that the room is not full and throws down his bookbag in disgust.)*

**MITCH:** Where is everybody?

*(NICO and ANNA shrug.)*

**MITCH:** *(Cont'd.)* I don't know why I bother showing up on time if no one else is going to be here.

**ANNA:** What am I? Chopped liver?

**NICO:** I don't think you're chopped liver, Anna.

**ANNA:** Thank you, Nico.

**NICO:** I think you are a fine cut of meat.

**ANNA:** Shut up, Nico.

**NICO:** What's your problem anyway, Mitch? It's only five 'til.

**MITCH:** In the theatre, five minutes early is on time, and on time is late.

**ANNA:** That's so confusing.

**NICO:** That's OK, it gives Anna and me a chance to get to know each other better.

**MITCH:** Geez, Nico. Is that all you can think about?

**NICO:** What?

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**MITCH:** Beautiful girls. Do you think of anything else?

**NICO:** *(Pause.)* No.

**ANNA:** You think I'm beautiful? That is so sweet.

*(ERIN enters.)*

**ERIN:** OK. Sorry I'm late.

**NICO:** It's three minutes 'til.

**MITCH:** See, I told you.

**ERIN:** OK. So, thank you for agreeing to be a part of my senior-directed project. I know the audition process was tough, not everyone can improv in iambic pentameter, but I now know I have a group of very talented, motivated, and highly dedicated— Wait, is everybody here?

**ANNA:** *(Sarcastically.)* Maybe you should take roll.

**ERIN:** Good idea. Mitch.

**MITCH:** Here.

**ERIN:** Anna.

**ANNA:** Here.

**ERIN:** Nico.

**NICO:** You know I'll always be here for you, Erin.

**ERIN:** Thanks. Breanna. Breanna?

**ANNA:** She's not here.

**ERIN:** What? Where is she?

**ANNA:** I don't know. She's probably with Emily.

**ERIN:** Where is Emily?

**ANNA:** How should I know?

**NICO:** It's just now four o'clock.

**ERIN:** Exactly. This is my last chance to make an impact in this cultural wasteland we call a school. So be on time, people. Jeez. OK. Can anyone call them?

**ANNA:** Oh, wait. I have Emily's phone number.

**ERIN:** Great. Thanks. *(Long pause.)* Well, can you call her?

**ANNA:** Oh yeah, right. *(ANNA gets her phone and starts dialing. She exits.)*

**ERIN:** They had better show up. I cannot do this show with only three people.

**MITCH:** Sure, you can. I can play their parts.

**ERIN:** Mitch, you cannot play a girl's part.

**MITCH:** Why not? I'm an actor. I can play anything. I'll prove it. I worked up this monologue for my Julliard audition. OK. Picture this. The lights go down, then, we hear a crack of thunder, and we see a flash of light. When the audience has recovered from their temporary blindness, they see me: alone on stage wearing nothing but a loin cloth and some war paint. Then, I raise my fist to the sky and say—

*(ANNA enters, still on the phone.)*

**ANNA:** Oh my god. No, he didn't. That is so wrong. What did you do? Really? Really. You said that? I bet he almost died. Did he almost die? I bet he almost died.

*(ANNA finally notices the stares from ERIN and MITCH.)*

**ANNA:** *(Cont'd.)* I have to go. You-know-who would like to start her reign as dictator.

**ERIN:** Was that Emily?

**ANNA:** No.

**ERIN:** Did you talk to Emily?

**ANNA:** Yes.

**ERIN:** Well?

**ANNA:** Well, what?

**ERIN:** Is she coming to rehearsal?

**ANNA:** Oh, yeah right. Umm. Yes.

**ERIN:** When?

**ANNA:** Oh, um. Soon.

**ERIN:** Where is she?

**ANNA:** In her car.

**ERIN:** Where is her car?

**ANNA:** On the road. Duh.

**ERIN:** *(Trying not to lose her patience.)* Did she say how long it would be until she got here?

**ANNA:** Umm. No. Do you want me to call her back?

**ERIN:** Yes, please.

**ANNA:** I'll see if she is on her way.

**ERIN:** Fine. Oh, and would you please—

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**ERIN and ANNA:** *(Together.)* Find out how long it will be until she gets here.

**ANNA:** Yes, master.

*(ANNA picks up her phone and calls. Just as she puts the phone up to her ear, EMILY enters.)*

**EMILY:** Sorry I'm late. I had to make up a test in Mrs. Wright's room. It took longer than I expected. She is insane!

*(SFX: Emily's phone rings.)*

**EMILY:** *(Cont'd.)* Hang on. I better get that. *(Answering.)*  
Hello?

**ANNA:** Hey, Emily.

**EMILY:** Hey, Anna.

**ANNA:** Hey, listen. Rehearsal is supposed to start soon, or something. Erin wanted me to check and see if you are on your way.

**EMILY:** Why would she do that? I'm here.

**ANNA:** You're where?

**EMILY:** Here in the room with you.

**ANNA:** Oh.

*(ANNA and EMILY hang up, look at each other and run toward each other and hug. The following lines overlap and continue until ERIN interrupts them.)*

**EMILY:** *(Overlapping with ANNA.)* Oh my god. That was so funny. You called me, and I was already here and then I was talking to you, but you didn't know that. That is so hilarious.

**ANNA:** *(Overlapping with EMILY.)* I had no idea you were standing right there. That is so funny. You and I were talking to each other in the same room. What are the odds, I mean, you know, that I would call you at that exact moment?

**ERIN:** *(Yelling.)* Can we please start rehearsal!

**NICO:** We're still waiting on Breanna.

*(BREANNA enters.)*

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