

STINKYMAN !

By David Meyer

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STORY OF THE PLAY

It's a dark day in the city! Big Al Gaydor and his gang are running wild! No one is safe! The police have their hands full trying to deal with this latest crime spree. The public is outraged and demanding quick action. The Mayor, running for re-election, seems confused and doesn't know who to trust. City hall is in shambles from a meeting that got out of hand. All looks bleak when a mystery man in black swings onto the scene. The fate of decent people everywhere hangs in the balance as "Stinkyman" fends off criminal attacks and police suspicions. Everyone wonders, "Who is this Stinkyman? Is he a heroic crime-fighter or an arch-criminal?" "Will he become boss of the city or just another leech on the artery of the taxpayers?" In the final showdown, Stinkyman shows his true colors. He manages to tilt the scales of justice in favor of "law and odor." The play is a light comedy farce with a single set and modern costumes. It requires physical comedy at a fast pace as it rushes toward its revealing conclusion. Several of the parts can be doubled and many can be played as male or female roles. There is latitude for creativity in the production and a flexible structure that adds to the fun.

SYNOPSIS OF PLAY

ACT I: The present, living room of Police Chief Vader

ACT II: One week later, the same

ACT III: The next night, the same

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 M, 6 W, 8 Flexible)

GRANDMA: Sweet little old lady, headstrong, tough, and self assured. She acts a bit unstable, but is good-hearted and a fun person.

OTIS L. VADER: Honest, hard-working, chief of police. He is dedicated and loyal. Middle-aged.

ELLIE VADER: Wife of Otis, and mother of Garth. She is loyal to her husband and active in his career. A pleasant middle-aged woman.

GARTH VADER: High school age. He is a bookworm, "nerd" with two left feet and all thumbs. He has recently developed his alter-ego, "Stinkyman," with Grandma's help.

STAN BYERMAN: City council president. Middle-aged.

MONA BYERMAN: Wife to Stan. About the same age.

JOY BYERMAN: High school friend of Garth's. She is the daughter of Stan and Mona. A bookworm "nerd" female version of Garth.

MAYOR JUNE/JUNEO FURST: Part that can be played as a male or female.

NICK/NICOLE TEEN: Henchman, tough guy, stooge.

BIG AL/ALICE GAYDOR: Gangster. Tough customer. Boss of Nick and Butch. Suspected of being behind recent crime wave.

"BUTCH" WHACKER: Henchman, stooge.

ANN/ANDY VIANCE: Mayor's assistant, very businesslike.

ROSE THORN: Mayor's assistant, also businesslike.

HONOR HIPPI: Busybody head of the Ladies Civic Association.

ROLAND/ROLANDA THUNDER: Bossy, domineering, no-nonsense head of the City Business Association. Thunder would like to be mayor and makes no bones about it.

GENERAL OTTO MOTORS: Old relic. Ex-military man.

SHIRLEY/"SQUIGGY" LAVERN: Reporter for the city newspaper. Pushy to get the story.

CAPTAIN KRUNCHER: Police captain.

VARIOUS EXTRAS: As members of the civic groups.

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PROPS

LADIES OF CIVIC ASSN: Notebooks and papers.

GRANDMA: Shopping bags, small black tights, gaudy yellow belt, 5 spray cans, clothespins, apron.

GARTH: Purse, frilly parasol/umbrella, several packages, plastic pocket protector w/ pencils, bushy tail with white stripe, black mask, gloves.

CHIEF: Small pocket notebook and pencil.

CAPTAIN: Small pocket notebook and pencil.

ELLIE: Tray of coffee and cups.

JOY: Pocket protector with pencils, trigonometry book, papers.

SHIRLEY: Notebook and pencil.

STAN: Attache case.

BUTCH: Envelope and gun.

NICK: Several pictures and gun.

ANN: Steno pad and pencil.

COSTUME NOTE: Stinkyman's tail goes up to emphasize his surprise or shock, etc., and when he sprays. It is easily done with wire over the shoulder attached by the belt so actor has full control.

SOUND EFFECTS

Doorbell

Doorbell rings several times

Doorbell

Doorbell

Doorbell

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ACT I

(AT RISE: The Vader living room. Police Chief OTIS L. VADER is setting up the room for a meeting. He is busy assembling folding chairs, and wears a police uniform with the jacket open. His wife, ELLIE, is helping him.)

ELLIE: *(As SHE straightens chairs)* You said a couple of meetings. This will be the fourth one this week!

OTIS: I know Ellie, but it can't be helped. It won't last much longer.

ELLIE: First it was the City Business Association, then the Mayor's re-election committee, then the city council—

OTIS: And the Ladies Civic Association—

ELLIE: It's been nearly three weeks since that damage was done to the city hall meeting room. Why do you have to hold all the meetings? And why in our living room?

OTIS: We're not having all the meetings, some are being held at the firehouse, a few were at the school, even the library stayed open late for some meetings.

ELLIE: But why our house? Look at all the scratches in the furniture...the carpets ruined...they use my planter for an ashtray...even our goldfish is tarnished.

OTIS: I guess people just feel better coming here...safer...I am the chief of police...after that mess at city hall and with this gang of toughs trying to squeeze the city...well, you can't really blame folks for being scared.

ELLIE: Yeah, and now this nut in black long-johns is running around loose. Is he a gangster, or a thug, or a vigilante, or what?

OTIS: We don't know what he is. But he's no friend to law-abiding citizens. Vigilante actions are criminal! Just as wrong as any of the crimes Big Al Gaydor commits. At least with Gaydor we know who the enemy is...even if we can't prove it.

ELLIE: Well, I've been reading about this underwear guy. He's in all the papers. Some people think he's a crime fighter...you know a super hero, like in the comic books.

OTIS: I think he's a nut in his B.V.D.'s.

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ELLIE: Maybe he's one of Gaydor's gang.

OTIS: We don't know...but we'll find out!

ELLIE: Wasn't Gaydor the one behind the damage to city hall?

OTIS: We think so. We just haven't found the proof we need...I blame myself. I should have known something like this was going to happen.

ELLIE: How could you know?

OTIS: It was a clever way to disrupt the meeting. Cruel and vicious, yet almost criminal. It's hard for people to get angry over a stunt like that, despite the injury and damage...but why? That is the real question! Why?

ELLIE: Who could foresee a giant pie fight during a city council meeting?

OTIS: That fella in the lobby selling pastries should have been a tip off.

ELLIE: Hopefully it won't be much longer until the repairs to city hall are completed.

OTIS: I don't know...it's in bad shape...there's lemon meringue everywhere! (*Stops working and sits down in one of the folding chairs*) I can't help feeling bad for the group meeting after us. A lot of people could have gotten hurt.

ELLIE: What do you mean?

OTIS: The meeting after us was...Waist Watchers!

ELLIE: (*Collapsing in a chair next to OTIS*) Oh, my goodness!

OTIS: It was horrible! A wild feeding frenzy! The sheer cruelty of it! This was a well conceived, diabolical plan...it has all the markings of Big Al Gaydor and his mob.

ELLIE: Don't worry, Otis...you'll get him.

OTIS: Yes, we'll get him...sooner or later. But it's the big boss I want.

ELLIE: You want to be the big boss?

OTIS: No...I want to get the big boss.

ELLIE: Who's the big boss?

OTIS: We don't know...yet, but somebody is behind Gaydor and his mob.

End of Freeview

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