

# **WANNABES!**

A Three-Act Comedy

By Dan Neidermyer

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*Wannabes!*

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Camp Theatrix is a summer all-girls drama camp for serious acting students, priding itself on more than fifty years of accepting only understudies into its program. Thus, Camp Theatrix provides those “wannabe” actresses who spend most of their time actually waiting in the wings – wishing and hoping to be onstage – real stage time and real roles. This summer’s going fine until the world’s leading action movie producer, Soren Antonsson, unexpectedly shows up announcing his decision to make his biggest action movie to date on location at Camp Theatrix! And he’ll be casting all of Camp Theatrix’s students in the movie, suddenly making “wannabes” “gonnabes!” Until –

**CAST OF CHARACTERS (2 M, 14 W)**

**MISS QUIGLEY:** Sophisticated, dedicated camp director since almost from the first, fifty years ago.

**HELGA:** Acting teacher; sharp, strong, and demanding only the best from her students.

**JOSEPHINE:** Costume designer and wardrobe mistress; stitching, hemming, and re-dying costume-after-costume with little or no budget.

**SOREN ANTONSSON:** Supposedly the world's leading action movie producer.

**PELLE LOFGREN:** His assistant, partner, and general all-around flunky.

**Students**

**AMY:** Vivacious and super-charged; onstage since kindergarten but always as an understudy.

**LAURA:** Always auditions, always an understudy; actually played a role for one weeknight performance.

**PATRICIA:** The expert at the light board except with Camp Theatrix's antique light panel.

**DEDE:** The prop girl who's actually a wannabe - settles for crew.

**ANDREA:** Skillfully handles the box office.

**BERTIE:** A paint brush and stapler are her stock in trade for the artistic set work she does.

**TRISH:** A cute actress – hopeful.

**ALEXA:** A say-it-like-it-is understudy.

**CRYSTAL:** Even at Camp Theatrix, she's relegated to backstage as the "prompter."

**MELODY:** Since Camp Theatrix is for girls, she's got to handle the guy roles!

**SHANA:** Pert and pretty, full-of-life, wanting to act her heart out, never getting cast.

**PLACE:** The dilapidated stage area of Camp Theatrix.

**TIME:** An afternoon and night this summer.

### **SETTING**

*WANNABES!* is written to be staged in any type, any size facility as the set is the “dilapidated stage area” of Camp Theatrix. The stage can be littered and cluttered with flats old and broken, or just-constructed and thus brand new. Boxes, platforms, door and window frames, sandbags, etc., may be added to enhance the “ambiance” of a summer drama camp, not too well financed, where recycling everything scenic, including costumes, is the name of the game!

### **PROPS**

An old flat, stapler, paint brush, can of paint, paper to cover the flat, a fax (any appropriate piece of paper will do), a small platform on wheels holding unfinished set pieces, three flashlights, a bag (contents are supposedly a fortune in jewels), video camera and video cassette, wristwatch.

### **COSTUMES**

The students should wear shorts, t-shirts, athletic shoes, etc., anything contemporary and appropriate for summer camp. Special “Camp Theatrix” T-shirts to wear as part of the costumes on stage are available from the publisher. In addition, the girls all don trench coats, hats, and fake moustaches for the last scene.

Also available are *WANNABE!* T-shirts to wear to advertise this production. For more information call Eldridge Publishing at 1-800-HI-STAGE.

### **PRODUCTION NOTE**

The “VOICE” at the end of ACT II can be pre-recorded. The gun shot can be a pre-recorded sound effect or an athletic starter gun. No gun is actually seen by the audience or used in the production.

**ACT I**

*(AT RISE: The stage is totally dark except for a tiny patch of light coming from a moving, looking-for-something flashlight held by AMY who, with her best friend LAURA, is crawling about in the darkness, cautiously. Both are engaged in a great search, inching their way across the stage as if their very lives depended upon finding something.)*

LAURA: See anything?

AMY: If he's here, he's not here.

LAURA: Never thought I'd say this, but we should turn back.

AMY: We can't, Cassandra! We've got to do everything in our power; we've got to stretch ourselves to the limit; we've got to go far beyond where we ourselves ever thought we could go. We must save him!

LAURA: Even if he loves another?

AMY: Country is – *(SHE goes blank and cannot remember the next word.)* – ah – ah –

CRYSTAL: *(From the wings, after a moment's awkward silence, prompting in a stage whisper.)* Bigger than.

AMY: *(Recovering.)* – bigger than both of us.

LAURA: But you can't live happily ever after with a country.

AMY: Life is hope, Cassandra. The prince will see me crawling to his rescue, pulling myself hand-over-fist, fist-over-hand toward – *(SHE goes blank again.)* – toward – toward –

CRYSTAL: *(From the wings.)* Him.

AMY: – him, and in that moment, his eyes – his eyes – *(Stage whisper directed toward the wings.)* Don't tell me. I know it. And in that moment, his eyes – his eyes –

CRYSTAL: *(From the wings, after a moment's silence.)* – will look into mine –

AMY: – will look into mine, and he will –

*(Something unexpectedly grabs HER foot, startling her! She screams bloody murder, sending LAURA reeling across the floor, also screaming, abruptly, mercifully, ending a badly-written and much-overplayed scene.)*

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*(From the audience MISS QUIGLEY stands, beleaguered.)*

MISS QUIGLEY: Cut! What is it now, girls?

*(AMY and LAURA answer simultaneously, each more terrified than the other.)*

AMY: Something grabbed my foot, Miss Quigley.

LAURA: There's something up here, Miss Quigley!

MISS QUIGLEY: Not something, someone! And I'm going to find out who! *(Issuing an order.)* Lights! *(Which do not come up.)* Lights! *(Which still do not come up.)* Patricia, I asked for "Lights!"

*(PATRICIA, from the light booth, is the voice of frustration.)*

PATRICIA: *(Offstage.)* I've pushed all the levers on the lightboard, Miss Quigley. Nothing happens!

AMY: *(Shouting in melodramatic terror.)* The critics have found us! They're trying to close us down!

LAURA: *(Topping AMY'S hysteria.)* I'll never make it to Broadway if I don't get out of here!

DEDE: *(From out of the darkness, in the wings somewhere.)* You won't anyway.

LAURA: *(Channeling HER hysterics toward the voice in the dark.)* That's what you want, isn't it? To be the only one of us who ever makes it! Well, I'll show –

*(LIGHTS suddenly come up, revealing a most dilapidated stage area of Camp Theatrix.)*

AMY: *(Quickly looking around.)* There's no one here, Miss Quigley!

MISS QUIGLEY: *(Making HER way from the audience area to the stage.)* Nonsense. Unless you screamed for no reason.

LAURA: Or you finally realized the truth before half of the theatre world tells you: overacting went out with silent pictures.

## **End of Freeview**

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