

Attack of the Clown Dentist Zombies

By
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DEDICATION

To the real Xander and Susan, with love. Deny it all you want, but this bizarre sense of humor is hereditary. You're both doomed.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Susan and Xander patiently sit through their dad's meeting, a gathering of local dentists, where it is decided that the best way to keep patients from being scared of regular checkups is for the dentists to dress as clowns while working. Refreshments are offered, but deciding to not eat Bernice Hoffenbridle's cookies might be the best decision the kids have ever made, especially when they hear that her new bakery is conveniently located right between the nuclear waste treatment plant and the experimental chemistry lab. But the adult dentists do indulge in the tainted cookies, unwittingly launching a full-scale epidemic... It's the clown dentist zombie apocalypse! Can Susan and Xander somehow dodge the onslaught of zombie clowns, zombie mimes, and even a zombie juggler who can't juggle? Can they find their father before he turns into one of the creatures? And most importantly, can they find a solution to humanity's darkest hour? The jokes and the silliness fly fast and furious in the craziest apocalypse you'll ever have to survive.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(13 - 22 plus extras.)

TODD HANOVER (m): Dentist and community leader.

XANDER (m): Todd's teenage son (pronounced "Zander").

SUSAN (f): Todd's teenage daughter.

BERNICE HOFFENBRIDLE (f): Owner of a new bakery.

CRAZY AMY (f): Woman who is a few cards short of a full deck.

PATIENT (flex): Drama teacher and first known victim of the attack.

DENTISTS (4 or more): Local dentists and peers of Todd.

REPORTERS (4 or more): Members of the press; could also be played by the dentists.

BYSTANDERS (3 or more): Victims on the street; could also be played by the dentists.

ZOMBIES (5 or more): Also known as the clown dentist zombies, this group includes Zombie Danny / Danielle and Zombies 1 to 4.

DANCERS (optional): Zombie dancers for the Interlude.

FLEXIBLE CASTING

Smaller cast: This show could be performed by as few as 13 actors. Five unique actors should play Todd, Xander, Susan, Bernice, and Crazy Amy. Four actors could double as all of the "normal" people (Dentists, Reporters, Bystanders, and the Patient), and five more actors could play Zombie #'s 1-4 and Zombie Danny. Todd could also play Zombie #3 in Scene 5, since that character's face is hidden by a hockey mask. You could even have the Patient in Scene 2 be played by your drama teacher.

Larger cast: The cast could be as large as your stage and your talent pool allows. If you cast unique actors in all of the roles, your cast size would be 22 actors. You could expand it by populating the cast with additional Dentists, Reporters, and/or Zombies and redistributing the speaking roles. A lot of actors can also be non-speaking extras.

TIME AND PLACE

Present day. A small town in the Midwest.

SCENES

Scene 1: A public meeting room, on a Monday evening.

Scene 2: A dentist's chair, the next day (Tuesday).

Scene 3: The Hanover household, later that night.

Scene 4: The public meeting room again, the next night (Wednesday).

Scene 5: Out on the street, a few minutes later.

Scene 6: Todd Hanover's dental practice, a few minutes later.

OPTIONAL INTERLUDE

If desired, you can add an interlude between Scenes 5 and 6 in which the Zombies, either onstage or in the aisles, perform a zombie dance. The main goal of this interlude would be fun, but it could also serve other practical purposes: To expand the show's running time, to involve dancers in your production, to cover the necessary set change into Scene 6's dental office, and/or to give the Todd actor a little more time to get into costume and make-up before the final scene.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: A meeting room, on a Monday evening. TODD HANOVER is standing up in front of the room, about to speak. He is wearing a white dentist coat and standing at a podium next to an easel. His teenage children XANDER and SUSAN are seated in the front, but off to the side. ALL DENTISTS, plus BERNICE and any optional EXTRAS, are seated in folding chairs as an audience facing Todd.)

TODD: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the first meeting of a group so new, it doesn't even have a name yet...but I'll get to that in a minute. I see dentists and dental assistants from throughout Mudpie County and beyond, which is very exciting. I even see Dr. Higgins, who, in case you hadn't heard the news, finally settled that malpractice suit. Congratulations, Doctor. And I, personally, thought that whole thing was ridiculous. If that guy wanted you to just "clean" all of his teeth instead of "removing" them, he should have used much more legible handwriting in the paperwork. Am I right? Anyway, I thought I would use some humor to get our first meeting started, so in that spirit... Can anyone tell me, what is a dentist's favorite kind of ride at an amusement park? *(Beat.)* Anyone? *(Beat.)* The answer is, a "floor-ride"! Get it? "Fluoride"?

(There are a few polite chuckles, but XANDER and SUSAN shake their heads and cover their faces in shame.)

TODD: *(Cont'd.)* Ooh, and before I forget, allow me to introduce my children. This is Xander and Susan, my pride and joy. And they both inherited my sense of humor!

XANDER: *(Appalled.)* That's the meanest thing you've ever said.

SUSAN: *(Embarrassed.)* Yeah, Dad, not cool.

TODD: Oh, you little jokers. *(To EVERYONE.)* See what I mean? One more piece of business I'd like to get out of the way. *(Picks up a large tray of green cookies.)*

TODD: *(Cont'd.)* I want to thank Bernice Hoffenbridle for graciously providing cookies for the meeting. Please take one and pass it down.

(TODD takes a cookie and hands the tray to SUSAN, who takes one and passes it to XANDER, who takes one and passes it to someone else. PEOPLE continue taking cookies and passing the tray during the following dialogue.)

TODD: *(Cont'd.)* Thank you so much, Bernice, for the delicious treats. *(BERNICE stands up and waves.)* Don't forget to patronize her brand-new establishment, which just opened this week.

BERNICE: In fact, you're my first customers! *(SHE sits.)*

TODD: That's *Bernice's Open-Air Bakery*, conveniently located right between the nuclear waste treatment plant and the experimental chemistry lab.

(SUSAN and XANDER, who are each about to eat a cookie, stop, look at each other, and put the cookies down in disgust.)

TODD: *(Cont'd.)* Now everyone, eat up, but don't forget to brush afterwards! *(Chuckles from the audience, as TODD takes one bite of his cookie.)* Mm-mmm, delicious. *(He notices that SUSAN and XANDER aren't eating.)* Kids, you're...not having one?

XANDER: Yeah, we...didn't want to spoil our dinner.

TODD: Really? You're sure you don't want just one cookie? They're really good.

SUSAN: So, so sure. Thanks, though.

TODD: You're missing out. They have a flavor I can't quite put my finger on...and if you look at them in the right light, they almost seem to glow!

(Now alarmed that they even touched the cookies, SUSAN and XANDER wipe their hands off on their clothes.)

XANDER: *(Sarcastic.)* Tempting, but we're good.

End of Freeview

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