

# Waking Sleepy Hollow

*By Jonathan Yukich*

Adapted from “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” by Washington Irving

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## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Welcome to present-day Sleepy Hollow. This famed little town now has traffic lights, modern plumbing, even a Dunkin' Donuts – but traces from its past remain. A troupe of actors takes us on a tour of Sleepy Hollow, but the participants begin to suspect that there is perhaps more truth to the legend than they realized. This inventive adaptation delivers a faithful retelling of the classic short story within a contemporary framework. The past clashes with the present, as the young square off with the dead, and the Headless Horseman is thrust into a 21<sup>st</sup> century of bicycles and cell phones. About an hour.

## **ORIGINAL PRODUCTION**

Mount Holyoke College, October 2015.  
The production was directed by Noah Tuleja. The set design was by Vanessa James and Caroline Clowers; the costume design was by Kimberly Dildine; the lighting and sound design was by Lara Dubin; the production stage manager was Courtney Closson; the production dramaturg was Maria Signorelli. The cast included Julia Cole, Kate Collier, Robyn Sutton-Fernandez, Rachyl Carey, Amy Welch, Chrissy Barney, Bec Rose, Sam Eisenstein-Bond, Natalie Riquelmy and Grace Brunson.

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(7 m, 9 w, 6 flex. 9 actors with doubling)*

PIPER  
NICOLE  
MAYOR Z  
OLAF  
ICHABOD CRANE  
PUPIL WHO CAN ADD  
PUPIL WHO ASKS QUESTIONS  
PUPIL WITH GUTS  
MOTHER OF JOHNNY  
MOTHER OF EVA  
MOTHER OF LUKE  
KATRINA VAN TASSEL  
BROM BONES  
OLD LADY  
REALLY OLD LADY  
FARMER BART  
MRS. FARMER BART  
MR. VAN TASSEL  
PARTY-GOER WITH PIPE  
PARTY-GOER WITH CAKE  
PARTY-GOER WITH BIG HAIR  
THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN  
EXTRAS: Various pupils, choir member, party-goers.

### **SUGGESTED DOUBLING**

**ACTOR #1** plays PIPER, PUPIL WHO CAN ADD, MOTHER OF JOHNNY and PARTY-GOER WITH BIG HAIR  
**ACTOR #2** plays NICOLE, PUPIL WITH GUTS, MOTHER OF LUKE, MRS. FARMER BART and PARTY-GOER WITH PIPE  
**ACTOR #3** plays MAYOR Z  
**ACTOR #4** plays OLAF  
**ACTOR #5** plays ICHABOD CRANE  
**ACTOR #6** plays PUPIL WHO ASKS QUESTIONS, MOTHER OF EVA, REALLY OLD LADY, FARMER BART and MR. VAN TASSEL  
**ACTOR #7** plays the HEADLESS HORSEMAN and PARTY-GOER WITH CAKE  
**ACTOR #8** plays BROM BONES and OLD LADY  
**ACTOR #9** plays KATRINA VAN TASSEL

### **NOTE ON SETTING**

The stage should resemble an attempt to recreate the setting for Sleepy Hollow in the year 1790. Please note the word “attempt,” as its realization should be a cross between authentic reproduction and the sort of garish, hokey contrivances you find at some historical sites that are also tourist traps. It’s okay to let the artifice show. All design components can be as simple or as elaborate as the given production deems necessary.

## **Waking Sleepy Hollow** **Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: An old-timey banner reads "Welcome to Sleepy Hollow: Home of the Legend." PIPER and NICOLE, dressed in costumes of late 18<sup>th</sup> century America, are both absorbed in their cell phones. Several hushed seconds go by.)*

**PIPER:** *(Abruptly reacting to something on her phone.)* Shut up!

**NICOLE:** I didn't say anything.

**PIPER:** *(Yelling at her phone.)* No! No! No! NOOOOOO!

**NICOLE:** Piper, what have I told you about phone rage?

**PIPER:** My life is ruined!

**NICOLE:** Calm down.

**PIPER:** I'm going to be sick!

**NICOLE:** What happened?

**PIPER:** *(Showing HER the phone.)* This happened!

**NICOLE:** It's a picture of Robby. So what?

**PIPER:** He just posted it! Look who he's with!

**NICOLE:** It's a selfie.

**PIPER:** In the background!

**NICOLE:** Where?

**PIPER:** *In the background!*

**NICOLE:** Who? That girl?

**PIPER:** Yes, *that* girl!

**NICOLE:** You can barely see her. She's like twenty yards away.

**PIPER:** See how she's ogling him?

**NICOLE:** I don't think she's ogling him.

**PIPER:** It's pathetic.

**NICOLE:** I think she's asleep.

**PIPER:** She's peeking; I can tell!

**NICOLE:** I don't get the big deal.

**PIPER:** The big deal, Nicole? The big deal is Robby's in France, and I'm here! He gets to study overseas for the summer, and I'm stuck playing dress-up in Dullsville, USA.

**NICOLE:** It's not such a bad job.

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**PIPER:** It's called *Sleepy Hollow* for a reason. I should be with Robby. I should be there to fend off prowlers like her!

**NICOLE:** I really think she's napping.

**PIPER:** Robby wouldn't stray...would he? He wouldn't... would he? No, never...would he?

**NICOLE:** Piper, deep breaths. Whenever Robby posts a picture with another girl anywhere in the frame you freak out.

**PIPER:** But he's so far away.

**NICOLE:** You have to trust him.

**PIPER:** I do trust him; it's barracuda Barbie I don't trust. I mean – come on! – WHO LOOKS LIKE THAT WHEN THEY SLEEP? She's perfectly angelic! I hope she snores, or drools...or both! Can we pretend she snores and drools?

**NICOLE:** Put the phone away. You're flipping out.

**PIPER:** You're right. I'll forget about her. And him. And all the fun he's having – seeing Europe, the culture, the food. I'm going to forget all about that. And try to enjoy myself, working all summer as a hokey tour guide, retelling a 200-year-old story for googly-eyed tourists who have nothing better to do! *(Stops, foot in mouth. Gazes out at the audience, i.e. the tourists.)* Oh, hi there...googly-eyed tourists...

*(PIPER and NICOLE sheepishly put phones away, shift into bright-eyed-tour-guide mode and address the audience)*

**NICOLE:** A hearty hello from Sleepy Hollow!

**PIPER:** What I said there, it's all part of the act.

**NICOLE:** Pay no attention to her.

**PIPER:** I didn't mean to say that you have googly-eyes. You don't, of course. *(Beat.)* At least not all of you.

**NICOLE:** You should stop talking.

**PIPER:** Welcome to the Sleepy Hollow Tour!

**NICOLE:** I'm sure you're an awesome group. So, without further ado...

*(THEY begin the story-mode spiel.)*

## **End of Freeview**

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