VOICES
IN THE ATTIC

By L. Don Swartz

Performance Rights

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy this script in any way or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Contact the publisher for further scripts and licensing information.

The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Co."

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
www.histage.com
© 1997 by L. Don Swartz

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/voices-in-the-attic

DEDICATION

To Emily Elizabeth Swartz for setting my imagination on fire.
Love always,
Daddy

STORY OF THE PLAY

Dancing scarecrows, a secret cult of vampires, a crazed ax murderer in the attic, a vengeful effigy who stalks the darkest forest and evil clowns who peddle nightmares in back alleys are just some of the gruesome characters who populate *VOICES IN THE ATTIC*. What sinister secret is hiding in Miss Ruby's cornfield? A sleazy reporter and his equally sleazy lawyer-wife find out too late in "What Miss Ruby Knows." People keep disappearing in the charming little town of Hartford Falls. It's up to Jamie and Mark to unravel the grisly mystery in "Tarantella" before they, too, become caught up in the deadly web. In"Effigy," members of a high school football team gather in a remote part of a dark forest to burn the rival school's effigy. Before the bonfire burns itself out the teens learn a gruesome lesson in what can happen when school spirit is carried too far. In "Voices in the Attic," a sleepy father tries in vain to assure his sons that the noises they keep hearing are only in their dreams.

Just how far can our imaginations go? If graveyard statues could see...or hear...what dark secret might they reveal? The six separate stories flow seamlessly together with the aid of the mysterious Greek Chorus, who keep us illuminated, in verse no less, of what we have seen and may yet see.

ACT I
Scene 1

"TARANTELLA"

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(1 M, 1 W, 3 Flexible, Extras)

MARK.....Possible murder witness.
JAMIE .....Mark's friend.
THREE VOICES.....Helping renovate a theatre.
EXTRAS.....Other workers.

SETTING

An empty stage, seen through plastic tarp. Use 20-30 stepladders of different sizes with actors on them, if possible. Hang plastic tarp from a DS bar. Various work lights should be set up behind the ladders casting eerie shadows. DS of the plastic tarp a single ghost light illuminates the apron.

COSTUMES

Jamie: Basic black costume, colorful button-down blouse.
Mark: Jeans, white T-shirt, bright jacket.
Ladder People: Basic black costume, colorful button-down shirt/blouse.

Basic black costume refers to black pants, black turtleneck, and black shoes.

PROPS

Jamie and Voices: Paint brushes, prop knives, flashlights, notebook, pen, white masks.

(AT RISE: Many members of a community theatre are busy renovating the stage. Most seem to be working with paint brushes. We see them behind the clear plastic tarp and their movements often appear dreamlike and underwater. They are laughing and having a good time.)

JAMIE: Okay you guys, very funny! But can you talk and work at the same time? We need to finish by Friday. We're just lucky Mr. Walters hasn't stopped by the theatre and ruined his surprise.

FIRST VOICE: He's gonna go nuts when he sees that we went ahead and fixed up the stage without him.

SECOND VOICE: I can't believe we're actually pulling it off. I don't think he suspects a thing.

JAMIE: He's done a lot for us over the years. I figure it's the least we can do. This way he can go on his vacation over Easter break instead of staying here and supervising this job. But we gotta get the lead out.

THIRD VOICE: I can't wait to see the look on his face when he walks in here.

(There is a LOUD POUNDING on the door.)

JAMIE: You may be seeing that look sooner than you think.

SECOND VOICE: Don't open the door! He can't see what we've done if we don't let him in!

JAMIE: Yeah, that'll work. Till he remembers he has the key in his pocket.

SECOND VOICE: Oh, yeah.

JAMIE: I'll go see if I can get rid of him. *(SHE exits. The WORKERS are very quiet. A moment later we hear low voices talking. Jamie enters, escorting MARK.)* It's oka, you guys. It's only Mark.

(EVERYONE calls out a greeting to MARK.)

MARK: Hello. Hello everyone. Jamie, listen, can we go somewhere and talk?

JAMIE: I can't get away right now.
FIRST VOICE: Hey, Mark! Get your scrawny butt over here and get to work!
THIRD VOICE: Yeah! You slacker! You promised you'd help!
FIRST VOICE: I got a spackle blade with your name on it!

(THEY all taunt HIM.)

MARK: Ah...why don't you all bite me! *(EVERYONE laughs.)* I'll help you later, I gotta talk to Jamie.
SECOND VOICE: *(Making kissing noises)* I can see Jamie's gonna be too busy to help! *(EVERYONE joins in on the taunting.)*
JAMIE: Come on, you guys, get back to work. Mark, I can't leave now. We got to get this work done and you know the players aren't allowed in the theatre without me or Mr. Walters. *(SHE pulls HIM extreme DS in front of the plastic tarp.)* Come down here and talk to me. Those guys won't bother us.
MARK: It's really important.
JAMIE: I know. Come on, tell me. I can see you're really scared. It's about the case...isn't it?
MARK: Uh-huh. Okay, we'll talk here. It's probably as safe as any place.
JAMIE: I don't know about that, but the doors are locked and of course there are no windows in a theatre.
MARK: *(Looks around.)* Oh yeah. I never noticed before.
JAMIE: You didn't? Can't have windows. Windows let in light.
MARK: Makes sense. You're not going to believe this, but...I just found out—
JAMIE: Just a minute, I'll be right back. I'll make sure that we won't be disturbed. *(JAMIE crosses behind the plastic tarp.)* You guys, listen up! This is important! *(We see the SHADOWS lean down toward JAMIE as she talks. Her voice drifts off and we can only hear a quiet murmur. The others quietly go back to work. JAMIE reappears.)* All set. They won't bother us. Could you hear me talking to them?

MARK: No. Not from here.
JAMIE: *(With a smile.)* Good. That means they can't hear us. Now, what's going on?
MARK: They just took Officer Brady into custody.
JAMIE: Oh, my God. Do they believe you now?
MARK: I don't think so. But, it's the only lead they got.
JAMIE: What did the police say?
MARK: They've got him in custody to question him about my allegations.
JAMIE: Mark, this is very serious. Are you absolutely sure you saw Officer Brady with the Lingstrom girl on the night she disappeared?
MARK: Of course, I'm sure. I wouldn't go to all this trouble if I wasn't a hundred percent positive.
JAMIE: I don't get it. Why are they all of a sudden willing to believe you? It doesn't add up.
MARK: Yesterday a videotape arrived at the police station. It shows the Lingstrom girl being murdered. Somebody actually videotaped the murder.
JAMIE: What?
MARK: Swear to God.
JAMIE: Who would do something like that?
MARK: That's not the worst of it. She was killed by a group of people. Sacrificed as part of some death ritual.
JAMIE: You saw it? *(HE nods.)* Why would they let you see it?
MARK: I asked the police if I could see it. I thought somehow I should see it.
JAMIE: Who was doing the killing?
MARK: You can't tell on the tape. All you see is blackness and a bunch of hands attacking her. Masks. Everyone is wearing a mask. There's this bright light shining on her and all the rest is darkness. Of course the police lab is going to analyze it more, but I doubt if they'll find anything else.
JAMIE: Why would anybody send an incriminating tape like that to the police?

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/voices-in-the-attic

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!