FLASHBACK TO MURDER

(A 1955 Class Reunion)

Book by Kelli Leigh-Ann Connors
Music and Lyrics by Cathy Sanborn

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STORY OF THE PLAY

It's 1975 - disco and polyester are in. Your audience is attending the 20-year reunion of the Class of 1955. Twenty years has brought about some drastic changes. Will they recognize the promiscuous Mitzy as Sister Mary Martha? Or how about that wallflower turned soap opera diva, Veronica West? Reunions are great for reminiscing. It's too bad the evening is dampened by the unsolved murder of the prom queen. Flashback in time to that fateful year and participate in solving the mystery.

A sweet, nostalgic blast from the past that's great for all ages, *Flashback to Murder* has a host of lovable characters, great music with a '50s flair, and cameo roles waiting for your audience.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Flashback to Murder was written and conceived to be an interactive theatrical piece. The acting style is broad without becoming melodramatic. The characters are three dimensional, but always keep in mind this is musical comedy and not Ibsen.

The mingling takes place in 1975. During the mingling the audience is treated as if they were faculty, staff and fellow classmates from the year 1955. It is helpful to play a tape of 1970s hits during this time. Because Cassandra is deceased at the opening of the show, she does not mingle. When choosing audience members to become characters in the show try to be aware of how willing a participant they might be without becoming difficult to handle. Sometimes an outgoing guest can backfire on you if they insist on being the center of attention rather than letting you get on with the show.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(2 m, 4 w play both time periods)

- 1975 -

MICHAEL: Private detective. Specializes in unusual cases. He has been trying to solve the murder of a fellow classmate for the past 20 years.
DIANE: By day a secretary, by night a faithful member of the Waist Away 100 Pound Club.
VERONICA WEST: Star of the daytime soap opera, *As the Days Drag On.*
SISTER MARY MARTHA: A nun belonging to The Little Sisters of Mercy Convent.
ANTONIO WOLFGANG: A Wall Street executive who fought his way to a six-figure annual salary.

- 1955 -

MIKEY: Has an IQ of genius proportions, though a bit of a nerd socially. Valedictorian of his class. Younger brother to Mitzy.
DEE DEE: Head cheerleader. Fun, frisky and fabulously athletic. Voted Most Popular Girl in school.
SARAH: Class treasurer. Very studious, very serious and very pretty, if she would ever let her hair down.
MITZY: Her motto is "Life is a party, let's dance!" Voted 1955 Best Saturday Night Companion. Older sister to Mikey.
WOLFIE: A real dude. Voted 1955 Least Sober. He ran away from home and now lives with foster parents. No one knows where he is really from.
CASSANDRA: The class snob. A know-it-all who seems to make enemies wherever she goes.

NOTE: A rehearsal/performance CD is available for this musical. Contact Eldridge Publishing at www.histage.com to order.

SETTING

The show is performed in a minimum 10' x 10' space with a very suggestive set. If the show is being produced in a traditional theater space the set should reflect a high school reunion. Simple decorations can help such as streamers, a "Welcome Class of 1955" sign, etc. Please be aware that because the show is multi-locational, lengthy set changes can slow down the action.

COSTUMES

Costumes will help a great deal in depicting the two separate time periods.

DEE DEE: '70s dress; red, white and blue cheerleading skirt, blue turtleneck, sweater vest that says "Rah! Rah!"; white socks and saddle shoes; dance trunks; prom dress; stockings and shoes; jewelry.

MITZY: Nun's habit (tunic, scapular, collar, wimple, head-band, veil, belt); pedal pushers; fitted sweater; scarf; stockings and shoes; prom dress; jewelry.

SARAH: '70s dress; poodle skirt; blouse; sweater; socks and loafers; prom dress; stocking and shoes.

WOLFIE: '70s leisure suit; shirt; tie; jeans; white t-shirt; belt; leather jacket and boots; '70s shoes.

MIKEY: Pants; shirt; bow tie; sweater vest; socks and loafers.

CASSANDRA: '50s day dress; prom dress and shoes; angel or spirit dress, ballet slippers (optional).

NOTE: Prom dresses are traditional '50s style with full circle skirts, fitted bodices and natural waistlines. Dee Dee, Mitzy, Sarah and Wolfie must wear their '50s costumes under their '70s costumes as much as possible to facilitate the quick change.

PROPS

Microphone with detachable cord and microphone stand; punch bowl, punch, cups, and ladle on small table; two benches; sign reading "Welcome Class of 1955"; 1955 yearbook; 1955 newspaper with headline "Prom Queen Murdered"; two prom crowns; love note present in Mikey's shoe; note for Diane; yellow wrist corsage; decorative streamers; pom-poms; nerd glasses for Mikey; name tags for audience.

ACT I

(AT RISE: It is 1975. MICHAEL, VERONICA, DIANE, SISTER MARY MARTHA, and ANTONIO mingle with the guests at the cocktail party. A tape of '70s MUSIC playing is helpful to set the year. During this time, MICHAEL should pick the Science Teacher, the Coach, and the Cassandra stand-in. DIANE should pick the Class Heartthrob and get the name of a couple to mention later on; SISTER MARY MARTHA should pick her Lab Partner.)

MICHAEL: Fellow classmates and guests, I would like to welcome you to the *(Name of town or organization)* High School Reunion of the Class of 1955!

(DIANE leads EVERYONE in the following cheer.)

DIANE: Give me a __! *(First letter of town or organization. ALL repeat.)*
Give me a __! *(Second letter. ALL repeat.)*
Give me a __! *(Third letter. ALL repeat.)*
(*Etc. until end of word.)*
What does it spell?
ALL: *(Name of town or organization!)*
DIANE: Louder!
ALL: *(Name of town or organization!)*
DIANE: Louder!!
ALL: *(Name of town or organization!)*
DIANE: What does it mean?
ALL: Victory!!
MICHAEL: Now for most of you, these people sitting with me need no introduction, although I have to admit 20 years has brought about some drastic changes. For the benefit of our guests here this evening we would like to properly introduce ourselves.

SONG: HIGH SCHOOL DAYS

MICHAEL: *(Sings.)*
WE REMEMBER WITH A TEARFUL EYE
THOSE HIGH SCHOOL DAYS IN TIMES GONE BY.
STEADFAST FRIENDS WE VOWED TO STAY
THOUGH LIFE WOULD KEEP US MILES AWAY.

ALL: *(Sing.)*
WHO COULD FORGET THE GOOD OLD GANG
WHO EVERY AFTERNOON WOULD HANG
OUT BY THE LOCKERS CALM AND COOL
AND COMPLAIN ABOUT BEING IN SCHOOL.

ALL BUT DIANE: *(Sing.)*
GOOD OLD DEE DEE CHEERED THE TEAMS
WITH CHEERLEADER WHOOPS AND SCREAMS.

DIANE: *(Sings.)*
AND NOW I BELONG TO 'WAIST AWAY'
I COUNT MY FAT GRAMS EACH AND EVERY DAY.

ALL BUT SISTER MARY MARTHA: *(Sing.)*
AND MITZY WHO WAS EASY TO LIKE...

ANTONIO: *(Sings.)* ...EASY TO DATE ON SATURDAY NIGHT.

SISTER MARY MARTHA: *(Sings.)*
I'VE GOT A GUY WHO'S MINE ALONE
THE CONVENT IS OUR HAPPY HOME.

ALL BUT VERONICA: *(Sing.)*
ON SATURDAYS YOU KNOW YOU'D SEE
SARAH IN THE LIBRARY.

SARAH: *(Sings.)*
I'VE CHANGED A LITTLE BIT SINCE THEN
I'M A TV STAR AND INTO ZEN.

End of Freeview

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