Summer of KAOS

A Comedy

By Stephen Murray

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Confusion and fun are the business of the day at Kamp KAOS – a summer camp that boasts its own 12-watt radio station. It's opening day at the camp and director Wally Schneider is already in trouble: the mortgage is due, the world's wealthiest woman wants to buy the camp, the county health inspector is coming and the mysterious weather phenomenon El Gordo has brought a migration of mice! It's up to the wacky gang of counselors and campers to save the day after Wally accidentally eats cheese laced with sedative.

This hour-long, one-set comedy can easily expand or contract to the number of actors available. Based on the musical, "Kamp KAOS," by Stephen Murray.

SETTING

All action takes place in the main cabin of Kamp KAOS. It is a rustic old wooden building, log cabin-like in design. There is a table downstage left with radio equipment on it, a microphone with the call letters KAOS written on it, and a set of headphones. Behind the table is a swivel chair on wheels. There is a trunk in the room. Windows appear in the back with a view of woods and a lake. Typical summer camp items can be placed on stage such as canoe paddles, sleeping bags, ropes, and backpacks.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 9 w, 3 flexible, extras)

WALLY SCHNEIDER: Camp director, middle-aged man, should wear floppy summer hat, glasses, mustache, whistle around the neck, and have a bit of a belly.
NATALIE POTTER: 20 years old, head counselor.
SANDY GREENPEACE: Camp cook, animal rights activist.
NAOMI: Nerdy counselor.
LINDA: Counselor who likes to tell ghost stories.
RICKY (or Rikki): Counselor who enjoys practical jokes.
MARTIN: A hungry counselor, always carrying a snack.
JANICE: A camper who wants to be a radio DJ.
JASON: A camper who enjoys practical jokes.
MELISSA: A camper who worries about everything.
WENDY: A camper afraid of mice.
LUCINDA SCORCH: The world's richest woman.
BODYGUARD 1: Rather stupid assistant to Lucinda.
BODYGUARD 2: Another dim-witted assistant to Lucinda.
AGNES STONEBOTTOM: The Stern County Health Inspector.
COUNSELORS: Lines have been indicated for C1-C9 (C for Counselor). These can be assigned or distributed at the discretion of director. Performers should be encouraged to name their role and develop a character.
CAMPERS: Lines have been indicated for K1-K14 (K for Kid). These can be assigned or distributed at the discretion of director. Performers should be encouraged to name their role and develop a character.

SYNOPSIS

ACT I: Early in the morning.
ACT II: Early in the afternoon.

SOUND EFFECTS

Rumble, gusting wind, mousetrap snapping shut, joy buzzer, whoopee cushion, party noisemakers, crash, screams.

COSTUMES:

All cast members except for Lucinda, the Bodyguards, and Agnes should wear T-shirts that clearly say “Kamp KAOS.” The shirts should be contrasting in color for campers and counselors. For instance, white for campers, gray for counselors or red for campers, blue for counselors. (Shirts with the Kamp KAOS logo are available from the publisher.) Aside from the shirt, costumes can have a touch of originality. Shorts, jeans, hiking boots, sneakers, hats, backpacks, bandannas, suspenders, overshirts can all be added to individualize each character. Wally should wear floppy summer hat, glasses, mustache, whistle around the neck, a bright Hawaiian shirt and have a bit of a belly. Natalie will later dress as his double. Lucinda Scorch wears an elegant business suit with gaudy jewelry. The Bodyguards are dressed in black suits with sunglasses and earpiece walkie-talkies. Agnes Stonebottom is in a severe, dark-colored business suit with hair pulled back and perhaps with a couple of pencils stuck in the hair bun.

PROPS

Headphones, microphone, tape deck, other radio equipment, tapes, papers for radio broadcasts, canoe paddles, bows and arrows, life preservers, boxes, shovels, clipboards, backpacks, canteens, binoculars, badminton racquets, volleyballs, a pair of boxer shorts, silver whistle, letter, “mortgage past due” notice, paper bag with mousetraps inside, contract, pen, shoe-polishing cloth, nail file or buffer, beverage on a tray, two joy buzzers, bag of balloons, fly in a plastic ice cube, rubber barf, a dribble glass, two whoopee cushions, a salt shaker, a squirting flower, a fresh cream pie, two rubber chickens, a rubber spider, a pail, a slide whistle or wolf whistle, a brick of cheese, a toilet brush, swivel chair, coffee mugs, soft drink cans, party noise makers, books, blue prints and diagrams, a hat, glasses, and fake mustache, a large sheet or canvas tarp, a lantern or desk lamp or powerful flashlight, flashlight, cardboard cutouts of train and trees, a large sack, cowboy hats, a gun, pencils, various packages of snacks for Martin, toilet paper or a reusable two-piece toilet paper mummy outfit, a squirt gun, rubber snakes, water balloons, rope, crowbars, large wooden trunk with gold bars inside.

ACT I

(AT RISE: The main cabin of Kamp KAOS. Early morning. WALLY enters and sits at a table with microphone and radio equipment. He puts on a set of headphones, takes a deep breath and begins to speak with a large "radio voice.")

WALLY: Good morning, everyone! It is 6 a.m. and radio K-A-O-S, 470 am, now begins its broadcast day. I know all you camp counselors for Kamp KAOS have your alarm clock radios set to this frequency, so it is my duty to inform you to get up and report to our first staff meeting of the summer at 6:15. Those crazy campers arrived last night and we have a full day of activities ahead. In national news, the world's richest woman, Lucinda Scorch, has come up with a foolproof plan to own the team that wins next year's world series. Ms. Scorch plans to buy every team in major league baseball, therefore guaranteeing her the winner. Good thinking, Lucinda. Our weather report has the current temperature at 65 degrees Fahrenheit; in Celsius that's … uh … well, you figure it out; I'm not a math teacher. The forecast calls for a sunny day ahead for the first day of camp. However, the mysterious El Gordo winds have been causing trouble locally. The El Gordo phenomenon occurs only once every 37 and a half years and has been blamed for strange animal migrations, extra high tides, mismatched socks, and static cling. Now sit back and relax as we play a special treat for you. It's the National Marimba and Kazoo Orchestra playing Verdi's opera, "Aida," in its entirety. *(WALLY presses "play" on a tape deck. Loud rock and roll music starts playing.)* Oh no! How do I turn this off? *(Wally presses a button, the music gets louder.)* Arrgh! *(Wally grabs microphone and turns on public address system.)* Mayday! Mayday! Code Red! I repeat, Code Red!

(RICKY enters calmly and walks to the radio table. NATALIE enters and looks on hiding a smile, having seen Wally catch Ricky pulling pranks many times before.)

WALLY: Ricky, could I speak to you for a moment?
RICKY: Of course, Wally. How may I help you?
WALLY: You wouldn't happen to know anything about my recordings getting mixed up, would you?
RICKY: *(Obviously lying.)* I have no idea what you could be talking about, Wally.
WALLY: You know I can't stand rock and roll. Especially at 6 a.m.
RICKY: Oh, come on, Wally. It's just the thing to get you moving in the morning.
WALLY: If I want to move in the morning, I'll drink a glass of prune juice. Enough pranks! You are a counselor; I need you to set an example for the campers.
RICKY: Yes, Wally.
WALLY: Go on, wake up the other counselors.
RICKY: Okay, boss.

(HE salutes and exits.)

WALLY: Natalie, as head counselor, you're going to have to keep an eye on that Ricky.
NATALIE: Don't worry, Wally. His pranks are harmless.
WALLY: I suppose so, except for that rock and roll garbage. Anyhow, welcome back to Kamp KAOS. What is this, your ninth year?
NATALIE: This is my tenth, Wally. Five as a camper, five as a counselor.
WALLY: Ten years? That hardly seems possible.
NATALIE: Ten years. Ever since I turned eleven.
WALLY: So, you are 21 now?
NATALIE: I will be next week.
WALLY: Well, then, you're the closest thing to another adult this camp has. So, in honor of your ten years of service to Kamp KAOS, and for your position as senior counselor, I hereby present you with the silver whistle award.

(WALLY places a whistle around NATALIE'S neck.)

NATALIE: That's sweet, Wally; thank you.

End of Freeview

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