

FIRST IN LINE

A MUSICAL REVUE

Book and lyrics by Rob Frankel
Music and additional lyrics by Scott Keys

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DEDICATION

To Brad, a gentle giant of a fighter, and his loving wife Jill, and beautiful family,
Chelsea, Colin, and Carolyn...we'll never forget you.
The Playwright, Rob Frankel

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Scene 5:	First Blemish
Scene 6:	Crushed (Poet)
Scene 7:	First Crush - <i>"Having a Crush"</i>
Scene 8:	First Time Driving
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ACT II

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Scene 4:	First Day of Winter
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Scene 7:	First Child - <i>"Oh, Baby, What Ya Do to Me!"</i>
Scene 8:	First Time You've Seen This Play (Poet)
Finale :	<i>"Break New Ground - Reprise"</i>

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ACCOMPANIMENT CD: In addition to piano and vocal scores, Eldridge Publishing offers a special accompaniment CD for this musical. The CD has both rehearsal tracks (with professional singers singing every verse of every song), and performance tracks (music only). To order, call Eldridge Publishing at 1-800-HI-STAGE.

PRODUCTION NOTES

This revue is a compilation of songs, scenes, and poems written on the general theme, "Firsts," from the warm and fuzzy, to the downright embarrassing, to the poignant and touching. Scenes may be removed or shuffled as warranted by the production.

This play was written as a traveling show with simple scenery and props. Because of that, the actors will need to ensure they use some basic miming fundamentals to establish the important doors, glasses, etc.

With so many scene changes, the trick is to sacrifice formality for expedience. Characters may bring out their own furnishings as they begin their dialogue. Or you may choose to have some set-up going on in the dark part of the stage as the current scene is concluding.

The curtain call can be lots of fun if each of the characters will create a small sign that they hold up as they take their individual bow. Each sign would indicate some sort of first for them personally. Examples would be - "First Time Taking a Bow" or "First Time Uncle Albert Has Seen Me in a Play."

Flexible Casting

This play can run with as few as 5 females and 5 males, if double casting is used, or as many as twenty or more. Additionally, many roles (e.g. the Poet) can be cast either as male or female. The Poet is an important character. This character is the only "running gag" in the show, and gives the audience something on which to anchor. The person should be suitably snooty, and stick to the poem despite the distractions. Though a traditional "he" pronoun has been used for stage instructions, please consider it generic and use either gender.

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Costumes

Simple costumes work best for this production with accessories such as hats, glasses, pipes added to suggest each of the characters. Because each actor will play several parts and because you never know what your offstage area will look like if you are taking this on tour, keeping the costume changes simple will prevent any gray hair to which the director might be prone.

Setting

Like the costumes, the setting should be kept as simple as possible. Four large wooden blocks can serve as tables, beds, podiums, etc. In addition, four short stools work well in doubling as chairs, TV stands, steps, etc. If you are not touring you certainly can make your set more elaborate. A movable door on a frame, for example, is a helpful addition in several scenes.

Sound

Music between scenes helps smooth the many scene changes. If you are using the CD of *FIRST IN LINE*, you can use the instrumental tracks as transition music. This play uses some offstage voices, so an offstage standing microphone is very helpful.

Props

Act I

PROLOGUE: There are several different characters, occupations and activities suggested in the opening number which can be distinguished with props and/or costume accessories, or simply suggested by mime, gesture or movement.

FIRST BASE: (Poet) Poetry book, baseball, baseball mitt.

FIRST IN LINE: Two large sets of keys, wrist watch.

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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: trays, empty brown paper lunch sacks, watch, full lunch bag

FIRST BLEMISH: Five pairs of sunglasses, hand-held makeup mirror, large band-aid, large paper bag, tube of acne cream, beekeeper (or other unusual) helmet.

CRUSHED: (Poet) Poetry book, large stuffed animal.

FIRST CRUSH: Bag of popcorn, purse, pipe, coat.

FIRST TIME DRIVING: Clipboard, driver's education book, Walkman headphones, handkerchief.

FIRST PLANE RIDE: Carry on bags, tickets

ACT II

FIRST HOUSE: Mop, telephone, newspaper, box of Girl Scout Cookies, champagne, glasses.

FIRST COMPUTER: *National Enquirer* newspaper, hand-held video game, three telephones, computer keyboard.

FIRST SNOWFALL: (Poet) Poetry book, marshmallows, box of Ivory Snowflakes.

FIRST DAY OF SPRING: (Poet) Several long-range ("Super Soaker") squirt guns, umbrella.

FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN THIS PLAY: (Poet) Poetry book, long rope.

No special properties required for the following scenes:

FIRST SCRIMMAGE
FIRST DAY OF WINTER
FIRST BOUT WITH DEATH
FIRST CHILD

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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ACT I - PROLOGUE

(SETTING: A bare stage, perhaps with painted signs at various locations, depicting the names of people, places, and things that have "gone first" in history. AT RISE: A drum roll, then beat, as in the beginning of a marching band. Initially, the words are spoken to the beat, as each ACTOR enters. NOTE: Any number of actors can be used, even though the SINGERS are labeled #1-8.)

SONG: "BREAK NEW GROUND"

ACTOR #1: *(President - Spoken.)*

GEORGE WASHINGTON WORE POWDERED WIGS AND NEVER
TOLD A LIE

HE WAS THE FIRST TO HAVE A BITE OF PRESIDENTIAL PIE.

ACTOR #2: *(Judge - Spoken.)*

AND SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR WAS A FINE JUDICIAL SORT
SHE WAS THE FIRST WOMAN ON THE SUPREME COURT.

(MUSIC up, moderato, song begins.)

ACTOR #3: *(Patient - Sings.)*

AND ME, I AM JUST TRYING TO SURVIVE MY FIRST DAY HERE.

ACTOR #4: *(Student - Sings.)* MY FIRST TIME AWAY...

ACTOR #5: *(Cook - Sings.)* MY FIRST SOUFFLÉ...

ACTOR #6: *(Older woman - Sings.)* AH, MY FIRST GRAY HAIR!

ALL: *(Sing.)*

IT'S HARD TO
BREAK NEW GROUND.
HOW TO GET THERE
WHEN YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THERE.
BREAK NEW GROUND.
HOW TO DO THAT
WHEN YOU'VE NEVER DONE THAT.
AND THOUGH IT LOOKED SO EASY
WHEN NO ONE WAS AROUND...
NOW IT SEEMS THE HARDEST THING TO DO...
TO BREAK NEW GROUND.

End of Freeview

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