

'65 Mustang

A comedy in one act by
Burton Bumgarner

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DEDICATION

For Andrew

STORY OF THE PLAY

Set in and around a 1965 Ford Mustang, the play is made up of five scenes, each a decade apart. Each scene depicts events in the lives of people who own, drive, or come in contact with the classic car. Actors portray parents, young children, punks, spoiled brats, criminals, policemen, and winners and losers of all varieties. Throughout its existence the Mustang encounters newlyweds, birth, death, a devastating flood, destruction and restoration. From the first scene when Nicholas, a teen much too poor to ever own such a car, to the last where his grandchildren now present it to him, a classic perfectly restored, the scenes are hilarious as well as poignant. You'll truly enjoy the ride.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Four male and four female actors can perform the entire play with parts doubled in the first scene, or different actors for each scene may be used.)

SCENE 1: 1965

MARY GALE	DAD
MOM	LITTLE BROTHER / POLICEMAN
KIM / OLD WOMAN	TIM / BOY 1
STACEY	NICHOLAS / BOY 2

SCENE 2: 1975

STAN	GREG
LISA	OLIVIA

SCENE 3: 1985

MOLE (female)	RAT (male)
POLICEWOMAN	

SCENE 4: 1995

LEO	LEONARD
SAM	CARLA
MARIE	JANET
JIMMY	DOCTOR
VOICE OF RADIO ANNOUNCER	

SCENE 5: 2005

GRANDMOTHER	GRANDFATHER NICHOLAS
SON	DAUGHTER
GRANDSONS 1 & 2	GRANDDAUGHTERS 1 & 2

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SET

The play is set on a bare stage with props. Two chairs represent the front seats and a bench or elevated love seat behind the chairs represent the back seat of a '65 Mustang. A small table behind the "back seat" represents the trunk. Other enhancements may be used but are not necessary. The set faces the audience near center stage. Music from each decade would enhance the scene changes. Clothes and hairstyles should represent each decade depicted.

Scene 1: 1965

(During the blackout singing is heard.)

CAST: *(Singing.)* Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday, Mary Gale ...
Happy birthday to you.

(LIGHTS up. DAD, MOM, and LITTLE BROTHER are standing near the car. Dad's hands are across MARY GALE's eyes.)

MARY GALE: This is so silly. I wish you'd just show me my present and get this over with.

LITTLE BROTHER: You're gonna be soooo surprised!

MARY GALE: *(Sarcastic.)* I'm sure I will be. *(DAD uncovers MARY GALE's eyes.)*

LITTLE BROTHER: It's a car! A new Mustang! Isn't it great?

MARY GALE: *(Looking over the car.)* Hmm. *(DAD holds out the keys.)*

MOM: *(Uncertain.)* You're going to have to be very responsible, dear. No more speeding tickets. *(MARY GALE rolls her eyes.)*

DAD: She'll be responsible. *(To MARY GALE.)* Right, kid? I still think that cop was out to get a teenage driver. He hadn't reached his quota for the day.

MOM: Dear, she was driving very fast in a work zone. Someone could have been hurt.

DAD: It was his word against hers. Besides, my little girl's an excellent driver. Right, Mary Gale?

MOM: *(Sighs.)* Well, what do you think of the car, dear? I would have preferred something more practical.

MARY GALE: More practical? *(Sarcastic.)* Like what? A station wagon?

MOM: Well, a ... family car.

MARY GALE: Mom, I don't have a family.

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LITTLE BROTHER: You've got me.

MARY GALE: No, I don't.

MOM: You know, dear. This car cost almost three thousand dollars. I'm not sure it's the right car we should have bought for you.

MARY GALE: I would have preferred a Corvette. But this will do.

LITTLE BROTHER: I helped pick out the color.

MARY GALE: Is that why it's blue? *(To DAD.)* I told you I wanted a red car.

DAD: Yes, dear. Well, this one has all of the options. Besides, the only red one they had was straight drive. You said you didn't want to be shifting gears all the time.

MARY GALE: *(Looking over the car.)* I guess it's okay. *(SHE takes the keys from DAD and sits in the driver's seat.)*

LITTLE BROTHER: Can I go for a ride?

MARY GALE: NO!

MOM: You know, dear, you haven't said thank you.

MARY GALE: *(Without sincerity to DAD.)* Thanks. I'm going to Kim's house for a while.

MOM: But I baked you a cake. And we have other presents.

MARY GALE: Later.

LITTLE BROTHER: *(Whining.)* I wanna go for a ride! I wanna go for a ride!

MARY GALE: Shut up!

LITTLE BROTHER: *(To DAD.)* You said I could go for a ride! You promised!

DAD: I'm sure Mary Gale will take you for a ride ... later. *(To MARY GALE.)* Right, dear?

MARY GALE: Don't count on it. *(SHE starts the car and drives. The family watches her for a count.)*

DAD: Do you think she likes the car?

MOM: *(Frustrated.)* I don't know what she likes anymore.

LITTLE BROTHER: She's mean!

DAD: No, she's not! Don't talk that way about your big sister!

MOM: Let's have some ice cream and cake.

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DAD: What about Mary Gale?

MOM: I don't think she'll be around to enjoy it. (*FAMILY exits right. KIM and STACY enter left.*)

KIM: It looks like Mary Gale got her car.

STACY: It must be nice to get everything you want. I wouldn't know.

KIM: Me either. I'm lucky to drive the Chevy Impala once a week.

STACY: My parents said I could have a car when I can buy a car.

KIM: She's pulling in the driveway. You want to hide?

STACY: She's already seen us.

KIM: (*Sighs.*) Let's get it over with. (*THEY cross to MARY GALE.*) Wow. Is this your car?

STACY: It's really cool, Mary Gale.

MARY GALE: Hop in. Let's go for a ride.

STACY / KIM: Okay. (*They sit in the car, KIM in front, STACY in back.*)

KIM: Mind if I turn on the radio? (*SHE reaches forward and "turns on" radio. A pop song from 1965 is heard.*)

STACY: Oh. I love this song.

KIM: Me, too.

MARY GALE: (*Turning off radio.*) I hate it! (*THEY ride in silence for several counts.*)

STACY: Where are we going?

MARY GALE: The drive-in.

KIM: You think anyone will be there?

MARY GALE: It's almost lunch time. Someone will be there. I need to show off my birthday present.

KIM: You must have really brought your grades up.

MARY GALE: What do you mean?

KIM: You said your parents would buy you a new car if you brought your grades up. So, you must have brought your grades up.

MARY GALE: They THINK I brought my grades up. But who cares?

STACY: You mean you DIDN'T bring your grades up and they bought you the car anyway?

End of Freeview

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