

Funny Hamlet

A one-act farce
by Jon Jory

Song by Peter Ekstrom

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Tallulah, an over-the-top director extraordinaire at her high school, hasn't gotten the recognition she believes she deserves. It might be because the school principal doesn't let the drama students perform. Nevertheless, she and her loyal sidekick and stage manager, Calista, build sets for plays that are never done, and the actors rehearse plays that never open!

All is about to change when Tallulah is nominated for High School Drama God of the Year. This all-girls high school has less than 24 hours to create their version of *Hamlet*, a show that will determine if Tallulah wins the coveted title.

We meet a wild and crazy cast of techies, actors, and even clowns as the group tries to dazzle the adjudicator. The cast comes together in the end to perform the song, "The Song of Death." This show is Shakespeare like you've never seen it and, in the end ... all's well that ends well!

"The Song of Death" sheet music is also available.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 m, 10 w, 16 flexible, doubling possible, extras)

TALLULAH: *(Female)* The over-the-top director.

CALISTA: *(Female)* Stage manager and Tallulah's loyal sidekick.

TECHIE #1

TECHIE #2

TECHIE #3

ACTOR #1

ACTOR #2

ACTOR #3

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER #1

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER #2

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER #3

MR. MUGGLY (also HAMLET): *(Male)* An old man, a bit wobbly.

THE NERD: The nerdiest person in history.

OPHELIA: *(Female)* A Goth girl.

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2

AUDIENCE MEMBER #3

LITTLE GIRL *(Female)*

CLOWN #1

CLOWN #2

CLOWN #3

ELEANOR ROCKEFELLER CARNEGIE *(Female)*

LUCKY *(Female)*

KING CLAUDIUS *(Female)*

QUEEN GERTRUDE *(Female)*

HORATIO *(Female)*

LAERTES *(Female)*

EXTRAS: As marching band - Drummer, Horn and one Cheerleader

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SET

A white wall with three working red doors in it. There is a small desk featuring an old stand-up phone and a chair behind it.

PROPS

Phone	Towels
Whistle	Handfuls of confetti
Keys on a large key ring	Tall glass of prune juice
Tools	Rose petals
Clipboards	Small table
Push broom	Three folding chairs
Two suitcases	Small stepladder
Two small bouquets of flowers	Diet Coke
Trophy	Old-fashioned eggbeater
Two small cream pies	Stuffed parrot

SOUND EFFECTS

Phone ring, marching band music, double-time music.

COSTUMES

TALLULAH: A dress in some wild and colorful print. She wears a platinum wig and high heels. A whistle hangs around her neck.

CALISTA: Wears jeans with a gigantic key ring attached and a t-shirt that reads "Thespis Made Me Do It!"

THREE ACTORS: Wild costumes.

THREE CLOWNS: They have a contemporary clown look but with Shakespearian touches.

ELEANOR ROCKEFELLER CARNEGIE: Conservative evening gown.

LUCKY: Fire department outfit. It's a little cheesy.

MR. MUGGLY: Janitor's outfit. Later he wears a baseball cap with "Hamlet" written on it.

CLAUDIUS: Large crown.

GERTRUDE: Smaller crown.

LAERTES: Wears a cap emblazoned with an "L."

HORATIO: Wears a t-shirt that says, "Best Friend."

OPHELIA: Goth-style clothing. Later costumed as Ophelia.

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(AT RISE: On stage we see a white wall with three red doors in it. There is a small desk featuring an old stand up phone and a chair behind it. At the desk sits TALLULAH, a young woman in a wild and colorful print dress. She wears a platinum wig and high heels, and has a whistle around her neck. SFX: The phone rings.)

TALLULAH: *(Answering it.)* 'Tis I, Tallulah Fumagali, the drama queen of deepest North Dakota. I am producer, director, designer, and decider here at Giulia Tofana High School for Girls. Some call me a genius but let's not dwell on that. Whooooo, are you? What? What? Speak up, your consonants are a catastrophe. Oh. Oh! *(A complete change of tone.)* What an unspeakable honor to speak with you. No! Really? Well, goodness gracious, that is just slicker than a hog on ice! That just sends shivers down my incredibly elegant body. I see, uh-huh, well whatever that is I'll be on the lookout. I am honored that such an honor honors me with this honor. May Thespis be with you. *(SHE hangs up, stands up and does a moment of flamenco.)* Yes! Recognition at last! *(Shouts.)* Stage management!

(CALISTA, Tallulah's loyal sidekick, enters. She is in jeans with a gigantic key ring attached and a t-shirt that reads, "Thespis Made Me Do It!")

CALISTA: Calista Squeams, stage manager of your dreams, your word is my command. What's up, doc?

TALLULAH: Something very remarkable and passing strange.

CALISTA: Could it be that *Dramatic Magazine*, bible of high school theatre nerds, has nominated you as High School Drama God of the Year?

TALLULAH: How did you know?

CALISTA: I always listen on the extension.

TALLULAH: You naughty little minx.

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CALISTA: So, you're nominated!

TALLULAH: It's true! I am!

CALISTA: Fantabulicious!

TALLULAH: But, Sistah Calista, how is it possible after our catastrophic production of *Grease* two years ago, picked up in a video and viewed two million times?

CALISTA: You mean when the Pink Ladies had stomach flu and barfed continually during the dance numbers?

TALLULAH: And the Burger Palace Boys were somewhat inebriated and fell asleep during "Greased Lightning"?

CALISTA: And the police rushed the stage and arrested our Danny during "All Choked Up" for having 72 parking tickets without owning a car?

TALLULAH: Winter in Fargo, 27 inches of snow. The roof leaked, the stage iced up and it was *Grease Capades*.

CALISTA: Ah well...

TALLULAH and CALISTA: That's show business!!

(If possible, they do a quick tap riff.)

TALLULAH: Of course, since that time Ms. Rattlebag, our dear principal...

CALISTA: With one eye and a mohawk...

TALLULAH: Won't allow us to actually do plays, thus we...

(Three doors open revealing TECHIES holding tools.)

TECHIES: Build sets for plays that are never done.

(Doors close.)

CALISTA: And the actors...

(Three doors open revealing ACTORS in wild costumes.)

TALLULAH: Rehearse plays...

ACTORS: That never open!

(Doors close.)

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TALLULAH: So how, Calista Squeams, could I have been nominated as High School Drama God of the Year?

CALISTA: I wrote a little letter that was only slightly better than the best little letter ever wrote.

TALLULAH: (*Pleased.*) You did?

CALISTA: And forged three thousand signatures from the Fargo phonebook by candlelight while eating Twizzlers in my family's dark and dirty basement.

TALLULAH: (*Delighted.*) You did?

CALISTA: I, Calista Squeams, stage manager extraordinaire bound for Broadway, did!

TALLULAH: You forged my fans?

CALISTA: But if they were real, they would have loved you.

TALLULAH: That's so true.

CALISTA: We simply overlooked the fact that real people found they were out of stamps.

TALLULAH: (*Relieved.*) Well, that's all right then.

CALISTA: There is one teeny-tiny, itsy-bitsy problem.

TALLULAH: Both teeny and bitsy?

CALISTA: They are sending an adjudicator.

TALLULAH: What's an adjudicator?

CALISTA: One who adjudicates.

TALLULAH: The adjudicator adjudicates?

CALISTA: Or perhaps an adjudicatress adjudicates.

TALLULAH: But what is adjudication by an adjudicatress?

CALISTA: To see if you are all that.

TALLULAH: By coming here?

CALISTA: To see the performance.

TALLULAH: What performance?

CALISTA: Our performance.

TALLULAH: But we have no production.

CALISTA: Therein lies the problem.

TALLULAH: What in the name of Thespis can be done?

(Three doors open revealing ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS with clipboards.)

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS: We'll handle it.

End of Freeview

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