

# Louder Than Words

A Mime Collection

**By Linda Dumas**

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### **A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT**

At the middle school in Texas where I teach, we use the mime show as an opportunity for theatre arts to perform and as a way to raise money for our department. It is a seven-year tradition now, and is eagerly anticipated by the student body.

We first perform for the nearly 700 students at our school, charging a nominal sum. We then do a special evening performance for families for no charge.

We do what you might call "Red Skelton" mime. That is to say, we might use minimal props and costuming, but lots of music. About 18 - 20 skits make a good show. Everybody takes part in at least two numbers and changes in and out of crew.

Recently, we have experimented with some numbers where we interpret a story, as well as some music interpretation. It is our show and we do it our way because it works for us and we have a great time. I'll tell you how we staged the numbers and then you will find that variations and improvements will occur to you as you go along.

We begin and end the skits with either a dynamic freeze, a resting position, or a true entrance or exit. There is an easel at extreme apron right. A placard announces The Mime Show as the audience enters. House lights dim and the placard is replaced by one bearing the title of the first mime. It is replaced with new titles in a stylish vaudeville manner by attractive young ladies who alternate, so that they too, can participate in the skits.

The ideas that follow are in no special order. Arrange to fit cast, crew, and time requirements, keeping in mind contrast and variety for the audience as well as dynamic and effective opening and closing numbers. Have fun!

The Playwright,  
Linda Dumas

A Note About Music: Occasionally song suggestions have been included in this script. *If a song is under copyright, be sure to obtain permission before using.* If permission cannot be obtained, feel free to substitute a similar song for which permission has been granted or use a song out of copyright. For short mimes, gradually fade out the music.

## Contents

Goodnight Kiss .....	7
The Spectators .....	7
A Visit to the Dentist .....	8
Dr. Frankenstein .....	8
The Wallflower .....	9
Sole Survivor .....	10
Girls' School .....	11
Modern Art .....	12
Family Portrait .....	12
Spy vs. Spy .....	13
A Bargain Sale .....	13
Maternity Ward .....	14
Marionettes .....	14
The Richard Simmons' Show .....	15
Bedtime .....	16
The Jogger .....	16
Rocky XXXXXVII .....	17
A Beauty Contest .....	17
Obedience School .....	18
Bowling .....	19
A Toy Shop .....	20
The Ballet .....	21
Women's Lib .....	21
The Cure .....	22
Driving With Dad .....	22
Bottom of the Ninth .....	23
The Workout .....	23
Follow the Leader .....	24
The Cheerleaders .....	24
The Game Room .....	25
Drill Team .....	25
Getting Ready .....	26
The Klutzy Burglar .....	27
It's a Cat's Life .....	28
Centipedes .....	29
Big Top .....	29
Acme Driving School .....	30
The Flasher .....	31
Contagion .....	31
The School Bus .....	32
Cross-Country Race .....	33

*Louder Than Words*

- 4 -

In the Park .....	33
The Decoys .....	34
I Love New York .....	34
The Babysitter .....	35
The Boy Scout .....	36
The French Chefs .....	37
Surgery .....	37
The Matador .....	38
Unemployment .....	38
Family Bathroom .....	39
Last Night at Sal's .....	39
Beauty and the Beast .....	40
Mad Barber .....	40
Greed and Granddaughters .....	41
The Engagement .....	42
The Metamorphosis .....	43
Night with the Nerds .....	44
Grass Skirts .....	44
Killing for Treasure .....	44
Spring Training .....	45
Bennie Ha Ha .....	46
Computer Dating .....	46
By the Sea .....	47
Witches' Brew .....	47
The Anniversary .....	48
Silent Movie .....	49
Bonnie and Clyde .....	50
The Wagon Train .....	50
General Hospital .....	51
Hooked on Swing .....	52
Fishing Trip .....	53
Bus Stop .....	53
Fuedin' .....	54
The TV Freak .....	57
The Hat Shoppe .....	58
The Caveman .....	59
Hooked on Classics .....	60
Lost in the '50s Tonight.....	62

## **SUGGESTED COMBINATIONS FOR A COMPLETE MIME SHOW**

*Here are the combinations used by the author in producing her annual mime productions. When creating your own show, keep in mind contrast and variety for the audience as well as dynamic and effective opening and closing numbers.*

### **First year (13 total)**

*Dr. Frankenstein, Drill Team, In the Park, By the Sea, The Decoys, The Spectators, The French Chefs, The Operation, The Flasher, The Wallflower, Modern Art, Getting Ready, Spring Training.*

### **Second year(16 total)**

*Follow the Leader, Bennie Ha Ha, Cross-Country Race, I Love New York, The Game Room, Computer Dating, Bus Stop, The Cheerleaders, The Baby Sitter, General Hospital, Richard Simmons, Bowling, The Scout, Obedience School, Big Top, Copacabana.*

### **Third year (18 total)**

*Hooked on Swing, Goodnight Kiss, A Visit to the Dentist, Dr. Frankenstein, The Spectator, The Wallflower, Centipedes, Sole Survivor, Acme Driving School, Bus Stop, Girls' School, Modern Art, Family Portrait, Spring Training, Contagion, School Bus, Silent Movie, Unemployment.*

### **Fourth year (18 total)**

*Obedience School, The Jogger, Bowling, Fishing Trip, The Toy Shop, Spy vs. Spy, A Beauty Pageant, Richard Simmons, Bonnie and Clyde, The Flasher, Bedtime, Maternity Ward, Rocky XVII, Marionettes, Feudin', Hooked on Classics; A Bargain Sale, Follow the Leader.*

### **Fifth year (18 total)**

*General Hospital, The Anniversary, The School Bus, Witches' Brew, The Matador, Mad Barber, Getting Ready, Girls' School, Goodnight Kiss, Boy Scout, Beauty and the Beast, Bennie Ha Ha, Last Night at Sal's, Spring Training, Wagon Train, Wallflower, Silent Movie, Hooked on Swing.*

**Sixth year (19 total)**

*Greed and Granddaughters, The Engagement, The Cheerleaders, French Chefs, Metamorphosis, The Ballet, Decoys, Bowling, The Grass Skirt, Lost in the Fifties, Women's Lib, A Night With the Nerds, Killing for Treasure, I Love New York, The Cure, Driving with Dad, Computer Dating, Bottom of the Ninth, Cross-Country Race.*

**7th year (21 total)**

*By the Sea, Beauty and the Beast, Drill Team, Contagion, Family Portrait, Maternity Ward, The Baby-sitter, Hooked on Classics, Obedience School, Witches' Brew, Big Top, The Toy Shop, The Work Out, Spectators, Girls' School, A Visit to the Dentist, Bus Stop, Feudin', Goodnight Kiss, Centipedes, Surgery.*

## **GOODNIGHT KISS**

*Characters: Short Male, Tall Female*

A very short boy and a very tall girl enter with arms around each other. They are about to say goodnight with a kiss. They turn toward each other and the boy's head bumps against the girl's chest. Obviously this kissing poses problems. They turn away, assuming thoughtful poses. The girl has an idea. She taps his shoulder and he turns around. She grasps him under the arms to pick him up. Too heavy. They turn away and think once more. He has an idea. He taps her. She turns and he indicates that she should bend over. She starts to, but then her hand goes to her back. It's too painful. Finally the boy spies the steps. Their faces light up. He leads her to the steps. He climbs up. She stays on the floor. They manage to complete the kiss successfully.

## **THE SPECTATORS**

*Characters: 3 Men, 1 Kid*

Three men and boy sit in a stadium watching a terrific football game. They are making "go" motions and craning their necks when the boy begins to squirm and look very uncomfortable. He finally gets up to go to the restroom, walking with his knees pinched together. He pauses in front of the end man, left, just as a stupendous play occurs. The other two men pound end man on the back and jump up and down, indicating, "Didn't you see that terrific play?" He sadly shakes his head. They sit down again. The kid comes back feeling better. Moving to his place, he stops to watch a play, thus blocking a second man. Again the "Didn't you see?" reaction from the other two guys. The game goes on. The kid begins to lick his lips and clutch his throat. He is very dry. He decides to go for a drink. As he eases his way along the row, he blocks the remaining gentleman, who misses a very big play. The kid returns with his drink, trips and spills it over all three men. He sits down. The men then have a conference. They rise slowly pulling off their ties. They jump the kid, tie him up, and lean back peacefully to watch the game.

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