

Annie Play Will Do

By
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DEDICATION

To drama teachers everywhere,
including Julie Miller, Maggie Cassidy, Chris Schaefer,
Emily Osby, Tiffany Smith, and Jeremy Leazenby-Bruce...
for instilling their love of theatre and performing arts
into future generations.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Because of a miscommunication with the principal, high school drama teacher Mr. Morris finds himself with only ONE DAY to cast, stage and perform the school play. In desperation, he turns to two of his best students, Paul and Laura, to take charge and co-direct the show, unaware that the two are in the middle of a nasty break-up and are no longer speaking. Things go from bad to much, much worse when Paul and Laura, practicing with their friends independently, don't realize they are rehearsing for DIFFERENT SHOWS, and the problem isn't discovered until the curtain opens. It's a theatre nightmare brought hilariously to life.

Approximately 65-70 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

(7 m, 8 w, 2 gender flexible)

PAUL: *(M)* Nice young man who is dating Laura.

LAURA: *(F)* A big fan of drama, both onstage and off.

RHONDA: *(F)* A friend (and nothing more) of Paul's.

MR. MORRIS: *(Flexible)* School drama teacher; could be Ms. Morris, if needed.

GABE: *(M)* Boy in drama class.

TERESA: *(F)* Laura's best friend.

LARRY: *(M)* Nerdy, unpopular know-it-all.

DUSTIN: *(M)* A surfer dude.

ELAINE: *(F)* Girl in drama class.

MELINDA: *(F)* The largest or tallest girl in the show.

PRINCIPAL MARTIN: *(Flexible)* The school principal.

AMY: *(F)* Girl with a quick wit.

JODY: *(F)* Racked with severe stage fright.

BOB: *(M)* The largest boy in the show, with the deepest voice.

FRANCINE: *(F)* A complete moron.

TODD: *(M)* Not much of a history buff.

SUPERINTENDENT CARTWRIGHT: *(M)* The scary, imposing school superintendent.

TIME AND PLACE: A Thursday and Friday at a normal, modern American high school.

SETTING: The story takes place at various locations in the school. It can be a bare stage, or you can decorate with enough props or backdrops to indicate the setting. (See set drawing at end of script.)

Annie Play Will Do
- 4 -

SCENES

Act I

Scene 1: The hallway. Thursday morning at school.

Scene 2: The drama room. An hour later.

Scene 3: The drama room. An hour later.

Scene 4: The hallway. A few minutes later.

Scene 5: Three locations. At the end of the day.

Act II

Scene 1: The stage. Friday night, as the play begins.

Scene 2: The stage. Scene 2.

Scene 3: The stage. A later scene.

Scene 4: The stage. A later scene.

Scene 5: The stage. The final scene / the aftermath.

PROPS

Act I, Scene 1

Backpack (for PAUL); a watch (worn by PAUL); an iPod (carried on by LAURA)

Act I, Scene 2

Table or desk; eight chairs

Act I, Scene 3

Calendar, papers and a pen on the desk

Act I, Scene 5

7 stapled print-outs (for PAUL); 7 stapled print-outs (for LAURA); a copy of the "Annie" script (for PAUL); a copy of the "Annie Get Your Gun" script (for LAURA)

Act II, Scene 1

Watch (worn by MR. MORRIS); teddy bear (for BOB); top half of a toy rocket, sawed in half (for FRANCINE); a toy rifle (for LAURA)

Act II, Scene 2

Canine stuffed animal, in a color that could NOT be called "sandy" (for FRANCINE)

Act II, Scene 3

Script print-out (for RHONDA); the bottom half of the previously-seen toy rocket (for PAUL); cell phone (for FRANCINE); a large mixing bowl and stirring spoon (for GABE)

Act II, Scene 5

Folding chair (for TODD)

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: The high school hallway. PAUL walks on from SL, a backpack slung over his shoulder, looking down at a sheet of paper. When he reaches CS, LAURA runs on from SR, frantic.)

LAURA: *(In a panic.)* PAUL! COME QUICK, THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT OUTSIDE! It's your MOM!

PAUL: *(Suspicious, checking his watch.)* Mom? It can't be her, she's been at work for an hour!

LAURA: She must have been bringing you something! She was crossing the parking lot when SPLAT! *(Using her hands for visual aids.)* The BUS nailed her! It sent her flying, like, a hundred feet, and she landed on Principal Martin's car! She went right through the windshield!

PAUL: *(Starting to panic himself.)* Are you— Is she okay? I mean, is she—

LAURA: I don't know! She's not moving! Some kid called for an ambulance, but you'd better get out there, FAST!

PAUL: *(Starts hurrying out SR.)* Oh, no!

LAURA: Oh, Paul, wait! One more thing!

PAUL: *(Impatient, eager to help his mom.)* WHAT?!?

LAURA: *(Calmly.)* I lied. None of that happened. Your mom's not out there. But I did drop your iPod in a mud puddle. Here. *(SHE hands him an iPod. HE looks confused.)*

PAUL: My...

LAURA: It doesn't work any more. Sorry about that. But hey...it could be worse, right? *(Long pause as he realizes what's going on. Relief is mixed with anger at what she just put him through.)*

PAUL: There is something horribly wrong with your brain, you know that?

LAURA: *(Proud of herself, pointing to the iPod in his hand.)* Just trying to put the bad news in perspective.

PAUL: *(Glancing down at his iPod, which he holds as if it is dripping.)* Seriously. You scare me.

LAURA: (*Dismissive.*) Nah...You love me and you know it.

PAUL: Even though you ruined my iPod?

LAURA: Yes, but I think we've both learned a valuable lesson. I learned that when mud fights technology, MUD wins. And YOU learned not to let me borrow your stuff.

PAUL: OR, believe a word you say.

LAURA: I know! Pretty good acting, right?

PAUL: Impressive. You're like Meryl Streep, if she was pure evil.

LAURA: (*Flattered.*) Thanks! Hey, speaking of acting, are you excited about auditions tomorrow night?

PAUL: I'm nervous. Can't believe you talked me into doing this.

LAURA: Oh, relax. You and I, in the school play together? It'll be great. Did you talk to Mr. Morris?

PAUL: I mentioned that I was thinking about trying out, and he seemed happy. I think he might even have a part in mind for me already. I just hope it's not too big.

LAURA: Don't worry. The two main characters in "The Miracle Worker" are both women. So unless you're dressing in drag, I think you'll be okay.

PAUL: Good. So, do you want to come over after school and study for the Algebra test?

LAURA: I can't. I have to prepare for auditions.

PAUL: (*Baffled.*) How do you "prepare for auditions"?

LAURA: Well, I really want the lead, so I'm going to read up on Helen Keller. Go online and learn as much as I can, and hopefully use it in my audition.

PAUL: "The Miracle Worker" is about Helen Keller?

LAURA: Of course. What did you THINK it was about?

PAUL: I don't know...I assumed it was something religious.

LAURA: You know NOTHING about theatre, do you?

PAUL: Not much. Does that annoy you?

LAURA: Nah...It's cute.

PAUL: YOU'RE cute.

LAURA: No, YOU'RE cute.

PAUL: YOU are.

(While they are both smiling, RHONDA enters from SL and crosses across the stage. As she passes the couple, she gives them a quick, friendly greeting meant for both of them.)

RHONDA: Hi, guys.

PAUL: *(Still smiling because of LAURA, HE turns briefly to acknowledge RHONDA, who is still on the move.)* Hey, Rhonda.

(RHONDA keeps walking and exits SR. LAURA watches her walk away, then turns back to PAUL, fuming.)

LAURA: What was that?

PAUL: *(Puzzled.)* What was what?

LAURA: *(Indicating SR.)* That! "Hey, Rhonda!" I saw how you were looking at her!

PAUL: What?!? What are you talking about?

LAURA: Oh, please! With the big smile?

PAUL: Are you— I was smiling at YOU! She just happened to walk by!

LAURA: Oh, so you started grinning like an idiot at the EXACT moment she sashayed past us.

PAUL: "Sashayed"? Are you being serious here?

LAURA: *(Angry face.)* Do I LOOK serious?

PAUL: *(Relieved.)* Oh, I get it, you're acting again, right? Is that it? I am so gullible! *(LAURA punches PAUL hard on the arm.)* Oww! That's NOT it.

LAURA: Next time you FLIRT with her, would you at least wait until I'm not here?

PAUL: Oh, stop it.

LAURA: Or better yet, don't. Make out with her in front of my locker, for all I care. 'Cause as of now, we're done.

PAUL: Oh, for— Laura, you're acting crazy, you know that?

LAURA: Oh, so now I'm CRAZY? That's perfect. Thanks.

PAUL: I didn't say you're crazy, I said you're ACTING—

LAURA: *(Cutting him off, she starts walking backwards towards SL.)* Forget it, Paul. It's over. We're finished. And I'm late for Drama.

PAUL: That's impossible! Your whole LIFE is one big drama!

End of Freeview

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