

Shakespeare Rocks!

Junior Script

by

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Published by

Musicline Publications

P.O. Box 15632

Tamworth

Staffordshire

B78 2DP

01827 281 431

www.musiclinedirect.com

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CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Prologue**

Al
Aubrey
Ollie
Will

Scene One

Anne
Hamnet
Judith
Ollie
Susanna
Will

Scene Two

Chorus of Minstrels
Fans 1-4
Minstrels 1-4
Ollie
Will

Scene Three

Al
Aubrey
Burbage
Man 1-4
Nic
Woman 1-4

Scene Four

Actors 1-4
Al
Anne
Apple Sellers
Aubrey
Beer Sellers
Box Office Attendants
Builders 1-2
Chorus of Builders
Heckler
Minstrels (with trumpets)
Ollie
Painters 1-4
Queen
Street
Theatregoers
Will

Scene Five

Al
Aubrey
Babs
Banquo
Beer Seller
Bernie
Beryl
Beth
Director
Mac
Minstrels (instrumental)
Sorcerers 1-5

Scene Six

Anne
Bernie
Burbage
Chorus of Fans
Fans 1-4
Juliet
Lutenist
Minstrels (instrumental)
Nic
Ollie
Recorder Player
Romeo
Street
Will

Scene Seven

Al
Anne
Aubrey
Will

Scene Eight

Entire Cast for final song.

LIST OF PROPERTIES**Prologue**

Will's desk.....	Scene Prop
Will's chair	Scene Prop
Inkpot.....	Scene Prop
Quill	Scene Prop
Parchment	Scene Prop
Will's diary	Aubrey
Pamphlet	Ollie

Scene One

Feather duster	Anne
Skull.....	Scene Prop
Pamphlet	Ollie
Giant 'Book of Insults'	Scene Prop

Scene Two

Instruments (including a violin, recorder, lute, trumpet & a drum)	Minstrels
Sunglasses	Minstrels
Script	Will
Posters	Fans
Pom-Poms.....	Fans

Scene Three

Will's diary	Aubrey
Cane	Burbage
Fake beard	Man 4
Gaudy high heeled shoes.....	Nic

Scene Four

Will's diary	Aubrey
Large wad of tickets.....	Box Office Attendants
Money pot.....	Box Office Attendants
Large pennies.....	Theatregoers
Trays of beer mugs.....	Beer Sellers
Baskets of apples	Apple Sellers
2 Trumpets	Minstrels
Pencils & large sketchpads	Painters

Unflattering sketch of Will and Queen Elizabeth 1 (See Next Page).....Painter 4
 2 metre long scroll (rolled up & tied)..... Street
 Beer jug Beer Seller

Scene Five

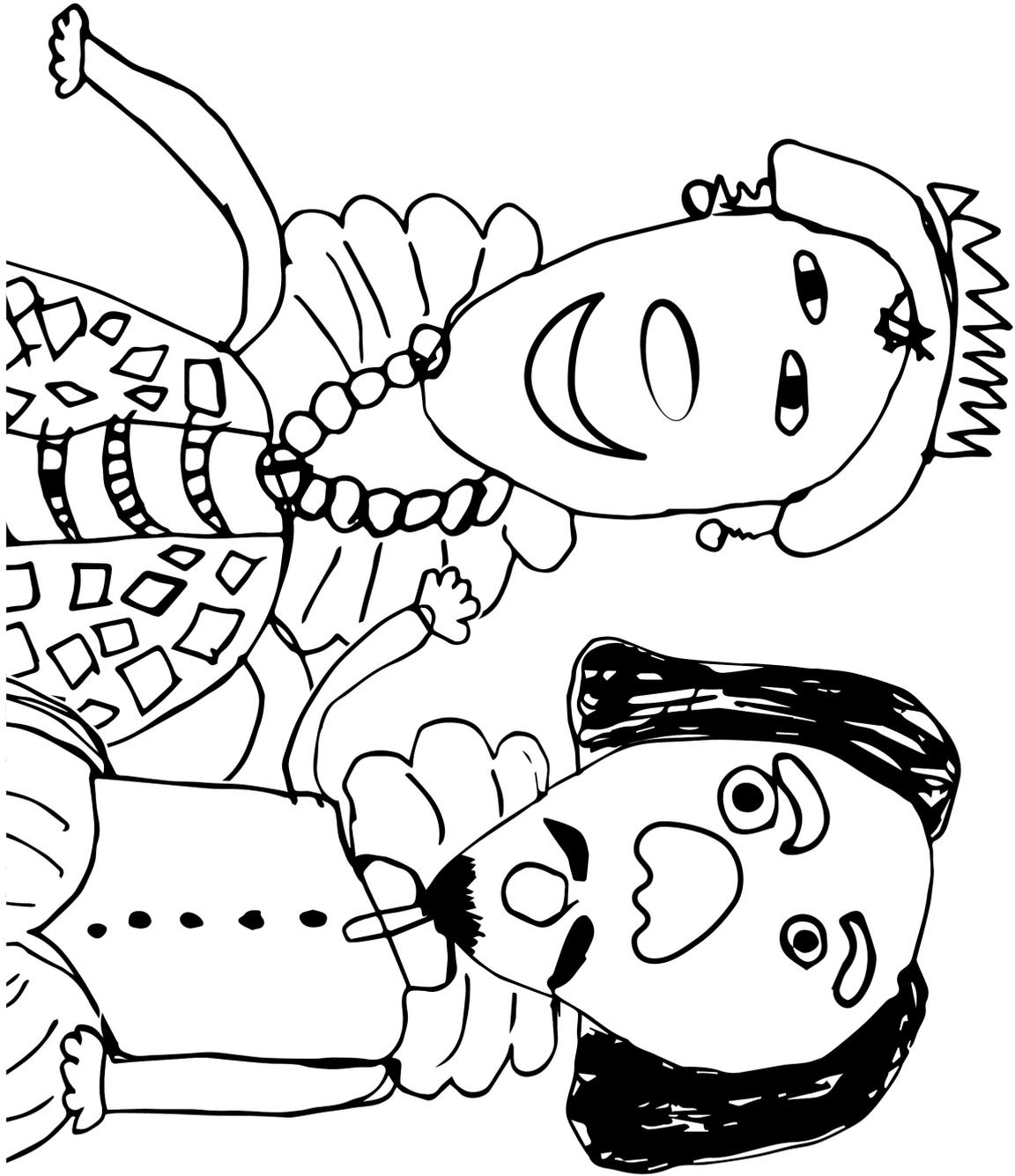
Will's diaryAubrey
 Drum and beater..... Minstrel
 Cymbal and beater Minstrel
 Drum..... Minstrel
 Cymbal Minstrel
 Large dictionary Scene Prop

Scene Six

Scorched debris (wrap cardboard rolls/polystyrene etc. in black crepe paper) ... Scene Prop
 Charred recorder Romeo
 Burnt lute Scene Prop
 Various instruments.....Minstrels

Scene Seven

Will's bed Scene Prop
 Washbowl Scene Prop
 Bottle of potion..... Scene Prop
 Blonde wig Will
 Towel Will
 Giant pencil with '2B' inscription Scene Prop



PRODUCTION NOTES

Welcome to ***Shakespeare Rocks!***, a modern musical comedy about the life of William Shakespeare. To help your company get the most enjoyment out of this show, it may help to consider the following production suggestions.

CASTING

A small or large cast can perform the show. It allows for up to **57** speaking/solo sung roles of varying sizes and an unlimited number of chorus parts.

Several of the speaking/solo sung roles have **very few lines**. They could be easily merged to **reduce** the cast size to as few as **27** speaking/solo sung roles. Our suggestions of how to reduce the cast size, written in scene order, are as follows -

*The following roles could be merged and **do not** require a costume change:*

A single **actor/actress** could play these **5** roles:

Minstrel 1, Minstrel 3, Trumpet Player 1 (non-speaking), Drum Player (non-speaking), Lute Player

A single **actor/actress** could play these **5** roles:

Minstrel 2, Minstrel 4, Trumpet Player 2 (non-speaking); Cymbal Player (non-speaking), Recorder Player

A single **actor** could play these **3** roles:

Actor 1, Actor 3, Romeo

A single **actor/actress** could play these **3** roles:

Painter 1, Painter 3, Heckler

A single **actor/actress** could play these **2** roles:

Painter 2, Painter 4

A single **actor/actress** could play these **3** roles:

Sorcerer 1, Sorcerer 3, Sorcerer 5

A single **actor/actress** could play these **2** roles:

Sorcerer 2, Sorcerer 4

The following roles could also be merged. They require **one simple** costume change for which ample time has been allowed:

A single **actor** could play these **3** roles:

Man 1, Man 3, (Costume Change), Banquo

A single **actor** could play these **3** roles:

Man 2, Man 4, (Costume Change), Bernie

A single **actress** could play these **2** roles:

Woman 1, (Costume Change), Beth

A single **actress** could play these **2** roles:

Woman 2, (Costume Change), Director

A single **actress** could play these **3** roles:

Woman 3, Woman 4; (Costume Change); Apple Seller

A single **actor** could play these **4** roles:

Hamnet, (Costume Change), Actor 2, Actor 4, Mac

A single **actress** could play these **2** roles:

Judith, (Costume Change), Babs

A single **actress** could play these **2** roles:

Susanna, (Costume Change), Beryl

A single **actress** could play these **2** roles:

Queen, (Costume Change), Juliet

In addition:

A single **actress** could play these **3** roles with 2 **very simple** changes:

Fan 1, Fan 3, (put on a hard hat), Builder 1, (take off the hard hat), Fan 1 and 3

A single **actor/actress** could play these **3** roles with 2 **very simple** changes:

Fan 2, Fan 4, (put on a hard hat), Builder 2, (take off the hard hat), Fan 2 and 4

Aubrey and Al are essentially narrators. Although they have the longest speeches, they can read their dialogue from Will's diary – a prop that they carry in every scene.

If you are performing the show with an entire school, you may like to assign a whole year-group to a specific scene. There are many group-parts that can have a large number of non-speaking performers – such as Fans, Minstrels, Men-Dressed-As-Women, Builders, Actors and Sorcerers.

While some of the roles are specifically male or female, many others can be performed by either gender. These are all stated in the cast list.

There are only 2 roles with significant sung solo lines – Romeo and Juliet, who only appear in one scene. Burbage and Nic have 2 very easily sung lines each – the quality of their singing is not very important so long as it's funny and loud! There are also 4 Minstrels who have 2 easily rapped lines each. Again - loud, funny and in-time will suffice!

ACCENTS

Burbage and Nic are the only 2 characters where specific accents are suggested. Elsewhere, it doesn't really matter which accents are used. However, making them appropriate to the characters will increase the comic effect. For example - an upper-class accent works well for Aubrey, Will and Ollie. A down-to-earth, rougher accent will enhance the characters of Al, Street and the Builders.

A small-but-important point regarding the word "Ma'am": when addressing The Queen it should be pronounced as in the English word 'Ham'.

DELIVERY

When performing comedy, it is essential that the performers deliver their lines clearly. Younger performers in particular should be encouraged to relax, 'breathe', 'leave gaps' and use 'big voices' to 'shout' their lines to the 'back of the audience'. They should also be reminded to wait for any audience laughter to quieten down before continuing their scene.

Within the dialogue, there is a lot of helpful punctuation and many stage directions that will help with the timing and delivery of the jokes. The louder and hammier, the better!

COSTUMES

The Elizabethan era has a lot of scope for bright colours and flamboyant costumes. However, the right look can be effectively achieved with a small budget and a bit of searching on the Internet. Frills and ruffs will add a touch of Tudor class to any outfit!

For the ladies, simple smocks are fine for many of the roles. Billowing skirts and tight bodices will look great on any 'woman' (or any man-dressed-as-a-woman!) For the men, high-cut boots and billowing breeches are recommended. Waistcoats and hats will also help.

Many of the characters are loosely based on real persons. A simple search on the Internet will give you lots of ideas for the following characters: William Shakespeare, Anne Hathaway (Shakespeare's wife, not the actress born in 1982!), Richard Burbage and Queen Elizabeth I.

More specifically, the Superstitious Sorcerers can all wear black cloaks, long black wigs and scary make-up. The Men-Dressed-As-Women should be very hairy to make it clear that they are men (within the bounds of decency, of course!)

A few anachronisms thrown in will also enhance the comic effect. For example, the Builders can all wear modern-day yellow hard hats while the rapping Minstrels can all wear sunglasses. Aubrey and Al are present-day characters and as such can wear smart contemporary clothing such as a suit or/and evening dress.

A nice touch (although not essential) is to have Will and Anne 'age' throughout the story. This can be done with a series of wigs depicting Anne going grey and Will going bald at the front.

SCENERY

As scenery goes, this is as simple as it gets! One set will suffice for the entire show. Will's study is a simple table-and-chair affair with a few decorative props. It stays on one side of the set and should take up about a third of the stage. The rest of the stage resembles a 'stage' or a 'rehearsal room'. A painted backcloth with a thatched roof and Tudor beams to portray The Globe Theatre would be nice. Will's bed (used only in the penultimate scene) could easily just be a sturdy table covered with a blanket.

PROPS

All the props can be easily made or obtained from fancy dress or party shops. Everything needs to be larger than life – right down to the size of the lettering on the cover of Will's diary and 'Book of Insults'.

MUSIC

All the music required to stage this production, including sound effects, is found on the Backing Track CD. A vocal recording is provided as a guide and to enable the swift learning of songs. The backing tracks without vocals are ideal to use in rehearsals and performances, and the two scores give vast flexibility if you have the luxury of a live pianist.

The songs (with the exception of a few minor solos) are designed to be performed with simple actions by the entire cast. The help of separate choir is highly recommended. A good technique is to use any cast members who are not in the current scene to boost the number of singers in the choir. The choir should also be part of the show - performing the 'actions' and any spoken dialogue marked 'ALL:'.

The choir can also perform the solo lines if a suitable soloist isn't available.

FINALLY.....

This show is designed to be uplifting, energetic, tongue-in-cheek and above all enjoyable to take part in! It is educational and historically accurate to a point, then artistic licence takes over for the sake of comedy!

If there is anything you are not sure about, please ask – we're here to help. Although we have offered many suggestions, feel free to use your imagination and interpret the script in your own way. As long as you have fun, your audience will too!

Please let us have your thoughts and comments.

Your contact is sarah@musicline-ltd.com

We are also on "Facebook" under "Musicline School Musicals".

If you are able to upload any photos or videos of your performance to the Internet, please send us the link so we can share your experience.

I wish you a successful production and hope that you all have a great time.

Steve Titford