

THE GIRAFFE

By Joe Musso

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ISBN 1-60003-424-1

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CHARACTERS: Eight high school students.

SETTING: School campus.

PRODUCTION HISTORY: “The Giraffe” had its world premiere on October 4, 2007, at Hazel Green High School in Hazel Green, Alabama, in a production by Hazel Green Dramatis Personae as part of its show *A Night in the Mind of Joe Musso*. The director was M. Clinton Merritt and the cast was as follows:

Student 1: Jennifer Gibson
Student 2: Francesca Giordiani
Student 3: Becky Towle
Student 4: Whitney Ferguson
Student 5: Casey Highfield
Student 6: David Westbrook
Student 7: David Sexton
Student 8: Kelcy Paulsen

STUDENT TWO is on stage. Enter STUDENT ONE who walks up to STUDENT TWO.

STUDENT ONE: Why is there a giraffe in the gymnasium?

STUDENT TWO: It's the only building on campus tall enough.

STUDENT ONE: I know that, but why is it there?

STUDENT TWO: I didn't open the door for it.

STUDENT ONE: Did I say you did?

STUDENT TWO: I'm innocent.

STUDENT ONE: Look, I'm not accusing you.

STUDENT TWO: Yes you are.

STUDENT ONE: I'm just asking *why* it's there.

STUDENT TWO: What? As opposed to the football field?

STUDENT ONE: (*Starting to walk off*) I give up.

STUDENT TWO: Winners never quit and quitters never prosper.

STUDENT ONE: Whatever.

(*STUDENT ONE exits. STUDENT THREE enters in a rush.*)

STUDENT THREE: Quick, we gotta find a teacher.

STUDENT TWO: Why?

STUDENT THREE: There's a giraffe in the gym.

STUDENT TWO: No there isn't.

STUDENT THREE: Yes. In the gym.

STUDENT TWO: I just came from there.

STUDENT THREE: It's chasing a bunch of freshmen.

STUDENT TWO: Don't you wear glasses?

STUDENT THREE: No.

STUDENT TWO: You ought to.

STUDENT THREE: We're wasting time. It's gonna bite somebody.

STUDENT TWO: Giraffes eat tree leaves. They're herbivores.

STUDENT THREE: I'm going for help.

STUDENT TWO: You do that.

(*STUDENT THREE exits in a run. STUDENT FOUR, looking lost, enters.*)

STUDENT FOUR: S'cuse me.

STUDENT TWO: Yes?

STUDENT FOUR: I'm sorta new here.

STUDENT TWO: A freshman?

STUDENT FOUR: Yeah.

STUDENT TWO: 'S okay.

STUDENT FOUR: Really?

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STUDENT TWO: (*Offering a handshake*) Yeah. Welcome to (*name of school*). I'm (*name of actor*).

STUDENT FOUR: (*Shaking hands*) Thanks. Hi. I mean, glad to meet you.

STUDENT TWO: Glad to meet you too.

STUDENT FOUR: Thanks.

STUDENT TWO: No problem.

STUDENT FOUR: Okay. Neat.

STUDENT TWO: You'll like it here. Everybody's cool.

STUDENT FOUR: Great. Neat. Listen, I'm running late. Can you point me to the biology lab?

STUDENT TWO: (*Pointing*) Over there.

STUDENT FOUR: That's the gym.

STUDENT TWO: (*Meaning yes*) Uh-huh.

STUDENT FOUR: The biology lab's in the gym?

STUDENT TWO: Yep.

STUDENT FOUR: Okay. Swell.

STUDENT TWO: Good luck.

STUDENT FOUR: See ya' around. (*exits*)

STUDENT TWO: (*Outside of STUDENT FOUR's earshot*) Don't count on it.

(*STUDENT FIVE enters.*)

Did you hear? There's a butterfly loose in the gym.

STUDENT FIVE: What kind?

STUDENT TWO: A giant swallowtail.

STUDENT FIVE: Is it orange?

STUDENT TWO: (*Meaning yes*) Uh-huh.

STUDENT FIVE: They're also called orange dogs.

STUDENT TWO: Dogs?

STUDENT FIVE: Orange dogs. Orange dog butterflies.

STUDENT TWO: Oh.

STUDENT FIVE: That and swallowtails.

STUDENT TWO: Wow.

STUDENT FIVE: I read all about 'em on the internet.

STUDENT TWO: A bunch of freshmen are chasing it, the orange dog, trying to catch it.

STUDENT FIVE: What?

STUDENT TWO: Trying to swat it with their books.

STUDENT FIVE: That's awful.

STUDENT TWO: I know.

STUDENT FIVE: They could break its wings.

STUDENT TWO: I tried to tell 'em.

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STUDENT FIVE: I gotta stop 'em. (*Runs off in the direction of the gym*)

STUDENT TWO: Good luck . . . What a hero.

(*STUDENT SIX enters.*)

STUDENT SIX: I thought giraffes ate tree leaves.

STUDENT TWO: They do.

STUDENT SIX: There's one in the gym munching on some freshman kid's hair.

STUDENT TWO: Is the giraffe okay?

STUDENT SIX: I think so.

STUDENT TWO: You think?

STUDENT SIX: It's fine. It's fine. Calm down.

STUDENT TWO: Had me worried there for a second.

STUDENT SIX: All is well.

STUDENT TWO: Ate the kid's hair, huh?

STUDENT SIX: Kid's head looks like a bowling ball.

STUDENT TWO: So?

STUDENT SIX: Do *you* wanna be bald?

STUDENT TWO: My uncle's bald and he's a brain surgeon.

STUDENT SIX: He is?

STUDENT TWO: Plays softball too.

STUDENT SIX: What position?

STUDENT TWO: Pitcher.

STUDENT SIX: Cool.

STUDENT TWO: He's as normal as you and me.

STUDENT SIX: I'm not normal. I can breathe under water.

STUDENT TWO: To a fish you are.

STUDENT SIX: I never thought of it that way.

STUDENT TWO: Try to.

STUDENT SIX: Thanks. You've made my day. (*exits*)

STUDENT TWO: (*To STUDENT SIX*) Bye.

(*STUDENT SEVEN enters.*)

Can you breathe under water?

STUDENT SEVEN: No. Can you?

STUDENT TWO: No.

STUDENT SEVEN: Do giraffes like grilled cheese sandwiches?

STUDENT TWO: I don't think so. Why?

STUDENT SEVEN: The cafeteria is serving grilled cheese sandwiches.

STUDENT TWO: They make awesome grilled cheese sandwiches.

STUDENT SEVEN: Totally.

STUDENT TWO: Giraffes are awesome too.

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STUDENT SEVEN: Yeah.

STUDENT TWO: You know any giraffes?

STUDENT SEVEN: No. Not personally.

STUDENT TWO: Me neither.

STUDENT SEVEN: Can you keep a secret?

STUDENT TWO: No.

STUDENT SEVEN: Oh. Uh. Okay.

STUDENT TWO: You going straight to the cafeteria?

STUDENT SEVEN: Yeah.

STUDENT TWO: Don't buy up all the grilled cheese sandwiches before I get there.

STUDENT SEVEN: I won't.

STUDENT TWO: I have to stop by my locker first.

STUDENT SEVEN: All right.

STUDENT TWO: I have a top locker.

STUDENT SEVEN: Me too.

STUDENT TWO: See ya.

STUDENT SEVEN: Yeah, see ya.

(STUDENT SEVEN exits. STUDENT EIGHT enters.)

STUDENT EIGHT: The giraffe ran out of the gym.

STUDENT TWO: Oh no.

STUDENT EIGHT: Right through the parking lot.

STUDENT TWO: My car.

STUDENT EIGHT: Still chasing freshmen.

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