

I DON'T KNOW WHICH PIECE TO PERFORM

by Tanner Dean

Copyright © 2023 by Tanner Dean, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-64479-218-6

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers LLC.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS LLC

P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406

TOLL FREE (888) 473-8521 • FAX (319) 368-8011

I DON'T KNOW WHICH PIECE TO PERFORM

A Comedic Monologue

by Tanner Dean

SYNOPSIS: What is funny? One earnest young performer ponders this on the fly after coming to a speech meet unprepared. The performer will scour through several mediums of entertainment in the hopes of making the audience laugh, or at the very least not getting embarrassed off the stage. Find out if the secrets of comedy are to be found in film, television, or the darkest recesses of the internet.

TIME: Present day

SETTING: High school speech competition

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 either)

PERFORMER (m/f).....High school speech tournament competitor

PROPS

- Phone
- Crown
- TV Remote

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This piece was written as a monologue but can be modified as a duet, with the other person playing the opposite character in some scenes (King Arthur, etc.).

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to my friend and former co-director Rikki for influencing me to finally start to share my ideas, and to my dad for convincing me that a few of them are actually good!

PERFORMER: You, there... yes you. Hi, can you stop writing notes for one second, maybe look up from your phone and pay attention, please? Thanks. Now IF you've been keeping up, it only took me FOREVER to figure out what event I wanted to do for this wacky... sport?

Now listen, if any of you don't know about humorous monologues, then let me give you a crash course. Everyone here is completely, unequivocally, with a doubt; INSANE. Let me tell you something, Les Misérables was written about the performers in this room. That's the first thing that you need to know, the second, is that trying to find a funny piece to perform is nigh impossible.

I know what you're thinking, "A young'un like you probably just whipped out your phone and looked it up online without a second thought." (*Pause.*) And that may be true... BUUUT, you don't know the horrors of what I found. Here's every single humorous piece that can be found online.

(*Deep Breaths.*) Hi! Quirky main character here, and I'm about to tell you all about my dating problems.

(*Switch to Love Interest Character.*) I'm the love interest that the main character has no chance with, has no personality, and is a rip-off of every Mean Girls character.

(*Break character.*) There's the obligatory pop culture reference.

(*Extremely energetic.*) Hahaha, that's so funny, quirky main character. I'm the even quirkier second main character that has a major personality disorder but it manifests itself in whimsical ways so it's okay to laugh at me.

(*Character switch.*) And I'll tell you not to laugh at him since I'm the supporting character that's relatable but also characterized, so I'm still entertaining.

(Back to normal.) Cue sixty seconds of manic chaos, two quick plot twists to make it memorable and boom, there's your humorous piece.

Yeah, like you haven't seen any of THAT before. I'm not going to recycle that nonsense. Still, seeing as you all showed up, I still need to perform something and I'll need to look elsewhere for inspiration. Entertainment is all around us, more accessible than ever. I guess I could perform an excerpt from a well-known book, but that would be assuming that my English teachers have actually been doing their jobs.... For instance, we just watched a movie last week in class saying... waaaiitt... movies!! That's what I'll do! Everyone loves movies. I'll just recreate a scene from a classic comedy and that'll win me the applause and validation I crave. Sit back and allow me to set the mood.

(Incredibly dramatic.) Lights dimming sound, because by rule I'm not allowed to turn the lights off, zzzzzzzrrrrmmmm. *(Booming voice.)* WELCOME TO HUMOROUS SOLO CINEMA.

(As King Arthur from Monty Python and the Holy Grail, puts on crown.) I am Arthur, King of the Britons!

(As Black Knight.) None shall pass.

(King Arthur.) I command you as King of the Britons to stand aside!

(Black Knight.) I move for no man.

(King Arthur.) So be it!

(Short fight, black knight is "armless".)

(King Arthur.) Now stand aside!

(Black Knight.) Tis but a scratch!

(King Arthur.) A scratch? Your arm's off!

(Break scene.) Classic, but this doesn't solve the problem of originality. Let's unglue our shoes from this sticky movie theater floor and try another movie.

(As lively grandmother.) How was school today, Napoleon?

(As Napoleon from Napoleon Dynamite, very glum.) The worst day of my life, whaddya think?

(Pause, break character.) Eh, this is funny to some, but between you and me... this is more like the attitude you'll find over in the dramatic side of things. Gotta keep things up beat!

(Starts Singing, dance across stage.) When there's something strange in the neighborhood. Who ya gonna call? *(Turn around to find no one.)*

Ah, that's right this movie is all about the ensemble and let's be real, I'm so lonely, I bought shares in the stock market so I could have some company. I need something that's funny with just me... I've got it! Spirit of Buddy the Elf, help me now...

(Incredibly excited.) SANTA!! Oh, my goodness, it's Santa Claus! Santa's here! *(Points to person in audience.)* Wait... you're not Santa. You stink. You smell like beef and cheese. You sit on a throne of lies!

***Thank you for reading this free excerpt from
I DON'T KNOW WHICH PIECE TO PERFORM by Tanner
Dean. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of
the script, please contact us at:***

Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011

www.brookpub.com