

MADAM AND STEVE

A Ten-Minute Comedy Duet

by
Steven Verrier



Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

Toll-Free 888-473-8521

Fax 319-368-8011

Web www.brookpub.com

CAUTION: Professionals & amateurs are hereby warned that *Madam and Steve* is subject to a royalty. This play is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, Canada, the British Commonwealth and all other countries of the Copyright Union.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this play are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion pictures, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS & ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this play 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. If necessary, we will contact the author or the author's agent. PLEASE NOTE that royalty fees for performing this play can be located online at Brooklyn Publishers, LLC website (<http://www.brookpub.com>). 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. You will find our contact information on the following page.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged. Only forensics competitions are exempt from this fee.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. 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 play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice:

Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

<http://www.brookpub.com>

TRADE MARKS, PUBLIC FIGURES, & MUSICAL WORKS: This play may include references to brand names or public figures. All references are intended only as parody or other legal means of expression. This play may contain suggestions for the performance of a musical work (either in part or in whole). Brooklyn Publishers, LLC have not obtained performing rights of these works. The direction of such works is only a playwright's suggestion, and the play producer should obtain such permissions on their own. The website for the U.S. copyright office is <http://www.copyright.gov>.

COPYING from the book in any form (in whole or excerpt), whether photocopying, scanning recording, videotaping, storing in a retrieval system, or by any other means, is strictly forbidden without consent of Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

TO PERFORM THIS PLAY

1. Royalty fees must be paid to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC before permission is granted to use and perform the playwright's work.
2. Royalty of the required amount must be paid each time the play is performed, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.
3. When performing one-acts or full-length plays, enough playbooks must be purchased for cast and crew.
4. Copying or duplication of any part of this script is strictly forbidden.
5. Any changes to the script are not allowed without direct authorization by Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.
6. Credit to the author and publisher is required on all promotional items associated with this play's performance(s).
7. Do not break copyright laws with any of our plays. This is a very serious matter and the consequences can be quite expensive. We must protect our playwrights, who earn their living through the legal payment of script and performance royalties.
8. If you have questions concerning performance rules, contact us by the various ways listed below:

Toll-free: 888-473-8521

Fax: 319-368-8011

Email: customerservice@brookpub.com

Copying, rather than purchasing cast copies, and/or failure to pay royalties is a federal offense. Cheating us and our wonderful playwrights in this manner will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Please support theatre and follow federal copyright laws.

MADAM AND STEVE

by
Steven Verrier

CAST: WOMAN and MAN

(On a bare stage, a man approaches a woman, startling her.)

WOMAN: Stop right there!

MAN: **(Startled)** Me?

WOMAN: Have you seen anyone else?

MAN: No. Have *you*? **(Pause)** You haven't, have you?

WOMAN: **(As MAN approaches)** Stay back! **(Reluctantly, HE complies.)**

MAN: That was quite an explosion.

WOMAN: It was an earthquake. Or a volcano.

MAN: It wasn't man-made?

WOMAN: Don't be so smug.

MAN: About what?

WOMAN: About man's capacity. You men may be known for throwing your weight around, but what makes you think a man could ...

MAN: Shake the earth?

WOMAN: Exactly.

MAN: I suppose you're right – if, as you say, it was an act of God.

WOMAN: It was.

MAN: But I wonder why He –

WOMAN: There you go again.

MAN: What?

WOMAN: You said *He*. You called God "*He*."

MAN: I was just wondering why –

WOMAN: There's nothing to wonder about. It just happened.

MAN: I suppose you're right about that, too. There's no sense looking back.

WOMAN: None at all.

MAN: Well, then, I guess we've got to look ahead. **(Approaching)** You know, we may be the last two people on earth.

WOMAN: Stay back, I said.

MAN: **(Not backing off)** But if we're the last two people on earth –

WOMAN: Police!

MAN: **(Taken aback for a second)** Wait. That means there aren't any police ... fire fighters ... ambulances-

WOMAN: Stay away from me or you'll *need* an ambulance.

MAN: But if we're the only two people in the world –

WOMAN: You can dial 911 all day long and an ambulance will never come? Is that what you're hinting at? **(As HE approaches)** I'm warning you.

MAN: Let me introduce myself. **(Extending his hand)** I'm Steven Taylor. Call me Steve.

WOMAN: That won't be necessary. **(As HE persists, SHE takes his hand hesitantly, limply, briefly.)**

MAN: What's *your* name?

WOMAN: That won't be necessary, either.

MAN: You won't tell me your name?

WOMAN: Why should I?

MAN: You may be the only woman on earth, and I may be the only man.

WOMAN: So?

MAN: So it may be up to us to replenish the earth's human resources.

WOMAN: What are you talking about?

MAN: Replenishing humanity. You know. Being fruitful and multiplying.

WOMAN: Are you out of your mind? We've just met.

MAN: If we don't multiply, mankind may die out.

WOMAN: There you go again.

MAN: Where?

WOMAN: You said *mankind*.

MAN: Sorry. **(Beat)** What do you say?

WOMAN: *Humankind*.

MAN: No. What do you say about being fruitful and multiplying?

WOMAN: I told you we've just met.

MAN: And *I* told *you* of the consequences if we don't – (**HE stops short when the woman looks at him icily. Then, after regaining a bit of his confidence**) It's for the good of humanity. If we don't at least date, I predict mankind – I mean *humankind* – will become as extinct as the dinosaurs.

WOMAN: If you keep talking about that, I predict *you'll* become as extinct as the dinosaurs.

MAN: Excuse me. (**Beat; suddenly hopeful**) Kiss and make up?

WOMAN: Is ... romance the only thing on your mind?

MAN: Well, at times like this, yes, it is.

WOMAN: Times like *this*? In all of human history, there's probably never *been* a time like this.

MAN: Well, one man ... one woman ... you know

WOMAN: Let's pray we're not the only ones left.

MAN: Yes. But if we *are* ...

WOMAN: Get back!

MAN: But Adam and Eve ... Noah's sons and *their* wives ...

WOMAN: What?

MAN: We can learn from them.

WOMAN: Why? Have you seen them?

MAN: They faced the same challenge we do.

WOMAN: Eve and Noah's sons' wives never had to listen to *you*.

MAN: No. But they faced the same kind of odds we do, and that didn't stop them.

WOMAN: What are you saying?

MAN: We'd better get started on our multiplication tables.

WOMAN: You'd better get *lost*.

MAN: Do you want the extinction of man on your conscience?

WOMAN: Well, if you *are* the last man on earth, yes, I could live with that.

MAN: You wouldn't be lonely?

WOMAN: To tell the truth, right now I'd *like* to be lonely.

MAN: But what about Adam and Eve? What about Noah's sons and their wives?

WOMAN: What *about* them?

MAN: If they could do it, why can't we?

WOMAN: They were *married*.

MAN: Then, by the power vested in me by –

WOMAN: You forgot to ask whether anyone present has a reason that this couple should *not* be joined together –

MAN: He held his peace.

WOMAN: Maybe *he* did, but *she* has something to say.

MAN: She *does*?

WOMAN: Go ahead. Ask again.

MAN: (**Hesitantly**) Does anyone present –

WOMAN: *I* do.

MAN: Then, by the power –

WOMAN: No! I have a *reason* –

MAN: What reason could there be? If you're the last woman on earth and I'm the last man ...

WOMAN: We haven't determined that for certain.

MAN: How certain can we *ever* be? We can spend our whole lives trying, but certainty is an elusive goal even in the best of times.

WOMAN: I've always thought certainty was overrated. I'd rather go with intuition.

MAN: And your intuition says –

END OF FREE PREVIEW