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Dramatic Publishing



Junior High School One-Act Comedies



Comic anthology
by
Ruth Kelsey, Anne Coulter Martens
and Jewell Bothwell Tull

Junior High School One-Act Comedies



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

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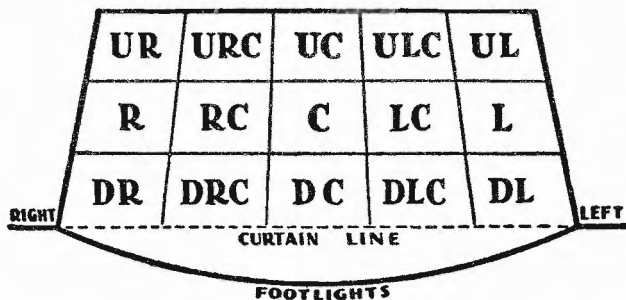
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(JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ONE-ACT COMEDIES)

ISBN 0-87129-271-8

CHART OF STAGE POSITIONS



STAGE POSITIONS

Upstage means away from the footlights, *downstage* means toward the footlights, and *right* and *left* are used with reference to the actor as he faces the audience. R means *right*, L means *left*, U means *up*, D means *down*, C means *center*, and these abbreviations are used in combination, as: U R for *up right*, R C for *right center*, D L C for *down left center*, etc. One will note that a position designated on the stage refers to a general territory, rather than to a given point.

NOTE: Before starting rehearsals, chalk off your stage or rehearsal space as indicated above in the *Chart of Stage Positions*. Then teach your actors the meanings and positions of these fundamental terms of stage movement by having them walk from one position to another until they are familiar with them. The use of these abbreviated terms in directing the play saves considerable time, speeds up rehearsals, and reduces the amount of explanation the director has to give to his actors.

The Case of the Glass Slippers

by

ANNE COULTER MARTENS

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[THE CASE OF THE GLASS SLIPPERS]

The Case of the Glass Slippers

A Mock Trial

FOR SIX BOYS, FIVE GIRLS, AND EXTRAS

CHARACTERS

JUDGE FUSS.....	<i>in charge of the case</i>
WILLIAM WINDY.....	<i>attorney for the kingdom</i>
SAMMY SHOOSTER.....	<i>the accused</i>
CINDERELLA.....	<i>herself</i>
THE PRINCE.....	<i>her husband</i>
MRS. MEANY.....	<i>her stepmother</i>
ARAMINTA }.....	<i>her stepsisters</i>
ESMERALDA }	
FEARLESS.....	<i>a guard</i>
LITTLE OLD WOMAN.....	<i>guess who?</i>
COURT CLERK.....	<i>who opens court</i>
THE JURY.....	<i>twelve boys and girls</i>

PLACE: *A courtroom.*

TIME: *A day or two ago in the morning.*

The Case of the Glass Slippers

SCENE: *A courtroom. There is only one entrance to the room, and that is in the R wall, downstage. The judge's desk is U C, against the rear wall of the courtroom. A high-backed chair, on a platform, is behind this desk, while a gavel, several legal-looking books, a pitcher of water, and a glass are on the desk. Left of this desk (and on a slightly-raised platform, if possible) is a chair, the witness stand. The twelve people on the jury sit in two rows of chairs at L stage. These chairs face R stage. Below the jury, D L, is a small table with a chair left of it. Against the R wall are three straight chairs facing L stage. At R C is a fairly large table, with two chairs back of it and one right of it.]*

AT RISE OF CURTAIN: *The JURY has already assembled. MRS. MEANY, ARAMINTA, and ESMERALDA are seated in the chairs at R stage. MRS. MEANY is short and stout. ARAMINTA and ESMERALDA are tall and thin. But all three are fashionably dressed. Their faces are overly made up, to give the impression of ugliness. They may even wear long false noses. (Unless otherwise stated, all the characters are dressed in modern clothes.) WILLIAM WINDY, the attorney for the kingdom, is seated in the chair right of the table R C, looking over some important papers from his brief case. He is a very dapper, officious little man. He wears glasses with a black cord attached to them. The CLERK is standing left of the witness stand, a large book of fairy tales in his hand. As the curtain rises, the CLERK is announcing the opening of the court.]*

CLERK [*in a loud voice*]. Oyez, oyez, oyez! Order in the court! His Honor, Judge Fuss!

[**JUDGE FUSS**, short, fat, and pompous, wearing a white wig and

glasses, enters D R and seats himself at his desk. ALL stand up as he comes in. He raps on the desk with his gavel.]

JUDGE. Court is declared in session. Bring in the defendant.

[*The JUDGE sits. ALL sit as before. SAMMY SHOOSTER is escorted in D R by FEARLESS, the guard. SAMMY is small and mild. FEARLESS is tall and ferocious-looking. He wears a tall hat, with the word "Guard" printed on it in bright letters, and he has a very long beard. But FEARLESS is not as ferocious as he looks. He is troubled by a terrific case of shyness the moment anyone addresses him.*]

FEARLESS [*with a silly giggle, hanging his head and twisting his feet about*]. The defendant, your Honor. Sammy Shooster, the shoe man.

SAMMY. Good morning, Judge.

JUDGE. You'll soon find out if it's a good morning. Where is the counsel for the defense?

SAMMY. I'm a poor man, your Honor, just starting out in the shoe business, and I can't afford a lawyer. I will defend myself.

JUDGE. Very well. Defendant be seated.

[*SAMMY sits at the small table D L. FEARLESS crosses D L and stands behind him, guarding him vigilantly. The JUDGE clears his throat.*]

JUDGE. H'r'm! [*He looks around the room.*] It appears that our royal visitors are—h'r'm—delayed.

MRS. MEANY [*simperingly*]. Cinderella has no idea of time, your Honor. Don't you remember how the dear girl stayed too late at the ball, three years ago?

ARAMINTA. Everyone was talking about it. You know how people are. [*She laughs shrilly.*]

JUDGE [*clearing his throat again*]. H'r'm!

ESMERALDA. The Prince is the soul of punctuality, himself. But

I'm sure he doesn't mind waiting for dear Cinderella. [*She laughs shrilly.*]

[*Just then CINDERELLA and the PRINCE enter by way of the audience. She is quite charming in a rather old-fashioned full-skirted dress which falls to her ankles. She carries a huge knitting bag on her arm. The PRINCE is in modern sports clothes. He is handsome, and always the gentleman. CINDERELLA holds on to his arm as they walk down the aisle. She looks quite apprehensive. A few paces behind, and unnoticed by them, there comes a LITTLE OLD WOMAN. She wears a long black dress and a funny little black poke bonnet which hides her face. She is fat and dumpy, altogether undistinguished. She carries an umbrella. When CINDERELLA and the PRINCE go up on the stage, she takes a seat in the front row of the audience.*]

PRINCE [*soothingly, to CINDERELLA, as they come down the aisle and up on to the stage*]. Now, now, my dear. Don't be so upset. Anyone forgets to look at the clock once in a while. I'm sure his Honor will understand.

[*CINDERELLA and the PRINCE cross to the table R C and sit in the two chairs behind the table.*]

JUDGE [*when they are seated*]. Are your Highnesses ready for the trial to begin?

PRINCE. We are.

CINDERELLA [*to the PRINCE*]. Do you suppose he'll mind if I knit? I feel so nervous.

PRINCE. Knit if you want to, my dear. I'm ruler of this country! But there is no reason why you should feel nervous. You're not on trial.

CINDERELLA. No. That's right, I'm not. [*She takes her knitting from the bag and begins to knit nervously.*]

JUDGE [*coughing loudly and adjusting his spectacles*]. The clerk may read the docket.

CLERK [*reading from a slip of paper in the book of fairy tales*]

he carries]. Case No. 13: The Kingdom against Sammy Shooster, the shoe man. It is charged as follows, to wit, i.e., viz.: that he did steal from the castle on Wednesday last one pair of glass slippers belonging to the Princess Cinderella.

JURY [*leaping up suddenly and cheering as at a football game*].
Rah, rah, Cinderella!

[*The BOYS and the GIRLS of the JURY sit as before.*]

JUDGE. The defendant may now come forward.

[*SAMMY rises and comes to the JUDGE's desk.*]

JUDGE. How do you plead?

SAMMY. Not guilty, your Honor.

JUDGE. Very well. You may return to your seat.

[*SAMMY sits D L again.*]

JUDGE. Kingdom's attorney.

[*WILLIAM WINDY comes forward.*]

JUDGE. State your case.

WINDY [*taking a position at L C*]. Your Honor, and ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you all know that the famous glass slippers belonging to our Princess Cinderella have been stolen. I am going to prove to you that Sammy Shooster— [*He points his finger sternly at SAMMY.*]—that black-hearted rascal, that base archfiend, stole the slippers to copy the design that he might use it in his silly little shoe shop.

JUDGE. Proceed with your case.

WINDY [*crossing to in front of the JUDGE's desk*]. My first witness is the Prince himself.

JURY [*jumping up as before and yelling, then sitting again*].
Rah, rah, Prince!

[*The PRINCE crosses to the witness stand. The CLERK holds out the book of fairy tales. The PRINCE raises his right hand and places his left hand on the book.*]



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Comic anthology. By Ruth Kelsey, Anne Coulter Martens and Jewell Bothwell Tull.

The White Elephant Comes Home (5 girls). One of Sally's birthday presents is a horrible picture. Sally gets rid of it but it doesn't take long for it to return home again. Poor Sally! ***Midge Goes to the Movies*** (5 boys, 4 girls). Nobody wants to take care of the nuisance of a kid sister who wants to go to the movies. In the comical mixup, a romantic misunderstanding gets straightened out and Midge goes to the movies! ***Selma Goes Psychic*** (3 boys, 3 girls). Selma fancies herself a medium and neglects her lessons to forecast the future. ***Yellow Tulips*** (2 boys, 4 girls). Judy loves the new hat she has earned, but she sacrifices it for a pot of yellow tulips to bring Easter joy to a lonely old lady. ***The Case of the Glass Slipper*** (6 boys, 5 girls, extras). In this amusing mock trial, there is much excitement over who stole the family glass slipper.

Cover design by Susan Carle

ISBN 087129271-8



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Code: J13



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