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*Dramatic Publishing*

# Junior High School One-Act Comedies



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

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# Junior High School One-Act Comedies



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

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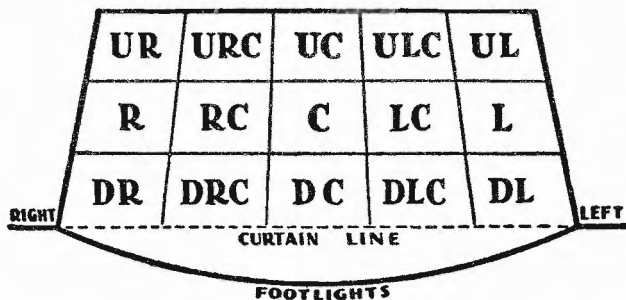
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(JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ONE-ACT COMEDIES)

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## 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.

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# Yellow Tulips

by

ANNE COULTER MARTENS

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[YELLOW TULIPS]

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# Yellow Tulips

*A Comedy in One Act*

FOR TWO BOYS AND FOUR GIRLS

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## CHARACTERS

JUDY.....*who tends the hat shop*  
GWEN.....*who buys a hat*  
MARJORIE.....*who also buys a hat*  
BARNEY.....*who delivers hats*  
JED.....*who stops in*  
CHRISTINE.....*who changes her mind*

PLACE: *Miss Dabney's Hat Shop.*

TIME: *Saturday afternoon before Easter.*

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# Yellow Tulips

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SCENE: *Miss Dabney's Hat Shop. In the R wall at center is a door leading to the store window and then on to the street. Upstage of the door R is a small table with a mirror on the wall above it, and a straight chair before it. On the table is a large hand mirror. At L stage, running up- and downstage, is a large table with a display of hats for the junior miss. These hats are mounted on little hat stands. Against the rear wall, U C, is a smaller table on which are some hatboxes. Above this table, on the wall, is a neat sign reading, MISS DABNEY'S HATS FOR THE JUNIOR MISS. Here and there about the stage may be chairs.*]

AT RISE OF CURTAIN: JUDY, a competent girl of fourteen, wearing a sports dress, picks up a couple of hats which have been left on the table R and returns them to their places on the long table at L stage. She is carefully arranging them on the stands when BARNEY comes in R. He is a cheerful, impudent boy of about fourteen, dressed in slacks and a sweater.]

BARNEY [*coming C, giving JUDY a flip wave with his hand*].  
Hi-ya, boss! Any more hats to be delivered?

JUDY [*pointing to the hatboxes on the small table U C*]. Plenty of them. [*She glances at her wrist watch.*] And it's only about fifteen minutes till closing time.

BARNEY [*crossing U C*]. Gee, girls certainly do go for Easter bun-nets in a big way. [*Turning.*] Say, Judy, is *your* hat still here?

JUDY. My hat?

BARNEY. You know—the one Miss Dabney promised you for taking care of the store for her.

JUDY. Well—yes—she said I could have my choice of any hat that wasn't sold by closing time.

BARNEY [*as he checks over the hatboxes to be delivered*]. Lucky break for you on the day before Easter.

JUDY. Don't I know it! I just love a hat shop! [*She continues to arrange the hats.*] And I'm so glad that Miss Dabney felt she could depend on me—when she had to go away.

BARNEY. Well, how about it? Is it still here—the hat you picked out?

JUDY. Why, Barney, I didn't pick it out—not exactly. How do I know it won't be sold? But I do have my heart set on one in particular.

BARNEY. Just like a girl, getting all worked up over a piece of straw. Has it been sold yet?

JUDY. Not yet. But I hold my breath every time anyone stops by the window.

BARNEY. You mean—your hat's in the window? [*He points toward the door R.*]

JUDY. Yes. Didn't you notice it? A little dark blue one with powder-blue flowers on it. It'll go perfectly with my last year's spring suit. [*The description of this hat should fit that of the hat used in the play.*]

BARNEY. Listen, why don't you put it away where no one can see it? Leave it in the window, and it'll be sold sure.

JUDY. Oh, I couldn't do that! It wouldn't be fair to Miss Dabney.

BARNEY. Why not? She promised you a hat for working here.

JUDY. She promised me my choice of any hat that isn't *sold*.

BARNEY. Yes—but you can at least put some other hat in the window, can't you? You don't need to draw people's attention to the hat you like best.

JUDY [*hesitatingly*]. Do you think I would be keeping my part of the bargain if I took it out of the window?

BARNEY. Sure!

JUDY [*going to the door R*]. I don't believe it would be wrong, because the hat will still be in here if anyone decides to buy it—which I *do* hope they won't.

[JUDY goes out R.]

BARNEY. Atta girl! [*He glances around the shop, and for his own amusement puts on a little act. He assumes a mincing walk and a high falsetto.*] Good afternoon, Modom! What can I show you today? [*Then he speaks as if he were a customer replying.*] I should like to see a little numbah for Eastah. Something very chick, don't you know. [*He goes over to the table L, selects a hat, and seats himself before the mirror at the table R. This time he speaks as if he were the saleslady.*] Such a darling little model, Modom! Let's see how it looks on. [*He tries on the hat.*] A trifle lower over the right eye, Modom. [*He tilts the hat and studies it in the hand mirror.*] What an adorable feather! Such chick! [*Louder.*] Such chick, chick, chick! [*Amused at himself, he bends down and begins calling, as if feeding chickens.*] Here, chick, chick, chick! Cock-a-doodle-doo!

[JUDY comes in R with the blue hat in her hand. She pauses by the door R.]

JUDY [*indignantly, though she tries hard not to laugh*]. Barney! Take that hat off!

BARNEY [*rising, one hand on his hip and the other girlishly adjusting the hat*]. I have decided on this little numbah to go with my Eastah outfit. I don't care so much for it off, but it's reah-ally chick on!

JUDY. Take it off, Barney! Miss Dabney would be furious if she caught you.

BARNEY [*crossing L and replacing the hat*]. Okay!

[JUDY sits at the table R and eagerly tries on the hat. It is very becoming to her. BARNEY crosses to behind her.]

BARNEY. So that's the hat. Not bad. Not bad at all.

JUDY. I didn't expect to get an Easter hat at all. Mother was going to fix over my last year's sailor. But now——[*Rapturously, gazing at herself in the mirror.*] I have this!

BARNEY [*dryly*]. You hope! Better put it out of sight. Then you'll be sure of it.

JUDY [*rising and taking off the hat*]. I'll put it at the very back of the table. [*She places it on a little stand at the very back part of the table L.*] Right here. In fifteen more minutes it will be mine.

BARNEY [*crossing U C*]. Well, I better get going with my deliveries. All these? [*He points to the hatboxes on the table.*]

JUDY. All those! Business has been rushing.

BARNEY [*as he picks up a hatbox*]. Say, do you know who has moved into that basement room across the street—the one under the candy store?

JUDY. No. Who?

BARNEY [*picking up another hatbox*]. An old friend of yours. Remember, she used to live in that small house just out of town. Little Miss Abbott.

JUDY [*surprised and pleased*]. Miss Abbott? Of course I remember her! I haven't seen her since I was a tiny girl, and she used to give me peppermint drops.

BARNEY [*picking up another hatbox*]. She hasn't any peppermint drops now. Even lost her little house last year.

JUDY. What a pity!

BARNEY [*adding another hatbox to his load*]. Well, I guess we can't all have a happy Easter. [*He tries to add another hatbox to the pile on his arm, which now hides his face. He totters perilously.*]

JUDY. Barney, don't take a lazy man's load! You can't carry them all. [*She goes toward him to take one or two of the hatboxes from him.*]

BARNEY [*backing away from her toward the door R*]. Sure I can. Save time this way.

JUDY [*following him*]. You'll drop them. [*She tries to grab a hatbox.*]

BARNEY. Huh-uh! [*He continues to back away.*]

JUDY [*still pursuing him*]. Barney!



## Junior High School One-Act Comedies

***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.

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