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Aldous Huxley's

# Brave New World

A full-length play  
by David Rogers

# Brave New World

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**a full-length play**

**ALDOUS HUXLEY'S**

# **BRAVE NEW WORLD**

**dramatized by DAVID ROGERS**



**THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY**

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(BRAVE NEW WORLD)

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BRAVE NEW WORLD

*A Full-Length Play*

For Nineteen Men, Thirteen Women,  
Three Children, Extras  
(Fourteen Men, Nine Women with doubling)

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CHARACTERS

DIRECTOR.....*of the London Hatchery*  
MUSTAPHA MOND.....*Resident World Controller*  
HENRY FOSTER  
NERO SMITH  
BERNARD MARX  
HELMHOLTZ WATSON  
MISS ROTHSCHILD .....*Alphas*  
DR. SHAW  
MISS KEATE  
ARCH COMMUNITY SONGSTER ]  
LENINA CROWNE  
FANNY DUNN  
BENITO HOOVER  
WARDEN .....*Betas*  
MISS DIESEL  
HITLERETTE BRADLEY  
NURSE  
JOHN.....*the Savage*  
LINDA.....*his mother*  
GUIDE  
OLD CRONE  
YOUNG MOTHER  
HIGH PRIEST .....*Indians*  
TWO ASSISTANTS  
INDIAN BOY  
DANCERS  
DRUMMERS

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**EPSILONS**  
**TRAINEES (Alphas and Betas)**  
**TWO GIRLS (Beta)**  
**WAITRESS (Delta)**  
**HOSPITAL ATTENDANT (Gamma)**  
**THREE CHILDREN (Delta)**  
**TWO POLICEMEN (Beta)**

Loudspeaker voices, man and woman, couple in  
restaurant, crowd

**PLACE:** *The brave new world.*

**TIME:** *The future.*

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# ACT ONE

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When the audience enters the theatre the curtain is up. The back of the stage is covered by a cyclorama lit with a cold blue light or by a plain, gray drape. Over the proscenium there is a painted shield with the motto of the World State, "COMMUNITY, IDENTITY, STABILITY" on it.

When the play is to begin, the house lights dim slowly. As they start to go down, recorded electronic or other unworldly-sounding music should be heard. At the same moment a group of EPSILONS appear. These are the lowest caste of the World State. When they share the stage with others, they are ignored, beneath consideration, slaves. They should be small as the higher the caste, the taller the person. They are dressed totally in black work clothes. You may use four, six or eight Epsilons as desired.

As the music continues, the EPSILONS roll in two gray panels on wheels. They should be approximately 7 feet high, 5 feet wide. They place these panels UC, then bring in a table with subsequently needed props in place on it and set it RC angled toward the audience. They then place four to eight chairs starting LC in a row angled toward the audience as they come



downstage; two additional rolling panels, one R, one L; two lockers set before each of these panels. A dressing table and bench large enough for two are placed in front of the lockers DL. The more Epsilons you use the quicker the set may be put in place. Naturally, as many pieces as possible can be set simultaneously. The EPSILONS' attitude throughout must be that of drudges: mechanically, rhythmically doing assigned tasks. They are expressionless and disinterested, almost machines. When the furniture has been placed, one EPSILON stations himself at either side of the panels UC, the rest leave the stage, and the stage blacks out. The music ends.

In the blackout, eight Alpha and Beta TRAINEES, men and women carrying pads and pencils, seat themselves in the chairs. This number can be lowered to six or four, but only use as many chairs as you have Trainees. The Alphas are the highest caste and should be the tallest. All Alphas wear white; Betas wear blue; Gammas, khaki; Deltas, gray; and Epsilons, black. Further costume and set descriptions can be found in the Production Notes at the back.

The DIRECTOR, an older Alpha, places himself before the panels UC. If possible, he is picked up by a spotlight and stage lights come up slowly as indicated. If not possible, lights come up full when everyone is positioned.

DIRECTOR. Welcome to the World State's Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Center. (Lights begin to come up slowly.) Today is an important day for you. A day in which you begin

your predestinated life's work . . . and important work it is, too. For here at the H. C. C. we play our part in controlling the world population of the future. Today, we will give you a general idea of the functioning of the hatchery. We shall begin at the beginning. (All students write this. He notices their efficiency and says, casually.) Very good. (He walks to the table RC and picks up a test tube. Throughout the following scene all TRAINEES make copious notes.) The test tube. (He holds it up. Small granules float in water.) This contains a week's supply of ova which are kept at blood heat in incubators which you will view tomorrow when you tour the Center, and this . . . (He holds up a slightly different-looking glass container.) . . . contains the male gametes, which are stored at thirty-five rather than thirty-seven. Full blood heat sterilizes. The eggs, of course, are obtained from surgically removed ovaries . . . a voluntary operation done for the good of society and a bonus of six months' salary. Have any of you ladies volunteered for this operation? (One girl shyly raises her hand. The other TRAINEES applaud.) Bravo! It's pleasing to see the community spirit in one so young. The eggs are immersed in a warm bouillon containing millions of free-swimming spermatazoa. When fertilized, they are bottled, the Alphas and Betas for a full cycle; the Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons are brought out again in thirty-six hours to undergo Bokanovsky's Process.

1st TRAINEE (an Alpha girl). Can you explain Bokanovsky's Process?

DIRECTOR. Of course, I can, but I don't intend to.

(He snaps his fingers at the EPSILONS, who slide the panels open revealing HENRY FOSTER, a nice-looking young Alpha in a lab smock. HENRY walks through the opening. The EPSILONS close it behind him.)

**DIRECTOR.** This is our Mr. Foster of Embryo Development. Henry, a quick rundown on the Bokanovsky.

**HENRY.** Yes, Director. (To TRAINEES.) The genius of the Bokanovsky method is simple arrested development. By means of hard X-rays, egg development is arrested, causing the eggs to bud. Several repetitions of the method can manufacture as many as ninety-six embryos from one egg.

**2ND TRAINEE** (a Beta boy). You mean ninety-six identical twins?

**HENRY.** Exactly. Science, working for the State. Not like in the old viviparous days when an egg might accidentally divide and produce a piddling two or three embryos. Of course, bokanovskifying dilutes. The greater the quantity, the more inferior the product. We only hit ninety-six with Epsilons.

**DIRECTOR** (calling them). Epsilons! (The two EPSILONS walk forward.) As you see, they're smaller and stupider and fit only for the most menial work.

**3RD TRAINEE** (an Alpha boy). But . . . if diluting the eggs creates an inferior product . . . I mean . . . what's the point?

**DIRECTOR** (irritated at his stupidity). It's perfectly obvious! (Looking at him more closely.) Are you sure you're an Alpha?

**3RD TRAINEE** (hastily). Yes, sir!

**DIRECTOR.** Then kindly use your science-given

Alpha brains! The Bokanovsky Process is one of the major instruments of social stability. Standard men and women in uniform batches. Why, one egg can staff an entire small factory. We have exactly the labor force we need. (He snaps his fingers at the EPSILONS.) Open!

(The EPSILONS return to the panels and slide them open, revealing NERO SMITH, an Alpha, who walks through.)

DIRECTOR. This is Mr. Nero Smith, the Assistant Predestinator of the Center. (Impressed murmurs from the TRAINEES.)

NERO. Fully fertilized eggs are bottled and all relevant statistics concerning the embryos are fed to EmbryoComp, along with requirement data for the next twenty-five years. EmbryoComp selects, organizes and assigns delivery of the embryos, noting the optimum decanting rate at any given moment, also incorporating unforeseen wastage allowances.

HENRY (laughing at a remembered office turmoil). Remember the overtime we put in after the last Japanese earthquake, Nero? (NERO laughs.)

DIRECTOR (checking his watch, hurrying them along). Henry . . . it's getting late. We don't want anyone missing the Electro-Magnetic Soccer Finals this evening.

HENRY. Sorry, sir.

NERO. Embryo bottles are then assigned to the correct conveyor belts in the Social Predestination Room where they are given proper conditioning.

DIRECTOR. That will do, Nero.

(He snaps his fingers at the EPSILONS who open

the panels again, revealing LENINA CROWNE, an attractive Beta. She walks into the room.)

**DIRECTOR.** Miss Lenina Crowne, conditioning technician.

**HENRY.** Hello, Lenina. . . .

**LENINA** (pleased to see him). Henry. . . .

**DIRECTOR** (hurrying them along). Miss Crowne. . . do you mind?

**LENINA** (to **TRAINEES**). Each embryo is fed at regulated hours on rich blood surrogate. At meter 200 sex identification tests are carried out. Thirty per cent of the female embryos are allowed to develop normally, the others are sterilized to be decanted as freemartins . . . structurally quite normal and undetectable from other females.

**HENRY** (being honest, correcting her). Well, sometimes, they grow beards.

**DIRECTOR** (annoyed, putting him in his place). They are guaranteed sterile! Which, at last, has brought us out of the realm of slavery to nature into the quality-controlled world of the true bottle baby! (The **TRAINEES** applaud.)

**LENINA.** As the embryo matures, it is conditioned for its appointed work. Epsilons as, perhaps, future sewage workers; Alphas as perhaps - - (Paying him a compliment.) - - future directors of hatcheries.

**DIRECTOR** (flattered) Sweet! (He pinches her cheek.) In addition to pre-decanting conditioning, behavioral pattern experts will teach them, post-decanting, to desire heat or weightlessness as the case may be. We will allow our Hypnopædia Expert, Bernard Marx, to explain post-decanting conditioning. (He snaps his fingers at the **EPSILONS**, who open the panels,

but no one is there.) Oh, Ford! Where is he?  
NERO. Outrageous!

DIRECTOR (angry). He knew exactly what time he was scheduled. Bernard Marx's non-conformity is reaching inexcusable levels. He is riding for a fall! (To the class.) Excuse me! (He goes to the panels, followed by NERO. They go through but remain in sight, looking in both directions, as though up and down a hall. The TRAINEES whisper among themselves, surprised by this unusual occurrence. Meanwhile:)

HENRY (to LENINA). I'll meet you at ten of five at the launch pad on the roof.

LENINA. Right. Can we play Obstacle Golf tonight? I just got a new set of jet turbine clubs.

HENRY. All right. If you like.

DIRECTOR (coming back in with NERO). I won't have individualistic behavior on my staff. By Ford, that Marx is going too far!

NERO. Do you think it's true what they say? That someone put alcohol in his blood surrogate before he was decanted?

DIRECTOR. Nonsense! There are no mistakes in my Hatchery! . . . But the way Marx behaves, I can almost believe it's true.

(BERNARD MARX enters hurriedly. He is an Alpha but much shorter than the others of his caste. He is unhappy, nervous and, at the moment, afraid of disciplining for lateness.)

BERNARD. I beg your pardon, Director. . . .

DIRECTOR. Late again, Marx! Since your social engagements are scandalously few after hours, I can hardly imagine what could have kept you during work time.

BERNARD. We . . . uh . . . we had a little trouble

in conditioning. I was working with a two-year-old Delta group and the electronic charge in the flowers evidently blew a fuse. It had to be fixed. (Currying favor.) We don't want Deltas growing up without their anti-floral indoctrination, do we?

3RD TRAINEE. Why not?

DIRECTOR. Ass! Deltas are workers. Flowers are for the upper classes. (To NERO.) I want to look at that man's records first thing tomorrow. (To BERNARD.) As for you, I'm taking your card out of staff compute and watching it myself!

BERNARD. It won't happen again, sir.

DIRECTOR (to TRAINEES). All right . . . all right . . . settle down. . . .

LENINA (to BERNARD). Don't worry, Bernard, that sort of thing could happen to anyone. . . . (He gives her a grateful look. HENRY pulls her away.)

HENRY. Lenina! You don't want to get mixed up with a fellow like Marx. . . .

LENINA. Henry! Everyone belongs to everyone else. You know that.

HENRY. I'm thinking of you. He's too non-conformist. It's bad for your reputation. It's not that I'm jealous. . . .

LENINA. Oh, I know, Henry. You're much too socially stable to be jealous.

DIRECTOR. If you don't mind, we are conducting a training seminar! (To class.) Mr. Marx is Vice Director in charge of Hypnopædia . . . (A threat.) . . . at least, for the time being.

BERNARD. After decanting, the Hypnopædia Department takes over tot-conditioning, teaching them to love their planned environment, their work and their station in life. (He calls.) Tape!

VOICE OVER LOUDSPEAKER. . . . all wear khaki and Delta children wear gray. Oh, no! I don't want to play with Delta children. And Epsilons are still worse. They're too stupid to be able to read or write. Besides, they wear black, which is such a beastly color. I'm so glad I'm a Beta.

BERNARD. You are listening to Beta Program 163-B--Elementary Class Prejudice. This tape is sleep-fed to Beta children from age 18 months.

VOICE (beginning again). Alpha children wear white. They work much harder than we do, because they're so frightfully clever. I'm really awfully glad I'm a Beta . . .

BERNARD (talking over tape). One hundred and twenty times, three times a week till age thirty months, after which they go on to more advanced lessons.

VOICE (under BERNARD). . . . because I don't work so hard. And then we are much better than the Gammas and Deltas. Gammas are stupid. They all wear khaki . . .

BERNARD (calling). Stop tape! (Voice stops instantly.) This method of sleep indoctrination is called Hypnopædia. First officially used in A. F. 214. A dropping of suggestions, night after night, suggestions that graft themselves on to the unformed mind of the child, till finally the child's mind is these suggestions. . . .

DIRECTOR (taking over, fervently). And the sum of the suggestions is the adult's mind! And all of these suggestions are ours! Think of it! Millions of minds! All over the world! All running on parallel tracks. Controlled, and channeled to work for the Solidarity of our



glorious World State!

(Overcome, the TRAINEES rise and applaud loudly. As they do, the EPSILONS open the panels and MUSTAPHA MOND steps through. He is a strange, dark, intense-looking man. An Alpha, his costume suggests a higher authority than that of any of the others. The TRAINEES, faced his way, see him and break off their applause and whisper among themselves, recognizing him. This causes the others to turn and see him. The DIRECTOR goes to greet him at once.)

DIRECTOR. Your fordship! What an unexpected honor!

MOND (indicating students). New trainees?

DIRECTOR. Yes, sir. (To TRAINEES.) I'm sure you recognize his fordship, Mustapha Mond, Resident Controller for Western Europe. (The TRAINEES salute. Negligently MOND waves his hand and they put their hands down. He walks among them, looking them over.)

MOND. New trainees. How incredibly interesting. Decanted intellectuals, not entirely programmed. Who knows that one day one of you may become one of the ten world Controllers? (Whirling on 3RD TRAINEE.) You! (3RD TRAINEE, frightened, drops his notebook but stands rigid.) Or perhaps you! (He turns to another.) Who knows? Be seated. (They sit.) You all remember, I suppose, that beautiful and inspired saying of our Ford's: History is bunk. History . . . (He waves his hand, lightly dismissing all history.) . . . is bunk! That's why you're taught no history. But perhaps now, the time

has come . . .

DIRECTOR (horrified, under his breath). Dear Ford!

NERO (beside him, whispering). Do you suppose it's true? Those rumors that he has forbidden books . . . Bibles, poetry . . . locked away in a vault? (MOND looks at them.)

DIRECTOR (hastily, to NERO). Shh!

MOND. It's all right, Director. I won't corrupt them.

DIRECTOR (nervous). Of course not. No one would dare to suggest . . .

VOICE OVER LOUDSPEAKER. It is four o'clock. Main day shift off duty. Second day shift take over. It is four o'clock. Main day shift off duty. Second day shift take over. (The announcement causes some hesitation among the TRAINEES and HENRY, LENINA, NERO and BERNARD, who don't know what to do.)

MOND (to TRAINEES). Remain seated. (He turns to the other four.) The rest of you may go. (The DIRECTOR he assumes will stay. The EPSILONS slide the panels open and BERNARD, LENINA, NERO and HENRY go out through the opening. The EPSILONS close the panels. MOND turns to 4TH TRAINEE.) Do you know the meaning of the word "parent"? (The TRAINEES react as though a filthy word has been used. They are terribly embarrassed, the 4TH TRAINEE more so as it was a direct question.) Come, come . . . "parent"?

4TH TRAINEE (very embarrassed). Human beings used to be . . . well, they used to be viviparous.

MOND. Quite right.

4TH TRAINEE. And when their babies were