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*Dramatic Publishing*

# THE BULLY PLAYS

## 24 Short Plays by

Sandra Fenichel Asher  
Cherie Bennett  
Max Bush  
José Casas  
Gloria Bond Clunie  
Eric Coble  
Doug Cooney  
Linda Daugherty  
Lisa Dillman  
Richard Dresser  
José Cruz González  
Stephen Gregg  
D.W. Gregory  
Brian Guehring  
Dwayne Hartford  
Barry Kornhauser  
Trish Lindberg  
Brett Neveu  
Ernie Nolan  
R.N. Sandberg  
Geraldine Ann Snyder  
Werner Trieschmann  
Elizabeth Wong  
Y York

**Compiled and Edited by Linda Habjan**  
**Foreword by Susan Sugerman, MD, MPH**



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(THE BULLY PLAYS)

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# Nobody Nose (The Trouble I've Seen)

By Barry Kornhauser

Three actors are revealed standing at center, all in a row and facing upstage. After a few moments of stillness, ACTOR 1, who is at the R side of the line, reaches up and touches his/her nose with an index finger. We hear a honk. (*This sound and all the rest to follow may be generated offstage.*) ACTOR 1 lowers his/her hand. A few moments later, ACTOR 2, on the L side, raises his/her index finger to nose, which also gives a honk (*though perhaps of a different pitch*). Then his/her hand is lowered back down. After another moment or two, ACTORS 1 and 2 both poke their noses with their fingers, each generating a simultaneous honk. With that, they both turn around to scrutinize each other. The audience sees what they see, that each has a red clown nose. We also see that the two clearly like what they see in the other, particularly that rosy, round proboscis.

ACTORS 1 and 2 begin to play with their red noses, slowly at first, gently poking and squeezing their own, and, before too long, even each other's nose. They continue to do so with growing enthusiasm, perhaps honking each other's nose with an elbow or knee, touching their noses together, etc., just engaging in all sorts of joyful nose-honking *lazzi*. Their snouts, they think, are very cool, and they enjoy the camaraderie that comes with sharing similar ones.

Eventually, they notice ACTOR 3, who is still facing up-stage. They signal him/her with a honk or two. ACTOR 3 turns around guilelessly, eager to join in the fun. But what's this? He/she does have a clown nose. But it's not a red one; it's blue! ACTORS 1 and 2 are aghast. A blue nose? That's different. That's just wrong! They convey their abhorrence to the audience. Then ACTOR 1 signals ACTOR 2 with a honk of his/her nose. ACTOR 2 responds with a similar honk back to ACTOR 1. They both look at ACTOR 3, who looks back at both and gives his/her round nose a squeeze. This produces a totally different sound from the others. *(Anything from an electronic buzzer to a duck's quack will do. Just something completely different.)* ACTORS 1 and 2 now recoil in horror and repugnance, their noses utterly out of joint.

Again they exchange glances and then silently begin to goad each other to taunt ACTOR 3 about his/her difference, to rub his/her nose in it, so to speak. After a while, ACTOR 1 slowly approaches 3 and gives his/her blue beak an angry little poke. It makes its strange sound! ACTOR 1 backs off and ACTOR 2 follows suit, also poking the blue nose, which sounds off again. They continue thusly with increasing speed and vehemence, and with each poke or squeeze that blue nose generates its noise. Finally, having gotten completely carried away with their harassment, the two simultaneously give a hard slap to ACTOR 3's nose! There is a loud sound of shattering glass.