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A short excerpt is not always indicative of the entire work, and we strongly suggest reading the whole play before planning a production or ordering a cast quantity of scripts.

## **Family Plays**

# I'M A CELEBRITY!

Comedy/Drama by

KATHRYN SCHULTZ MILLER

and

BARRY INGRAM MILLER

Music by

BRUCE BOWDON

# I'M A CELEBRITY!

Premiered by Cincinnati's ArtReach Touring Theatre.

"*Celebrity* was a big success. We performed at eight schools."

(Russann Baker-Priestly, Prairie Players Youth Theatre, Galesburg, Ill.)

"After working on puppetry and mime, the Theatre Arts I class is taking on the challenge of a musical—*I'm a Celebrity!*"

(Progreso, Texas)

**Comedy/Drama. By Kathryn Schultz Miller and Barry Ingram Miller. Music by Bruce Bowdon. Cast: 4 to 13 actors, flexible. *I'm a Celebrity!*** Is a one-act play that deals with the serious childhood and adolescent problem of identity. Harold Dorfmitter is teased and shunned by his classmates. How does he handle the problem? How can his teachers and his parents help him? How can he help himself? Some children retreat into their own lonely little world—and turn to drugs or violence. Harold Dorfmitter daydreams. He pictures himself as a dragon slayer and as a faster-than-anybody truck driver. Finally, a wise teacher helps him learn to make friends. With fast action, constant movement, colorful costumes and props, and a significant story, *I'm a Celebrity!* reaches a high standard of excellence in theatre for youth. *The play was developed to enable four performers to play all the roles. All props and set pieces are simple and easy to set up. It may be performed on a stage, a gym floor, in a cafeteria or any other open area. Thus, it is ideal for touring by all groups as well as presentation by a permanently based theatre group. Designed to stimulate the imagination of young audiences, the play uses geometrical set pieces—a cube (which becomes a chair, a truck, a lectern), a chest (which doubles as a library table and a counter in a truck stop), and a cylinder and ladder (which may symbolize trees, hills, a grandstand). The play is ideal for young performers or for touring by adult actors. Vocal score and guitar chords are included in the playbook. Approximate running time: 50 to 60 minutes. Demo CD available. Music in book. Code: IC3.*

## Family Plays

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I'm a Celebrity!

# I'm a celebrity!

A One-Act Play  
For Children's Theatre

By  
**Kathryn Schultz Miller**  
and  
**Barry Ingram Miller**

Music by Bruce Bowdon

A *'Stage Magic'* Play

**Family Plays**

311 Washington St., Woodstock, IL 60098

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(I'M A CELEBRITY!)

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“Produced by special arrangement with  
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# I'M A CELEBRITY!

## *Characters*

(2 men, 2 women; or 13 performers)

**Harold Dorfmler**, a boy

**Mrs. Burbacher**, a teacher (also plays Flight, Trucker, and Emcee)\*

**Billy**, Harold's classmate (also plays Fancy, Dragon Joe, and Trucker Sam)\*

**Betty**, Harold's classmate (also plays Fabulous, Trucker, and TV Agent)\*

\*These roles may be played by additional performers if larger cast is desired.

## *Songs*

(Songs may be sung or chanted. Accompaniment may be live or taped, or songs may be sung a cappella)

- No. 1. There's No Such Thing As No Such Thing
- No. 2. A Drangle Dragon by the Name of Joe
- No. 3. A Drangle Dragon (reprise)
- No. 4. The Truckin' Man's Saga
- No. 5. There's No Such Thing (reprise)



I'M A CELEBRITY! was first produced in 1979 by the ArtReach Touring Theatre, a program of the American Repertory Theatre of Cincinnati.

## ABOUT THE PLAY

The ArtReach Touring Theatre of Cincinnati, Ohio, began in 1976 and since that time it has performed over 1000 times to a combined audience of approximately 300,000 young people. This professional company's originally developed plays bring important cultural enrichment to the lives of young people in schools, churches, community centers, and professional theatres.

**I'M A CELEBRITY!**, like other scripts in the ArtReach repertory, was developed to enable four performers to play all the roles. All props and set pieces are simple and easy to set up. The play may be performed on a gym floor, in a cafeteria, or any other open area—or on a stage. Thus, it is ideal for touring by all groups as well as presentation by a permanently based theatre group. As many as 13 performers may be used.

Designed to stimulate the imagination of young audiences, the play uses geometrical set pieces—a cube (which becomes a chair, a truck, a lectern), a chest (which doubles as a library table and a counter in a truck stop), and a cylinder and ladder (which may symbolize trees, hills, a grandstand).

**I'M A CELEBRITY!** deals with the serious childhood (and adolescent) problem of identity. Harold Dorfmitter is teased and shunned by his classmates. How does he handle the problem? How can his teachers, his parents help him? How can he help himself?

With fast action, constant movement, and colorful costumes and props, and a significant story, **I'M A CELEBRITY!** reaches a high standard of excellence in theatre for youth.



## I'M A CELEBRITY!

*[The set consists of a blue banner upstage, suspended between two poles. On the banner is a big yellow star. Other set pieces are a chest, a cube, and a cylinder. The cube and cylinder may be approximately 18" by 18", with cut-outs in the tops of them so they can be easily moved and rearranged throughout the play. The chest may be larger. A ladder is an optional set piece that can be used to add levels to a scene. These items may be arranged as desired (see suggested floor plan, p. 21). Everything is painted bright primary and secondary colors: blue, green, yellow, orange, red.]*

*Costumes consist of brightly colored overalls and T-shirts with gym shoes and neck scarves. Accessories will be added throughout the play to indicate character changes (the play is designed so that four performers can play all the roles; additional performers may be used). HAROLD may wear a hat and/or glasses to indicate his character. At no time should a "realistic" set or costume be attempted. The production should only suggest, and the the rest should be left to the audience's imagination. Props and costume accessories are kept in chest when not being used.*

*At rise: BILLY, BETTY, and TEACHER enter snapping fingers and singing or chanting. HAROLD sits behind banner]*

MUSIC 1. "There's No Such Thing As No Such Thing"  
(Live or recorded music may accompany the lyrics;  
or performers may sing a cappella or chant.)

ALL THREE. We know you, you're the one  
Who doesn't want to have any fun.  
Now just don't call when we're at play  
Cuz we already know what you're gonna say—  
There's no such thing as magic wands  
Or monster men or golden swans.  
But we just think you're a ding-a-ling  
Cuz there's no such thing as no such thing—  
There's no such thing as no such thing—  
There's no such thing as no such thing—

*[All move to places for classroom scene during the song or chant]*

There's no such thing as no such thing—  
There's no such thing as no such thing . . .

*[BETTY and BILLY pantomime sitting at school desks with faces behind textbooks. TEACHER has back to audience, chant fades out. HAROLD stands and enters from behind banner, arms loaded with books]*

HAROLD. I'm a celebrity! *[Remains standing, in a daze]*

TEACHER. OK, children, turn to page 53 in your mathematics book for today's assignment. *[BILLY and BETTY get books, turn frantically]* Now I want you to do problems 3, 6, 10, 11 and . . . *[seeing Harold]* Harold Dorfmitter! What are you doing? Are you listening to me? *[Others laugh at HAROLD. He sits and drops books looking for the right page]*

HAROLD. Uh . . . yes, yes, Mrs. Burbacher.

TEACHER. Honestly, Harold, sometimes I wonder why I bother with you. I sit here every day trying my hardest to cram some knowledge in that thick little head of yours, and half the time you're ignoring everything I say.

HAROLD. It's not that, Mrs. Burbacher. I was . . .

TEACHER. Harold, if you don't pay attention and learn to do your math problems—and everything else I've tried to teach you—you'll never amount to anything. Do you realize that, Harold?

HAROLD. I'm sorry, Mrs. Burbacher, I was just thinking about . . .

TEACHER. Not another word. *[She calms down and sits on cube to grade papers]* Now I'm just going to sit here quietly and I want all of you children to do the same . . . while you do your mathematics assignment. Is that understood?

ALL. Yes, Mrs. Burbacher. *[BILLY and BETTY talk and snicker at HAROLD. He starts assignment but is soon daydreaming again]*

BILLY. Hey, Harold, what ya thinking about this time? Huh?

BETTY. Yeah, what is it this time . . . Rocket Men, Circus Clowns? *[HAROLD goes back to assignment, trying to ignore them. BILLY grabs one of Harold's books]*

BILLY. Hey, what's this? Look, Betty, old Dorfo's reading a weird book again. "King Arthur and the Knights". . . *[HAROLD tries to grab book; they scuffle]*

TEACHER. Quietly! Is that understood! *[They immediately quiet down]*

BILLY. You read too many goofy books, Dorfo.

BETTY. Yeah, Dorfo. *[Laughs]*

BOTH. Dorfo, Dorfy, Dorfmitter. Dorfo, Dorfy, Dorfmitter.

HAROLD. *[Raising his hand to escape this]* Mrs. Burbacher, can I be excused to go to the bathroom?

TEACHER. Yes, but remember, you have to finish your assignment.

HAROLD. Yes, ma'am, I know. *[He grabs the book from Billy, exits]*

BILLY. I betcha he's not going to the bathroom.

BETTY. Bet he's going to the dorfo library again.

BILLY. That guy lives in the library.

*[They raise books in front of faces and start chant for scene change from classroom to library]*

ALL. There's no such thing as no such thing . . . *[Repeat as necessary. Others exit during chant as HAROLD enters library]*

HAROLD. *[Sitting on cube, using chest as a table. He opens book, thumbing through it, throwing it down]* Goofy book! Dorfo! Harold Dorf-miller! Goofy Dorfy Harold Dorfo-miller! Nobody cares about me. They're always making fun of me. I always have to go read or play by myself. I'll never go back to class. Dorf-miller!

*[FABULOUS, FLIGHT, and FANCY peek around banner. They may wear red top hats and red bow ties to indicate character]*

FABULOUS. Why look! *[Points to Harold]*

FANCY. Look!

FLIGHT. Look!

ALL THREE. It's Harold Dorfmitter.

HAROLD. *[Looks around]* Oh, I was just going to the bathroom and I thought I'd return this book, and . . .

FABULOUS. Oh, may I have your autograph, Mr. Dorfmitter?

FANCY. May I shake your hand, Mr. Dorfmitter?

FLIGHT. *[Taking the book]* Look, he's touched this book! Wow!

HAROLD. What's going on? What are you talking about?

FLIGHT. Isn't he modest?

FABULOUS. Terribly humble!

FANCY. Simply divine.

HAROLD. Listen, I don't understand what you're . . .

FANCY. Well, it isn't often, Mr. Dorfmitter, that mere characters like us . . .

FLIGHT. Get to meet a real live . . .

ALL THREE. Celebrity!

HAROLD. Celebrity? Listen, you guys, you got it all wrong. I'm just a kid who's lousy at math and who should be in the bathroom right now.

FABULOUS. Well, OK, have it your way. We'll just sit right here and stay out of your way . . . sir.

FLIGHT. Yeah, sorry to bother you . . . your highness.

FANCY. Excuse me . . . Mr. Dorfmliller.

HAROLD. Listen, you guys. I'm really not a celebrity . . . I'm nothing . . . I'm nobody . . . Harold. Who are you guys anyway? And what are you doing here?

FABULOUS. Allow me . . . I'm Fabulous.

FLIGHT. I'm Flight.

FANCY. Fancy. [*They bow*]

FLIGHT. Get it? Fabulous Flight of Fancy. That's us. [*They put their heads together and hum*] We're characters.

HAROLD. You certainly are!

FANCY. No, no, he means that we're *really* characters. Like in a book. That's why we're here.

HAROLD. In the library?

FABULOUS. Yeah. See, whenever you read a book we become all the people in it . . . the characters.

FANCY. Yeah, once I was King Henry the Eighth.

FLIGHT. Yeah, and I had to be his wife and he cut my head off.

FANCY. Sorry.

FABULOUS. Once I was Smokey the Bear.

FANCY. [*Singing*] Popeye the Sailor Man!

FLIGHT. A dark mysterious lover!

FANCY. Yeah!

FABULOUS. A Rocket Man!

HAROLD. A Rocket Man? [*Interested*]

FLIGHT. Yeah, and a Circus Clown!

HAROLD. Wow, a Circus Clown!

FANCY. And whenever we appear . . .

ALL THREE. We're celebrities!

HAROLD. That's great, but I'm not any kind of celebrity. I'm just Harold Dorfmliller.

FLIGHT. *Just* Harold Dorfmliller?

FABULOUS. Don't you see, Harold, everybody's the star sometime. Haven't you ever read a book and pretended to be the hero you were reading about? The lead character?

- HAROLD. Well, kind of.
- FABULOUS. There you go, you're a celebrity.
- HAROLD. Yeah, but it's not the same as . . .
- FANCY. What book is that Harold?
- HAROLD. Oh this, it's just "King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table."
- FABULOUS. Oh, wow!
- FLIGHT. Sword Fights!
- FANCY. Damsels in Distress!
- FLIGHT. Wizards!
- HAROLD. Yeah, I guess it's pretty good. Keeps my mind off mathematics.
- FABULOUS. What do you mean, pretty good?
- FLIGHT. It's Fantabulous!
- FANCY. Stupendous!
- HAROLD. Well, I guess you're right.
- FANCY. [*Idea*] I know, I know. A dragon! A ferocious fire-breathing, damsel-eating dragon!
- FABULOUS. [*Imitates dragon*] Raaaaaarrrrrrrrrrrr!
- FLIGHT. I think I prefer a dragon with a little more style . . . a little finesse.
- HAROLD. What are you guys talking about?
- FABULOUS. This is it, Harold. This is your chance.
- FANCY. [*Fanfare*] Da Da Da Daaaaaa.
- FLIGHT. Ceeeelebrity time!
- FANCY. Ladies and gentlemen, we have the great honor and privilege to present the one and only world-renowned dragon-killer, Harold the Great!
- HAROLD. Oh, no, no, guys, no.
- FANCY. Come on, Harold, there's nothing to be afraid of.
- FLIGHT. Yeah, don't worry about a thing; we'll protect you.
- HAROLD. Protect me? Oh my.
- FABULOUS. Once upon a time in foggy ole England, far off in the deep dark woods . . . [*During this dialogue they can put costume pieces on Harold (perhaps a knight's helmet, sword, and shield). The cube, cylinder, and ladder may be rearranged to represent trees, rocks, etc.*]
- FANCY. There lived a group of villagers who were saddened by a great tragedy . . .
- FABULOUS. And the villagers were sorely oppressed and began to weepth.

FLIGHT. Weepth?

FABULOUS. Profusethly.

FANCY. Because the most feared and fearsome dragon of the *Drangle* species was close at hand and on his way to their village to eateth everything.

HAROLD. Everything?

FLIGHT. Yeah, mashed potatoes and gravy.

FANCY. Liver and onions.

FABULOUS. Spinach pie and oyster stew.

FANCY. But most of all he wanted you! [*Points to Fabulous*]

FABULOUS. And you! [*Points to Flight*]

FABULOUS & FLIGHT. And you! [*They point to Fancy. All three grab each other and huddle with fear*]

ALL THREE. Ohhhhh! You've got to save us, Harold. You've got to save us.

FABULOUS. Go on, Harold, please.

FLIGHT. You can doeth it.

FANCY. Remembereth the story!

MUSIC 2. "A Drangle Dragon by the Name of Joe"

HAROLD. [*Sings or chants*] Asketh thou who I might be?

Well I'm happy to say

I sure ain't thee.

Thou knowest well this kingdom here

Calleth its prince

To a battle near.

I am he who slew the shrew,

And you better watch out

Or I'll slew you.

I heardeth of late a rumor or so

About a Drangle Dragon

By the name of Joe.

So I have cometh from the deep

To save your hides

From the Drangle's creep.

If you must know by which name I go

Sayeth but this:

He strangled Joe.