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Dramatic Publishing

On with the Shrew!

A One-Act Farce
Adapted From
William Shakespeare's
TAMING OF THE SHREW

By
BILL VAN HORN



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

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(ON WITH THE SHREW!)

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ON WITH THE SHREW!

A One-Act Play
for Five Men, Six Women, Extras

C H A R A C T E R S

MIKE (Gremio) a student actor
MRS. SHUBERT the high school Drama Director
BERNIE (Baptista) a student actor
MORGAN (Woman Four) a student actress
JUDY (Woman Two) a student actress
RON (Petruccio) president of the Drama Club
TERRI ANN (Kate) Ron's girlfriend, an actress
VALERIE (Woman One) a student actress
BIANCA sweet sister of Kate
LUCENTIO and HORTENSIO Bianca's suitors
MAIDENS, PAGES, MUSICIANS,
MERCHANT, MONK, CUPID Extras

Time: The Present and The Past
Place: A high school stage

ON WITH THE SHREW !

SCENE: A high school stage that holds scenery representing the medieval town of Padua.

AT RISE OF CURTAIN: Some of the ACTORS dressed in period costumes and other ACTORS in regular clothes scurry across the stage. They ad lib such phrases as "Hurry up!" "What time is it?" and "Is your mom coming?" MIKE, in costume, is alone on the set fixing some scenery as MRS. SHUBERT dashes across the stage carrying a clipboard.

MRS. SHUBERT (glancing at her watch). Hurry, Mike! Only five minutes until curtain time. (She waves off L.) Harriet! Harriet! I've found your stocking! (She dashes off L.)

(TERRI ANN enters R in costume.)

MIKE. Hi, Terri Ann.

(MORGAN, in regular clothes, and JUDY, in costume, peer out from behind the scenery.)

TERRI. I'm not speaking to you! (She turns away.)

MIKE (perplexed). Why not? That note you put in my locker said that you wanted to go to the prom with me.

TERRI. I didn't write that note and I didn't put it in your locker!

MIKE (putting his hands on Terri's shoulders). Now wait a minute!

(RON enters L in costume.)

RON. Well, pardon me! (To MIKE.) I ought to punch in your face!

MIKE (backing off). Oh, don't do that.

RON. Why?

MIKE. You'll spoil my makeup. (He hurries off R.)

RON. Boy, Terri, you're something else!

TERRI. Listen to me, Ron —

RON (interrupting). No.

TERRI. I didn't write that note to Mike.

RON. It had your name on it, didn't it?

TERRI. I'm telling you, I didn't write it! I've never lied to you.

RON. There's always a first time. I'll never believe you again!

TERRI. Please, Ron . . . (She goes to RON.)

RON (pushing TERRI away). Just get out of my way.

TERRI. That suits me just fine. And you get out of my life!

(She stomps off L. RON exits R.)

(MORGAN and JUDY come out from their hiding place.

MORGAN carries a pretty gown.)

MORGAN. Ha, ha! That will teach Terri Ann to leave my boyfriend alone.

JUDY. Your boyfriend? Don't be ridiculous, Morgan. Ron doesn't know you exist.

MORGAN. Well, he will soon enough.

JUDY. I wonder who wrote that note to Mike? It was a dirty trick.

MORGAN. I wrote it.

JUDY. You what?

MORGAN. I wrote the note to Mike and signed it with Terri's name.

JUDY (shocked). But why? What has Terri ever done to you?

MORGAN. Are you kidding, Judy? First she gets the leading role in the play – and then she gets to kiss Ron at the end of the play. That's rotten.

JUDY. Terri didn't write the play. Shakespeare did.

MORGAN. Well, he's rotten, too. Anyway, she'll be sorry. (She takes a can from the gown and sprinkles powder from it on the gown.)

JUDY. What are you doing?

MORGAN. Sprinkling itching powder on this gown.

JUDY. Morgan, stop it! That's Terri's gown!

MORGAN. Right. I was supposed to wear it, but old sour-puss Shubert gave it to Terri. Ha, ha, I'll show Terri! (She puts more powder on the gown.)

JUDY (looking off L). Watch it. Here comes Mrs. Shubert. (MORGAN hides the can and the gown behind her back.)

(MRS. SHUBERT enters L.)

MRS. SHUBERT. Oh, Morgan. I've got good news for you.

MORGAN. Terri Ann can't be in the play?

MRS. SHUBERT. No. But I want you to wear the gown she was supposed to wear. You know, the gown you fussed so much about.

MORGAN. Why do I have to wear it?

MRS. SHUBERT. Because I found another one for her.

MORGAN. But I don't want to wear it anymore.

MRS. SHUBERT (angrily). No buts! You complained all week about not being able to wear it. Now put it on and hurry up! Do you hear me?

MORGAN. Yes, Mrs. Shubert. (She starts off R. JUDY laughs.)

MRS. SHUBERT. Why are you laughing, Judy?

JUDY. Oh, never mind. (She exits with MORGAN who is trying to shake the powder out of the gown. MRS. SHUBERT buries her nose in the clipboard.)

(BERNIE enters L, barefooted and in costume.)

BERNIE (nervously). Er . . . Mrs. Shubert?

MRS. SHUBERT. What's wrong now, Bernie?

BERNIE. I can't find my horse.

MRS. SHUBERT. How in heaven's name could you lose a horse?

Perhaps I should have given you an elephant. Go and find it!

(BERNIE slumps off R.)

(TERRI enters L, crying.)

MRS. SHUBERT. What's wrong, Terri Ann?

TERRI (sobbing). I'm not going to be in the play.

MRS. SHUBERT. Now, now. Don't be nervous.

TERRI. I'm not nervous. I hate Ron!

MRS. SHUBERT. But I thought you were good friends.

TERRI (sobbing). I hate him!

MRS. SHUBERT. But you and Ron have the leading parts in the play! It isn't just any actress who gets to play the part of Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew*. You're a good actress, Terri Ann, and we're all counting on you. (To the audience.) Oh, be still my bleeding ulcer.

TERRI (drying her tears). All right -- but I won't kiss him! I'll never kiss him again, ever!

MRS. SHUBERT (as TERRI runs off sobbing). But that kiss is the high point of the play!

(BERNIE enters R.)