

# Excerpt terms and conditions

This excerpt is available to assist you in the play selection process.

---

Excerpts are not intended for performance, classroom or other academic use. In any of these cases you will need to purchase playbooks via our website or by phone, fax or mail.

---

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

# **Zack Hill and the Rocket Blaster Man Adventure**

Book by

**WERNER TRIESCHMANN**

Music and lyrics by

**THOMAS TIERNEY**

Based on the comic strip by

**JOHN DEERING and JOHN NEWCOMBE**

**Dramatic Publishing Company**

Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*

The amateur and stock acting rights to this work are controlled exclusively by THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be given. Royalty must be paid every time a play is performed whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged. A play is performed any time it is acted before an audience. Current royalty rates, applications and restrictions may be found at our website: [www.dramaticpublishing.com](http://www.dramaticpublishing.com), or we may be contacted by mail at: THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., 311 Washington St., Woodstock, IL 60098.

COPYRIGHT LAW GIVES THE AUTHOR OR THE AUTHOR'S AGENT THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO MAKE COPIES. This law provides authors with a fair return for their creative efforts. Authors earn their living from the royalties they receive from book sales and from the performance of their work. Conscientious observance of copyright law is not only ethical, it encourages authors to continue their creative work. This work is fully protected by copyright. No alterations, deletions or substitutions may be made in the work without the prior written consent of the publisher. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, videotape, film, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. It may not be performed either by professionals or amateurs without payment of royalty. All rights, including, but not limited to, the professional, motion picture, radio, television, videotape, foreign language, tabloid, recitation, lecturing, publication and reading, are reserved.

©MMXXIV

Book by WERNER TRIESCHMANN

Music and lyrics by THOMAS TIERNEY

Based upon the comic strip *Zack Hill Copyright 2024 Creators Syndicate, Inc.*  
by JOHN DEERING and JOHN NEWCOMBE

Printed in the United States of America

*All Rights Reserved*

(ZACK HILL AND THE ROCKET BLASTER MAN ADVENTURE)

For inquiries concerning all other rights, contact:  
Creators Syndicate, Inc.

737 Third St., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

ISBN: 978-1-61959-321-3

## IMPORTANT BILLING AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

All producers of the musical **must** give credit to Werner Trieschmann as the dramatizer, Thomas Tierney as composer/lyricist and John Deering and John Newcombe as creators of the comic strip *Zack Hill* Copyright 2024 Creators Syndicate, Inc., in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the musical and in all instances in which the title of the musical appears for purposes of advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the musical and/or a production. The names of Werner Trieschmann, Thomas Tierney, John Deering and John Newcombe **must** also appear on a separate line, on which no other name appears, immediately following the title, and **must** appear in size of type not less than fifty percent (50%) the size of the title type. No other person shall receive more favorable billing than the dramatizer and composer/lyricist. Biographical information on Werner Trieschmann, Thomas Tierney, John Deering and John Newcombe, if included in the playbook, may be used in all programs. *In all programs this notice must appear:*

“Produced by special arrangement with  
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., of Woodstock, Illinois.”

*Zack Hill and the Rocket Blaster Man Adventure* was premiered by The Winter Park Playhouse (Winter Park, Fla.) in the Florida Festival of New Musicals in June 2021.

CAST:

ZACK HILL..... Tyler Prince  
JAN HILL .....Melissa Whitworth  
VINCE ..... Jordan Gago  
CARL..... Jesse Harris  
MRS. BELMONT..... Janine Papin  
HENRI LEE..... Aiden Szubinski  
WINONA..... Kaylin Rayne  
GLORIA..... Monica Titus

PRODUCTION:

Director ..... Joshian Morales  
Musical Director ..... Ned Wilkinson  
Artistic Director ..... Roy Alan  
Executive Director ..... Heather Alexander

# Zack Hill and the Rocket Blaster Man Adventure

## CHARACTERS

ZACK HILL: A 9-year-old, smart, spirited and mischievous boy with a shock of red hair. (*Boy second soprano/alto.*)

JAN HILL: Zack's mother, widowed and head of the house. (*Alto mix belt.*)

VINCE: Liberal boarder at the Hill house, friend of Carl. (*High baritone/tenor.*)

CARL: Conservative boarder at the Hill house, friend of Vince. (*Bass baritone.*)

MRS. BELMONT: Older boarder who chases Zack around with hairbrush. (*Alto belt.*)

HENRI LEE: Zack's best friend. (*Second soprano.*)

WINONA: Zack's next-door neighbor who claims to be his girlfriend and only wears black. (*Second soprano/alto.*)

GLORIA: Winona's mother and friend of Jan. Very upbeat. (*Contralto belt.*)

MR. GRUMBINE: Unseen boarder who lives behind a door and speaks through sound effects. (*Does not sing.*)

TIME: Present.

PLACE: Various locations in and around the Hill house.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT I

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. In My House .....   | 9  |
| ZACK & COMPANY   |    |
| 2. Turning Ten .....   | 15 |
| ZACK & JAN   |    |
| 2a. Grumbine Music.....  | 18 |
| INSTRUMENTAL   |    |
| 3. A Shining Symbol .....                                      | 22 |
| VINCE & CARL   |    |
| 3a. A Shining Symbol (Reprise).....                            | 27 |
| JAN  |    |
| 4. Poppycock, Balderdash.....                                  | 31 |
| MRS. BELMONT   |    |
| 5. If I Had My Way .....                                       | 35 |
| ZACK   |    |
| 5a. If I Had My Way (Reprise).....                             | 39 |
| ZACK & HENRI LEE   |    |
| 6. New Dress Song.....   | 42 |
| GLORIA   |    |
| 6a. New Dress Song (Reprise).....                              | 45 |
| JAN & GLORIA   |    |
| 7. What Makes a Man .....                                      | 52 |
| CARL, VINCE & ZACK   |    |
| 8. A Light Turned On (In My Heart).....                        | 56 |
| JAN  |    |
| 9. Rocket Blaster Man.....                                     | 61 |
| ZACK, WINONA, VINCE, CARL, MRS. BELMONT,<br>HENRI LEE & GLORIA |    |

## ACT II

10. Florida .....	69
JAN, ZACK & COMPANY	
10a. Florida Playoff.....	73
INSTRUMENTAL	
11. Save the Day .....	75
ZACK, WINONA & HENRI LEE	
12. What Makes a Man (Reprise) .....	83
VINCE, CARL & ZACK	
13. Bad Timing.....	86
JAN & GLORIA	
14. Rocket Blaster Man (Reprise).....	91
ZACK	
15. The Right Thing .....	95
ZACK, JAN & COMPANY	
16. Turning Ten (Finale) .....	106
COMPANY	



## SETTING

The main set, the inside of the Hill house, consists of two main playing areas: the kitchen and the living room. The kitchen, R, consists of a large, round table with chairs. The table is antique-ish, perhaps heavy and wooden, with old chairs that don't necessarily match. The living room, L, has an old sofa with maybe some wooden end tables, lamps and some battered wingback chairs. There's not much to the living room, which usually has the chairs arranged in a semicircle for the house meetings. There are suggested doors/entrances on the left off the kitchen to the driveway, on the right off the living room to the front door and in the center to the rest of the house and the upstairs rooms for Jan, Zack and the boarders. There is also a curb outside where Zack, Henri Lee and Winona often wait for their school bus.

# Zack Hill and the Rocket Blaster Man Adventure

## ACT I

*(A spotlight comes up on ZACK HILL. He is reading the Sunday comics.)*

### (#1: “In My House”)

ZACK.

THE SUNDAY PAPER HAS FUNNY PAGES  
WHERE CATS EAT PIZZA AND TREES EAT KITES.  
MY LIFE IS FUNNIER THAN THOSE PAGES,  
LIKE READING COMICS FOR DAYS AND NIGHTS.

IN MY HOUSE,  
INSTEAD OF REAL PEOPLE,  
WE HAVE BOARDERS IN THIS HOUSE.  
NO BROTHERS OR SISTERS OR FATHERS  
IN MY HOUSE.

*(Each character appears as ZACK describes them. First, his mother, JAN HILL.)*

ZACK *(cont'd)*.

THIS HOUSE IS BUSY AND BIG AND CREAKY.  
IT'S GOT A MOTHER WHO LIVES HERE TOO.  
SHE'S ALWAYS GRIPING THE PIPES ARE LEAKY.  
SHE'S ALWAYS TELLING ME WHAT TO DO.

JAN.

IN THIS HOUSE  
WE TRY TO BE NORMAL.

JAN (*cont'd*).

THAT'S A CHALLENGE IN THIS HOUSE.  
WHEN RAISING A RED-HEADED BOY  
WITH AN ODD BUNCH OF BOARDERS  
IN THIS HOUSE.

(*MRS. BELMONT enters and chases after ZACK with a hairbrush as he sings.*)

ZACK.

IN MY HOUSE,  
A FUNNY OLD WOMAN  
TALKS A LOT  
TO THE CHAIRS AND THE WALL.  
SHE CHASES ME  
WITH A THREATENING HAIRBRUSH.  
WHEN I HEAR HER COMING,  
I HIDE IN THE HALL.  
SHE IS JUST ONE OF THE BOARDERS  
IN MY HOUSE.

MRS. BELMONT.

ZACK HILL IS A SCAMPERING, FROLICKING PUP.  
HE DOESN'T KNOW HIS ELBOW FROM DOWN OR UP.  
HE NEEDS TO GET SOME BITE INTO HIS BARK.  
HE'LL LOSE THE RACE IF HE'S NOT ON HIS MARK.  
SO WHAT I TALK TO WALLS EVERY NOW AND THEN.  
A WOMAN WITH A HAIRBRUSH IS THE PERFECT  
MOTHER HEN!

(*MRS. BELMONT and ZACK stop running. VINCE and CARL enter.*)

ZACK.

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF GUYS WHO LIVE HERE.  
THEY'RE ALWAYS ARGUING DAY AND NIGHT  
ABOUT THE WEATHER AND SPORTS AND POLITICS.  
NO DOUBT THE TWO OF THEM LIKE TO FIGHT.

VINCE & CARL.

IN ZACK HILL'S HOUSE  
IT'S ALWAYS CHAOTIC  
YOU'D NEVER GUESS WHAT A MESS HE CAN MAKE.

CARL.

HE GETS MY GOAT!

VINCE.

HE GETS ME NEUROTIC!

VINCE & CARL.

HOW MUCH MORE ABUSE FROM THIS KID CAN  
WE TAKE?  
BUT HE'S THE KID WE MUST LIVE WITH  
IN THIS HOUSE

*(A light comes up on MR. GRUMBINE's door. We hear a rhythmic knocking, like an old car horn or beating on a pot.)*

ZACK.

BEHIND A DOOR,  
THE MAN WHO LIVES THERE  
NEVER COMES OUT, BUT I KNOW HE'S THERE  
BECAUSE HE MAKES STRANGE, SCARY NOISES  
AND BOTHERS THE BOARDERS  
IN MY ...

*(A light comes up on HENRI LEE, who smiles and waves.)*

ZACK *(cont'd)*.

BUT I SHOULD TELL YOU ABOUT MY BEST FRIEND,  
MY BUDDY HENRI LEE DOWN THE STREET.  
LIKE ME HIS HERO IS ROCKET BLASTER MAN,  
THE SUPERHERO THAT CAN'T BE BEAT.

*(WINONA enters behind ZACK. He doesn't look at her.)*

ZACK *(cont'd)*.

AND NEXT DOOR,  
THIS GOTH CHICK WINONA  
TEXTS ME ALL THE TIME ON HER PHONE.  
SHE WEARS BLACK AND SAYS SHE'S MY  
GIRLFRIEND.  
BUT I WISH THIS STRANGE GIRL WOULD LEAVE  
ME ALONE!

WINONA & HENRI LEE.

WE ARE THE REGULAR VISITORS TO HIS HOUSE.

*(GLORIA enters, twirls and joins WINONA and HENRI LEE.)*

ZACK.

WINONA'S MOTHER IS ALWAYS CHEERFUL.  
SHE LIKES TO GOSSIP 'BOUT STUPID THINGS.  
WHEN SHE COMES OVER, WE GET AN EARFUL.  
AND VERY OFTEN SHE ALSO SINGS.

GLORIA.

WO-OH! HELLO! ANYONE HOME?!

ALL BUT ZACK.

IN ZACK HILL'S HOUSE  
HE THINKS IT'S AMUSING

JAN.

TO NEVER BE WHERE YOU THINK HE SHOULD BE

ALL BUT ZACK.

IN ZACK HILL'S HOUSE  
IT'S DOWNRIGHT CONFUSING

CARL.

HE'S EITHER IN YOUR FACE

VINCE.

OR HANGING FROM A TREE!

JAN, CARL, VINCE & MRS. BELMONT.

SO MUCH WE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH  
IN THIS HOUSE.

GLORIA, HENRI LEE & WINONA.

WE TRY TO VISIT HIM OFTEN  
IN HIS HOUSE ...

ZACK.

NO SISTERS OR BROTHERS  
OR TYPICAL MOTHERS.

VINCE, CARL & MRS. BELMONT.

BUT ONLY SOME BOARDERS

GLORIA, HENRI LEE & WINONA.

AND REGULAR VISITORS

ALL BUT ZACK.

WHO HAVE TO PUT UP WITH  
THIS RED-HEADED KID

JAN.

AND AN ODDBALL ASORTMENT

ALL.

WHO LIVE WITH A FATHERLESS FAM'LY  
IN THIS/MY HOUSE!

*(All exit the stage. Lights return to normal. JAN walks into the kitchen, holding a calculator and a stack of bills. She sits down at the table and begins to pay bills.)*

ZACK *(runs in from offstage)*. Hi Mom, gotta run—whole new season of *Rocket Blaster Man* about to be on Netbox, see ya.

*(ZACK is almost out of the living room.)*

JAN. Zack! Zack Hill!

*(ZACK runs back and stops at the table. He's out of breath.)*

ZACK. No time to talk 'cause *Rocket Blaster Man* is about to be on, and if I miss it then spoilers will spoil it and I think this season he's like gonna find his way back to Earth but he's gotta battle the Zorcon Robots—

JAN. OK, but you'll have to miss it—

ZACK. Mom! The Zorcon Robots!

JAN. We have a house meeting soon and—

ZACK. Come on! A house meeting! You mean Big Freak Loser Hour!

JAN. We've talked about how we're not going to talk like that. Besides, that's not why I stopped you.

ZACK. You know Mom, some of the kids said *Rocket Blaster Man* will never get home. I don't believe that, do you? *Rocket Blaster Man* can melt super huge asteroids with his eye-rays. Of course he'll find a way to get home.

JAN. You know I love you.

ZACK. Mom! Don't say it out loud.

JAN. I was looking at this calendar in the checkbook and you know what's coming up soon? Your birthday.

ZACK. My birthday?! No!

JAN. In a couple of weeks, you'll be ten.

ZACK. No! (*Grabbing the checkbook.*) Why don't we put it off? Save my birthday for another month later on.

JAN. Zack! Of course we won't. We're going to have a party.

ZACK. A party! *Gack!* Where?

JAN. Where? Well Zack, maybe I'm completely out of my mind, but I was thinking we could have it here, in the house.

ZACK. And have my friends come over? Here? To our house!? Mom, I don't wanna party this year. I'll stay nine years old, and we can have a normal day like any other day. OK? OK. Glad we have that settled.

*(ZACK puts the checkbook down and starts to walk away before being pulled back by JAN.)*

JAN. It's not settled. We will have a party, and you will have a birthday, and I can't believe I have to fight with you about this. What's so bad about turning ten?

## **(#2: "Turning Ten")**

ZACK.

GROWING UP.

THIS IS BAD.

IT'S MY BIRTHDAY,

BUT I'M SO MAD.

MY LIFE CAN'T

GET MUCH WORSE.

THIS GETTING OLD IS A CURSE!

I'M TURNING TEN.

WHAT A SHOCK!

I'M TURNING TEN.

STOP THE CLOCK!

IT CAN'T BE TRUE.



ZACK (*cont'd*).

I'M NOT THROUGH  
WITH BEING NINE,  
WHICH IS FINE BY ME.

BUT OH NOT TEN.  
HEY, NO WAY!  
LET'S GO BACK WHEN  
I CAN STAY  
A KID FOREVER  
WHO'S NEVER TEN!

NEVER EVER TEN,  
NEVER EVER TEN.  
I REPEAT AGAIN,  
NEVER EVER TEN.  
NEVER EVER IN A HUNDRED MILLION YEARS  
WILL I BE TEN!

JAN.

ZACK HILL,  
YOU'RE GROWING UP SO FAST.  
ZACK HILL,  
YOU'LL BE A MAN AT LAST  
ZACK HILL,  
IT'S TIME THAT YOU STOP LIVING IN THE PAST.  
YOU'RE TURNING TEN!  
WHAT A JOY!  
MY LITTLE BOY  
I REALIZE  
YOU ARE MATURING  
BEFORE MY EYES.

ZACK. Mom, this is unfair!

WE DIDN'T ASK TO COME INTO THIS WORLD,  
BUT HERE WE ARE.

Little blobs who wet their diapers.

YOU GROW REAL FAST FROM BABY CRIB  
TO OWNING YOUR OWN CAR.

That's when you're *really* an adult.

AND IN BETWEEN THERE'S SANDBOX,  
KINDERGARTEN, SECOND GRADE,  
FIFTH GRADE, SIXTH GRADE,  
LITTLE LEAGUE AND LEMONADE.  
MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL,  
SUMMERS OFF, WINONA'S POOL.  
MESS AROUND, GRADUATE,  
MEET SOME GIRLS, GO ON A DATE.  
QUICK AS YOU CAN MOW THE LAWN,  
SUDDENLY YOUR LIFE IS GONE.  
BEING AN ADULT MUST BE A YAWN!

This birthday's gonna ruin my life.

ZACK.

GROWING UP.  
THIS IS BAD.  
IT'S MY BIRTHDAY.  
BUT I'M SO MAD.  
MY LIFE CAN'T  
GET MUCH WORSE.  
THIS GETTING OLD  
IS A CURSE!

JAN.

ZACK HILL,  
WHAT DO I DO WITH YOU?  
HOW WILL  
WE ALL GET THROUGH TO YOU  
ZACK HILL,  
DEAR, IF YOU ONLY KNEW  
THAT TURNING TEN  
IS JUST GREAT!

ZACK.

SO NO MORE TEN!  
SOON I'LL HAVE TO TURN  
ELEVEN!  
I SAY "NO" TO GETTING OLDER  
THAN WHAT I AM!

ZACK (*cont'd*).

NEVER EVER TEN,  
NEVER EVER TEN.  
I REPEAT AGAIN,  
NEVER EVER TEN  
NEVER EVER IN A  
HUNDRED MILLION YEARS

WILL I BE TEN

JAN.

ZACK HILL,  
TO AGE IS NOT A CRIME.  
BE STILL,  
AND LISTEN.  
SURE AS I'M  
JAN HILL  
THERE IS NO WAY  
THAT YOU CAN SAY  
"NO" TO TIME.

JAN & ZACK.

*NO WAY!*

JAN. OK, make sure the den is straight before the meeting please. Then go ask Mr. Grumbine—

ZACK. Awww, Mom!

JAN. Zack, go ask Mr. Grumbine if he's coming to the meeting. He probably won't, but we will at least give him the chance. Hurry, I'm sure Vince and Carl will be down any minute.

*(A small pause where ZACK doesn't move.)*

JAN *(cont'd)*. Go.

*(JAN picks up the bills and exits. ZACK reluctantly trudges over to MR. GRUMBINE's door. There is a rusty "Keep Out" sign tacked to it. It's painted black and just looks intimidating. ZACK stares at the door.)*

### **(#2a: "Grumbine Music")**

*(ZACK knocks on the door.)*

ZACK. Mr. Grumbine! Mr. Grumbine! We're having a house meeting now, and my mom wants to know if you are coming.

*(There is no answer. ZACK knocks on the door again.)*

ZACK *(cont'd)*. Mr. Grumbine?!

*(There is the sound of a buzzer, which sounds like the buzzer they use when a game show contestant gets an answer wrong. Then a piece of paper comes from under the door. ZACK picks it up.)*

ZACK *(cont'd, reading)*. "Forget it, buster."

*(ZACK sighs and trudges back to the living room as VINCE and CARL enter. CARL is clutching an object that's covered with a towel.)*

VINCE. What I don't understand, Carl, is why you are so hostile to the government?

CARL. What I don't get, Vince, is why the government treats me like their ATM machine. Why should I bust my hump day and night being a locksmith when they waste my money before I see it?

VINCE. So you'd say it's a waste to spend billions on military weapon systems that don't work?

CARL. See, I got no problem with that. That's research.

VINCE. I can assure you that everybody down at the Manic Organic is quite happy to pay their fair share for necessary programs.

CARL. Ah, Vince, that'd be a real powerful argument if everybody at your organic grocery store wasn't a certified leftwing nutball.

VINCE. Zack, how old are you now? You're ten, right?

ZACK. No! I'm nine! Not ten! Hey Vince, Carl, ya think we could like speed up this meeting? 'Cause if I miss Rocket Blaster Man, then everybody will know what has happened and I won't and then the world might as well come to an end.

CARL. No chance, Zack.

VINCE. Sorry Zack, I'm with Carl. We live in this house and pay rent, and so we have a right to come together and air our concerns.

ZACK. Don't my concerns count?

CARL. This is an important meeting. I have an important new proposal to ... propose to your mom. You know what I am talking about.

ZACK. Oh you mean the new suggest—

CARL. Hey! Watch it there, motormouth, you'll spoil the surprise.