

TRUE COLORS

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SYNOPSIS

A youth theatre cast are preparing to stage the musical *Joseph* for a drama contest. Ironically, some of the cast members become jealous of the lead actor, who seems to be favored by the director. When they devise a plan to oust him, the production gets derailed and their chance to compete in the contest is jeopardized.

SETTING

A performance stage in a school. Each scene takes place in rehearsal in the staging area. SR exits to the remainder of the school. SL exits to Mr. Wood's office and backstage.

CAST (GENDER FLEXIBLE)

Mr / Ms Wood: The Teacher

Ed (Edie)

Pat (Patti)

Marty (Marnie)

Larry (Laura)

Andy (Annie)

Harry (Heidi)

John (Jenn)

Brian (Brianne)

Ken (Kerri)

Steve (Stephanie)

Charlie (Charlotte)

Nate (Natalie)

Dan (Danielle)

Rob (Rebecca)

Gill (Gillian)

Will (Wendy)

Frank (Fran)

CASTING FOR DIFFERENT SIZE GROUPS

The script is written for 18 characters. To adjust for more for fewer, follow the following guidelines to adjust the script.

- 19+:** Additional cast in addition to the 18 listed will play “extras”. Dialogue will include parts indicated by “ALL” and can be added where multiple responses are needed.
- 18:** Use as written
- 17:** Combine **ROB** and **FRANK**.
Eliminate **Clique B** in Scene 1
CHARLIE and **GILL** join **Clique D** in Scene 1 but have no dialogue in the group.
- 16:** Combine **ROB** and **FRANK**.
Combine **NATE** and **GILL**.
Eliminate **Clique B** in Scene 1
CHARLIE joins **Clique D** in Scene 1 but have no dialogue in the group.
- 15:** Combine **ROB** and **FRANK**.
Combine **NATE** and **GILL**.
Combine **STEVE** and **CHARLIE**.
Eliminate **Clique B** in Scene 1.
- 14:** Combine **ROB** and **FRANK**.
Combine **NATE** and **GILL**.
Combine **STEVE** and **CHARLIE**.
Combine **KEN** and **BRIAN**.
Eliminate **Clique B** and **Clique C** in Scene 1.
DAN will join **Clique D** but have no dialogue in that group.
- 13:** Combine **ROB** and **FRANK**.
Combine **NATE** and **GILL**.
Combine **STEVE** and **CHARLIE**.
Combine **KEN** and **BRIAN**.
Combine **JOHN** and **DAN**.
Eliminate **Clique B** and **Clique C** in Scene 1.

<u>Most Prominent Roles</u>	<u>Moderately Prominent Roles</u>	<u>Least Prominent Roles</u>
MR or MS WOOD	HARRY (Heidi)	ROB (Rebecca)
ED (Edie)	STEVE (Stephanie)	GILL (Gillian)
PAT (Patti)	BRIAN (Brianne)	WILL (Wendy)
MARTY (Marnie)	CHARLIE (Charlotte)	FRANK (Fran)
LARRY (Laura)	NATE (Natalie)	
ANDY (Annie)	KEN (Kerri)	
JOHN (Jenn)	DAN (Danielle)	

SCENE 1: 4 Days Before Performance

AT RISE: Begin with the cast milling and chatting in groups. MR WOOD enters and stand on a box (or chair) facing audience. Costumes/props sitting on floor near an empty box. Any school items (coats, bags) that kids will collect as they leave.

MR WOOD

Okay, that's a wrap for today. Everybody, come gather around.

(Everyone comes together in a circle around MR WOOD who is just slightly above the group)

All right. We're down to the wire. Only three rehearsals until production night. We've got some work to do if we're going to win this Drama Festival this year.

(Groans)

That is, unless you want to let Grimsby Collegiate take home the trophy ... Again.

ALL

Not a chance / No way / Forget that / We can do it / It's ours this year / They're not getting it again

MR WOOD

Okay. Good. We've worked hard on this musical. Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat is a great show. You guys have the ability and talent to win. You are an amazing cast and you're all great actors. And with Marty in the lead role we have the advantage this year. Okay, everyone in together.

ALL

Red and Yellow, Green and Brown.

Antagonists tend to bring me down.

If you miss your cue once more.

We'll toss you out the Back Stage Door.

STRIKE (Everyone strikes a pose)

PSYCH (Everyone holds out hand to shake with a partner but pulls hand up to side of head, as if to psych)

DISLIKE (Thumbs down and turns away)

(Actions are suggestions. Other ideas can be used)

MR WOOD

That's it. See everyone tomorrow right after school.

(MR WOOD starts cleaning up. Cast will dissipate and form the following peer groups or cliques. The groups converse at the same time which creates some chaos as they depart. Dialogue can be adlib or follow suggested lines)

(Clique A: CS)

WILL
(To MR WOOD)

See you Mr. Wood.

MR. WOOD

Work on those lines, Will.

WILL
(Leaving SR)

Yeh, I will. See you, Ed. See you, Andy.

ANDY
(ED waves)

See you, Will.

HARRY

Later, Will.

WILL
(JOHN and PAT acknowledge WILL and go SL. ED, ANDY and HARRY hang out together USR)

See ya tomorrow, Harry.

(Clique B: DSL. Exit SR after dialogue)

GILL

I'm going to see a movie tonight.

FRANK

Me too. Which theatre you going to?

CHARLIE

You guys are so lucky.

GILL

Rockford Mall Theatres.

CHARLIE

I don't remember the last time I went to the movies. Actually, I don't even remember the last time I left the house. I think I'm Vitamin D deficient.

FRANK

You bones require Vitamin D otherwise you end up spineless.

(Clique C: USL. Exit SR after dialogue)

BRIAN

So, like, give me a call when you get home and let me know if you can come to my party.

DAN

Yeh, but I still don't think my parents are going to let me.

BRIAN

Tell them you'll do the dishes for a week.

DAN

I already do the dishes.

BRIAN

Really? That's tough. Gotta go. Call me.

DAN

(DAN picks up stuff and walks off SR)

Yeh, sure.

(Clique D: USR. Exit SR after dialogue)

STEVE

Let's get out of here.

KEN

Sounds good to me.

LARRY

Hey, yeh. Wait up for me.

NATE

You got much homework?

ROB

Tons. You?

NATE

Just finishing up my project.

ROB

Project? That's due already. I totally forgot all about that. Okay, like I'm dead.

(Everyone has left except ED, ANDY, MR WOOD, HARRY,
JOHN and PAT)

ED

Can you believe that? “With Marty in the lead role we have the advantage this year” Gimme a break.

ANDY

Well he mention all of us.

ED

But he specifically said “Marty”. There’s seventeen [*insert actual number of cast*] of us in the cast. Not just one. What’s so special about Marty?

ANDY

He’s a good actor. He’s smart. He’s good looking. He’s kind and friendly. Everyone likes him and ...

ED

Rhetorical question Andy.

MR. WOOD

Harry, don’t forget your script.

HARRY

(Picking up his script)

Oh yeh, right.

ANDY

So you got much on tonight?

ED

Working on my lines for the musical.

ANDY

(Leaving SR)

Okay. I’ll catch ya tomorrow.

MR. WOOD

And your pencil. And your books. And your sweater.

HARRY

(Takes them and then leaves SR)

Sorry Mr. Wood. My mind must be somewhere else.

MR WOOD

John and Pat, could you put some of the props back into the box before you go.

JOHN

Yeh, sure.

PAT

(Moving props)

No problem.

MR. WOOD

(Leaving SL)

Thank you.

JOHN

You're doing awesome on your part. You're the perfect Pharoah and I love your Elvis impersonation.

PAT

(Does a little Elvis move)

Well. Thank you. Thank you very much.

JOHN

Oh yeh. I'm all shook up!

ED

You guys notice Marty was missing from rehearsal today ... again?

PAT

Yeh. I still don't know how he gets away with that.

JOHN

He's missed, like, I don't know how many rehearsals.

ED

Exactly. You know, it wouldn't be such a big deal, if it weren't for the fact that he's playing the lead role. But everyone else has to be here, no matter how big their part is.

JOHN

Well, maybe he's sick.

PAT

If he's sick that much, he shouldn't get the lead role or even be in the production at all.

ED

Maybe he figures that since he's "the star," he can come to rehearsals when he wants to.

PAT

I kind of wish Mr. Wood would say something to him about it. It's only fair to the rest of the cast.

ED

Actually, it's kind of irritating. Personally, I think Marty should be taken out of the musical and make me "the star".

JOHN

Uhhmm, but doesn't the term "star" imply "naturally bright"?

ED

When you say bright, you actually mean "brilliant."

JOHN

And "spaced out."

MR. WOOD

(Enters from SL)

You guys heading home or you sleeping here all night?

JOHN

Yeh, I should get going.

PAT

Goodnight Mr. Wood.

MR. WOOD

We'll see you. Work on your lines and we'll see you at tomorrow's rehearsal.

ED

(They leave SR)

Yeh. You can be sure *we'll* be here.

FADE TO BLACK