

EXTRA ORDINARY



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Norman Maine Publishing

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EXTRA ORDINARY

FARCE. In this play within a play, extras try to convince their director that just because they're extras doesn't mean they're not *extra*-ordinary. Tree 3 and Rock 2 try to upstage the Prince and Princess to prove to the director that they are the stars of the show even though they don't have any lines. When this fails, Tree 3 gets together with Trees 1, 2, 4, and 5 to improve their acting. Hearing that the Trees are trying to steal the show, Rock 2 gathers together his fellow Rocks so they can enhance their acting with the aid of a Pet Rock. But when the Trees leave dirt on the stage and the Rocks beat up the actor who plays A Giant Pair of Scissors, the director goes ballistic and replaces the entire cast with techies. Outrageously funny and easy to stage!

Performance Time: Approximately 30 minutes.

CHARACTERS

(1 M, 1 F, 21 flexible)

- DIRECTOR:** Frustrated director of a cheesy fantasy play; flexible.
- ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:** Likes to repeat whatever the Director says; flexible.
- TREE 3:** Extra who thinks he's a brilliant actor and should be the lead; plays a tree; wears a tree costume; flexible.
- ROCK 2:** Extra who thinks he should be the lead and uses a Pet Rock for inspiration; plays a rock; wears a rock costume; flexible.
- PRINCE:** Plays the prince and thinks he's the lead; wears a prince costume; male.
- PRINCESS:** Plays the princess and thinks she's the lead; wears a princess costume; female.
- GIANT PAIR OF SCISSORS:** Plays a giant pair of scissors; flexible.
- NARRATOR:** Plays the narrator in a play; flexible.
- TREE 1, 2, 4, 5, 6:** Extras who play trees; flexible.
- ROCK: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6:** Extras who play rocks; flexible.
- TECHIE 1:** Plays the role of Narrator; flexible.
- TECHIE 2:** Plays the role of the Prince; male.
- TECHIE 3:** Plays the role of the Princess; female.
- TECHIE 4:** Plays Tree 2; flexible.
- TECHIE 5:** Plays Rock 2; flexible.

SETTING

Set for a cheesy fairytale play.

SET

Fairytale set. A backdrop may be used or a bare stage will suffice.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: Stage, rehearsal.

Scene 2: Stage, a short time later.

Scene 3: Stage, a short time later.

Scene 4: Stage, a short time later.

Scene 5: Stage, opening night.

PROPS

Large storybook
6 Water buckets
Pet Rock
5 Scripts

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**“NO, WE’RE NOT JUST EXTRAS...
WE’RE EXTRA-ORDINARY.”**

—ROCK 2

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: A set for a cheesy fantasy play. The cast is rehearsing a scene.)

NARRATOR: (To audience, reading from a large storybook.) "It was a cold autumn day, and the Prince and Princess were walking through the woods."

(Tree 3 shakes violently.)

TREE 3: (Melodramatically.) "Brrr! Brrrr! My leaves are shaking!"

PRINCE: (To Princess.) "Goodness, I hope we don't get lost in this chilly, windy forest."

PRINCESS: "With you here to protect us, I just know we'll be all right, especially –"

TREE 3: (Melodramatically.) "Brrrrr! Brrrrr! Oh! The wind is blowing so hard!"

ROCK 2: (Melodramatically.) "My face is weathering away and I'm eroding! Help! Help! I'm slowly eroding!" (Waves arms.)

PRINCESS: (To Prince.) "I said, especially with all of your muscles."

PRINCE: "Why, thank you my lady. One day –"

TREE 3: (Melodramatically.) "Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!"

ROCK 2: (Melodramatically.) "In a great while, I'll be nothing but dust! (As echo.) Dust. Dust. Dust...dust."

PRINCE: (To Princess, quickly, loudly.) "One day, we shall be wed and rule this land! Ha!"

TREE 3: (Melodramatically.) "Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!"

DIRECTOR: (To Cast, shouts.) Stop! Now, Tree 3, Rock 2...while I certainly appreciate your additions to the script, I think the audience just might get lost, so let's not do that anymore, okey-dokey?

TREE 3: I'm sorry. I was just feeling the character, and the lines just spilled out of me like the lifeblood that is acting.

ROCK 2: *(To Director.)* I didn't speak the words.

DIRECTOR: No?

ROCK 2: My character overcame my physical form and used my body as an instrument of expression.

PRINCESS: You just spoke.

ROCK 2: No, I most certainly did not. To be honest—as that is what acting is all about, honesty—I'm not even entirely sure what the character said when he overcame my body.

PRINCE: You yelled, "My face is weathering away, and I'm eroding! Help! Help! I'm slowly eroding!" Then you started waving your arms like this. *(Re-enacts Rock 2's arm waving.)*

ROCK 2: Hmm, well, that seems fairly consistent with my character, so I don't see what the big deal is.

DIRECTOR: *(To Cast.)* All right, let's just wipe the slate clean and pretend that never happened. Let's start back from the top. Go.

(Actors take their places.)

NARRATOR: *(To audience, reading from large storybook.)* "It was a cold autumn day, and the Prince and Princess were walking through the woods."

(Tree 3 shakes violently.)

PRINCE: *(To Princess.)* "Goodness, I hope we don't get lost in this chilly, windy forest."

(Rock 2 sees Tree 3 shaking, grows envious, and starts rolling around.)

PRINCESS: "Well, with you here to protect me, I know we'll be all right, especially with all of your muscles."

(Tree 3's shaking has become so violent that he is now "uprooted" and hits the Prince in the chest.)

PRINCE: *(To Tree 3.)* Ow! *(To Princess.)* "Why, thank you, lady one—"

(Rock 2 rolls onto the Princess's feet.)

ROCK 2: *(Melodramatically.)* "Ow! Ow! Oh, woe! Oh, suffering! I think I have a chip! What toil it is to be a rock!"

DIRECTOR: *(To Cast, shouts.)* Stop!

TREE 3: *(Melodramatically.)*

"But I suffer far greater than thee,
for I am the mighty maple tree!" Hey, that was a rhyme. I
could be as good as Shakespeare.

(Tree 3 hits the Prince in the chest again.)

PRINCE: Ow!

DIRECTOR: *(To Cast, louder.)* Stop!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: *(To Cast, shouts.)* Stop!

DIRECTOR: *(Shouts.)* Stop! *(To Assistant Director.)* Don't
copy me.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: *(To Cast.)* Don't copy the director!

TREE 3: *(To Princess.)* What did they say?

PRINCESS: I think they said to copy them.

ROCK 2: Strange.

PRINCE: *(Shouts.)* Stop!

ROCK 2: *(Shouts.)* Stop!

TREE 3: *(Shouts.)* Stop!

ALL: *(Shout.)* Stop!

DIRECTOR: No! Stop this instant!

ALL: *(Shout.)* No! Stop this instant!

(Director storms onstage.)

DIRECTOR: *(To Cast, quietly but intensely.)* Now, listen. I want you to cut it out right now and stop copying me before I cut everyone and replace you all with dancing penguins, all right? Stop repeating me!

PRINCE: Oh, stop repeating you?

DIRECTOR: Yes! I said stop it! Stop it right now!

PRINCESS: Well, why didn't you just say that in the first place?

(Pause.)

DIRECTOR: Moving on... *(To Tree 3 and Rock 2.)* Why are you two rolling around and thrashing everywhere up here?

TREE 3: I was feeling my character.

DIRECTOR: Well, try to feel it a little less, okey-dokey?

TREE 3: What?

DIRECTOR: *(Shouts.)* I said, try to feel it a little—

TREE 3: No, no, I heard you. I guess I just don't really understand.

ROCK 2: *(To Director.)* Yeah, how are we supposed to do that? How am I supposed to be an actor without acting?

NARRATOR: *(To Director.)* He has a point.

DIRECTOR: Go back to your book.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Go back to your book! *(Director shoots him a threatening look. To Director.)* Sorry.

[END OF FREEVIEW]