

## JOHAN AND HANS

JOHAN: Ah ha!

HANS: Ah ha!

JOHAN: AH HA!

HANS: AH AH!

*They take in a deep breath and jump up and down for joy.*

JOHAN & HANS: Every year it is so exhilarating! I can hardly wait!

JOHAN: And I know...

HANS: Without a shadow of a doubt...

JOHAN: That...

HANS: The winner...

JOHAN & HANS: Will be me!

HANS: Me.

JOHAN: Me.

HANS: Me!

JOHAN: ME!

JOHAN & HANS: He is so impossible! He always has to have his way!

*The two cross their arms in frustration and stand with their backs to each other.*

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## CAPULET AND MESSENGER

PLAY: Romeo and Juliet

adapted by Craig Mason

GENRE: Comedy

TIME: 1:50

## DESCRIPTION

This scene comes from a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tale. Capulet prepares to send out invitations to his masked ball. He and his servant have some difficulty determining who should be invited and who shouldn't.

## ACTING HINTS

This is a slapstick scene. Think about the physicality you can add to the dialogue. It might be helpful to watch some performers known for physical comedy such as the Marx Brothers or Mr. Bean.

Keep the social status of the characters in mind: Capulet is clearly the boss – come up with exaggerated postures and actions that show he is in charge. Conversely, the servant is clearly lower-class. How can you show this? How does he speak and move? Does he grovel a lot in the scene?

*CAPULET enters with a list in his hand.*

CAPULET: Where is my servant?

*The MESSENGER enters from the other side of the stage. He's not paying attention to CAPULET at all.*

MESSENGER: Dum da do. Dip da dee. La di doh.

CAPULET: Servant! (he gestures frantically) Servant!

MESSENGER: Dippy da do.

CAPULET: Servant I say!

*The MESSENGER slowly makes his way over to CAPULET. Very, very slowly.*

## CAPULET AND MESSENGER

MESSENGER: Are you talking to me?

CAPULET: Yes, you are my servant.

MESSENGER: You are incorrect, sir. I serve none other than Lord Capulet, father to the beautiful Juliet, and head of the Capulet family. Dope di day.

*The MESSENGER turns as if to carry on his merry way.  
CAPULET grabs him by the collar and drags him back.*

CAPULET: Maybe I can help you find him. What does he look like?

MESSENGER: He looks kinda like you.

CAPULET: How does he dress?

MESSENGER: He dresses like you.

CAPULET: And what does his voice sound like?

MESSENGER: He sounds just like you. *(a look of realization comes over his face)* Ooops!

*The MESSENGER hits the ground and starts kissing  
CAPULET's feet.*

MESSENGER: Ohhhhhhhh! Sorry sir!

*CAPULET shoos the MESSENGER off his feet.*

CAPULET: Never mind that. Just get to work. I have a very important job for you.

MESSENGER: Anything sir.

CAPULET: Well, us Capulets need something to take our minds off those terrible Montagues. So I'm throwing a party.

MESSENGER: A party. Wheel!

CAPULET: Yes, a masked ball, a costume party. Everyone must wear a disguise. It shall be so much fun. Now, servant, this shall be your

## CAPULET AND MESSENGER

top priority. *(handing a list to MESSENGER)* Here is a list of all the people I want to invite to the party. Go everywhere in Verona. Search high and low, and tell everyone on the list about the party. Everyone on the list. Now, you must be certain not to tell any of the Montagues. No Montague must come to the party. Do you understand?

MESSENGER: I do.

CAPULET: What are you supposed to do?

MESSENGER: Invite all of the Montagues.

CAPULET: No No NO. Invite everyone *but* the Montagues.

MESSENGER: Don't invite anyone who isn't a Montague.

CAPULET: No No NO. Let me make it simple for you. Just invite everybody on the list.

MESSENGER: Ok. The list. Of Montagues.

CAPULET: Just stick to the list. There are no Montagues on the list. Invite people only on the list.

MESSENGER: Aha! Right away.

*Pause. They both stand there staring at each other.*

CAPULET: Well...

MESSENGER: Well what?

CAPULET: What are you waiting for?

MESSENGER: Should I go now?

CAPULET: YES!

*CAPULET storms off.*

MESSENGER: But sir! Sir! Sir! I can't read!

## CAPULET AND MESSENGER

The MESSENGER gives a big sigh and considers going after CAPULET to explain his problem. He thinks better of it. He sneaks off in the opposite direction.

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## NICHOLAS AND JOHN

PLAY: The Canterbury Tales  
originally by Geoffrey Chaucer

GENRE: Comedy

TIME: 4:30

## DESCRIPTION

This scene comes from the Miller's Tale. John, a rich carpenter, enters to see Nicholas, a student, sitting staring into space. Nicholas is interested in John's wife, Allison. In order to separate John from his wife, Nicholas creates an elaborate scheme: He tricks John into thinking another flood is imminent.

## ACTING HINTS

Both characters think they are smarter than the other. Both characters think the other is a fool. Both characters are willing to do anything for Allison. How does that affect the way you play the scene?

It's important that Nicholas is, for the most part, sincere. Choose your moments when he reveals to the audience his true motives. Otherwise, it won't make sense that John believes him so wholeheartedly.

NICHOLAS sits on the floor in a daze. JOHN enters.

JOHN: By Saint Thomas, Nicholas, we have not seen you for a day and a night. What is wrong with you? My servant boy says you are just sitting here in your chamber as if you were staring on the new moon. You neither speak, nor move nor eat. (he gives a big sniff) Nor bathe. (he pokes NICHOLAS) By Saint Thomas he has had some fit. (He pokes NICHOLAS again. NICHOLAS falls over.) It is this astronomy you study by Saint Frideswide. There will be no more of that. (clapping and stamping by NICHOLAS' ear) What Nicholas! What ho! Look about! You have been bewitched! The stars have bewitched you! (dancing about, looking generally foolish) I defend thee from elves and evil spirits! I banish all from my threshold! Bless this house from every wicked thing! (still dancing about) Hey ho! Hey ho!