

FRIED DOUGH GIRL

A DRAMA IN ONE ACT

By Robert Wing

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SYNOPSIS: *Fried Dough Girl* tells the story of Dawn, a plus-sized high school student from the Rainbow Court Trailer Park who, after years of mistreatment by classmates, takes a stand on the night of her senior prom. Fireworks fly in the girls' bathroom as Dawn confronts Becca, a childhood friend who turned her back on Dawn when they entered high school. *Fried Dough Girl* pulls no punches in its examination of the brutal treatment that plus-sized high school girls often experience. *Fried Dough Girl* holds a mirror up to its audience – and sometimes audience members do not like what they see. It was written to provoke both thought and discussion – *and it was written to inspire any young woman who has been made to feel less than because she is more than.*

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(ONE MAN, SEVEN WOMEN)

DAWN (f).....Dawn is a plus-sized young woman and, for that reason, she does not fit the high school ideal of beauty. She is intelligent and well-spoken. She has suffered years of ridicule during her high school experience which has led her to wish she could disappear. Tonight, however, she is confident and strong. She is in control of herself during nearly all of her time on stage. She should never appear to beseech Becca; Dawn is not asking for forgiveness from anyone tonight. *HER ATTIRE:* *Although she is poor, DAWN should not be dressed sloppily or tastelessly. However, her dress should not “out-glam” BECCA, MICHELLE, or CANDICE. (91 lines)*

BECCA (f)Becca is the attractive, perfectly proportioned high school “it girl.” She has the hair, the clothes, the friends, everything – even the title of prom queen. She is also very intelligent, a fact that she has downplayed around her less-than-astute posse of friends. Becca is ruthless and tragic. *HER ATTIRE: A beautiful dress and corsage plus a tiara, a prom queen sash, and a bouquet of roses. (78 lines)*

MICHELLE (f)Michelle is viciously popular. She is one of the girls (*CANDICE being the other.*) with whom Becca ingratiated to become popular. Befriending Michelle and Candice was step one of Becca’s plan for school domination. Michelle is caustic and cruel. *HER ATTIRE: A beautiful dress and corsage. (58 lines)*

CANDICE (f).....Candice is another version of Michelle. She is equally acid-tongued and cruel. *HER ATTIRE: A beautiful dress and corsage. (52 lines)*

MARIE (f).....Marie is Dawn’s friend. She too does not “fit the mold.” She is very witty and ridicules Wendy and Lisa in a sly, playful way. *HER ATTIRE: A shredded prom gown; she is clearly mocking the tradition. Colorful striped tights, tennis shoes and a top hat complete the ensemble. (25 lines)*

WENDY AND LISA (f) ...Both girls are complete idiots – albeit popular ones. They are like satellites orbiting around other more important planets, namely Michelle, Candice, and Becca. They are ridiculous. Wendy and Lisa are pure comic relief. *THEIR ATTIRE: Gaudy and “too much” in a provocative way. They attempt high-fashion but just look trashy. WENDY’s dress is especially hideous as she has designed it herself. Each actress wears a wrist corsage. At least one of them should be carrying a handbag from which they pull a flask, cigarettes, make-up, deodorant, who-knows-what. A handbag must be left on the sink when they leave the bathroom the first time. (BECCA will draw items from it as she and DAWN “talk.”.) (WENDY—52 lines; LISA—50 lines)*

BOBBY (m).....Becca’s boyfriend. (10 lines)

SETTING

Fried Dough Girl takes place entirely in a girls’ bathroom during the prom. A single bathroom stall along with a sink/countertop and a garbage can (or cans) occupy the stage. The garbage can should have a flat top upon which actresses (especially Wendy and Lisa) might flop themselves. When actresses look at themselves in the mirror, they are, in fact, looking directly at the audience.

Lighting this play couldn’t be easier – it’s lights up and lights down.

AUTHOR NOTES

When I staged *Fried Dough Girl* at my school, I pre-recorded crowd noise over background music and the announcer's part using my school's chorus class. (It was great fun!) This made the technical requirements of staging the play even easier: the curtain opens to a darkened stage; pre-recorded prom scene plays; lights come up; Becca enters, running, from stage right. Easy.

Fried Dough Girl was originally filled with references to Northern culture, such as fishing shacks and snowmobiles. I've removed them. In fact, I've removed any references to the North, making it less of a regional play. However, the setting remains clearly agrarian, with references to county fairs, tractors, and "keggers in the woods."

Belle Bridge High School could be in Vermont, or South Carolina, or Minnesota – or Saskatchewan.

Bobby's "serenade" doesn't have to be the one I've included here. In fact, my actors felt that each school should personalize the scene by having Bobby sing a few lines from whatever song is "in" at the time.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Fried Dough Girl was first performed in 2003 at North Country Union High School (NCUHS) in Newport, VT under the title *Bathroom Humor*. It was later re-written, re-titled ***Fried Dough Girl*** and re-staged at NCUHS on April 27 and 28, 2007 and performed again at the 2007 VT Regional Drama Festival, where it received prizes for acting. The original cast was as follows:

DAWN Meghan Kennison
BECCA Beth Before
CANDICE Krista Barry
MICHELLE Keshia Heinchon
LISA Kristan Parenteau
WENDY Jennifer Morin
MARIE Jennifer Graham
BOBBY Garrett Cornelius
ANNOUNCER Martin Rollins

Director Robert Wing
Technical Director Brandon Ordway
Set and Costume Design Robert Wing
Set Construction Tom Rooney and the NCUHS Building Trades Class
Sound Recordings Anne Hamilton and the NCUHS Chorus

To Jean-Yves Saint-Pierre - ZZZTT! ZZZTT!

AT RISE:

Music plays. Curtain opens to reveal the interior of a girls' bathroom.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE: *(From offstage.)* Ladies and gentlemen of the graduating class of _____, may I present this year's prom king and queen, Bobby LaFleur and Becca Rice.

Cheers from backstage.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE: You! What are you doing? Get off the stage. Stop that! Stop that!

Cries of disgust and rage from backstage. Enter BECCA, running, stage right. She is wearing a sash and crown; she is carrying a bouquet of flowers. BECCA locks herself in a toilet stall. WENDY and LISA enter stage right, also running. They stand outside stall.

WENDY: Oh my God! That was the most disgusting thing I have ever seen!

LISA: Oh my God! Becca! Becca! Are you okay? Are you okay?

No response from stall.

WENDY: *(To LISA.)* Can you believe what that slob did?

LISA: It was the grossest thing I have ever seen.

WENDY: The way she charged the stage...

LISA: ...like some kind of rhino...

WENDY: ...right on the mouth...

LISA: ...it was so...

WENDY AND LISA: ...disgusting!

Enter MICHELLE and CANDICE.

MICHELLE: Where is she?

WENDY: She's in there.

CANDICE approaches stall.

CANDICE: Becca, hon. How ya doin'?

LISA: (*Sarcastically.*) How do you think?

CANDICE: Shut up, Lisa!

WENDY: Don't tell her to shut up, Candice!

CANDICE: Shut up, Wendy!

MICHELLE: Shut up, all of you. Becca, are you in there? (*No response from stall.*) Look, sweetie, everything's gonna be all right...hardly anyone noticed.

CANDICE: That's right, Becca. Hardly anyone noticed.

WENDY: Are you kidding? The whole frickin' school's out there...

LISA: ...every eye was on the stage!

MICHELLE: (*To LISA and WENDY.*) Shut up, you idiots! (*To BECCA in the cubicle.*) Becca, don't listen to Wendy and Lisa. They're clueless as usual. You don't have a thing to worry about.

CANDICE: That's right. Tonight is all about you. That ugly girl...

LISA: (*Interrupting.*) ...and fat, too...

CANDICE: ...no one will remember her. Tonight is your night – your *special* night.

MICHELLE: You are Belle Bridge High School's queen of the prom, class of ____!

WENDY: The rockinest year ever!

LISA AND WENDY: Woo!

WENDY and LISA high-five.

MICHELLE: (*Exasperated.*) Remind me again why we hang out with them?

CANDICE: Because Wendy's dad is rich and Lisa's older brother buys us beer.

MICHELLE: Oh, yeah.

CANDICE: (*To BECCA's stall.*) You were beautiful up there, Becca – everyone said so. Your dress was perfect...

MICHELLE: ...*is* perfect...

CANDICE: ...and you've never looked more beautiful...

MICHELLE: ...and Bobby more handsome than ever.

LISA: Yeah! He's the hottest guy at Belle Bridge High! Whoo!

WENDY: Oh! Is he ever! That Bobby's a fine slice o' man-cake!
Whoo!

WENDY and LISA high-five.

CANDICE: Every girl wants to be you tonight, Becca.

WENDY: And every boy wants to be gettin' it on with you!

WENDY and LISA high-five.

MICHELLE: Could you two be a little more supportive?

CANDICE: And a lot less trashy?

LISA: Hmmph! We know when we're not wanted. Come on, Wendy!

Exit WENDY and LISA stage right.

MICHELLE: Listen, Becca. It's going to be all right... Honey, who was that fat girl who charged the stage? (*Pauses; no response from BECCA.*) All right. You don't have to talk now. We'll leave you alone. C'mon, Candice, let's go.

CANDICE: What? I'm not going anywhere.

MICHELLE: Let's go. Becca needs some time to herself.

CANDICE: Forget that! Becca, who was that hippo who rushed the stage and kissed Bobby?

MICHELLE: A complete nobody, Candice. See, Becca? Nobody even knows her name. It doesn't mean anything. So some slob jumps on the stage, pushes you out of the way and kisses Bobby – big deal!

CANDICE: You know, I've seen that girl before, somewhere outside of school.

MICHELLE: Oh, come on. Think about what you just said. Where would we come into social contact with a loser like her?

CANDICE: No. I know what I'm talking about.

MICHELLE: Enough already! Let's just get out of here and give Becca a chance to get her head on straight.

CANDICE: That's it! I know where I saw her...the Belle Bridge County Fair.

MICHELLE: What?

CANDICE: Yeah, don't you remember? She was that girl who worked at the fried dough stand.

MICHELLE: (*Remembering.*) Oh yeah... She was the one that Shane and Ricky kept throwing pennies at!

CANDICE: Then Shane bought a fried dough and pretended he found a hair in it and demanded his money back... Remember?

MICHELLE: God, that was so funny. Remember it, Becca? You were there. And the girl – *that* girl – got all embarrassed and turned red and started to stutter?

CANDICE: That was so funny.

MICHELLE: And she went to give him his money back...

CANDICE: ...but she dropped it and bent over to pick it up...

MICHELLE: ...and her fat butt was in Shane's face...

CANDICE: ...and he yelled "Gross!" and made those barfing sounds, and we all ran.

MICHELLE: And when we turned back and looked she was just standing there with the money in her hand like a chump.

CANDICE: A total chump.

MICHELLE: God! That was funny!

CANDICE: Remember that, Becca?

No response from stall.

MICHELLE: What was she thinking, rushing the stage like that?

Enter frantically WENDY and LISA.

WENDY AND LISA: Oh, my God! She's coming!

MICHELLE: Who?

LISA: That fat girl who kissed Bobby!

WENDY: And one of her freaky little friends!

Enter DAWN and MARIE. Both stroll toward the sink, look into the mirror/audience, each begins to apply make-up, fix hair, etc.

MICHELLE: Well, look at what the cat hacked up...

CANDICE: ...Lardzilla and one of her flying monkeys.

WENDY: (*Edging in close, threateningly.*) What do you think you're doing in here?

MARIE: We're just powdering our noses.

CANDICE: There isn't enough powder to cover your ugly face – or her enormous butt. And what are you wearing? You look like Alice in Wonderland on crack.

WENDY AND LISA: Good one, Candice!

MICHELLE: There's a dress code for formal school events like this. I know because I'm on the prom committee and I helped write that dress code. You are supposed to be in "formal attire."

MARIE: And I'm in "formal attire." It's not my fault if you and that committee of bulimic storm troopers forgot to stipulate that the attire couldn't be...altered.

CANDICE: Altered? Try shredded! This is our prom. *Our* prom. You show up looking like a freak and your fat friend (*Indicating DAWN.*) ruins the night by rushing the stage and shoving her fat tongue down Bobby Lafleur's throat.

MICHELLE: The crowning of prom king and queen is a sacred moment for every high school girl.

MARIE: Well, not every high school girl.

CANDICE: Shut up, freak!

MICHELLE: Let me remind you, Bobby Lafleur isn't just the prom king, he's Becca's boyfriend, too.

WENDY AND LISA: Yeah!

CANDICE: (*To DAWN.*) How could you do it? How could you just ruin Becca's perfect night like that? How could you just grab Bobby and...and *violate* him like that?

MARIE: My friend can't help it – she's gregarious by nature.

LISA: "Greg – ur – I – us"...oooh! Aren't you smart?

WENDY: What do you expect? You can guarantee she's not out partying like us. You just know she spends her weekends readin' and studyin'. It's not like she's got a social life.

MARIE: You're right. (*Playfully.*) I bet you two party a lot.

WENDY: You got that right! Whoo! (*High-five each other and dance seductively.*)

MARIE: I'm gonna go out on a limb here and say that partying for you two is like a disease... *(MARIE and DAWN exchange a little smile. WENDY and LISA continue dancing ridiculously.)*

LISA: You'd better believe it!

MARIE: So you might even say that the two of you have a...social disease.

WENDY: *(Not "getting" the joke and still dancing, LISA too.)* You can say that again!

LISA: You should have seen us after the bonfire at last year's homecoming! Wendy's like, "I dare you to flash the football team" and I'm like, "You first!" and she's like "On the count of three!" and we're both like, "1-2-3!" *(Both stop dancing and simulate flashing a la 'Girls Gone Wild.')*

WENDY: And then there was that time Lisa and I dressed up like naughty nurses and crashed that kegger in the woods at Travis Peerpont's farm. And Lisa was like, "I dare you to take off all your clothes and drive around the yard on Travis' dad's tractor," and I'm like, "I will if you will," and Lisa's like, "On the count of three," and we're both like "1-2-3," and then we both hopped on the tractor and we were like "Woof!" *(LISA and WENDY 'flash' again.)*

LISA: We've got what the boys want!

MARIE: Gonorrhea? Boys want gonorrhea?

WENDY and LISA "get" the joke, stop dancing, and lunge for MARIE and DAWN. CANDICE and MICHELLE restrain them.

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