

THE PHANTOM OF THE AMUSEMENT PARK

By Michael Bigelow Dixon and Jon Jory

Copyright © MMXXIV by Michael Bigelow Dixon and Jon Jory, All rights reserved.
ISBN: 978-1-61588-609-8

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Heuer Publishing LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Heuer Publishing LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Heuer Publishing LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Heuer Publishing LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Heuer Publishing LLC.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Heuer Publishing LLC.

HEUER PUBLISHING LLC
P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406
TOLL FREE (800) 950-7529 • FAX (319) 368-8011

THE PHANTOM OF THE AMUSEMENT PARK

A Comedy with Singing in One Act

By Michael Bigelow Dixon and Jon Jory

SYNOPSIS: Set at the Budget Amusement Park during a Halloween promotion, strange incidents are threatening its future. Harper, the park owner's daughter, along with her friends Pete and Jilly, must catch the mysterious Phantom causing trouble. The play uncovers the Phantom's surprising identity and his true desire. The story culminates in an improvised musical finale, "Teen Phantom," which reveals the Phantom's unique origin story.

DURATION: 35 minutes.

TIME: The Present.

PLACE: Various locations at the Budget Amusement Park.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(8-10 females, 4-5 males, 0-10 extras)

HARPER (f)..... a young woman. (73 lines)
 JONES/ENSEMBLE (m)..... a reporter. (1 line)
 CRESSIDA/ENSEMBLE (f)..... a reporter (2 lines)
 BARTON/ENSEMBLE (m)..... a reporter. (1 line)
 LULU/ENSEMBLE (f)..... a reporter. (1 line)
 DENISE/ENSEMBLE (f)..... a reporter. (1 line)
 JILLY (f) a young woman. (50 lines)
 PETE (m)..... a young man. (51 lines)
 CHRISTINE #1 (f)..... a Christine. (9 lines)
 CHRISTINE #2 (f)..... a Christine. (59 lines)
 CHRISTINE #3 (f)..... a Christine. (11 lines)
 THE PHANTOM (ERIK) (m)..... a young man. (48 lines)
 CHARON/ENSEMBLE (m)..... mythological gondolier. (3 lines)
 NARRATOR/ENSEMBLE (f)..... (6 lines)
 PARENT/ENSEMBLE (f) (4 lines)
 PLUMBER/ENSEMBLE (m)..... (1 line)

EXTRAS:

ENSEMBLE MEMBERS (m/f)..... a crowd at the press conference, costumed characters in the parade, bumper cars, and the chorus in the opera finale. The reporters and opera characters are part of the Ensemble and can join in other Ensemble scenes. Not all Ensemble Members need to be in each scene. (*Non-Speaking.*)

OPTIONAL DOUBLING

- JONES can double as PLUMBER
- CRESSIDA can double as PARENT
- BARTON can double as CHARON
- LULU or DENISE can double as NARRATOR

SET: A bare stage.

COSTUMES: Contemporary

PRODUCTION NOTE

Re: Improvisation. The musical finale, *Teen Phantom*, calls for the actors to improvise melodies to the lyrics just as the characters are doing in the play. Because the melodies are improvised, the tunes may change every night or some lyrics may be spoken as one might deliver a Moliere text in rhymed couplets. As the Narrator in the musical declares, "Tonight we improvise!" In addition to providing a new performance challenge for students, interest in musical theatre improv is growing across America and in the UK. You can find helpful guidance by searching the internet using these keywords: theatre games, musical theatre improvisation, and opera improvisation.

AT START: *A bare stage. When the house lights go out, we hear the voice of a young woman in the dark.*

HARPER: Welcome one and all to High School Horror Night here at Budget Amusement Park. Free admission on this one night only as our Halloween week promotion. Enjoy the Halloween monsters roaming the park, take a ride on the nightmare-coaster, help yourself to a witches' brew and ride our magic broomsticks through fire, tornado an' a wild, pink snowstorm. We got so much fun goin' on here you won't never need to have fun again!

Lights up on HARPER LEE SWEATWILOR, daughter of Willy B. Sweatwiler, owner of the park. She stands on a wooden box commanding the attention of a crowd of reporters.

JONES: How come a youngin' such as yourself is running a ginormous Halloween promotion such as you got goin' on here?

HARPER: 'Cause I'm Colonel Willy B. Sweatwiler's daughter, owner of the world-famous Budget Amusement Park, where the fun comes cheap an' plenty. Grew up here at Budget, ran the bottle ring throw when I was seven years old, got to be a clown at nine an' a roller coaster screamer at eleven. I could run this whole park blindfold in a snowstorm with my hands tied behind my back. Now what can I do you for?

CRESSIDA: Cressida Bottlestott, *Winfield Bi-Monthly*.

HARPER: Lay it on me.

CRESSIDA: Any truth to the old Phantom of the Park legend?

HARPER: Doesn't need to be any truth to a legend 'cause it's a legend.

BARTON: If it's a legend, how come there's talk of visitors who run into this Phantom goin' home in an ambulance an' not bein' able to speak for a month?

HARPER: Ride home in an ambulance, that's just part of the fun.

LULU: There's talk you'll run the park when your daddy retires.

HARPER: My daddy, Big Willy, he'll retire about the time when fish fly.

DENISE: Is there or is there not a Phantom of the Amusement Park?

HARPER: Never did hurt business you thinkin' there is. Now you run into the Phantom, you thank that Phantom for me 'cause I never got a chance to do that in the eleven years I worked in the park. Rides free for y'all long as I see your story posted on your website and tagged @BudgetAmusementPark. Y'all have a scary cheeseburger on me.

The crowd of REPORTERS rush off in various directions. HARPER looks around herself.

HARPER: Phantom of the Amusement Park. Yeah, right.

A young woman and young man, JILLY and PETE, enter.

JILLY: You called?

PETE: We answered.

HARPER: I cannot believe it!

JILLY: We're real, you can pinch us.

PETE: Speak for yourself.

HARPER: You actually came.

JILLY: Did we not say when we graduated that we were only a call away?

HARPER: The Three Musketeers, right?

PETE: Said what we meant and we meant what we said.

JILLY: You okay?

HARPER: Absolutely! Sort of. More or less. No.

JILLY and PETE: Lay it on us.

HARPER: There is, for real, strange stuff goin' on in the park.

JILLY: Good strange or bad strange?

HARPER: Weird strange. Somebody is putting glue in the cotton candy, popping helium balloons, scaring kids, stealing license plates, whole bunch of weird stuff. Been going on for two weeks. Press has got onto it. Less people coming to the park. Daddy he's about to blow his top. What security we have just can't figure it out. It's set to be some kinda public relations nightmare. We got a thin-profit-to-no-profit margin on the way down, got us fit to be tied. Daddy says he's too old and too broke to police the park, so I'm s'posed to do it. I don't like to bother you guys for help, but help!

PETE: You mean like “Stake through the heart help” or what kind?

HARPER: Any kind. I mean whoever is doing this does it night after night. Word’s out and we’re not selling tickets.

JILLY: You see that *Phantom of the Opera* musical?

HARPER: Town’s too small to get pass-through musicals.

JILLY: Okay, so in the musical The Phantom wants to be a success at the Opera Poopulaire and wants his muse, let’s say girlfriend, to be the company diva.

HARPER: What’s a “diva”?

PETE: Just like she sings in the opera.

HARPER: So?

JILLY: Like she wants to be in showbiz...

PETE: And like you’re the nearest thing to showbiz we got in hill country.

JILLY: Doin’ it for his girlfriend. Oldest motivator in the world.

HARPER: Pretty complicated.

PETE: What else you got?

HARPER: Nothin’ but nothin’.

JILLY: Maybe his girlfriend’s named Christine? Like in *Phantom of the Opera*.

HARPER: And maybe she isn’t.

JILLY: An’ maybe she is.

HARPER: I don’t know but I sure got nuthin’ else.

PETE: Wouldn’t hurt to see if you got a Christine on the property. Find her, find him, problem solved.

HARPER: Done deal.

Blackout. We hear HARPER’S voice over a loudspeaker.

HARPER: Christine, please come to the park concourse to collect your prize. Your prize is now available.

Lights back up on HARPER, PETE and JILLY.

JILLY: How long’s it been?

HARPER: Three minutes.

PETE: This will work, I feel it in my bones.

A brief pause.

JILLY: How long's it been?

HARPER: Five minutes.

PETE: It'll happen.

A brief pause.

HARPER: Six minutes. I'm done.

HARPER turns and starts to leave. A girl races on.

CHRISTINE #1: I'm Christine.

A second girl races on from a different direction.

CHRISTINE #2: I'm Christine.

A third girl races on.

CHRISTINE #3: I'm Christine, what did I win?

JILLY: Well...

PETE: Well...

HARPER: Nice to see y'all.

CHRISTINE #1: *(Looking at other CHRISTINES.)* But I'm actually Christine.

CHRISTINE #2: I'm definitely Christine.

CHRISTINE #3: What am I, chopped liver?

PETE: *(Indicating HARPER.)* She'll tell you.

JILLY: *(Indicating HARPER.)* Definitely tell you.

HARPER: What will I tell them?

JILLY: Just lay it out.

HARPER: Lay what out?

JILLY and PETE: The Phantom.

HARPER: Oh! Right! I'll tell them about the Phantom!

JILLY and PETE: Exactly.

HARPER: What will I tell them about the Phantom?

PETE: The stuff.

JILLY: The deal.

HARPER: (*At a loss.*) Right. (*Pause.*) There's a Phantom loose on the park grounds.

CHRISTINE #2: What's a Phantom?

HARPER: Well, a Phantom...

PETE: Like *Phantom of the Opera*?

CHRISTINE #1: What's an opera?

HARPER: A person runs around making trouble that nobody can catch.

CHRISTINE #2: I thought an opera was just hi-falutin' singing.

HARPER: Well, it was, but this Phantom just runs around the park making trouble but nobody can nail him.

CHRISTINE #3: Sounds like my cousin Travis.

PETE: He live around here?

CHRISTINE #3: Huh-uh. He lived in Oklahoma City but he died by pickup truck.

HARPER: Well, see traditionally Phantoms like "Christines".

CHRISTINE #1: I already got me a boyfriend.

CHRISTINE #2: Me too.

CHRISTINE #3: I'm currently shy a boyfriend 'cause the one I had tried to push me off a cliff but he missed an' fell off it himself. I'm still goin' to the prom with him. I'm not too picky.

HARPER: Well, see the chosen Christine will have a very, very special date with this Phantom an' get a lifetime free pass to the park here.

CHRISTINE #2: I would definitely date a Phantom.

CHRISTINE #3: Most of the boys I date are Phantoms.

HARPER: This is an extremely cool Phantom.

ALL THREE CHRISTINES: Super-double fabulous!

JILLY: Harper here will ask you a series of questions...

PETE: And one of you will be chosen to have her very own Phantom!

CHRISTINE #1: Gross.

CHRISTINE #2: Interesting.

CHRISTINE #3: Love it!

PETE: So go ahead, Harper.

HARPER: Go ahead with what?

JILLY: The questions, silly.

HARPER: What questions?

PETE and JILLY: The questions to pick the Christine.

HARPER: Oh, those questions!

PETE and JILLY: Right!

HARPER: Okay, here come the questions. The questions are on the tip of my tongue.

PETE and JILLY: You can do this!

HARPER: The first question is, uh...

PETE and JILLY: (*To the CHRISTINES.*) Isn't this fun!

HARPER: I can't think of a question.

CHRISTINE #3: I love questions.

JILLY whispers in HARPER'S ear.

HARPER: Where would you go on a date with the Phantom?

CHRISTINE #1: To sleep.

CHRISTINE #3: I would go to a baseball game because anyone who can sit through a baseball game would make a great date.

HARPER: What do you think the Phantom's astrological sign is?

CHRISTINE #1: Who gives a rat's appendix?

HARPER: Fill in the blank, "Dating the Phantom would be like..."

CHRISTINE #2: Floating on a cool breeze through a puffy cloud.

HARPER, PETE, and JILLY: Bingo!

CHRISTINE #2: I won?

HARPER, PETE and JILLY: You won!

CHRISTINE #2: Cool beans.

HARPER: Okay, a winner. You get the Phantom! (*Pointing at other CHRISTINES in turn.*) You get to date "the Mummy" and you get to date "The Man With Eight Arms."

CHRISTINE #3: I think I've already dated that one.

CHRISTINE #1: Nine out of ten guys are actually mummies who've been unwrapped.

CHRISTINES #1 and #3 exit.

PETE: (*Rubbing his hands together.*) Now! We just need to... we just need to...? (*To HARPER.*) What do we need to do?

HARPER: We need garlic.

JILLY: I think that's protection against vampires.

PETE: A fishing net and kryptonite.

JILLY: Don't have any on hand.

HARPER: Well...

Blackout. Spooky music for the Halloween Parade. In darkness, ten or so people in Halloween costumes carrying flashlights enter in a line.

JILLY: What on earth?

HARPER: It's the nine p.m. Halloween Parade.

PETE: Bigtime lame.

CHRISTINE #2: Wait!

HARPER: Wait what?

CHRISTINE #2: The one with the white mask.

HARPER, PETE and JILLY: It's the Phantom!

The masked PHANTOM dashes out of the Parade, grabs CHRISTINE #2, and races offstage with her.

HARPER: He's headed toward the bumper cars!

Blackout. Lights immediately back up. Members of the ENSEMBLE become bumper cars. They move around the stage. When they approach each other they suddenly carom off and go a different direction until they meet another "bumper car" and the process is repeated. We watch this spectacle for about ten seconds. The masked PHANTOM, pulling CHRISTINE #2 along enters and caroms along with the others until the PHANTOM manages to pull CHRISTINE #2 offstage in another direction. HARPER, PETE, and JILLY enter and are bumped about for another ten seconds. NOTE: See optional scene at the end of this script to add to the amusement park rides. After the ride scene(s) are complete, Blackout. Lights back up on HARPER, PETE and JILLY, beaten and exhausted alone on stage.

PETE: That ride hurts, man!

JILLY: I feel like I just wandered into an NFL game.

HARPER: I'm a walking bruise!

PETE: Where did the Phantom and Christine go?

JILLY: *(Pointing.)* Maybe that way?

HARPER: *(Pointing another way.)* No, it was that way.

PETE: (*Pointing a third way.*) It was absolutely this way.

HARPER: It was this way!

JILLY: Lost 'em.

PETE: I tell you it was this way!

HARPER: Stop! What are we going to do? This is a genuine, no-kidding-around catastrophe. If we don't catch the Phantom, there's going to be nobody in the park tomorrow night. Zilch, zero, nobody. That means my Halloween promotion sucks, my father is furious, I'll never be the park director, the place closes, and I have to sing at funerals for a living.

PETE: That sounds kind of nice.

HARPER: It does not sound "nice"! Running the park tonight is like my audition.

PETE: Y'know, looking at it sunny-side up, the Phantom could be an attraction.

JILLY: "Catch the Phantom and get a lifetime free pass!"

HARPER: Or possibly be eaten or dismembered.

PETE: I'd look on the bright side.

JILLY: A Phantom doesn't have a bright side.

PETE: Seriously. We should look at this as a monster film, our very own monster film. Like when King Kong had Fay Wray in his fist...

HARPER: Who was Fay Wray?

PETE: An actress, and...

JILLY: Who was King Kong?

PETE: You're kidding me.

JILLY: Why would I kid you?

PETE: King Kong was a giant ape the size of a three-story building.

HARPER: The Phantom isn't the size of a three-story building.

JILLY: There's no such ape.

PETE: It was a movie! In a movie an ape can be any size you want!

HARPER: We're not in a movie.

PETE: I didn't say we were in a movie!

JILLY: See, I think we should examine the musical.

PETE: (*Completely frustrated.*) What musical??

JILLY: *The Phantom of the Opera.*

PETE: You are going to drive me around the bend...

JILLY: Because we might be on kind of a parallel track here.

PETE: We're not in a musical.

HARPER: I've always wanted to be in a musical.

JILLY: In *Phantom of the Opera* the Phantom escapes with Christine and takes her to his underground lair.

PETE: What's a lair?

JILLY: A hideout.

HARPER: "Underground lair" doesn't sound good. An "underground lair" freaks me out.

PETE: Could be cozy. You know, hot chocolate, a roaring fire, a friendly dog.

HARPER: A "lair" is a place where a wild animal, especially a fierce or dangerous one, lives. I'm not doing the "lair" thing.

JILLY: Wait, wait, wait! Maybe there's like an underground labyrinth beneath the park.

PETE: Not doing "underground labyrinth". "Underground labyrinth" does not sound like a good time.

JILLY: Seriously Harper, is there an underground anything here?

HARPER: Wait! The Tunnel of Love boat ride goes down under the park!

JILLY: Perfect! The Phantom of the Opera lives on an island in a lake under the ground. This Phantom has taken Christine on the Tunnel of Love ride!

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

THE PHANTOM OF THE AMUSEMENT PARK

By Michael Bigelow Dixon & Jon Jory

**For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please
contact us at:**

Heuer Publishing LLC

P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-800-950-7529 • Fax (319) 368-8011

WWW.HEUERPUB.COM