

# The Rehearsal

Drena Heizer





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***We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!***

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## THE REHEARSAL

by

Drena Heizer

### PLOT

A theatre group is rehearsing a melodrama, reading from a handwritten script written by the director, with terrible penmanship. The actors try to decipher the script, but the audience also chuckles at the interplay among the characters. The actors eventually depart from the script and everything falls apart.

### CHARACTERS

3 w, 2 m and introduction, or 2w, 3m if the director is played by a man

Narrator: Can be either man or woman

Director: Can be either man or woman

Arnold: man

Ernest: man

Wilma: woman

Phyllis: woman

STAGE POSITIONS: Beginning from stage left and moving toward stage right:  
Narrator, Phyllis, Arnold, Wilma, Ernest, Director.

### PROPS

None

### PERFORMANCE NOTES

After his/her lines on the first page, the narrator remains in place because he/she has another speech a few pages later. Then he/she exits if it can be done quickly and unobtrusively. If it cannot, the narrator should remain quietly onstage (not reacting to the other players) until the play is finished.

Narrator: First, a public service announcement. You see these people up here on the stage? Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is utterly ridiculous.

Director: Wait a minute. That isn't the way I wrote it.

Narrator: Well, that's the way they look to me.

Director: (*Glances down the row of actors.*) Yeah. I see what you mean. Okay. Go on with the introduction.

Narrator: We are going to look in on a community theatre group as they begin to rehearse a new play. We have the director...(*The director bows.*)

Narrator: And we have these four actors—and I use the term loosely. (*The actors bow.*)

Narrator: But first a word of warning. This play contains material of a graphically goofy nature and may not be suitable for viewing by people who like things to make sense. But if you don't care anyway, we now present, "The Rehearsal."

Director: Okay, gang. What we're rehearsing here is a melodrama.

Arnold: What's a melodrama.

Director: It used to be an old-fashioned type of stage play.

Arnold: What was it like?

Director: It was a stupid story acted out by performers who hammed it up something awful.

Arnold: That sounds like what we ALWAYS do.

Director: Never mind.

Ernest: Didn't they used to do this type of thing in the early silent movies?

Director: That's right.

Ernest: Then I think we should do it THAT way.

Director: What way?

Ernest: SILENTLY! I've read the script.

Director: What's the matter with the script?

Ernest: It stinks! Who wrote this drivel anyway?

Director: I did!

Ernest: Oh.

Director: Now let's get on with it. Listen up, all of you. There are four characters in this drama. The villain is a banker named Blackstone Slimeheart, who is rich but rotten. Arnold, I want you to play this part.

Arnold: I don't WANT to play the villain. The audience always HATES the villain.

Director: Arnold, the audience always hates YOU, no matter WHAT part you play.

Arnold: (*Pleased*) Oh. Yeah. I hadn't thought of it that way.

Director: Then you'll play Blackstone Slimeheart.

Arnold: Sure.

Director: Ernest, I want you to play the handsome hero, Frank Forthright, who is poor but honest.

Ernest: So now he's not only poor but honest, he's also Frank and Ernest.

Director: (*Sighs*) Somehow I knew you'd say that.

Ernest: (*Smirking*) Sorry.

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