

## Shorts 18 Descriptions

### *Lillie Meant Murder*

#### SYNOPSIS:

Lillie is married to Bollander. She is dressed in a men's clothing and dancing in the streets of 1888...while attempting to shoot her husband. A cop witnesses this but arrests Lillie for impersonating a man rather than attempted murder. This upsets Bollander. Suddenly, Bollander and Lillie are in a court room and Bollander attempts to convince the judge that Lillie should be charged for attempted murder. The judge doesn't see it. All this goes on as a musician plays the music that Bollander and Lillie both dance to.

#### CHARACTERS:

Lillie: Women, Middle aged, a ballet dancer. A free-willed women, with a child-like persona who is very honest. She has decided to take matters of her husband's abandonment into her own hands.

Bollander: Male, Middle aged, a tap dancer. Married to Lillie. Seemingly the only person who has his head on right. A very logical man who gets frustrated with the outlandishness of the situation.

Haggerty: Any gender. A tight, "by the book" cop who takes his job very seriously.

Judge: Any gender. A stern person, almost a stereotypical judge, smart, inquisitive but still not seeing the absurdity of the situation.

Musician: Any gender. Makes comments on the show with the music they play. Can play any instrument - drums, guitar, violin, trumpet etc.

## *If Hamlet Had Been a Reading*

### SYNOPSIS:

After a performance of William Shakespeare's famous work, *Hamlet*, audience members and even the actors give a little feedback as to how the play can be, well, "improved".

### CHARACTERS:

NOTE - Will is the only character that absolutely needs to have an accent. Everyone else is TBD, but can audition with an English accent if they please.

William Shakespeare - the famous Elizabethan playwright. Needs to have an English accent.  
(Male)

Actor 1 - More of a mediator type. Tries to keep things civil while still giving input. (No specific gender)

Actor 2 - They have worked hard and needs a drink to loosen up a bit, they may have gone a bit overboard with the flask.. (no specific gender)

Actor 3 - A know-it-all type, needs to make sure everyone knows what they're thinking all the time (no specific gender)

Actor 4 - Makes their debut on stage, but is a bit fatigued and needs to take a well deserved nap. (no specific gender)

Actor 5 - Very over dramatic theatre junkie. Everything out of their mouth is a monologue.  
(preferably female)

Audience 1 - An intellectual. Very observant but likes to give the rest a piece of their mind  
(preferable male)

Audience 2 - A very flamboyant character. This one likes their opinion, and doesn't mind being harsh, but you still love them anyway. (preferably male)

Audience 3 - Very sweet and timid. Gives input but is almost sorry they said it after they've said it (no specific gender)

Audience 4 - Your typical average joe. The "normal" person amidst the larger personalities around them. Very good character to keep things balanced (no specific gender)

Audience 5 - If Nirvana had been one person filled with angst, you get this one! (no specific gender)

## *Streuth*

### SYNOPSIS:

*Streuth* is a classic whodunit story that gets itself into a bit of confusion. Whether it be an actor not knowing their lines or the set falling apart, the show must go on. Individually, the characters in this show are not all that entertaining, but when combined with the other characters and the circumstances they're put in, the show becomes absolutely fantastic. It's all about dead-pan humor and timing.

### CHARACTERS:

Inspector: The inspector in real life probably thinks of himself as the society's figurehead, the one who pulls everything together at the 11th hour.

Mr. D'Arcy: A young man miscast as an old man. His makeup is a grotesque assortment of lines due to his evident youth. He regards his lines as something to get rid of as quickly as possible.

Mrs. D'Arcy: She got the part because she was the only one with a living room big enough to rehearse in. She doesn't have the skill to take on an important role but she demanded it. Very over the top.

Hubert (their son): Should be played by someone who looks older than his parents. He is motionless through-out the play and stares with a fixed gaze at the audience, rocking on his heels. He reads his lines off a cigarette case.

The Major: His concept of a "Major" is based on something he saw in a Hollywood film. Thus, he wears a monocle--which nearly blinds him--and sprinkles lines with extra exclamations such as "By Jove!" and "What?".

James: Modeled after Quasimodo (Hunch-back of Notre Dame), speaks something like Captain Ahab mixed with Long-John Silver. A one-character man and this is that character.

The Cook: Very little is known about the Cook, since she spends most of the play with her cap rammed down over her eyes. A refined, middle-class lady, she speaks with a ghastly attempt at being working-class. She is the one who ought to be playing Mrs. D'Arcy.

The Vicar (Rupert): The archetypal villain of melodrama, with rolling eyes and a fake black beard. Is inclined to mouth other people's lines, especially when staring closely at their faces.

Sergeant: Although the actor playing this part has been cast in twenty plays, he has yet to be on stage. At the point of his entrance, he will be at home eating. His lines will be read by the Prompt.

The Prompt: An important part of the play. At moments of stress it may be necessary for her to appear in order to make her point to the actors. The closest this show comes to having a functional character.

\*Auditioning for this character will not involve sides, only a little improvisation (games).\*

*The Man Who Turned Into a Stick*

SYNOPSIS:

The Man Who Turned Into A Stick is part three of Kobo Abe's series of plays meant to represent three stages of life: birth, life itself, and death. This one act follows a man who, like the title says, has been turned into a stick. He is found by two hippies on the street corner. While comedic, the play explores many philosophic themes surrounding the age-old question: what comes after?

CHARACTERS (stated genders are preferred but in no way required):

The Man Who Turned Into A Stick: He was originally a father with a young boy

Hippie Guy and Girl: Aloof, head in the clouds, and stubborn just for the sake of being difficult. They provide comic relief, but show some deeper human insight as well.

Man and Woman from Hell: These two will most often appear like regular but professional humans, but sometimes show their more supernatural sides.

Voice From Hell: Guiding, sarcastic voice from the underworld tell the two on top what to do.