

# THE WORST TALENT SHOW...EVER!



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## THE WORST TALENT SHOW...EVER!

**COMEDY.** After a lengthy stay in rehab for her marshmallow addiction, Persi is trying to make a comeback as the emcee of a new TV talent show, "Shooting for the Stars." The lineup includes a "singing" alien, a wrestler who wrestles himself, the Wheelbarrow Dancin' Guys, a yodeler, a guy with a lampshade on his head, and many others. In the end, the heckler may be the most entertaining part of this show, which should be called, "Shooting *at* the Stars"! This hysterical, fast-paced play allows directors the option of adding their own "talent" to the show.

**Performance time:** Approximately 90-120 minutes.

## Characters

(6 M, 10 F, 15 flexible, opt. extras)  
(Doubling possible.)

**PERSI:** TV talent show emcee; female.

**PAUL:** Persi's agent; male.

**JAKE/JANICE:** Stage manager; flexible.

**MARIAN LOTSLEFTOVA:** Judge who is always angry and sour; wears a blouse and pants or a skirt; female.

**MONSIEUR FERNANDO GARCIA DE LA BERLINSKI VON HOFFENMEYER:** Judge who is the art critic for "The Weekly Arts"; sharply outfitted with an ascot and a beret; has a small mustache and a long cigarette holder; male.

**MR./MRS. RIP VAN TWINKLE:** Judge and "noted" vocalist who speaks with a country dialect; very old and frail, wears eyeglasses, and uses a walker or cane; flexible. Note: If male, he is bald (use a bald cap with scraggly white hair around the edges) and has a long beard that reaches almost to the floor. If female, she has shaggy gray or white hair and wears a flowered dress so big that it sags on her.

**MRS. SCARLETT O'HARA:** Southern stage mom; speaks with a sugar-sweet Southern drawl; female.

**CACIE:** Mrs. O'Hara's daughter who giggles at everything; wears heavy bright stage makeup, a tiara, a dress with a petticoat; the toes of her shoes are marked with a large "L" and "R" to indicate the left from the right; female.

**STACIE:** Mrs. O'Hara's daughter who giggles at everything; looks identical to Cacie; wears heavy bright stage makeup, a tiara, a dress with a petticoat; the toes of her shoes are marked with a large "L" and "R" to indicate the left from the right; female.

**RILEY Z. RILEY:** Stage father; male.

**WONDER BOY:** Riley Z. Riley's son who sings/dances to a romantic song; male.

**RAMONA:** Stage mom; female.

**STARLET:** Ramona's daughter who sings/dances to a romantic song; female.

**COMEDIAN:** Hired to warm up the TV audience; wears a colorful and outrageously silly clown costume that can include huge clown shoes, a clown nose, a gigantic multicolored wig, and a fake flower in his lapel that squirts water (opt.); flexible.

**HECKLER:** Planted in the audience and loves to heckle the Comedian; flexible.

**PRETTY PRISSY:** Singer or instrumentalist; formally dressed; female.

**HOWARD/HELENA:** Card magician; flexible.

**LAMPSHADE MAN/WOMAN:** Looks normal except for wearing a lampshade on his head; flexible.

**MR./MRS. SPACE ALIEN:** Alien "singer" from outer space; dressed like an alien and moves stiffly like a robot; flexible.

**HERMAN HE-MAN:** Wrestler who wrestles himself; wears a gaudy wrestler's outfit, including brightly colored trunks and leggings, a mismatched sleeveless T-shirt, a bandana around his head, and two mismatched sneakers; male.

**JOE/JO:** Hyperactive wheelbarrow performer; flexible.

**ROBB/ROBBI:** Laid back wheelbarrow performer; wears thick gloves to protect his hands and kneepads to protect his knees; flexible.

**HORRIFIC HARVEY:** Singer; male.

**PETUNIA PETUNIA:** Accident-prone singer/dancer; female.

**JEROME/JOSEPHINE WALKINBETTER:** Alpine Yodeler; wears an Alps costume comprised of short pants with suspenders, tall socks, and a colorful shirt and hat; flexible.

**EARLY:** Ventriloquist; flexible.

**MERGATROID:** Ventriloquist's dummy (a live person); flexible.

**SMILEY SMOO:** Sobbing is her talent; carries around a box of tissues; flexible.

**MILTON/SHIRLEY BEGGERGREGGER:** Shy, nerdy comedian; wears slacks that are too short, white socks, a

crooked bowtie, and glasses with a piece of tape across the nose piece, If the role is played by a female, she will still look as nerdy as possible; flexible. Note: If female, change nerdy clothes accordingly.

**ARCHIBALD/GRISELDA MCBILLIONS:** Rich tycoon; flexible.

**CAROLINE CRISIS:** Six-year-old bus-jumper; wears many bandages; can be played by an adult wearing children's clothing; female.

**GLITTER GIRLS:** Backup singers/dancers who toss glitter into the air; female. Note: These characters are optional.

**NOTE:** For flexible roles, change the script accordingly.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

At the director's discretion, it is permissible to omit a few skits in the script and substitute a "talent" skit of your own. If skits are added, add an introduction by Persi and critiques by the judges. The play should not run longer than 120 minutes.

Please note that all acts (except Wonder Boy and Scarlet's) must be horrible so as to stay true to the title of the play.

## Setting

A television studio stage/stage.

## Set

**Television studio.** In a prominent place, a large sign reads, "Shooting for the Stars!" At SR are three chairs behind a desk for the judges. The desk is at an angle so the audience can see each judge clearly. On the desk are two loud bells and one cowbell. There is a stool behind a small lectern SL. Stage left represents backstage, and the performance area is CS. Television cameras are not visible.

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

**ACT I:** Television studio.

**Intermission**

**ACT II:** Television studio, 20 minutes later.



## PROPS

Earphones, for Jake	Large bandage, for O'Hara
Index cards	Hershey candy bar
Small ear bud with wire attached (non- operational), for Persi	Cell phone, for Riley
Wad of paper money	Fake lapel flower that squirts water (opt.)
Long cigarette holder	Watch, for Paul
2 Loud bells	Small photo of Starlet
1 Loud cowbell	Box of tissues
Watch, for Comedian	Tall stool
Walker or cane, for Rip Van Twinkle	Glitter, for Glitter Girls
Dollar bill	Bed or cot on wheels
Deck of cards	Large plastic softball bat
Lampshade, for Mr. Lampshade Man	Sheriff's badge
	Legal papers
	Watch for Jake
	Large bag of marshmallows

## SOUND EFFECTS

Slapping sound (loud clapping of hands will suffice)

Theme music for talent show

Music for Mr. Space Alien

Prissy's music

Sound of major car crash

Sound of a punch

Sound of birds chirping

Music for wrestler

Music for the Wheelbarrow Guys/Gals

Police siren

Music for Wonder Boy and

Starlet's singing or dancing duet

**Note:** Sound effects are often available online for free.

**"DON'T FORGET...  
YOU, THE AUDIENCE,  
WILL VOTE ON THESE CONTESTANTS  
AT THE END OF THE SHOW.  
AND YOUR VOTES WILL ELECT  
OUR NEXT ACT THAT IS...  
'SHOOTING AT THE STARS'!**

**—PERSI**

# ACT I

(AT RISE: A stage used as a television studio. Jake, a bored, young stage manager is sitting SL on a stool behind a small lectern listening to music through earphones or reading or writing. Riley, a proud father, enters SL.)

RILEY: (As he passes Jake.) Hey, Jake.

JAKE: Huh?

(Jake looks up briefly but returns to his bored look. Riley does not pause, but struts with exaggerated bravado to CS, where he turns full-front, spreads his arms, and smiles broadly.)

RILEY: Stardom! That's what it's all about. The stage, film...and television! Million-dollar contracts, a mansion in L.A., a garage full of expensive automobiles! That's what I will have when my Wonder Boy wins this talent contest. (Balls his fist and cheers.) Yeah, Wonder Boy!

(Ramona enters SR.)

RAMONA: (Imitates Riley's actions by balling her fist and cheering.) Boo, Wonder Boy! Yeah, Starlet!

RILEY: (Looks at her.) Oh, bummer! Ramona, what are you doing here?

(Ramona crosses to him.)

RAMONA: What do you think? I've brought my darling Starlet, and she's going to win this competition.

RILEY: Not if I can help it.

RAMONA: Well, you can't help it. Wonder Boy doesn't have an ounce of talent, but my little darling can [sing] like an

angel. [Note: Or dance depending on the talent she uses at the end.]

RILEY: (*Angrily.*) Did you just say Wonder Boy doesn't have any talent?

RAMONA: Yes.

RILEY: My Wonder Boy?

RAMONA: Well, who else is crazy enough to name his child "Wonder Boy"?

RILEY: You should talk. "Starlet"? The day she was born, you knew she was going to be a starlet?

RAMONA: The first thing she did on this earth was to take a bow. I knew then she was destined for stardom.

RILEY: She wasn't taking a bow. She probably had a tummy ache. All babies have tummy aches.

RAMONA: Not my little Starlet. She even blew me a kiss.

RILEY: She wasn't blowing you a kiss. She was blubbering. All babies blubber.

RAMONA: My baby *did not* blubber!

RILEY: Okay. All babies but your baby blubber. Your baby burped!

RAMONA: (*Shocked.*) Arghh! Hush your filthy mouth. She never burped!

RILEY: You might as well take her home because Wonder Boy has this contest in the bag.

RAMONA: (*Suspicious.*) What do you mean "in the bag"?

RILEY: (*Gloating.*) We Rileys have our ways, if you know what I mean.

RAMONA: You mean you cheat!

RILEY: I wouldn't call it cheating.

RAMONA: Then what would you call it?

RILEY: Sharing the wealth. (*Mimes handing out money.*)

RAMONA: It won't help. You should take your little brat home before he embarrasses you in front of the entire TV world.

RILEY: (*Angrily.*) Brat? You called him a brat?

RAMONA: What else do you call a kid who throws up in the waiting room just so he can watch people slip and fall?

RILEY: The same thing you call a girl who tries to stab my son with her tiara.

RAMONA: She was just teasing him.

RILEY: (*Angrier.*) Sixteen stitches...

RAMONA: Little, tiny stitches.

RILEY: And over night in the emergency room.

**[End of Freeview]**