



**Mitchell Roush**

Norman Maine Publishing

Copyright © 2013, Mitchell Roush

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

**Quiet on the Set!** is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, and all of the countries covered by the Universal Copyright Convention and countries with which the United States has bilateral copyright relations including Canada, Mexico, Australia, and all nations of the United Kingdom.

**Copying or reproducing all or any part of this book in any manner is strictly forbidden by law.** No part of this book may be stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means including mechanical, electronic, photocopying, recording, or videotaping without written permission from the publisher.

**A royalty is due for every performance of this play whether admission is charged or not.** A “performance” is any presentation in which an audience of any size is admitted.

The name of the author must appear on all programs, printing, and advertising for the play. The program must also contain the following notice: “Produced by special arrangement with Big Dog/Norman Maine Publishing LLC, Rapid City, SD.”

All rights including professional, amateur, radio broadcasting, television, motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved by Big Dog/Norman Maine Publishing LLC, [www.BigDogPlays.com](http://www.BigDogPlays.com), to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

**Norman Maine Publishing  
P.O. Box 1401  
Rapid City, SD 57709**

Quiet on the Set!

3

To  
D.R., T.Q., and Issa—  
*without your love and support  
fueling my random ideas  
my creativity would die.*

## **Quiet on the Set!**

4

**Quiet on the Set!** was produced by the International Theatre Academy of Norway in December 2010 in the TITAN Black-Box Theatre: Michell Roush, director.

**MAN:** Espen Klæboe

**WOMAN:** Silje Hogstoyl

**DIRECTOR:** Sara Benedicte Bolstad

**ASSISTANT:** Rachael Stover

**BOOM MIC-GUY:** Daniel Husby Waltin

**DEAF GUY:** Havaard Susaas Halvorsen

**Quiet on the Set!** was produced by the York College Theatre Department in November 2011 in Gurganus Hall: Mitchell Roush, director.

**MAN:** Jordan Siebold

**WOMAN:** Morgan Goracke

**DIRECTOR:** Erin Florea

**ASSISTANT:** Lauren Post

**BOOM-MIC GUY:** Paul Helms

**DEAF GUY:** Ryan Nelson

**BOY-BAND MEMBERS:** Alan Clark, Daniel Magner, Alfred Peters, Parker Seilstad

## Quiet on the Set!

**FARCE.** At this low-budget film shoot, the director has no vision for the film, the boom-mic guy keeps falling asleep, the assistant has a tendency to panic, and the script is absolutely horrible. The director tries to salvage the film by forcing two wannabe method actors to rehearse their lines as a nerd and Valley Girl and then as a monkey and a parrot. When this doesn't work, the actors assume the roles of a boy band singer and an opera diva and sing their lines!

**Performance time:** Approximately 30 minutes.

## Characters

(4 M, 2 F, 3 flexible, opt. extras)

**DIRECTOR:** Passionate, crazy film director who has no clue as to what his vision is for the film; flexible.

**ASSISTANT:** Type-A assistant who is unaware that she is annoying and has a tendency to freak out and stand way too close to the Director; female.

**MAN:** Sarcastic, arrogant method actor; male.

**WOMAN:** Moody method actor who is a bit of a diva; female.

**BOOM-MIC GUY/GAL:** Narcoleptic boom-mic operator who has to be constantly woken up; flexible.

**DEAF GUY/GAL:** Token film clapper who is always on cue even though he's deaf; flexible. Note: Name is Buck if male and Barb if female.

**BOY BAND MEMBERS 1-3:** Boy Band back-up singers and dancers; wear coordinating outfits that include khakis, all-white tennis shoes, wife-beater T-shirts under white button-down shirts, brown belts, and sunglasses; they have too much gel in their hair and wear various hats including a fedora, beanie, etc.; male.

**EXTRAS (Opt.):** As Film Extras who wander around silently munching Little Debbie Snacks, etc.

**NOTE:** Change the script accordingly for flexible roles.

## Setting

Low-budget film shoot.

## Set

**Basic living room.** There is a worn-out couch and coffee table CS along with a cheap painting that looks like it was purchased at Goodwill. A few film lights have been strategically placed throughout the set. There is a card table with Little Debbie snacks and juice boxes downstage and opposite the Boom-Mic Guy. A side table with a dimly lit lamp is optional.

## PROPS

Boom mic  
Clipboard  
Papers  
Note cards  
Empty soda can  
Piece of toilet paper  
Movie clapper (can be homemade)  
Little Debbie snacks, assorted  
Juice boxes

## SOUND EFFECTS

Karaoke version of a boy-band song  
Air horn

**"I WON'T PERFORM THIS  
UNLESS I SPEND AT LEAST FOUR WEEKS  
LIVING IN A CAGE  
AND EATING NOTHING BUT CRACKERS.  
I MUST BE THE PARROT."**

**—WOMAN**

## Quiet on the Set!

*(AT RISE: Low-budget film shoot. A basic living room. Boom-Mic Guy is snoring on the couch. Woman enters and realizes she has to wake him up.)*

WOMAN: *(Shouts in Boom Mic Guy's ear.)* Hey!

BOOM-MIC GUY: *(Startled.)* Hot Pockets!

*(Boom-Mic Guy gets up, grabs his mic, and takes his place. Woman sits on the couch, waiting for the scene to begin. Scene begins. Woman is sitting on couch. Man enters.)*

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Hey!"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "Hi."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "How was it?"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "You know."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "No, I don't."

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "Well, it was what it was."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Yeah. *(Woman sighs.)* Who'd you go with?"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "No one."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Really?"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "Really, really."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Oh."

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "Yep."

*(Two second pause.)*

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "So, what'd you think?"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "About what?"

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "The other night..."

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "Which night?"

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Um...Tuesday."

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl. Realizing.)* "Oh, that night!"

**Quiet on the Set!**

11

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Yeah!"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "I remember."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "So...?"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "So what?"

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "What'd you think?"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "I'm not sure."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Is that good or bad?"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "I'm not sure."

DIRECTOR: *(From audience, shouts.)* Cut!

*(After Director says "cut," Boom-Mic Guy has trouble staying awake. Note: Throughout every exchange, Boom-Mic Guy falls asleep until he is woken up another character or by the Director yelling "Action!")*

MAN: *(To Woman.)* Geez, that was horrible!

WOMAN: I'm not getting anything from you! It's like working with a brick wall.

*(Assistant enters with a clipboard in hand, writing furiously. Note: Assistant has a tendency to get way too close to the Director. Director approaches Man and Woman.)*

DIRECTOR: *(To Man and Woman.)* Stop, stop, stop! The scene's way too flat!

ASSISTANT: What do you suppose the problem is?

*(Director turns around and is startled at how close Assistant is.)*

DIRECTOR: Geez!

ASSISTANT: *(Screams.)* Aaaah!

DIRECTOR: Don't do that!

ASSISTANT: Don't do what?

DIRECTOR: Never mind. *(To Man and Woman.)* It's not working! In fact, that was downright terrible.

WOMAN: That was harsh.

**Quiet on the Set!**

12

MAN: *(Indicating the Director.)* But she's right!

ASSISTANT: Yeah, she is! That was awful!

*(Man, Woman, and Director all glare at Assistant. Pause.)*

DIRECTOR: We need something different. We need...

*(Thinks.)* ...animals! Yes, we need animals!

WOMAN: What?! You can't be serious.

MAN: *(To Assistant.)* Are they even in the budget?

ASSISTANT: *(Gasps.)* Animals?! Budget?! *(Starts flipping furiously through her papers. Panicking.)* Uh...no! Nope. No animals. How could this happen?!

DIRECTOR: Just cool your jets—

ASSISTANT: *(Panicking.)* Nobody told me about the animals! How am I supposed to round up the zoo when no one notifies me that we need it?!

DIRECTOR: Stop it!

ASSISTANT: *(Panicking.)* Who should I call?

DIRECTOR: Stop it!

ASSISTANT: *(Panicking.)* But the—

DIRECTOR: *(Slowly.)* Stop it. *(Assistant nods.)* You've got it all wrong. *(To Man and Woman.)* You're the animals.

WOMAN: What?!

MAN: *(To Director.)* Please, for the love of God, tell me you're joking.

ASSISTANT: *(To Director, confused.)* What?

DIRECTOR: *(Ignoring Assistant. To Man.)* Couldn't be more serious. *(Points at Man.)* I want you to be a monkey... *(To Woman.)* ...and you a parrot.

ASSISTANT: *(Realizes, relieved.)* Oooohhhh! I get it now! We don't need animals! *They're* going to be the animals! That makes perfect sense!

MAN/WOMAN/DIRECTOR: *(Amazed at how dumb that sounded.)* Wow.

DIRECTOR: Now, where was I? Oh, yes—

**Quiet on the Set!**

13

WOMAN: Excuse me. I won't perform this unless I spend at least four weeks living in a cage and eating nothing but crackers. I must *be* the parrot. How else could I do it?

MAN: *(To Director.)* If she gets to do that, then I get to be naked and swing from jungle branches!

DIRECTOR: Nope. None of that.

MAN/WOMAN: *(Posing.)* But we're *method* actors!

DIRECTOR: Don't remind me. Places! *(Shoos Man and Woman into place. Hears Boom-Mic Guy snoring. To Assistant.)* What's his problem?

ASSISTANT: It appears that he is asleep.

DIRECTOR: I know that. Do you know his name?

ASSISTANT: *(Referencing clipboard.)* Buck.

DIRECTOR: His name is Buck? *(Assistant nods.)* Buck what? *(Assistant shrugs.)* So it's just Buck, the boom-mic guy? *(Assistant nods.)* Well, wake him up!

*(Assistant scurries over to Boom-Mic Guy.)*

ASSISTANT: *(Shouts in Boom-Mic Guy's ear.)* Hey!

BOOM-MIC GUY: *(Startled.)* Hot Pockets!

*(Boom-Mic Guy resumes recording. Assistant exits.)*

DIRECTOR: Very good. Places! *(Sits in the audience. Deaf Man runs on and goes CS. With film clapper in hand, he signs the title of the film, signals "Take 2," and exits. Shouts.)* Quiet on the set! Action!

**[END OF FREEVIEW]**