

Gerald's Dream

Bob Wikins



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ArtAge Publications

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GERALD'S DREAM

By Bob Wilkins

CAST

(in order of appearance)

The characters are all seniors in their physical appearance but they are dressed in costumes of their teen years. The technologies they use are of the present time.

GERALD: A 10th grade nerd.

ELSIE: An 11th grade student. A member of the cheer team. She wears a cheerleader outfit.

KATIE: An 11th grade student. A member of the cheer team. She wears a cheerleader outfit.

FRANKIE: A macho ladies' man in his second year of 12th grade.

BARBARA ANN: A 12th grade student. The captain of the cheer team. She wears a cheerleader outfit.

COURTNEY: A 10th grade student.

LINDA: A 10th grade student.

MILTON: (played by a male or female) A 10th grade transfer student. (Note: If played by a male, the lines on page xx marked with a * should be eliminated.)

EXTRAS: Additional cheerleaders may be added to the cheerleader routines. Additional non-speaking dancers may be added to the dance scenes.

SET DESIGN

The play is written so that it can be performed on a bare stage with a minimum of furnishings. The director should feel free to use any level of more elaborate set design. The apron or a satellite stage could be used for non-cafeteria scenes. The following is a description of the minimum stage setting requirements.

Scenes 1, 3, 6, 7, and 8: (The cafeteria on school days) A table and three chairs on Stage Right and a table and three chairs on Stage Left.

Scene 2: (A park) A bare stage.

Scenes 4 and 9: (The cafeteria on dance night) A bare stage. Lighting should indicate a dance setting. (Note: The table and chairs could be moved upstage to accommodate the action during these scenes.)

Scene 5: (The foyer of Gerald's house) A bare stage with one chair and a coat rack.

Time

The present. The dream segment of the play takes place 50-60 years in the past. The music and costuming are from that period.

Place

A high school.

SCENE 1

Setting: The cafeteria at noon on a Monday.

At Rise: GERALD stands in a single spot at one down side of the stage.

GERALD: Hello. My name is Gerald and I had a dream. That's no big deal really. We all have dreams. This was one of those early morning dreams. You know, the kind you have just before you wake up. They always seem to be the really weird ones. This particular dream was about when I was in high school. That was a long time ago. Here's what happened.

(Blackout. The lights rise on a high school cafeteria on a Monday. GERALD sits by himself at the table at Left. He has a binder and a lap top on the table. He looks at the ceiling for a moment, then types on the laptop, and returns to looking at the ceiling.)

ELSIE and KATIE: *(enter to Down Right performing a cheer routine)*

Gerald, Gerald, he's our man.

If he can't dream, no one can!

He dreams big, he dreams small.

He's the best dreamer of them all.

Go, Gerald!

(KATIE and ELSIE cross to and sit at the table at Right. ELSIE messages on her cellphone. KATIE watches GERALD.)

KATIE: What's Germaine doing over there?

ELSIE: That's Gerald. He's weird. One day I saw him put ketchup on his jello which probably explains why he has no friends.

KATIE: *(rises)* This is really bugging me. I'm going to go over and find out what he's doing.

ELSIE: You can't do that! What if someone sees you? You've got a reputation to think about.

KATIE: *(rises)* I'm not going over there to make friends with him. I'm just curious.

ELSIE: This is crazy. I'll go with you. *(rises)* If people see both of us, they'll think we're there to humiliate him.

(ELSIE crosses with KATIE to GERALD who is not aware they are there)

KATIE: Hey, Gerbil.

(GERALD is startled. He drops his pen and scatters his papers. He fumbles to put things back in order.)

ELSIE: It's Gerald.

KATIE: Yeah, whatever. You keep looking at the ceiling. What's going on? And if this is going to be a long and involved explanation, you could just e-mail us.

ELSIE: What? I'm not giving him my e-mail address!

GERALD: I'm counting the holes in the ceiling tile.

KATIE: Why?

GERALD: I'm writing a book.

ELSIE: About ceiling tile holes?

GERALD: Oh, no. It's a trivia book about our school. For example, there are 5,237 cement blocks in the walls of our gymnasium.

ELSIE: What good is that information?

GERALD: Well, actually, it's no good at all.

KATIE: So exactly what do you do with all this useless information?

GERALD: Ah, nothing. I could send you a copy when it's done.

KATIE: That's OK. We'll wait until it's on Netflix.

(ELSIE and KATIE return to their table. GERALD continues to count.)

ELSIE: You weren't really interested in all of that, were you?

KATIE: Oh, come on. He's a geek. How could someone like me be interested in anything he does?

ELSIE: I hope so. You don't want to do anything to ruin your chances with real boys.

(FRANKIE enters Right and sits with KATIE and ELSIE)

KATIE: Nobody will know about this unless someone blabs.

FRANKIE: Blabs about what?

ELSIE: Nothing. It's girl stuff that you wouldn't be interested in.

FRANKIE: Hey, I'm always interested in girls and everything they do.

KATIE: Where's Danielle? I thought she was your main squeeze for this month.

FRANKIE: She was. Until Saturday night. We were at the lake and somebody decided to do a little bumper jumping. Danielle got spooked. By the time I got out of the car, they were on their bikes and riding away. Probably just some goofs trying to have a good time.

KATIE: Yeah, somebody like Geritol over there.

(FRANKIE looks at GERALD)

ELSIE: He's counting ceiling tile holes. I bet he stays home on a Saturday night and does crossword puzzles.

FRANKIE: I wouldn't be too sure about that. *(rises and crosses to GERALD)* Hey, nerd boy. Stand up.

GERALD: *(rises)* Yes, sir.

FRANKIE: Turn around.

GERALD: *(turns around)* Yes, sir.

FRANKIE: Where were you Saturday night?

GERALD: *(turns back to face FRANKIE)* I was with my friends.

FRANKIE: Did you go to the lake?

GERALD: The lake? I don't think so. I mean, maybe we did. It was dark, you know. We could hardly see to keep our bikes on the road. I mean...oops.

FRANKIE: *(moves toward GERALD)* You lousy, little creep!

GERALD: *(moves around the table away from FRANKIE)* I'm sorry, sir. I didn't know it was you.

FRANKIE: *(pursues GERALD around the table)* I'm going to rearrange your face!

GERALD: That won't be necessary. I'm quite happy with the one I have.

FRANKIE: Stand still! When I'm done with you, you'll never ride a bike again!

GERALD: I think I'm going to throw up!

FRANKIE: A little bit of puke isn't going to stop me!

ELSIE: Frankie! Knock it off! Mr. Mitchell is coming!

FRANKIE: This isn't over, bike boy! In the park after school! Make sure you're there!

GERALD: Yes, sir. *(gags)*

(Blackout)

SCENE 2

Setting: *A park, after school the same day.*

At Rise: GERALD *stands nervously at Center. He wears a back pack.*

ELSIE and KATIE: *(enter to Down Right and perform a cheer routine)*

I said bang bang, choo choo train,
Wind Frankie up, he'll do his thang.
He knows karate, he knows kung fu
You mess with Frankie, he'll mess with you.
(exit Right)

FRANKIE: *(enters Left)* Well, well. The little bumper jumper showed up.

GERALD: Yes, sir. Just like you told me to.

FRANKIE: I want this to be a fair fight so take off your glasses.

GERALD: If it's all the same to you, sir, I'll keep them on. That way I might be able to avoid a few blows.

FRANKIE: *(raises his fists)* Suit yourself.

GERALD: *(bends over and covers his head with his arms)* Please don't kill me!

FRANKIE: Stand up!

GERALD: I'm afraid I cannot do that, sir.

FRANKIE: What are you, a man or a mouse?

GERALD: Well, one of my favorite foods is a grilled cheese sandwich.

FRANKIE: You're pathetic!

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!