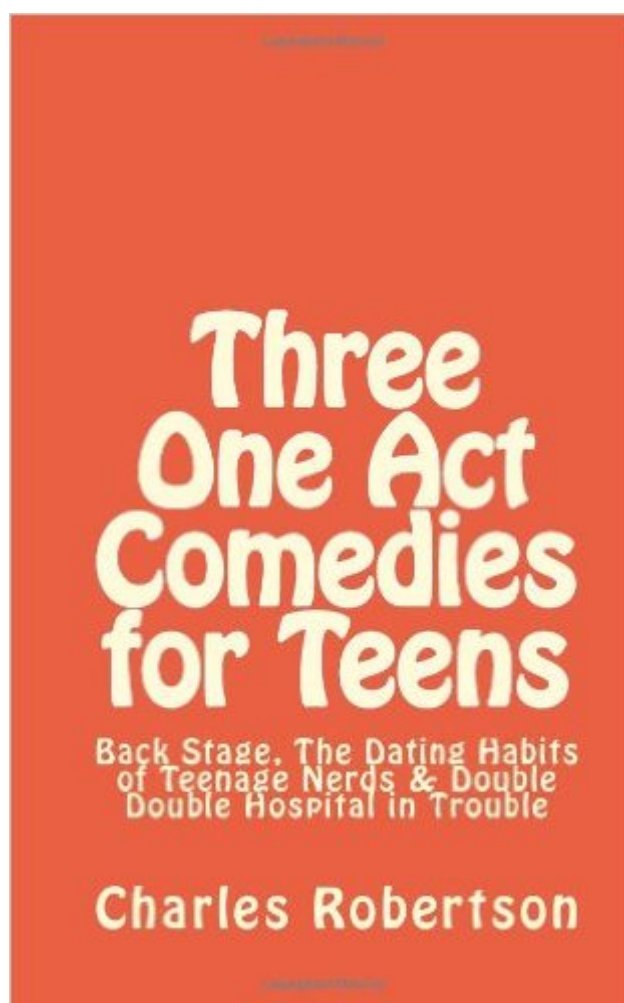


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Three One Act Comedies For Teens: Back Stage, The Dating Habits Of Teenage Nerds & Double Double Hospital In Trouble



Synopsis

Three One Act Comedies for Teens is the creative result of my work with Bottle Tree Productions acting students. In our ten week acting sessions, we get together for the first two or three classes and do theatre games, improv stories and basic acting techniques. Usually the students come up with story ideas, characters and they work out an initial improvised story which I then turn into a script. Back Stage reflects many real life situations that either myself or my students have experienced in community theatre. Of course they have been exaggerated for comic effect. Back Stage is a hilarious look at duelling divas, vague directors, military-minded stage managers and clueless producers as they try to put on a very silly play The Dating Habits of Teenage nerds reflects characters that many of my students identify with. And me-I'm a Star Trek nerd. Elliot, Ryan and Brogan are in a Star Wars club. They are very bright, achieving very high marks at school, but would give anything to be popular. A sweet and funny look at relationships. Double Double Hospital in Trouble was the result of one of the students bringing in a real-life news story, I thought that would be a great story to develop as a one act for the class. The students came up with their characters and I wrote the play. A man has been at the hospital for weeks without being admitted, lost as he is in bureaucratic red tape. This play is black comedy. While having a rich imagination and above average intelligence many of my students have felt like outsiders at school. The Acting Classes become a safe place where students can share their imagination and intelligence. In a class setting, they can try out their stuff on their supportive fellow students as their skills are honed in front of a jury of their peers. They quickly learn what works and what doesn't. An important way of getting the most out of teenagers is not to dispense theatrical wisdom from on high, but to share our wisdom democratically. The teacher must empower the student to want to learn. Depending on the skill sets and the motivation of the student and how ready they are to learn, the more they will get out of the process. It has been said before, but I am sure that I learn more from my students than they from me.

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