

1. Backwards Ascent by Sally Kinka
excerpt from full-length musical (up to 20 pages)

SYNOPSIS:

Backwards Ascent is a musical contained within two stories, in two very different time periods, which are inextricably intertwined because the re-incarnated souls of the main characters exist in both. It contains lively music and liberal use of puppetry.

Ellie, an awkward ninth-grader in a Midwestern town, in 1974 struggles with the premature death of her mother, and her complex relationship with her father, while coping with school bullying. Ellie's older incarnation, Ashilda, is a Celtic-pagan healer (or witch, if you will) in 1280 Scotland. Her doomed relationship with a young friar, Brother Cornelius, mirrors Ellie's puppy love with Brad, the cool, new transfer student.

The music of each time-period is reminiscent of the varied styles of the music from the 1970's, conjuring artists such as The Jackson Five, The Partridge Family, Pink Floyd, and Led Zeppelin.

Ultimately, the show fluctuates between time-periods as well as between comedy and drama, helped by the use of hand and rod and shadow puppets.

CHARACTERS:

- 1- **ELLIE:** awkward 14 year old- 1974
- 2- **ASHILDA:** Ellie's past incarnation, a pagan healer, 1280
- 3- **BRAD:** a 14 year old jock, 1974, **AND CORNELIUS:** Brad's past incarnation, a young monk, 1280
- 4- **JENNIFER:** Ellie's nemeses, a bubbly cheerleader of 14, 1974
- 5- **BILL:** Ellie's recently widowed father, 1974, **AND IAN:** Bill's past incarnation, Ashilda's brother, 1280
- 6- **RACHEL:** Ellie's best friend, another awkward 14 year old in 1974, **AND BRIANNAH:** a sickly child of around 10-12, 1280
- 7- **MOTHER:** Briannah's peasant mother, 1280, **AND GUIDE:** Ellie's deceased mother, as spirit guide
- 8- **CHEERLEADERS SUZY, & TINA** 1974, one is a human, the other a puppet- I can get you this puppet
- 9- **MINISTER:** minister of an Episcopal church, 1974

Because almost all the actors need to play both teen and adult, it is expected that all the actors be in their 20's.

SETTING: Various locations between 1974 and 1280, indicated by sparse use of elements and furniture, all scenic transitions are built-into the script and flow in an interweave.

2. Exclusive Showing by Phil Lewis

12 pages

synopsis: an aspiring actor finds unlikely success in the art world

CHARACTERS

VLADIM Man, late twenties, dressed in black

TABITHA Woman, early twenties, unemployed artist

DELPHINE Woman, mid-forties, wealthy art patron

SETTING

Time - Present day

Place - Any large U.S. city

SET

The stage is divided into two areas. Area one is TABITHA's apartment which contains an easy chair, a trash can and a cork board with many colorful rejection letters. Area two is DELPHINE's realm; it is unfurnished and represents an art gallery and/or apartment. It may be indicated by action or light.

3. Help by Mike Rogers

18 pages

synopsis: *Years after the Great Zombie Outbreak in 2018, the remaining semi-zombies are allowed to re-join the human community. This story is about one of those families still struggling to assimilate. The adult daughter is human and was conceived prior to the parents being infected during The Great Zombie Outbreak of 2018. She has grown into adulthood and is wanting to spread her wings.*

Cast of Characters

FATHER: 40s-50s, zombie father of the family

MOTHER: 40s-50s, zombie mother of the family

STELLA: 20s-30s, human, non-zombie daughter of the family in love with Charles

CHARLES: 20s-30s, human who wants to marry Stella

Setting

The living/dining room of a lower-to-middle working class zombie family.

Time

The Future.

4. MISPLACED by Brook L. North

12 pages

CAST:

Dr. Morton Hornwoggle PhD - A tenured professor of archeology at New Wesland University. He should be older, but not too old to go trekking through the jungles of South East Asia.

Rachel McEvans - Morton's long suffering graduate student. She is anxious to publish and get a tenured position of her own.

Ashton Fairfax - An executive, possibly of British extraction.

Morton should be male and Rachel female. ASHTON can be either sex, male pronouns are used for the author's chauvinistic convenience.

THE STORY:

Morton and Rachel arrive at the site of an ancient lost temple. Maybe.

SETTING:

A cliff top at the edge of a plateau in South East Asia.

5. Pair O' Pants Lost by Kenny Walsh

12 pages

synopsis: The ten-minute play is about a young groom in a hotel lobby who has lost his pants and bride but would like them both back.

Mark - Groom in his 20s or 30s who has a knack for saying the wrong thing

Larry - Mark's best man who shows up and tries to fix things

Claire - sympathetic hotel clerk who helps the guys

Setting

Hotel lobby

Time

Present

6. REMEMBERING CHECKPOINT "CHARLIE" A One Act Play in Three Scenes By Mike Bennett

8 pages

CAST OF CHARACTERS

RIDGE BILLINGTON Regional Security Officer for Eastern Europe, based at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna, Austria. A man in his early 40s, trim, muscular build, crew cut.

WAYNE ALDEN McDONALD Press Attache at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna. A man in his mid-40s, nice-looking, athletic build, beginning to gray at the temples; divorced with two adopted sons; outgoing, optimistic, good-natured.

HANS East Berlin (Soviet Sector) Border Control Policeman, a man in his late 50s, heavy set, mean-spirited, very short haircut, thick eyeglasses.

MICHAEL "SPIKE" McDONALD Nephew of diplomat Wayne McDonald; a man in late 20s, college-educated, Texas-born and raised, stylishly-cut, longer hair; high-school teacher in Texas; first time overseas.

DAVID ALDEN McDONALD Son of diplomat McDonald; a young man in his early teens, athletic/muscular build, short hair.

Scenes

Vienna, Austria: 1. Office of the Regional Security Officer within the U.S. Embassy, Vienna.

Berlin, West Germany 2. Border Crossing between West and East Berlin Sectors known as CheckPoint Charlie.

East Berlin Sector 3. Sidewalk in East Berlin Sector, near CheckPoint Charlie.

Time

November/December of 1984.

HISTORICAL NOTE: This time period is still five years before the "fall" of the Berlin Wall, near the end of the Cold War. Diplomat

McDonald had been previously stationed in the Soviet Union (1969-70) and in Soviet-controlled Czechoslovakia (1974-75). While the dialog is “fictional”, the facts of this border-crossing incident are not.

7. *Three Windows* by Marilyn Barner Anselmi

15 pages

Synopsis: Three women live next door to one another in a beach community. One is visiting, one is a long time resident and one is renting a “government duplex”. *Three Windows* provides a sort of “out of the blinds” glimpse into their lives, desperation and hope for connection.

The visitor (Friend), is staying in her childhood friend’s vacation home; the long time resident (Edith) clings to old standards of living; while the transient (Becca) flashes her nosy neighbors any chance she gets between bouts of crippling depression.

FRIEND: Middle aged woman

BECCA: Early 30-ish woman

EDITH: 50-70ish woman

CHAD: Early 30-40ish man

Setting: Some representation of three windows, a neighborhood near the beach.
Time is present.

8. *THE TRADITIONALISTS* A One Act Play by Carol Torian

22 pages

Synopsis: *Tenille and Nicholas Wallace have been married for 35 years. Theirs is a dysfunctional relationship, marked by Nicholas’ combustible temper and tendency toward violence.*

Cast of Characters

Tenille Wallace: A woman in her late 50s. A homemaker and mother to three adult children who was once an aspiring actress.

Nicholas Wallace: Tenille’s husband. A man in his early 60s who works as a portfolio manager at an investment firm.

Setting

Formal dining room of a suburban house.

Time

The present.

9. Yellow Brick Road Trip by Jack J. Berry

6 pages

Characters: DOROTHY (High-School Girl, very skeptical)
GLINDA, Good Witch of the North
Wicked Witch of the West (WWOW)
MURRAY (short munchkin, very attracted to Dorothy)

Scene: Dorothy has just exited her house & is now in the land of OZ. Toto is already standing near the dead wicked witch of the east, sniffing her shoes.

Props: Stuffed animal to represent Toto (Dorothy's dog), broom, red shoes attached to striped stockings.

10. Panacea by Jack J. Berry

4 pages (non-standard format)

Characters: PATIENT, female 18-30 years old
DOCTOR, male/female at least 25 years old
LAWYER, male at least 25 years old
VIEWER, male any age

Scene: VIEWER and dog are about to watch TV in a living room or den

Props: Empty picture frame to represent TV screen that can be moved forwards/backwards by actors, stuffed animal to represent "Scotty", VIEWER's dog.