

Breaking George

A Comedy Musical

Written by Jennifer Bryson Moorcroft

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SCENES FROM 'BREAKING GEORGE', THE MUSICAL, PERFORMED BY GEORGE RANDELL HIGH SCHOOL IN 2014 AND USED IN SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION FOR ASSITEJ AFRICAN YOUTH THEATRE AND DANCE FESTIVAL JUNE 2015.

PRESS RELEASE AND SYNOPSIS FOR BREAKING GEORGE – THE MUSICAL

BREAKING GEORGE – THE MUSICAL

It's his time in the lemon light.

The cast and crew of George Randell High School are proud to present a local-flavour, brewed-in-our-soil musical spectacular – *Breaking George*. Starring Baxolise Ndzele as George, Kerenza Moodley as Mia, Amanda Ndlwana as Jo and Brydon Torr as Albert, this musical comedy promises to shower its audience in lashings of laughter as well as heart-warming pathos. Follow the journey of our protagonist, George, an ambitious if occasionally misguided 14-year-old student from the rural Eastern Cape, who comes to an English-medium high school for the first time, hopeful of having his moment 'in the lemon light.' However, George discovers that multicultural high school is quite different from herding cattle and English can easily be broken with ridiculous results...

Meanwhile, the cheerleaders try to hook up with the rugby players, the nerds battle the gangsters for school supremacy but where does George fit in with his dreams of glory and his singing that resembles a constipated goat? And will rugby-captain Schalk (with the muscles of a lion and the mind of an amoeba) notice that George is intent on charming his posh Indian girlfriend's feet out from under her?

Breaking George is written and directed by Jennifer Bryson Moorcroft and is her fourth original musical comedy. This show features beautiful choral items and solos from our learners as well as funky choreography by Natalie Oberem. Breaking George is suitable for all ages and will run at George Randell High School from Wednesday to Friday, 06-08 August at 18:30pm. Tickets are priced at R25 for scholars and R40 for adults. Tickets can be bought from the George Randell High School office from 28 July.

This is a must-see for the East London local community and will especially appeal to fans of language humour and creative acapella music. We hope that through the magic of authentic home-grown theatre, audiences will be inspired by George to realize that no matter how humble your beginnings, your destiny can shine brighter than the stars.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

1. Mia

Nicky is the narrator. She is grade 10-ish and is introspective, intelligent and imaginative (quite posh/ with quite posh English). She fits into many groups but worries whether she actually belongs anywhere at all. A social chameleon with a lot of warmth...her flaw is that she is a bit of a people pleaser...which we know isn't really possible long-term.

2. George

George is a grade 8 from a rural background – he has just transferred to George Randell – a scholarship kid. His English is very poor leading to much humour and confusion. He is quite traditional/cultural in his values. He is ambitious, romantic and spontaneous.

3. Jo

Jo is a school bully and the head of the gangsters (she's a girl) – she picks on George and especially the nerds. She is violent, brooding and dominant. She has a secret passion for opera that no one must know about!

4. Albert

The (white) nerd is very academic and corrects other's errors. He has nerdy interests and habits and loves studying with his nerd herd friends. He often gets picked on by Jo and the gang before he decided to change his image and reputation!

5. Rei

Rei is mysterious, spiritual and a little 'crazy'. No one knows where she comes from or what she does but she is loving and occasionally has very good and wise advice (when she isn't off her rocker). SPOILER ALERT – She also has a significant secret no one knows about (and this secret explains why she is so unearthly)

6. Prof Snap

The mean and sarcastic English teacher always has an insult for learners who can't speak the Queen's English...

7. Schalk

The Afrikaans rugby player boyfriend of Mia when the story starts. He is a popular jock, very dumb, also with very poor English. He has failed a few times at school but is very confident and slightly mean.

8. Barbi

The popular 'cheerleader' type of girl who is very superficial and shallow. She is close friends with Mia when the story starts (because Mia is popular and dating Schalk) but their friendship is put under strain as the story continues.

9. Mia's Mom

Mia's mom is responsible, quite fair and strict. She has high standards for Mia and she is posh.

SCENE EXTRACT

SCENE 2 – MEETING GEORGE

(Curtain opens to reveal a classroom setting. Prof Snap is walking at the front, lecturing the students, who look quite scared. Nerds look happy.)

Professor Snap: In this class there will be no place for smiles rotting on your sorry, pathetic little faces. There will be no foolish pen-waving or silly incantations in this class. As such, I don't expect many of you to appreciate the subtle science and exact art that is English home language...however...for a select few *(looks at nerd)* ...who possess, the predisposition... I can teach you how to bewitch the mind and ensnare the senses with the magic of language. I can tell you how to bottle fame, brew glory, and even put a stopper in death. *(The nerds are in awe 'neat!')*
(Mia runs in...)

Mia: *(to Barbie)* Am I late...did anyone notice I wasn't here? *(they are talking to each other and not paying attention)*

Snap: Then perhaps there are some of you who have come to my class thinking you possess abilities so formidable that you seem confident enough to not pay attention! *(He slams her desk)* And you are?

Mia: M...m...m...Mia Cameron...

Snap: Mia Cameron...oh, our new celebrity...tell me...what is an antithesis?

Mia: ...erm... *(Nerd with hand up)*

Snap: And how would I write in iambic pentameter? *(Nerd puts up hand each time)*

Mia: ...I'm not really good at answering questions under pressure even when I know the answer...

Snap: And what would be the correct spelling of ANTIDISESTABLISHMENTARIANISM?

Mia: Ante...

Snap: Wrong. Wrong and wrong. Clearly your large ego has led to you sadly overestimating your feeble abilities. Pity.

(Mia sits down in her desk, shocked. Snap continues to talk in the background.)

Mia: Who is that?

Barbi: Welcome to Professor Snap. *(snaps fingers)*

Mia: Where did they find him? School of Hogwarts Witchcraft and Wizardry?

Barbi: That's from Vampire Diaries, right?

Mia: (sigs) Never mind.

(George comes storming into the class)

Barbi: Mia – look at the new kid...he looks so rural...I think you are off the hook, Mia. *(giggle)*

George: I have a massage for Professor Snap!

Snap: A massage? What makes you think I would let your filthy little hands touch me? *(Class laughs and George looks embarrassed.)*

George: No, I really do have a massage from Mrs Del Fava.

Snap: The only massages she will give you is a whipping of the buttocks.

George: The massage is that I have been transformed to George Randell *(whole class laughing and pointing)*

Snap: You mean, you were just transferred from the zoo?

George: No! My name is George. I come across the mountains from the village of Idutywa to scholar here by George Randeeel.

Barbi: Oo lala...Snap is going to eat him alive...

George: I say to my parents. I don't want to be herdboy anymore...I am going to school so one day I can be headboy at George Randell. I am very ambitionatious.

Snap: Could someone please translate whatever he is saying into English?

George: All holidays I learn so now I speak English very beautiful.

Snap: And who taught you to speak so 'properly'?

George: I was teached by President Zuma on big screen TV in Shebeen. I watched every day for ten hours and now I am even gooder than him. *(Class in hysterics and out of control)*

Snap: Silence! *(They all stay quiet)* You are making a mockery of the English language and this class!

Barbie: *(Playfully)* Stop breaking George!

George: No. I break nothing! Everything is still whole. I no come here to break George. I AM George and I am in George.

Snap: Write – one thousand times – I will not pollute the impeccable English tongue with vulgar and profane utterances.

George: OK, please just say that one more time!

Mia: It's not his fault! He is new here. You can't be mean like that. He wasn't doing it on purpose.

Snap: And your new girlfriend can write out one thousand times – I will stop being an annoying busybody and stay out of other people's business

(Both kids go sit at the front on the floor with pens and papers writing)

Albert: Oh Professor Snap – that was just supercilious!

Snap: And you are?

Albert: Albert Johnson Littlebottom the 17th

Snap: Well, Mr Littlebottom – let's look into a bit of complex paradoxes shall we?

Albert and nerds: Greeaaaaat! *(They start studying books in great earnest.)*

George: Nobody spoke like that on Zuma TV. What was the thing about the pecking bird?

Mia: Impeccable?

George: Yes. How do you spell it?

Mia *(she writes it for George and hands the paper to him)*: Here it is. I'm Mia by the way.

George: Mayeea...your name sounds like the runnings of many waterfalls. I'm George.

Mia. Yes, we know. Everybody knows! You shouted it from the rooftops

(Big grin from George.)

George: Only here one day and already I make a good expression?

Mia. Don't you mean impression? I hate the new teacher. He is so mean and vile. I wish we could kidnap him and feed him to orcs.

George: We no have orcs in Idutywa.

Mia: I kind of have an out-of-control imagination. We don't have orcs here either...but I wish we did! Can you imagine the look on his ugly yellow face when his classroom is invaded...?

George: The image of the nation?

Mia: Imagination is a happy place you can go to any time to escape from the torments of high school trauma and from annoying teachers and homework you don't want to do...

George: Oooh, sounds nice. Can I go with you? *(She nods and leads him by the hand into 'fantasy sequence')*

MUSIC ITEM #2 MISTY MOUNTAINS acapella arrangement (Chorus enters in gothic clothing/cloaks/black and carries away professor Snap.) THEN BLACKOUT