Ralph to the Rescue

written by

Marlene Dickinson Faith Based Student Musicals

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*All characters must be musical enough to sing the character driven songs. The charm and humor is in the honesty and commitment, not the vocal aesthetic.

RALPH(M) 3-8th Grade. Kind, vulnerable, not an athlete.

KATIE BETH(F) 3-8th Grade. Pageant girl, spoiled, oblivious.

LAURA(F) 3-8th Grade. Thoughtful, old soul, unassuming, confident.

At rise, RALPH is in PE class, awkwardly poised to catch the basketball, thrown from off stage.

TRACK #1 OVERTURE INTO RALPH'S ASPIRATION

Student throws ball from offstage on music cue.

Here Ralph, shoot it!

Ball smacks him.

He tumbles in slow motion.

As he sings, Ralph stands, scratching his head.

RALPH

(on music cue)

Bummer!

VERSE 1

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT I'D MISS THAT SHOT?
I SAW KATIE BETH WAS WATCHING,
I THOUGHT "GIVE IT ALL YOU GOT."
BUT NOW HERE I'M ON MY REAR.
TRY OH TRY OH NOT TO CRY,
AND DON'T ASK GOD, "OH WHY OH WHY!
NO ONE CAN DENY THAT I'M THE
SPORT DORK OF THE YEAR.

PRECHORUS

BUT THERE'S A SPORT I'D LOVE FOR HER TO SEE ME PLAY.
THE WORLD WILL SEE WHAT I AM BORN TO BE ONE DAY.

CHORUS

I WANNA BE A PROFESSIONAL BOWLER,
JUST LIKE THOSE GUYS ON TV.
IT'S SO MUCH FUN, NO ONE ASKS YOU TO RUN,
AND NEVER A SIT UP, THEY GUARANTEE.
I WANNA BE A PROFESSIONAL BOWLER,
BURGER IN HAND WHEN I PLAY.
FOR THE CLUMSY OR SHORT,
PICK THE SPORT WITH NO COURT.
A PROFESSIONAL BOWLER SOMEDAY.

VERSE 2

KATIE BETH WILL LEAD THE CROWD.
WHEN I STEP UP TO THAT ROUNDY THING,
THEY'LL CHANT MY NAME OUT LOUD,
"RALPH, RALPH YOU'RE OUR MAN!"
STRIKE A POSE AND FEEL THE AIR,
THE CAMERAS CHASE ME EVERYWHERE,

A PERFECT SCORE WITH POINTS TO SPARE. AND SHE'S MY BIGGEST FAN.

CHORUS

I WANNA BE A PROFESSIONAL BOWLER,
JUST LIKE THOSE GUYS ON TV.
IT'S SO MUCH FUN, NO ONE ASKS YOU TO RUN,
AND NEVER A SIT UP, THEY GUARANTEE.
I WANNA BE A PROFESSIONAL BOWLER,
TACO IN HAND WHEN I PLAY.
FOR THE CLUMSY OR SHORT,
PICK THE SPORT WITH NO COURT.
A PROFESSIONAL BOWLER SOMEDAY.
A PROFESSIONAL BOWLER SOMEDAY!

KATIE BETH enters, addressing RALPH and STUDENTS (real, or imagined.)

KATIE BETH

Attention everyone!! Attention!

RALPH

(gasps nervously)

It's Katie Beth! Make way.

(gaining confidence and volume)

Make way, everyone! Make way!

KATIE BETH

(to Ralph)

Could you move? I need to stand there.

Ralph looks around to see that the entire stage is available for Katie Beth. He bows back, submissively.

KATIE BETH

Atten...good, you're all quiet. As you're probably aware:

TRACK #2 KATIE BETH'S BIRTHDAY SONG

KATIE BETH (CONT'D)

PART 1

MY BIRTHDAY PARTY IS COMING SOON - RIGHT WHEN SCHOOL LETS OUT ON THE 15TH OF JUNE.

AND FORTUNATELY, MY PARENTS AGREE MY PARTY SHOULD BE ON OUR PROPERTY.

PROPORTIONALLY, WE PERSONALLY OWN HALF OF THIS COUNTY SO IT'S UP TO ME TO DECIDE WHERE MY PARTY WILL BE.

PART 2

WILL IT BE OUR PALMS RESORT?

(Polling crowd)

Show of hands?

OR SHOULD I CHOOSE OUR HELIPORT?

All in favor?

OUR HORSEPARK WOULD BE FUN FOR SPORT

Watch you're step.

OUR RACE TRACK IS A LAST RESORT.

Dirt alert.

OF COURSE MY LIMO WILL TRANSPORT.

(eyeing the crowd)

Well...most of you...

MY CHAUFFEUR, JAMES, IS OUR ESCORT.

A chauffeur is a driver.

AND JAQUES WILL JOIN US FOR SUPPORT.

Who's Jaques?

HE'S THE BUTLER FOR MY BUTLER'S DOG I'M HAPPY TO REPORT.

OK, now that I've let you **all** express your wishes...**I** will decide. I think I'll choose our Celebrities Only Golf and Athletic Resort. We'll join them on the courts for a **basketball** tournament. I just love to see powerful people **sweat!**

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TRACK #3 TREMOLO FOR RALPH'S TERRIFIED TAKE

RALPH

WHAT?!? All of those fancy places, and we're going to a gym? For BASKETBALL?!? I'm doomed!!

KATIE BETH

Handing invitation to Ralph.

Here ya go. This lame-o school made me invite the whole class.

Ralph's eyes follow longingly as Katie Beth exits, clutching invitation to his heart.

RALPH

She spoke to me! She opened her mouth and said words to me personally.

As Laura enters, she throws basketball to Ralph. It smacks him, breaking the spell.

LAURA.

Ralph! I said catch!

RALPH

Oh Laura, you know I can't catch, even if I was conscious. A basketball party... what am I gonna do?

LAURA

(hesitantly)

Maybe I can help?

RALPH

You? What can you do?

LAURA

Well, I'm not great at basketball, but I'm pretty sure I'm better than y...I mean...maybe I can help...if you want me to.

Ralph is still staring off at Katie Beth's exit.

RALPH

(unenthused)

Sure. I guess.

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TRACK #4: LAURA'S BASKETBALL SONG

Use of basketball in tempo throughout.

LAURA

VERSE 1

FIRST LET'S PRACTICE EVERYDAY. CAN'T AFFORD TO BE AWAY. THIS IS HOW YOU'LL LEARN TO PLAY.

Hey! Eyes this way!

OK, OK.

RALPH

LAURA

VERSE 2

START WITH DRIBBLING, HERE WE GO. BOUNCE IT STEADY, KEEP IT SLOW. WITH YOUR SKILL YOUR SPEED WILL GROW.

She's not that nice, you know.

RALPH

(defensively)

Whoa! Laura!

LAURA

VERSE 3

NEXT FOR PASSING, BEAR IN MIND:

KEEP YOUR EYES AND FEET ALIGNED. HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I FIND...

Sometimes...she's not kind.

RALPH

Are you blind?

LAURA

VERSE 4

NOW FOR WHEN YOU CATCH THE BALL, PLANT YOUR FEET SO YOU DON'T FALL. IF YOU LIKE HER, THAT'S YOUR CALL.

She's not all that - that's all.

RALPH

You mean...she's like a know-it-all?

LAURA

VERSE 5

KNOW IT ALL, WELL YOU MIGHT SAY. HATE TO BLOW YOUR DREAMS AWAY. I SEE THINGS A DIFFERENT WAY...

She's the worst, OK!

RAI PH

Laura!!! I can't pelieve what I just heard you say.

LAURA

I'm sorry Ralph, but it's true. Everybody knows it.

RALPH

(lightbulb)

Everybody but me, hùh?

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Yes, everybody but you.

RALPH

Wow! I never saw it that way.

LAURA

I'm sorry to be the one to tell you...to hurt you like that. I don't eve want to hurt you, Ralph.

RALPH

You care about not hurting me, Laura?

LAURA

Of course.

RALPH

(increasingly beaming)
That's the nicest thing anyone has ever said to me...except when Mrs. Rosencrantz said I was the best bathroom monitor in the whole first grade.

I don't think you really like katie Beth, Ralph...I think you just like to be liked. Like all of us do. And when Katie Beth likes someone, everybody else has to like them too. Cause we're not very good at thinking for ourselves.

(confident)

But I like to think of myself as an **independent woman**. And I like you, Ralph. I mean, just in a friend way.

ou do!?!

RALPH

Laura nods.

Really!?!

Bigger nod.

I like you too, Laura. Just in a friend way. Thank you for helping me. And for telling me the truth.

LAURA

That's what friends do.

RALPH

Thanks for being a friend, Laura. Do you wanna hang out together at the basketball party?

Nod and smile.

Let's stick together, OK?

LAURA

Yes! Let's stick together. I think loyal friends can make hard things easier if they go through it together.

ΡΔΙ ΡΙ

I think you're right. I'm gonna be a loyal friend, Laura.

Now and forever?

LAURA

RALPH

Now and forever

RALPH AND LAURA

We stick together!

TRACK #5: WE STICK TOGETHER

They put up their hands for a pact.

VERSE 1 RALPH

YOU GRAB YOUR LUNCH TRAY AND THERE YOU STAND,

AND YOU SCAN EACH FACE FOR A PLACE TO LAND. I'LL BE WAVING MY HAND, AND IF YOU DON'T SEE, I'LL COME RUNNIN'.

LAURA

YOU HOPE THE CHOOSING IS OVER QUICK.
WHEN THEY PICK THE TEAMS, YOU'RE THE LAST ONE PICKED.
NOW EVERYONE CAN PREDICT
I'M GONNA PICK YOU.

PRECHORUS - BOTH

WHEN I AM HERE, LET'S MAKE IT CLEAR: THERE'S NEVER EVER ANYTHING THAT YOU SHOULD FEAR. WHEN TROUBLE'S NEAR, I'LL BRING YOU CHEER. AND WHEN YOU NEED I'LL KICK YOU IN THE REAR.

CHORUS - RALPH

AND WHEN I'M ELECTED PRESIDENT I'LL SHARE THAT PRESENT WITH YOU. WE STICK TOGETHER

BOTH

LIKE TINY HANDS AND ELMER'S GLUE.

VERSE 2 - RALPH

WHEN YOU'RE SICK AND YOU'RE HOME IN BED WITH A RUNNY NOSE AND AN ACHY HEAD, I'LL BE SURE YOU'RE NOT DEAD. I'LL SHOW YOU I CARE WITH CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM.

LAURA

YOU'RE AT YOUR LOCKER TO GRAB A PEN, THEN A BULLY KID TRIES TO SHOVE YOU IN. BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN WHEN I AM WITH YOU.

PRECHORUS - BOTH

WHEN I AM HERE, LET'S MAKE IT CLEAR: THERE'S NEVER EVER ANYTHING THAT YOU SHOULD FEAR. WHEN TROUBLE'S NEAR, I'LL BRING YOU CHEER. AND WHEN YOU NEED I'LL KICK YOU IN THE REAR.

CHORUS - RALPH

AND WHEN I ACCEPT MY OSCAR
THEY CAN SLICE THAT SUCKER IN TWO.
WE STICK TOGETHER

BOTH

TIKE TINY HANDS AND ELMER'S GLUE.

PRECHORUS - BOTH

WHEN I AM HERE, LET'S MAKE IT CLEAR: THERE'S NEVER EVER ANYTHING THAT YOU SHOULD FEAR. WHEN TROUBLE'S NEAR, I'LL BRING YOU CHEER. AND WHEN YOU NEED I'LL KICK YOU IN THE REAR. AND WHEN I WIN THE LOTTERY I'LL SHARE MY FORTUNE WITH YOU. WE STICK TOGETHER

LAURA (CONT'D)

LIKE SHAKESPEARE AND HIS "MUCH ADO."

RALPH

LIKE MEDICATION AND THE FLU.

LAURA

LIKE HARVARD AND A HIGH IQ.

RALPH

LIKE DOGGIE DOO STICKS ON A SHOE.

BOTH

LIKE TINY HANDS AND ELMER'S GLUE.

You will want to change this Celebrity Resort booking to reflect current pop culture. Contact us if you need help.

KATIE BETH

Attention! Attention everyone! Bad news! We won't be able to have my party at our Celebrities Only Golf and Athletic Resort. My Mother just texted **me** to say that Johnny Depp just texted **her** to confirm their reservation there on my birthday, June 15. It's for Johnny and Amber's court appeal publicity party! Of course there's room for **me**, but the rest of you will have to go to one our **lesser** known properties...

(under her breath)

our bowling alley.

Now don't worry about not being with **me**. You'll all get to see me when I stop by in our Lamborghini to pick up all my presents. Happy bowling everybody!

SOUND CUE #6 TREMOLO FOR LAURA'S TERRIFIED TAKE

LAURA

BOWING!? I've never been bowling in my life!

RALPH

(his ship has come in)
Don't worry Laura, I'll show you how. We'll stick together.

SOUND CUE #7 FINALE REPRISE "RALPH'S ASPIRATION"

Ralph mimes teaching Laura bowling moves.

RALPH (CONT'D)
FOR THE CLUMSY OR SHORT,
PICK THE SPORT WITH NO COURT, A PROFESSIONAL BOWLER SOMEDAY. A PROFESSIONAL BOWLER SOMEDAY.

END

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