

# BLACK MARKET ARTS

By David J. LeMaster

Copyright © 2007 by David J. LeMaster, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 1-60003-235-4

**CAUTION:** Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

**RIGHTS RESERVED:** All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

**PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS:** All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (*Professional.*) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

**AUTHOR CREDIT:** All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(S.) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(S.) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(S.).

**PUBLISHER CREDIT:** Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice:

*Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers, LLC*

**COPYING:** Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

**BLACK MARKET ARTS**

**By David J. LeMaster**

**SYNOPSIS:** Do you like art films? Gourmet coffee? High-cholesterol foods? Oh, that's gonna cost you! In this insane, comedy, you've got to buy all those things on the black market. But watch out—agents are everywhere, waiting to set up a black market arts sting. And beware—everything is not as it seems.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(2 EITHER)*

1 (m/f)

2 (m/f)

Perusal Only  
Do Not Copy

**AT RISE:**

- 1: Excuse me?  
2: Yes?  
1: Is this where I go to purchase movie tickets?  
2: Shhhhh! (*Looks around.*)  
1: What?  
2: Whisper, please.  
1: Okay.  
2: Shhh!  
1: (*Whisper.*) Okay. (*Pause.*) Why are we whispering?  
2: I don't want anyone to hear. There's surveillance cameras, you know. (*Gets closes to 1.*) Which tickets did you want?  
1: Well, you know, I like those artsy, independent—  
2: (*Frantic.*) Shhhhh! (*Looks around, whispers.*) Are you crazy?  
1: Well, I—  
2: If people hear you like independent films, they'll think you're game for something else. Literary books, for instance. Gourmet coffee.  
1: As a matter of fact, I love gourmet—  
2: Would you be quiet? (*Looks around.*) Now, look. I've got tickets here to independent films. But it's gonna cost you.  
1: Do you have anything with that guy—  
2: Yes, yes, I have tickets to everything. Adaptations of Russian novels. New twists on Shakespeare. There's even a new movie of War and Peace shot on a \$300 budget in someone's back yard.  
1: Oh, yes. I'll take one of those—  
2: Not so fast. How do I know you're not a secret agent trying to find black market movie dealers like me?  
1: Oh, no. Not me—  
2: They send people like you. Weasely little guys (*Girls.*) with glasses and bad haircuts.  
1: What's wrong with my haircut?  
2: It looks like an agent's haircut, that's what.  
1: I happened to get this haircut at the black market haircut shop.  
2: Is that right?  
1: And these clothes at the black market clothing store.  
2: Oh, you're just a black market kind of guy.  
1: That's right. And now I need black market movie tickets.

- 2: Not so fast. I've gotta test you.
- 1: How?
- 2: What's your favorite movie?
- 1: Pulp Fiction.
- 2: Least favorite movie?
- 1: Anything with Jennifer Lopez.
- 2: What do you think of the Cannes Film Festival?
- 1: I'm going there to market my one-man version of Henry V.
- 2: What do you think of film directors?
- 1: They should have a vision.
- 2: Know what they're trying to say and use the film to say it?
- 1: That's right. They should let the actors be their special tools.
- 2: And Hollywood blockbusters?
- 1: For morons.
- 2: Imbeciles.
- 1: John Q. Public... (*Suddenly changes personalities.*) All right, pal. You're coming with me.
- 2: What?
- 1: That's right. This is a sting.
- 2: Oh, I've been set up!
- 1: Solicitation of art on the black market. Ooh, that's gonna cost ya.
- 2: Please. I've got children at home.
- 1: (*Cuffing.*) You've got a right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you.
- 2: Let's cut a deal.
- 1: You trying to bribe a cop?
- 2: Not bribe, really. Just an explanation. A compromise.
- 1: You don't compromise with the law.
- 2: Really? Not even when you have high fat and cholesterol Granny Johnson's Chocolate Delight Cookies?
- 1: (*Taken aback.*) You mean, *real* Granny Johnson's?
- 2: That's right.
- 1: Not the icky kind they sell in the store that's low fat and low cholesterol, but the kind with real fat grams?
- 2: Rich milk chocolate! And little bits of caramel and nougat?
- 1: You can get me one?
- 2: I can get you a whole case.
- 1: A whole—

- 2: Shhhhh!
- 1: You've got a case?
- 2: And it's all yours.
- 1: I really shouldn't—
- 2: Tasty chocolate.
- 1: But it's so bad for you.
- 2: Nobody has to know.
- 1: Well. . . Okay. I'll let you go this one time.
- 2: Really?
- 1: *(Unfastens cuffs.)* But no funny stuff.
- 2: Of course not.
- 1: And if word of this gets out—
- 2: My lips are sealed.
- 1: Okay. *(2 is free.)* Now.
- 2: Now?
- 1: Where's my case of cookies?
- 2: Right here. *(Reaches into pocket for badge.)* You're under arrest.
- 1: What?
- 2: We've been watching you for a long time.
- 1: But I'm a cop.
- 2: That's right. And I'm a cop.

***Thank you for reading this free excerpt from BLACK MARKET ARTS by David J. LeMaster. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:***

**Brooklyn Publishers, LLC  
P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406  
Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011  
www.brookpub.com**