

THE CAUSE

By Mary Grisolano

Copyright © 2006 by Mary Grisolano, All rights reserved.
ISBN: 1-60003-185-4

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.

THE CAUSE

by
Mary Grisolano

CHARACTERS

INSTRUCTOR	Militant teacher.
EMMA	Young teenager.
KATIE	Young teenager.
NIKKI	Young teenager.

PROP LIST

A chain
A blank sign
3 cell phones
Whistle
Clip board
Pepper spray

COSTUMES

3 Matching "Protest Camp" shirts (optional)

The Cause was first produced in Brooklyn, NY as part of the Gallery Players' summer Black Box Series in June 2002.

AT RISE: *The stage is bare except for a fence, to which EMMA is "chained." NIKKI and KATIE march in circles picketing. They are chanting, "Down with the man", "Remember the Cause" or other 'traditional' protest lines. After a moment, EMMA's cell phone rings.*

The Cause - Page 3

EMMA: Hello? Hi Kristen . . . not really, we're kind of in the middle of protesting, but it's OK.

KATIE: **(as SHE protests by)** Is that Kristen?

EMMA: Yeah.

KATIE: Tell her I said "hi".

EMMA: Katie says, "hi". **(to KATIE)** Kristen says "hi". **(back to the cell phone)** So, I gotta go. Can I call you later? OK. Bye.

(Still "chained" to the fence, EMMA goes back to protesting and shouting with the others. After a while, INSTRUCTOR comes in. INSTRUCTOR observes the scene while walking in between the protestors. NIKKI and KATIE are marching around and yelling violently. After a few moments of observation, INSTRUCTOR blows her whistle.)

INSTRUCTOR: Military voice Troupe 553! You're shaping up nicely. We're going to make decent protestors out of you yet!

NIKKI: And look! I even got a splinter on my middle finger from holding the sign.

INSTRUCTOR: Yes! Good! That's what protesting is all about. It's all about PAIN and STRUGGLE and TAKING DOWN the system.

(The group just looks at her, but NIKKI gives a little "yeah".)

INSTRUCTOR: **(to NIKKI)** Yeah! **(to group)** All right. What I saw was good, but I think you can do better. I want more anger, more determination, more outrage! REMEMBER THE CAUSE! . . . Now you all did well in the classroom yesterday, I expect to see the same dedication from you on the field today.

(Pause. EMMA, who was not really chained, gets up and goes over to the group.)

EMMA: Yeah OK, see that's the thing. What is "The Cause"? I mean, like, what are we protesting?

INSTRUCTOR: Your parents sent you here to learn how to protest and that's what you're gonna do.

KATIE: My mom said she wants me to follow in her footsteps . . . protest the injustices in the world during college and then take over her law firm.

INSTRUCTOR: That's good, Katie. As a lawyer you can fight any number of injustices, oppressions, repressions and digressions.

KATIE: I don't think I'm gonna be that kind of a lawyer.

INSTRUCTOR: What kind of a lawyer are you going to be?

The Cause - Page 4

NIKKI: The stinkin' rich kind.

EMMA: Uh, I didn't come here to talk about Katie being a lawyer!

INSTRUCTR: No you didn't. Moving on! Nikki, what do we believe?

NIKKI: What do you mean?

INSTRUCTOR: "The Protest Handbook," Nikki . . . section one, premise one, what do we believe?

NIKKI: Um . . . as long as . . . uh . . . as long as there's inequality and the repressive government keeping the little people down and, like, people who are less fortunate, then there'll always be something to protest.

INSTRUCTOR: And what do we protest? **(Pause.)** Come on, ladies! Section two of the handbook, "Ideas for Anger and Action" . . . what are some things we can protest?

NIKKI: Third world countries and stuff?

INSTRUCTOR: Good . . .

EMMA: OK. But, like, am, like, I supposed to go to a third world country with my picket sign yelling "Remember the Cause?"

INSTRUCTOR: We went over this yesterday. It's about preparation. You are the protestors of the future.

(Moment of profound silence.)

KATIE: Uh huh. I think what Emma's trying to say is, what are we protesting for?

INSTRUCTOR: The CAUSE, Katie. What you believe in. The truth that doesn't exist now but is so obvious you have nothing to do but SHOUT it until people hear you. The truth that leaves you only two options, to either win it, or die fighting for it!

KATIE: Right. See, I don't have that, do you?

INSTRUCTOR: My cause is any injustice in the world. My fight is a fight for humanity. Training youths to withstand oppression and SPEAK OUT!

NIKKI: You sound like a superhero.

EMMA: I thought we were supposed to find that here.

NIKKI: Me, too!

INSTRUCTOR: Moving on! Emma, what do you do when the cops try to arrest you by force?

***Thank you for reading this free excerpt from THE CAUSE by Mary Grisolano.
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**

Do Not Copy