

THE DUET SHOW

By David J. LeMaster

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Dedicated to the memory of my mother, Jo Mosolete Fowlkes, 1937-2005.

AT RISE: Bare stage. Two Interp students (either male or female) stand side to side. They address the audience as themselves.

JAYME: Ladies and gentlemen. We'd like to thank you for coming to tonight's workshop on how to perform a duet scene for forensics competition.

PAT: My partner and I placed first at the Tippicanoe and Tyler, Too High School Tournament last year.

JAYME: And proceeded on to preliminary rounds at District.

PAT: Regional.

JAYME: State.

PAT: And we even watched the National.

JAYME: And International Tournaments.

PAT: We'll be signing autographs after tonight's performance.

JAYME: We also acknowledge that many of you are competitors in this room.

PAT: And have enjoyed whipping each of you in competition like redheaded stepchildren.

JAYME: But since we graduated in May—

PAT: And since we are no longer eligible for tournaments—

JAYME: We have come here tonight to teach each of you the secrets to being outstanding Interpers.

PAT: We'll give you the in's and out's of a winning duet acting scene. Follow our tips and you're guaranteed to get at least a six in a competition round.

JAYME: Before we get started, we have a list of your questions and would like to respond to them.

PAT: **(takes paper and reads)** Question one, from West Coast Shores of the Ocean the Rest of You Losers Don't Get to See High School in California. "When selecting a good script, what should you look for?" Oh, that's a very good question.

JAYME: Yes, it is.

PAT: Well. Let's see. I guess you look for sex first, right?

JAYME: Oh, absolutely.

PAT: I mean, if your partner's of the opposite sex, you want a chance to kiss him or her, don't you?

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JAYME: Last year my coach put me with Marci Braddox, the hottest girl on the team—so I asked to do “Kiss Me Kate.”

PAT: Bingo.

JAYME: We didn’t win anything that year—but one time, on stage, when I said “Kiss me, Kate—” I French-kissed her. (**Note: If JAYME is played by a girl, you may adjust the names and sexes appropriately.**)

PAT: Dude. Marci Braddox was totally Jeff Perkins’ girlfriend.

JAYME: Yeah.

PAT: You French-kissed her?

JAYME: Yeah!

PAT: Man. Jeff was a football player. He’d pound you into orange pulp.

JAYME: Yeah, but he’s not gonna find out, ‘cuz I never told anybody.

PAT: Dude, you just told all of them. (**indicates audience**)

JAYME: Oh, yeah. (**pause**) I was just kidding! It was just a peck on the lips. You know. (**demonstrates to air**) That. Well, hardly even that, even. It was more like a peck on the cheek. She’d turn her head just as I went in.

PAT: Anyway. Moving on, if you’ve got someone of the same sex as a partner, you want to remove the sex thing altogether.

JAYME: Oh, absolutely.

PAT: I mean—you don’t want to offend your judge if he or she is homophobic.

JAYME: Wait a minute. What if your judge is gay and you have a straight kiss.

PAT: Gee, I hadn’t thought of that.

JAYME: Maybe that’s why we got the straight six’s with “Kiss Me Kate.”

PAT: No. Your “Kiss Me Kate” just plain sucked.

JAYME: Oh.

PAT: Question number two. From Our Lady of the Lake of Perpetual Sorrow in Monatana. “How wise is it to choose a script with religious overtones?” That’s another very good question.

JAYME: Oh, absolutely.

PAT: And my advice for that is, don’t pick religious scripts.

JAYME: Right. No way.

PAT: You might offend the judge.

JAYME: I mean, the judge could be another religion completely. Or something weird and all together crazy.

PAT: Yeah. Like that church across the street.

JAYME: (pause) I belong to that church across the street.

PAT: You do?

JAYME: Yes.

PAT: Weird. We’ll talk later. Anyway, you don’t want to make mention of God, Jesus, Buddha, Allah—

JAYME: What's wrong with the church across the street?

PAT: Later. Allah, Brahma, Shiva, Vishnu, Gnash, Anjaneya, Saraswathi—

JAYME: They get the point.

PAT: Anyway. Other things to avoid include any kind of political references.

JAYME: Yeah. And speaking of that, if I have to put up another day with Senator—

PAT: Shhh!

JAYME: Oh. Sorry.

PAT: Political references, and, of course, curse words.

JAYME: Oh, absolutely. No curse words.

PAT: Not even something that sounds like a curse word.

JAYME: It could offend.

PAT: So, in addition to the usual suspects, make sure your scene doesn't include the following list.

JAYME: Lingerie. Vomit. Diarrhea. Cleveland.

PAT: Right. Oh, that one's very, very bad.

JAYME: Boing.

PAT: Yes. Negative connotations there, too.

JAYME: Studmuffin.

PAT: Yes. A word that easily offends an audience.

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