

MY BROTHER

By Mike Willis

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Cast of Characters

Bobby: A fourteen year old boy with the mind of a four year old. BOBBY is pleasant and sees only the good in people. He often talks to himself. BOBBY idolizes his older brother, JIMMY.

Jimmy: A seventeen year old high school student. JIMMY is BOBBY'S older brother. JIMMY often feels burdened and embarrassed when with BOBBY.

Rick: An eighteen year old street punk. RICK is a thug who enjoys bullying those weaker than himself. HE is street-smart and survives by preying on others.

Toad: RICK'S best friend and a follower. TOAD is a street punk and often serves as RICK'S muscleman.

Scene

A bus stop in the city.

Time

The present.

Director's Notes

My Brother, is very flexible and easily staged for usage in high school play contests, or in the classroom. While the casting is written for four male characters, it would be possible to adapt the play for four female characters. This would require changing the title to *My Sister*, and also different character names and some dialogue changes.

History

My Brother, was first presented as a staged reading by The Academy Acting Co., of Sinsinawa, WI., in December of 2006 and then as a forensic's play-acting selection at Platteville High School, Platteville, WI.

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SETTING: We are at a bus stop in a large city. The stage is bare except for two benches, one placed SL and one opposite SR. There is a pole with a bus stop sign on it up CS.

AT RISE: *It is early morning and the sound of traffic can be heard in the background. BOBBY enters from SR carrying some children's books. BOBBY is fourteen years old, but has the mind of a four year old. He is sloppily dressed and one of his sneakers is untied. BOBBY crosses to the SL bench, sits watching the traffic and begins talking to himself.*

BOBBY: *(Excited, rocking back and forth)* Goin' ta school today. First day school today, ya...don't be late, Bobby. No... no, don't be late. Gotta take da bus, gots ta take da bus.

(BOBBY rises and looks around anxiously.)

BOBBY: *(con't)* Where's da bus? Where's da bus? Don't wanna be late, Bobby... not be late.

(BOBBY sees his books on the bench and hurries back to the bench and sits holding his books.)

BOBBY: *(con't)* My books... gots ta have my books for school. Take books ta school, Bobby... needs books.

(BOBBY rocks back and forth on the bench.)

BOBBY: Oh no, gonna be late... can't be late. Da bus... needs da bus. Where's da bus? Needs da bus. Oh no...

(JIMMY enters and sees BOBBY)

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JIMMY: Bobby! (*Crosses to BOBBY*) What are you doing? You can't be here, Bobby. You've got to go home.

BOBBY: Gots ta go ta school. (*Holding up books*) See Jimmy... school books, Bobby's gots school books... go to school.

JIMMY: Ya can't go to school, Bobby. You've got to go back home.

(*BOBBY sits back down*)

BOBBY: After school.

JIMMY: What?

BOBBY: After school... go home... on da bus.

JIMMY: No Bobby, you've got to go home now. Mom will be worried about you.

BOBBY: No! Bobby go ta school. Jimmy goes ta school. Bobby gots ta go to school. First day of school today. Waitin' for da bus. Where da bus, Jimmy?

JIMMY: The bus doesn't get here for another fifteen minutes.

(*JIMMY sits next to BOBBY*)

JIMMY: (*con't*) Now, listen to me Bobby... listen close, ya hear. You can't go to school. I'm sorry, but you can't. You're going to have to go back home.

BOBBY: Jimmy goes ta school.

JIMMY: I know, but *you* can't.

BOBBY: (*Anxious and angry*) Not, fair! Not fair, Jimmy go ta school and Bobby not go... ta school. Where's da bus? Gots ta ride da bus.

JIMMY: I know it's not fair, but I can't help that, Bobby. I've got to get you home. You've got to get home, Bobby, Mom's going to be worried sick.

BOBBY: Mom's sick?

JIMMY: She's going to be if we don't get you home soon.

(*JIMMY takes BOBBY by the arm and tries to get him to move from the bench.*)

JIMMY: (*con't*) C'mon, I'll take you home.

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BOBBY: (*refuses to budge*) No! Bobby go ta school. Bobby go ta school with Jimmy! (*Grabs books*) Gots books, Jimmy... gots school books.

(*BOBBY holds up his books for JIMMY to see. They are children's books, Cat In The Hat and Curious George.*)

JIMMY: Those aren't school books, Bobby.

BOBBY: Bobby's school books. Where's da bus, Jimmy? Where's da bus?

JIMMY: It will be here, Bobby, but you are *not* getting on it. (*Angry*) You *can't* go to school!

BOBBY: (*On the verge of tears*) Taday's da first day. Bobby, go ta school... gots ta go ta school.

(*JIMMY sits on the bench next to BOBBY and puts his arm around BOBBY'S shoulders. RICK and TOAD enter SR and see JIMMY and BOBBY.*)

JIMMY: Bobby? Now listen to me, you have...

RICK: Look at that, Toad, isn't that sweet?

TOAD: Yeah, real cozy... how come you never hug me like that?

RICK: I guess you're just not my type.

TOAD: Lucky me.

(*JIMMY takes his arm from around BOBBY and stands.*)

RICK: Hey Jimmy, who's your girlfriend?

JIMMY: No one.

RICK: No one? You two seemed kind of chummy for him being no one.

(*TOAD crosses behind BOBBY*)

JIMMY: He's just some kid waitin' for the bus.

TOAD: He is kinda cute.

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RICK: You put your arm around every kid waitin' for the bus? What is that?

JIMMY: He was upset.

RICK: Upset? *(Crosses to BOBBY)* Is that so? Hey kid, what were you upset about?

JIMMY: Leave him alone.

RICK: Toad, why don't you entertain Jimmy while I talk to his girlfriend here.

(RICK sits on the bench next to BOBBY while TOAD pushes JIMMY towards the bench SR)

TOAD: Love to.

RICK: What's your name, kid?

BOBBY: Bobby.

RICK: *(Pointing to JIMMY)* This guy bothering you?

BOBBY: Na... no.

RICK: So... what's going on here?

JIMMY: Leave him alone!

(JIMMY tries to get around TOAD, but is pushed back onto the SR bench. TOAD runs behind the bench and gets a headlock on JIMMY, pinning him to the bench.)

TOAD: Not so fast, loverboy.

BOBBY: Waitin' for da bus. Where's da bus? Gots ta go ta school?

RICK: Ya hear that, Toad? The kid here, young Einstein, has *(mimicking)* "gots ta go ta school."

TOAD: Sounds like a college boy?

RICK: That right? You a college boy kid?

JIMMY: Leave him alone!

(JIMMY tries to get free but TOAD is able to keep him pinned against the bench.)

BOBBY: Jimmy's school.

RICK: *(Calling)* No kidding? The kid here go to your school, Jimmy?

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TOAD: Maybe the two of them are sorority sisters?

(TOAD and RICK laugh)

JIMMY: Why don't you guys just go and leave us alone?

RICK: In a minute... I just want to talk to your girlfriend here.

JIMMY: *(Struggling)* He's not my....

(JIMMY is again held back by TOAD. RICK picks up BOBBY's books and BOBBY fights to get them back.)

RICK: Easy, kid. Let's see, what do we have here?

BOBBY: No! Bobby's books... Bobby's school books!

JIMMY: Hey! Leave his things alone!

RICK: Calm down. I just want to see what you schoolboys are reading these days? *(Looking at the books)* *Cat In The Hat...* pretty serious reading material. And look Toad, *Curious George*, your favorite. *(To BOBBY)* Toad is a big *Curious George* fan.

BOBBY: Not a toad?

RICK: What?

(BOBBY manages to grab the books from RICK.)

BOBBY: Not a toad... George is a monkey.

RICK: Got a real sharp date here, Jimmy. What's the matter, hard up these days? Have to go and raid the Special Ed class?

JIMMY: Why don't you two just get out of here and leave us alone?

TOAD: Don't think Jimmy appreciates our company, Rick.

RICK: Makes you feel kind of unwanted, don't ya think? Ol' Jimmy here wants us to leave... rather spend his time sittin' here with his arm around his retard friend.

JIMMY: He's not my fri...

BOBBY: Not a retard. Bobby slow... Momma says, Bobby slow... *(rises anxiously)* Where's da bus? Oh, no... gots ta ride da bus... where's da bus? Bobby gots ta go... oh no... oh...

JIMMY: Bobby, sit down!

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(BOBBY sits back down and rocks back and forth, hugging his books)

BOBBY: Gots ta go... oh... no Bobby... Bobby slow... that's all...

RICK: *(To BOBBY)* Chill, kid.

(BOBBY continues rocking back and forth as RICK crosses to TOAD and JIMMY.)

BOBBY: Where's da bus? Gots ta go... oh, no... gots ta go Bobby...

RICK: Kid's got quite a think tank on him, Jimmy... probably run the country someday.

(JIMMY struggles to get off the bench, but is kept pinned down by TOAD.)

JIMMY: Just leave him alone.

RICK: What's all the fuss about some retard, Jimmy?

TOAD: Maybe the kid's got some money on him?

RICK: That it Jimmy? Getting close to the retard so as to take his money?

BOBBY: Bobby slow... Bobby slow...

TOAD: Maybe, we should check the kid out to see what he's holdin'.

RICK: You do it, I'll keep tabs on our friend Jimmy here.

(RICK replaces TOAD and keeps JIMMY pinned to the park bench as TOAD crosses to BOBBY, who is still clutching his books and rocking back and forth on the other bench.)

TOAD: Hey, schoolboy, you holdin'?

BOBBY: *(Clutching his books)* Bobby's books... for school... got ta go ta school....

TOAD: I don't care about your books, ya got any money on you?

RICK: Check his pockets.

JIMMY: *(Struggling)* I told you, leave him alone!

RICK: Check the kid's pockets, Toad.

(TOAD tries to get his hand in BOBBY's pockets as BOBBY resists, rocking violently on the bench.)

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