

# PHOENIX FUNERAL DRAFT 3

A Ten-Minute Comedy Duet

by  
Patrick Gabridge



*Brooklyn Publishers, LLC*

Toll-Free 888-473-8521

Fax 319-368-8011

Web [www.brookpub.com](http://www.brookpub.com)

Copyright © 2003 by Patrick Gabridge  
All rights reserved

**CAUTION:** Professionals & amateurs are hereby warned that *Phoenix Funeral Draft 3* is subject to a royalty. This play is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, Canada, the British Commonwealth and all other countries of the Copyright Union.

**RIGHTS RESERVED:** All rights to this play are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion pictures, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

**PERFORMANCE RIGHTS & ROYALTY PAYMENTS:** All amateur and stock performance rights to this play 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. If necessary, we will contact the author or the author's agent. PLEASE NOTE that royalty fees for performing this play can be located online at Brooklyn Publishers, LLC website (<http://www.brookpub.com>). 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. You will find our contact information on the following page.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged. Only forensics competitions are exempt from this fee.

**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*

<http://www.brookpub.com>

**TRADE MARKS, PUBLIC FIGURES, & MUSICAL WORKS:** This play may include references to brand names or public figures. All references are intended only as parody or other legal means of expression. This play may contain suggestions for the performance of a musical work (either in part or in whole). Brooklyn Publishers, LLC have not obtained performing rights of these works. The direction of such works is only a playwright's suggestion, and the play producer should obtain such permissions on their own. The website for the U.S. copyright office is <http://www.copyright.gov>.

**COPYING** from the book in any form (in whole or excerpt), whether photocopying, scanning recording, videotaping, storing in a retrieval system, or by any other means, is strictly forbidden without consent of Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

#### TO PERFORM THIS PLAY

1. Royalty fees must be paid to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC before permission is granted to use and perform the playwright's work.
2. Royalty of the required amount must be paid each time the play is performed, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.
3. When performing one-acts or full-length plays, enough playbooks must be purchased for cast and crew.
4. Copying or duplication of any part of this script is strictly forbidden.
5. Any changes to the script are not allowed without direct authorization by Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.
6. Credit to the author and publisher is required on all promotional items associated with this play's performance(s).
7. Do not break copyright laws with any of our plays. This is a very serious matter and the consequences can be quite expensive. We must protect our playwrights, who earn their living through the legal payment of script and performance royalties.
8. If you have questions concerning performance rules, contact us by the various ways listed below:

*Toll-free:* 888-473-8521

*Fax:* 319-368-8011

*Email:* [customerservice@brookpub.com](mailto:customerservice@brookpub.com)

**Copying, rather than purchasing cast copies, and/or failure to pay royalties is a federal offense. Cheating us and our wonderful playwrights in this manner will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Please support theatre and follow federal copyright laws.**

# PHOENIX FUNERAL DRAFT 3

by  
Patrick Gabridge

**SCENE: A funeral home. In Phoenix. An urn is on a dais on one side of the stage. On the opposite side are several rows of chairs.**

**AT RISE: MARTHA, a very attractive young woman, sits in one of the chairs. SHE holds a stack of papers in her hands. SHE looks around, a little bewildered.**

**(DESI enters, apparently unseen by Martha, and speaks directly to the audience. SHE's in a bit of a rush--someone not quite able to keep up with the bustle of her life.)**

DESI: **(to the audience)** Phoenix Funeral Draft 2. SCENE: A funeral home. In Phoenix. An urn is on a dais on one side of the stage. On the opposite side are several rows of chairs. AT RISE: MARTHA, a very attractive young woman, in her early 20s, sits in one of the chairs. She holds a stack of papers in her hands. She looks around, a little bewildered. DESI enters in a bit of a rush--she's in her late 30s, someone not quite able to keep up with the bustle of her life.

**(DESI takes a step back and re-enters, this time immediately noticed by MARTHA.)**

DESI: Sorry I'm late. Matthew had violin lessons and I had to drop Kanisha off at a swim meet. Seems like I can barely find time to think these days.

MARTHA: Right. I understand. Thank God mine is grown. Not that I don't miss the times when she was little.

DESI: Parenthood gives a new meaning to the notion of time not being a constant. Fast and slow, painful and joyous. Mostly it just leaves me confused.

MARTHA: You're able to accept it better than most, I think. Confusion.

DESI: Resistance is futile. Embrace confusion I say.

MARTHA: I wish I could. But I don't enjoy it quite as much as you.

DESI: I try to approach it like a Bhuddist might--to seek clarity is to obscure it. Answers are only found when you stop asking questions.

MARTHA: I don't get--

DESI: That's the point. Enlightenment is not about answers, not even about questions.

MARTHA: Right. Okay. But what if I do have questions? For example, why are we meeting in a funeral home instead of at the theatre?

DESI: Your office is all the way across town. I'm a woman for whom time functions as an invisible boa constrictor--this helps soften the squeeze. And you need to get out more anyway.

MARTHA: Okay, so I'm a little stage bound, but getting out more would not normally include being at a funeral home.

DESI: That's true. Revise that. What I meant to say is that we're here because James just died.

MARTHA: What?

DESI: I can barely talk about it.

MARTHA: I'm so... But we just...

DESI: It was a freak thing. I didn't even know sewer gasses were flammable. I always begged him to stop smoking.

MARTHA: I'm so sorry.

DESI: At least it was quick. They said he hardly felt a thing. They didn't even need to do any additional cremation--they just swept him up.

MARTHA: This is just so... sudden.

DESI: I don't know how I'll go on. Somehow I'll rise from the ashes.

MARTHA: Well, sure you will, Desi.

DESI: It won't be easy. The kids don't know what to think.

MARTHA: Yes, I can only imagine the trauma of finding...

DESI: Thanks so much for coming. You're a true friend. I know I can count on you to boost my spirits.

MARTHA: Right. That's important at a time like this. **(looks at the papers in her hands)** We'll have to talk more later, for some reason I thought I was coming here to--

DESI: No, don't go. I can't let this stop my life, Martha. James wouldn't want me to. You and I were planning to meet.

MARTHA: Right. To talk about your script for the festival.

DESI: Yes. My writing will keep me going. As long as I nurture my soul, I can face any adversity. A production at a time like this... Theatre is really all about family, and I'll need it more than ever, now.

MARTHA: Maybe this isn't the best time--

DESI: Please. I can use a little distraction.

END OF FREE PREVIEW