

THE POLITICS OF PROM

By Jerry Rabushka

Copyright © 2017 by Jerry Rabushka, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-60003-934-8

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 Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. 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 Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work 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.

BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS LLC
P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406
TOLL FREE (888) 473-8521 • FAX (319) 368-8011

THE POLITICS OF PROM

A Ten Minute Comedy Monologue

By Jerry Rabushka

SYNOPSIS: Melinda can't get a date to the prom, other than with the guy she doesn't want to go with. Maybe she can skip it. But when her father suggests she just stay home, she realizes, absolutely not! Will she go with someone she likes, or someone who looks good on her? This monologue explores and explodes all the politics of picking the right date, being picked by the right date, or being one of those fortunate few who don't go and don't care.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female)

Melinda (f) A high school student.

AT RISE: MELINDA begins the monologue exasperated, as she has to report on something unpleasant.

MELINDA: Ellabeth caught me in the hall on the way to English class.

(MELINDA as Ellabeth, a bubbly "popular girl" who is oblivious to how insulting she's being.) So Melinda who's going to ask you to the prom? I never know who to pick. Xavey, Canyon, not Jarod Carrant, oh my gosh no... I mean they talk about who's going with who for months, and I don't want to wind up on the bottom of a gossip page by going with someone who tanks the week of the dance. You know, like he's all popular and cool but suddenly he just can't stay contemporary and he gets caught in this downward spiral that he just can't stop *(Stops short)*...oh... right... *(Condescendingly sorry.)* you don't have this problem, do you, Melinda? Well consider yourself lucky. You'll never know how hard it is to have so many boys interested in you.

Thanks, Ellabeth! It's such a relief. I might not go to the prom anyway.

(As Ellabeth.) That's impossible! What are you going to do 30 years from now when you can't relive the memories?

Ellabeth, what are you going to do 30 years from now, when that's all you have to hold on to?

(To audience.) This isn't a speech about how I went out with the bald guy with cancer and then he said he shaved his head so I'd have pity on him and we're living happily ever after and I'm a bundle of forgiveness – *(Offhanded, to the guy.)* "sure you lied but whatever it worked so I don't care." *(Stern.)* No, Dayton Thorn, I will not fall for that again!

Too bad, he's cute... even without hair. So this time I just want to go with someone nice, who will be honest. *(Almost embarrassed to say it.)* And cute. Yeah...

“Don’t worry about cute. You should look at what’s inside,” everyone says.

Which is fine, except when you’re in high school and everyone raises or lowers their opinion of you based on who you take to the prom. There are so many politics. Is it too soon to ask, too late, just right, are you going with the first person who asks, will it be the only person who asks, can you put them on hold and see if someone else asks, did they even have the right to ask. Only Ellabeth had the answers.

(As Ellabeth.) I mean, Flouty Blattner asked me to the prom, and I’m like “Oh Flouty!” First of all you’re in the tuba section, second of all you look like a tuba, and third of all you could use a tuba toothpaste to put all over your acne! So you just sit there and bubble at the bottom of the bass clef and stay out of my business, if you please.

Then there were the boys...

(As a Male Classmate, but getting more comically confused as this goes on.) I’d ask Franqui but I don’t think she’d go with me, but if I don’t ask her I’ll never know and if I do she’ll just laugh, so will you ask for me? Just see if she’d go with me. *(Starts to look really confused over the next lines.)* Or at least if she’d say maybe. Or if she’d say she would go with me only if no one else asked her and I had to wait for five weeks until the night of the prom and then spend the whole time with a punch bowl while she dances with oh so handsome Canyon Scrumble...

Even my dad was tired of hearing about the prom.

(As her Father.) You should go with whoever asks whether you like him or not so you learn that it’s not all about who goes with who, and so I can have some peace.

“That’s all it IS about,” I told him. It’s not even about going so much as about who you’re going with. Once the dates are lined up, the actual event doesn’t even matter. It’s like Christmas. You spend five months preparing and buying presents and then you open them and the next day they’re broke and the mashed potatoes are disgusting and it’s like wow that was a lot of money for nothing.

That didn’t help because Dad said, “Well, then we just won’t bother with Christmas next time.”

Prom first, Christmas if I survive it.

(As her Father.) Why don’t you stay home?

(Pause.) For the first time, my father found a way to shut me up.

(As her Father.) So Melinda, why not?

“Because it’s prom!” I blurted it out like Flouty Blattner’s tuba.

(As her Father.) Yesterday you said you didn’t want to go. Lots of kids don’t go.

They’re all –

(As her Father, interrupting.) They’re all what? I didn’t go.

(To audience.) Uh... I couldn’t answer that without getting grounded. Dad was adamant.

(As her Father.) Some people don’t care, but you don’t allow them that privilege. You make it out like it’s do or dork. Try to apply for a job and tell them “I took Tommy Jordan to the prom” and they’ll say, “Great Melinda, you’re hired. Top exec, top pay. I’m glad you didn’t go with Blattner or you’d be in the mail room, but since you got a dance with Jordan, we’ll just start you at the top.”

(Addressing audience, vs. her Father.) That'll be Ellabeth in ten years...

(As Ellabeth.) As you can see from my resume, I went to prom with Canyon Scrumble! Canyon was cute, athletic, aced the SAT, and he could play chess and lacrosse at the same time. Don't hire Melinda, she went with Dayton Thorn.

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from THE POLITICS OF PROM by Jerry Rabushka. 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**