

VOCAB GUY

By John C. Havens

Copyright © 2000 by John C. Havens, All rights reserved.

ISBN 1-931000-48-4

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.

VOCAB GUY

by
John C. Havens

CAST: *one male or female*

NOTE FOR PERFORMANCE: *This monologue can be performed by either a male or a female, and 'LARRY can be changed to 'LIBBY' and the date can be a male. Vocab Guy uses his/her words as a security blanket, and won't let his/her date get a word in edgewise. It's not until the end of the monologue that HE/SHE realizes his date is attracted to him because of, and perhaps despite of, his talking.*

I use big words.

Big, gargantuan, brobdignagian, mammoth pontifications. That's why the gang calls me 'Loquacious Larry.' Well, I shouldn't really say 'the gang' calls me by that sobriquet, it's actually only a small handful of colleagues that have bequeathed me with such an honor.

(Pause) Truth be told, it's a little ditty I've given to myself. No one actually calls me by that nickname, but it's a nickname that suits me, because I indeed like to talk quite a bit, in long almost Machiavellian bursts of vocabulary prowess. I can even speak in iambic pentameter. Watch this, I'll do so right now.

My name, it is loquacious with an "I."
I'll stab you with my lancing, bubbly wit.
And if you think I'm silly, I don't care.
For names will never hurt me, not a bit.

Now I could have gone for a more vulgar rhyme there at the end. Instead of rhyming wit with bit, I could have gone south and indicated some form of excrement of one kind or another. But that's too simple. Besides, then I would have moved from the Shakespearean world of pentameter to the randy gutter of limericks. Not that all limericks are foul,

Vocab Guy - Page 3

but most of them can be read on a bathroom stall, if you glean my meaning.

Yes, yes, it has been elucidated to me, as vividly as the flash from the explosion generated from the Phoenix leaving it's mythical nest, that I have difficulty communicating on a simple level.

It's quite ironic, actually. At my disposal I have more than the average 6,000 words or so available to your average American speaker. I have almost twice as many as Shakespeare did. He even invented words when he needed them, which I think is highly laudable. I even try to inventalize myself when I deem it necces-acious. But even with all these words my intentions can sometimes become convulated, murky, opaque. Like an ant caught in caramel, my thoughts only make it so far before they become ensnared in the trying recesses of my shy and retreating mannerisms.

Not that I can't communicate at all, mind you...why, the gay, verbal witticisms exchanged by theatrical cognoscenti are not altogether foreign to my left-brained way of thinking; I also frequent festive readings of Charles Dickens' expanded novels, and giggle surreptitiously at his markedly colorful impish characters. Oh! His ebullient use of the metaphor, the simile, alliteration. Blithely balking because belated bills bombarded bobby, sturdy Stan stalked sanguinely surrounding stations. Oooh! Those words tumbling about your mouth are like the sugary cinnamon melting on your tongue from warm apple pie.

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from VOCAB GUY by John C. Havens. 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