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## Moon over buffalo script sample

Gain full access to show guides, character breakdowns, auditions, monologues and more! UPGRADE TO PRO SIGN UP or log in to your account When Richard Boyer read the script to "Moon Over Buffalo," he was moved to tears.Of laughter."Few things make me cry," says Boyer, a resident of Budd Lake. "But reading this script and imagining it on the stage, I was crying."Boyer hopes that audiences will be similarly teary-eyed with the production of "Moon Over Buffalo" that opens Saturday at Pax Amicus Castle Theatre."Moon Over Buffalo" was written by Ken Ludwig, whose credits include the play "Lend Me a Tenor" and the book of "Crazy for You." Boyer says that he appreciates Ludwig's skill at creating farcical situations wedded to wacky dialogue.Boyer cites such lines as "Buffalo. It's like Scrantown without the charm" as an example of Ludwig's sense of humor. "There are so many great lines," he says."Moon Over Buffalo" follows a theatrical troupe in the 1950s headed by George Hay (played by Lou Cusano of East Hanover) and his wife Charlotte (Mary Margaret Fitzpatrick of Randolph). The Hays are performers whose stardom is behind them.At the beginning of the play, Charlotte is fed up with George's roving eye, especially after his one-night stand with an actress in the company (Eileen Fitzpatrick of Stanhope, Mary Margaret Fitzpatrick's real-life sister).But just as Charlotte is about to leave George, they receive word that the noted director Frank Capra is going to attend one of their productions, possibly because Capra wants to cast the couple in his next movie.What follows is a whirlwind of slamming doors and mistaken identity. "It's a great farce," Boyer says. "You find yourself giggling at even the smallest things." (Boyer is pulling double-duty on this production. Besides directing the play, he is also portraying a lawyer who is romantically pursuing Charlotte.)Lou Cusano says that he the role of George appeals to him. "He's not a one-dimensional character. He has his flaws. But he stands by his daughter (Roz, played by Amy Easton of Lake Hopatcong). "In addition, Cusano identifies with George's appreciation for the arts. Cusano himself is a studio painter for Morris County Art Association in Morristown."I see George and Charlotte as two lovable vagabonds," Cusano says. "They're touched by the muse. They live in that world of the theater."But though he identifies with aspects of George's personality, Cusano says that the character is a challenge from a physical standpoint. During the play has to engage in a fencing match and a wrestling bout, along with other pratfalls."I try to stay in shape anyway," says Cusano. "This is a demanding role. You have to be up for almost anything."For her part, Mary Margaret Fitzpatrick enjoys the relationship between Charlotte and George. "Yes, Charlotte wants to kill George," she says. "But she loves him, and it's clear that they belong together."Fitzpatrick adds that some moments in the play strike a chord with anyone who has been involved in the theater. She singles out a moment when, in the play-within-the play, George's entrance on stage is delayed and Roz has to improvise."It's a great moment, and Amy (East) is doing it beautifully," Fitzpatrick says. "I think almost anyone can relate to it. If you've ever done theater, you've had a moment like that."But Fitzpatrick says that, even without a theatrical experience, a playgoer will appreciate "Moon Over Buffalo." "It's so off-the-wall," she says. "When we had our read-through, it was a hoot, and it's only going to be better on the stage."MOON OVER BUAFALOWHAT: This farce by Ken Ludwig (author of "Lend Me a Tenor") focuses on George and Charlotte Hay, two has-been actors who run a traveling repertory theater troupe in the 1950s. Complications ensue brought on by infidelity, ego, and mistaken identity.WHEN: May 2 through 17, performance schedule:• 8 p.m. Saturday, May 2, 9 and 10• 8 p.m. Friday, May 8• 2 p.m. Sunday, May 3 and 17WHERE: Pax Amicus Castle Theatre, 23 Lake Shore Road, Budd LakeTICKETS: \$20INFORMATION: 973-691-2100 or www.paxamicus.com. Jump to ratings and reviewsCharlotte and George Hay, an acting couple not exactly the Lunts are on tour in Buffalo in 1953 with a repertory consisting of Cyrano de Bergerac "revised, one nostril version" and Noel Coward's Private Lives. This backstage farce by the author of Lend Me a Tenor brought Carol Burnett back to Broadway co-starring with Philip Bosco as her megalomaniac, drunken husband and leading man. Fate has given these thespians one more shot at starring roles in The Scarlet Pimpernel epic and director Frank Capra himself is en route to Buffalo to catch their matinee performance. Will Charlotte appear or run off with their agent? Will George be sober enough to emote? Will Capra see Cyrano, Private Lives or a disturbing mixture of the two? Hilarious misunderstandings pile on madcap misadventures, in this valentine to Theatre Hams everywhere.Plays Theatre Drama Fiction Write a ReviewDisplaying 1 - 30 of 30 reviewsApril 12, 2017great characters, lots of chaos and fun moments, great to read but even better to perform!Edited February 9, 2011Moon Over Buffalo has a special place in my heart (Mainly because I had the pleasure of performing in a production of it). It is story of the Hay's; a family of traveling actors and how one mistake by the leading man has the possibility to break the troupe apart. Ludwig's characters are crazy; they do everything to the extreme. Most likely comes from their actor roots, because we all know actors are theatrical. Drunken performances, secret affairs, and tied up weathermen, this play is laugh out loud funny. Anyone can enjoy this play. There is no doubt that the obscurity of this play has rubbed off on me and affected my own writing.Edited March 22, 2016This play was an absolute gas. The dialogue was lightning-quick and the stage direction even more so. I picked it up because it took place in Buffalo, NY, a former stomping ground, and that was a payoff in itself. The digs at the wee city are hilarious and clever. The action between the characters was reminiscent of Philadelphia Story (a la Hepburn, Stewart and Grant). I just loved it and would be thrilled to see it on stage. I am sure small companies stay away from it because it would require precision execution of the stage direction and overlapping dialogue to be a success. Edited December 10, 2013One of my favorite plays. It's witty, and the banter between George and Scarlet is genuinely funny. The surprise unintended pregnancy makes the plot into that of kind of a sitcom, but the play is still intelligent. Of course, the jokes appeal more to an older crowd, who can still remember the 1950's, and, therefore, it will soon be dated. However, I think it's laugh out loud funny and the writing and commentary on the theatre business is great.February 1, 2016As a theatregoer, I like a well-done farce. It's a guilty pleasure but one that most audiences seem to share. Ken Ludwig's backstage farce "Moon Over Buffalo" isn't as dark or as viscerally uncomfortable as the more famous "Noises Off," but it packs laughs, quick entrances and exits, misunderstandings, prop work and all the other essential elements of a satisfying farce, complete with a happy ending.July 13, 2018A very funny farce set on and just off-stage with characters not knowing whether they are doing Cyrano de Bergerac or Private Lives; drunkenness, mistaken identities, infidelity. It was originally done on Broadway with Carol Burnett, among others. I borrowed this from interlibrary loan.February 9, 2011I played Charlotte Hay. What a hoot! Especially given my wonderful leading man!March 6, 2018Really funny, reminded me of screwball comedies from early Hollywood.August 31, 2018A delightfully funny romp, this was great play. 10/10, would recommend.March 27, 2020I am reading a lot of plays at the moment. My wife and I are in process of figuring out the next season of our theatre company, Out of Pocket Productions, and in order to select three plays, I end up reading 20-30. Ironically, that is not the reason I read this play. The other night I participated in a Play Reading Club hosted over Zoom by Blackfriars Theatre, and this was the chosen text.Ken Ludwig has a special place in my heart. The very first play I did upon moving to Rochester was Ludwig's Lend Me a Tenor, for the Penfield Players. Since then, I appeared in his The Game's Afoot for the aforementioned Blackfriars and directed Shakespeare in Hollywood just this past fall for McQuaid. Ludwig have written more quality farces than any other American playwright over the the last fifty years and is currently considered the master of the form in this country.Farces are incredibly difficult to perform and even harder to write: they are intensely formulaic--slamming door, mistaken identities, lecherous husbands--but you need to bring something fresh out of each new one; they also have to be extremely clever--even to the point of satirical insight--while also being profoundly stupid.This particular farce is set in Buffalo--my hometown!--in the 1950s and tells the story of two once-famous actors, George and Charlotte Hay, and their down-on-its-luck theatre company. Chaos--of course--ensues when a rumor spreads that famed film director Frank Capra is coming to a matinee to scout the Hays for film roles that could reignite their careers.I have to say that, overall, I feel pretty lukewarm about this. As I said, I like farces in general and Ludwig in particular, and I have seen this play staged to very satisfying effect--but I would ultimately label this as one of his second-tier works. The crazy-theatre-people trope in particular is really played out, even for a farce, and none of the secondary characters are as well-developed as the characters they are in his other plays. One final note--this play's main claim to fame is that the Broadway Production marked Carol Burnett's return to Broadway after a thirty-year absence, and there is an excellent documentary by famed filmmaker D.A. Pennebaker called Moon Over Broadway. You can find it on YouTube--it is well-worth watching for those interested in what it takes to mount an elaborate Broadway production.November 4, 2017This is another case where the production I saw was terrible, but I was still able to appreciate the script. Sure the acting was over-the-top and the directing was horrible...but I could tell the show was at least intended to be performed well. Then again, aren't all plays meant to be performed well?Moon Over Buffalo follows a family of actors in a dying theatre company hoping for their first big break to make it big. The play has little references to other theatre shows, the state of theatre compared to film, and some of the reasons as to why theatre isn't doing as well today- but it's done as a labor of love. It's clear that Ludwig took a lot of his passion for the stage and put into this play.Now, as a comedy Moon Over Buffalo is... fine. There's a lot of mistaken facts, characters running in and our of rooms, fake identities, and other hilarious antics but after reading so many farces this year there wasn't much about the comedy in Buffalo that made it stand out. There were a couple good gags here and there but there were so many jokes I could already tell the punchline to that it rendered the joke unfunny.Buffalo isn't a bad play, just one with a lot of good ideas that's bogged down by some by-the-numbers comedy bits. Maybe I'm not a good comedy critic or maybe I'm getting sick of all these comedies and how much they're blending together, but in either case don't let this review deter you from watching or reading Moon Over Buffalo. It's still a fine play with some fun characters and some little bits of good dialogue here and there that make it enjoyable. But I don't know if I'll be coming back to this play anytime soon after seeing it.April 11, 2021What a door slammer, I think this is the most entrances and exits that I've ever seen in a show, it would be an absolute marathon to be a part of a production of this play. Overall, I found the content of this play thin, most of the humour of this show is not so much in the dialogue but in the ridiculous situations and misunderstandings that the characters find themselves in. I would probably enjoy seeing this show live but not necessarily as it could be a little tedious if the characters aren't endearing enough, and that could be a struggle as they're not written as very likable. I feel like I would definitely enjoy being a part of this show, it looks like fun to do although also a lot of work.November 10, 2017Really funny, but too racy for us. Grandmother to adult granddaughter plus another lovely young woman who is pregnant by father. Couple starts to undress for sex. Extensive drunk scene but very funny. Gay jokes. Costumes specific to 16th century, 1920's and 1953. Lamp explodes in gunshot accident. Sex toy confusion. Simulated intercourse.September 24, 2021Haven't read a play just to read it in quite a while and this reminded me why I enjoy it. It also gave me another show I REALLY want to see. Struck me as a show that might be as funny as Noises Off in performance. February 19, 2018I am not a fan of slapstick humor. The silly, drunken falling down the stairs comedy irritates me but there were some moments that redeemed it. Act 2 was certainly better than Act 1.March 3, 2019Funny script, but it would be a total nightmare to stage and costume! A large budget would be needed for production.May 24, 2019I love this play. As ridiculous as "Noises Off" but even more clever with the wordplay. Hilarious!November 26, 2019Ken Ludwig seems to really be into adultery. December 26, 2019A decent farce, but I'm not a fan of the Native American jokes... I'd love to see an updated version of this without the Apache Woman references and stereotypical "Indian chanting."May 3, 2015Set in the 1950's America, this comedic play-within-a-play is rife with slapstick and situational humor, backstage shenanigans, and dysfunctional family dynamics.This eight person production centers around a traveling theatrical couple, George and Charlotte-whose marriage is on the rocks, along with their fading careers. Charlotte has ambitious dreams of breaking into Hollywood, while her husband seems content in his alcohol-addled, philandering ways. The inciting incident? George receives a call from a famous film director in need of replacements for a movie he's currently directing. He plans to see one of George's shows and consider George and his wife, Charlotte, for the parts.Charlotte, however, doesn't believe this good news from her husband--she's just found out that George had an affair with one of their younger actors. Charlotte declares her intent to run off with a rich lawyer, and George falls into a boozing despair. What follows is a series of misunderstandings and mistaken identities, accidentally stoked onward by Charlotte's nearly-deaf mother and George's guilty conscience. Though the content is a bit dated, and the theater troupe concept not exactly unique, this play holds fast to a humorous and endearing charm all its own. July 18, 2011I enjoyed this play from the moment I finished the first scene on a plane ride home from the edinburgh fringe festival. The humor is just so accessible, it doesn't even need a great actor to get the humor of the script across, which is a sign of really good comedic play writing, at least for me. I had the joy of playing Eileen last fall and although a part on the smaller side, it was so fun to be apart of a play that demands as much energy as this play. Edited December 20, 2012OK, the farce placed backstage among crazies trying to make theater is hardly a new idea, but this has to be one of the best examples. A dysfunctional family troupe faces a variety of crises: keeping the troupe going, even if they have to play Buffalo; mom and dad's infidelities; daughter's defection to the non-theater world; and the remote hope that they might get parts in a Frank Capra film. Many doors are slammed, many identities are mistaken, and there is much drunkenness along the way.July 2, 2008So funny, but not for high school. You'd have to explain too much of it and it's too long for my taste. I can shove them through 50 pages but not 120! Plus I steer away from make out scenes. I'm not gonna make someone's momma mad at me...plays-for-work read-in-2008Edited May 20, 2016Well that was a lot of fun! I believe that I shall audition for this play next week.September 20, 2009Ahahaha. This play is hilarious. I was cracking up the whole time I read it. The characters are funny and three-dimensional, the plot is simple but fast and hilarious. Amazing. :)April 30, 2010Fast-paced physical humor, razor-sharp wit make this a bubbling concoction of hilarity that you cannot put down! Laughed out loud too many times to count! :)May 17, 2012This was very funny. It did get a little confusing sometimes.July 12, 2015Played Rosalind Hay my junior year in hs. So much fun. This play is amazing. February 3, 2016October 8, 2019Saw this show pre-Broadway in Boston. An all-star cart with material that doesn't live up to its performers. Almost 25 years later it's just an okay play. Better in the airy than execution. Displaying 1 - 30 of 30 reviews





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