

"PLACES!"

A Backstage Comedy in Two Acts

Written by C. Stefan Morrisette

Time: Present

Setting: Backstage of a small theatre in Smalltown, USA.
The premier of a new play.

ACT I

Part One - The Reading

Part Two - The Rehearsal Process, 2 Weeks Later

Part Three - Opening Night, 2 Weeks Later

ACT II

Part Four - Closing Night, 2 Weeks Later

Part Five - The Epilogue - The Striking

Cast of Characters: 4 men, 5 women, 1 bit role (unisex)
(in order of appearance)

- **The Stage Manager, Beverly "Bev" Johnson** - Middle-aged. The theatre's meek and mild in home production manager. She lacks confidence and has trouble standing up for herself, often ignored.
- **The Director/Writer, Marvin "Marv" Sheppard** - 40s-50s. A once celebrated director, his career took a turn for the worse due to his party status and alcoholism. His wife divorced him and took everything. He is now sober and trying to re-establish himself.
- **The Character Actress, Rebecca Stokes** - 20s. A true talent. She is sarcastic, quick witted, and tough.
- **The Heart Throb, Rickey Stokes** - 20s. Rebecca's brother (possible twin). Whatever talent he's lacking he makes up for in looks. He is also very aware of his appearance. He is not the brightest bulb.
- **The Costumer, Nancy LeBuck** - A sweet, senile lady with a colorful, funky, tasteless sense of style. She is clearly older than the rest and wears thick lenses giving herself magnified eyes. She is always wearing her fanny pack.

- **The Shakespearean Actor, Bernard "Bernie" Jerome Harper** - 60s. A locally renowned "classically trained" actor. He has played every major role in Shakespeare's catalogue: Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello, Romeo, etc... even Juliet in his younger days. He is pompous and speaks with a put upon British tone, even though he is from the Midwest.
- **The Ingénue, Addison Bennett** - Teen - 20s. A bubbly, energetic, young actress with dreams of making it big. She believes this play is her chance at stardom.
- **The Assistant, Lewis Hollywell** - 20s. Claudia's great nephew. Claudia treats him like the "help". He's an amateur journalist for his college paper and working on an article on Marvin's illustrious career and come back.
- **The Diva, Claudia Sonja Anna Marie Hollywell-Westbrook** - A has-been from the golden age of Hollywood. A once celebrated actress in her heyday. She has long since retired and is now looking for a comeback. She's still living in her 'glory days'. She's eccentric, set in her ways, thinks she knows best, and likes getting the last word. A Carol Burnett type character.
- **The Producer, Robert F. Schwartzman** - Middle Aged. A Broadway producer, who comes to see the closing night of the show in act two. Easily played by a woman, using the name "Roberta F. Schwartzman". Could be doubled by either the actress who plays Nancy or the actor who plays Bernie.

Love Plot:

- BERNIE - infatuation with Claudia.
- CLAUDIA - mistakes Bernie's advances as coming from Marv, leading her to grow a fondness towards him.
- ADDISON - physically attracted to Rickey, who is in love with himself but likes the attention.
- LEWIS - is obsessed with Addison, who hardly notices him
- REBECCA - attracted to Lewis.
- NANCY - loves Marv, thinks of herself as a cougar.

The Play Within The Play: "A View from the Bottom of the Bottle"

A man works hard to get to the top of his career until hardships lead him to fall back down, causing his wife to turn on him. He is left penniless only to try climbing back up the ladder to success. **Marvin claims it is not autobiographical.*

Their Roles within "A View from the Bottom of the Bottle":

RICKEY as Tony Sheridan, the lead - clearly based off Marvin's fantasy version of himself

ADDISON as Vivian Sheridan, Tony's ex-wife

BERNIE as Walker Sheridan, Tony's father

CLAUDIA as Madelyn Sheridan, Tony's mother

REBECCA as Sandra, Vivian's sister and Tony's friend