

THE DRUGSTOPPERS

A Play By
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Characters

GLORIA

ABIGAIL

DONALD

AMY

BRIAN

As the audience takes their seats, GLORIA is pacing the stage, nervous. Also onstage are a keyboard, a boombox, standing curtains, and BRIAN. A projector screen hangs in the back. ABIGAIL greets people in the orchestra and DONALD greets people on the mezzanine.

When the audience has sat down, Gloria gestures to Abigail and Donald to join her onstage.

GLORIA

(To audience) Mayor Danny Sparks Middle School, clap once if you can hear me! Clap twice if you can hear me! Clap thrice if you can hear me! Superlative. Hello, young people! Thank you so much for joining our very special hour. My name is Gloria. It is so fulfilling to meet you. I know principal Hendrickse announced our post-recess arrival on the speaker system this morning. We are here for a very crucial and urgent program. Youngsters, we are the Help Pubescent Valor with Kids Program, otherwise known as the HPV with Kids Program.

Abigail and Brian hold up a poster that says "Help Pubescent Valor with Kids Program OR HPV with Kids."

GLORIA

This will be our inaugural Pubescent Valor program. Commissioner Treeseason *(she gestures to an audience member)* is here to arbitrate our efficacy and decide if, indeed, HPV with Kids has a future in the town curriculum, or if I'll never find a job locally again.

She laughs nervously.

GLORIA

Yes—before we embark on our alpine incline, I will give you 53 seconds to turn off your cellular devices. HPV requires your full vests and full zests.

Donald reaches the stage. Abigail walks away angrily.

GLORIA

STOP! Stupefying. Thank you for euthanizing your telephones. We would very much like to begin our toxic passage ...

She looks at one of the exits, then looks down at the commissioner, nervous.

GLORIA

To begin, elevate your hands if you have heard of drugs and alcohol. It is as I feared. Today we're going to talk a lot about those things and show you the dire, ghostly consequences of using matter like drugs and alcohol. I know at the end of our journey, you will all sense the perils of narcotics course through your adolescent bodies.

She pauses and looks at the exits again.

GLORIA

Yes, here to carry us through our lurid path are four ninth grade helpers. If you can count, you will see only three of them are with us. It appears one of our teen Kinders is ill disposed. I am sure she is on her way swift as a fleeting falcon! While we await her arrival, let's meet our three other jumpy juveniles. Abigail, please step forward and regaul us with a tale of the grade nine strife.

ABIGAIL

Thanks, Gloria! Hi, my name is Abigail and I'm so thrilled to be here with you to teach you about the horrors of alcoholic drugs. It's going to look very good when I apply to Yale for a degree in ribbon arts. As a tap dancer, actor, upright bassist, soprano, little sister, assistant to the sophomore class minister, Geraldine, and secretary of the Andrew Keegan drama club, I think it is utmost important to keep a clean and healthy bodice.

Gloria steps forward to thank Abigail.

ABIGAIL

One way to do that, for an instance, is to wake up in the morning and count your sweaters. In a study done by the Helmholtz Association of Germanic Research Centres, it was found that if you do a small task every day when you wake up in the morning, the rest of your day will be organized. If your day is organized, you will probably not do drugs, because you will already know what you have to do that day.

GLORIA

Tha-

ABIGAIL

Stephen Sondheim, who is a very important man for Broadway, which is a place where musicals and shows happen, said, "Art, in itself, is an attempt to bring order out of chaos." So, therefore, if you also do art, you will not do drugs, because you will bring order to the chaos of angel dust.

GLORIA

Effervescent! Thank you, Abigail. I know we all feel ablaze from that knowledge. Donald, why don't you tell these middle grade animas about yourself.

DONALD

OK, well, hi! My name is Donald. I'm a freshman in high school. I really like cappuccinos with two shots of espresso and People Magazine. When I grow up, I'm going to be a celebrity publicist. Um ... Oh! I really like the show "Moesha." I just watched the episode where Kim gets jealous because Moesha starts hanging out with Teresa. But then Teresa also starts hanging out with Q and Kim tells Moesha she's trying to steal him! And then they start fighting in the square-

GLORIA

Translucent! Thank you, Donald. Donald is here as a consequence of some regrettable folly on school grounds, for which he feels deep remorse.

DONALD

Yes, deep remorse. Don't do dares that involve alcohol in school, guys, even if Michelle Nina says she did it last week and Mr. Lard thought it was hilarious and wanted to try some of that laced Chlorophyll. Ha ha!

GLORIA

Yes-

ABIGAIL

Donald never used to do dares that involve alcohol in school. Donald never used to do any dares at all.

DONALD

Well, sometimes people change, Abigail.

ABIGAIL

Yes, children, sometimes people change.

GLORIA

Tha-

ABIGAIL

Sometimes people change into big potmouths who toke cigarettes and booze ecstasy until their breath looks like Texas and they die from cough lungs.

DONALD

What? What does that even mean?

ABIGAIL

You know what-

GLORIA

Abigail! That was treasonous venom! Donald may have ended up here because of a gross misactivity, but that is no reason to spout adulteration.

ABIGAIL

Sorry Gloria. I just can't believe Donald would do a dare with alcohols.

GLORIA

Well, I'm sure his being feels the lacerations of that day even today.

DONALD

I do, Gloria. I'll never do another dare in high school again.

GLORIA

Palatial. Let us continue with our third ninth grade muse, Brian.

Brian waves. Pause on stage.

GLORIA

Yes, Brian is an athlete and very devoted to the causes of basketball and running. So it's very important to Brian to keep a cleansed spirit, clean of fearful substances like opiates and

barbiturates. And that is why he has joined in our efforts today.

Gloria looks nervously at the exits.

GLORIA

I know our fourth ninth grade gofer's just a kakapo feather away ... Well, we will have to start without her. We have so little time! Busty bambinos, we begin our journey with a musical arousal!

Donald and Abigail bring out a tambourine and moroccos. Brian goes backstage and takes a while. Finally, the lights in the auditorium dim. He reemerges and takes a while to turn on the projector.

GLORIA

Scintillating!

Gloria begins playing the keyboard. Throughout the song, Brian continuously projects the lyrics at the wrong time.

GLORIA

Somebody once told me the roll they want to role me
I knew that person wanted me dead
He was looking kind of numb, I said "hey" and he said "hum"
On his breast was a shirt and it said "Ted"

Abigail starts playing the tambourine.

GLORIA

Well, the tears start coming and they don't stop coming
Ted broke the rules now he'll lose all his money
Didn't make sense not to have some fun
His brain got high but his bod got stunned
So what is true? So who is me?
That's what's wrong with toking Ecstasy
You'll never know, you'll never grow,

You'll never shine if you eat blow

Donald starts playing the moroccos and he and Abigail sing the chorus with Gloria. Every time Donald steps closer to Abigail, she steps dramatically farther away. Eventually, she's standing very close to Brian, who gets very nervous.

GLORIA, ABIGAIL, DONALD

Hey now, you're a rockstar

Get your fame on, hurray!

Hey now, you're a pop star

Get your glow on, Bombay!

And all that twitter is old!

Only sober stars can go bold

Gloria suddenly realizes Brian's not keeping up.

GLORIA

Brian, we have reached "it's a fool's place" in the projectiles. No, not "Bombay"—you've gone too far now, not "bleedy omens." Just a few projectiles back, please. Just one projectile forward. Thank you.

It's a fool's place, and you only get older

A "disgruntled cow," insults only get bolder

And the bleedy omens they deliver

Trudging by that hole where your life was a fixture

These high school stakes, they're cause for chagrin

That pipe's looking warm so you might as well sin

Your world's on fire, so is hers

This truth yeah we mic'd it and we won't be ignored

GLORIA, ABIGAIL, DONALD

Hey now, you're a rockstar

Get your fame on, hurray!

Hey now, you're a pop star
Get your glow on, Bombay!
And all that twitter is old!
Only sober stars can go bold

Each time the following line shows up, it's
accompanied by a picture of a 1990s icon.

GLORIA, ABIGAIL, DONALD

Don't be a loon
Don't be a loon
Don't be a loon
Don't be a loon

Amy suddenly walks down one of the aisles holding a
large bag. Gloria stops playing.

GLORIA

AMY! Thank Gaia!