

The Harpie

A comedy by Howard Allen and Royce Sparks

Full-length: 3W, 5M

Synopsis:

Joanne Brigham runs Teatros Maximus theatre company, your average, small-town midwest theatre company, and has been running it for nearly five years now. She did, after all, save it from disaster when she convinced board president John Parthenos to let her take control of the then fledgling theatre. Joanne, however, has one little problem: her contract is coming up for renewal, and she hasn't exactly been a hit with either the staff or her marketing audience. To be blunt, she's a tyrant, the harpie of Teatros Maximus. Fearing Parthenos will want new blood, she and the flamboyant resident acting teacher, Leonard, her diva-in-crime, begin to plot their scheme to extend the contract another five years, including starting off the new season with a bang: a concept production of Shakespeare's *Othello* re-imagined in the deep south, and re-titled *Bible Belt Othello*, as well as Joanne's baby, a one woman show about Susan B. Anthony...slightly adapted to accommodate Joanne's own raging worldviews about men, chickens and Quakers. All seems to be going according to plan.

Enter Matt Loki, a newly hired intern having just returned from London, with a wry smile and sly habit of breaking the fourth wall to share his thoughts with the audience. When he notices how amiss things are at Teatros Maximus, he decides this 'travesty of theatre' cannot continue, and takes matters into his own hands. For the love of theatre, Loki will go to great lengths, even if it means sabotaging *Susan B.* behind Joanne's back, and taking Leonard's predatory acting classes where Stanislavki's 'object sensitivity' exercises gets a whole new meaning.

To obtain a copy of the script, e-mail royce@roycesparks.com.