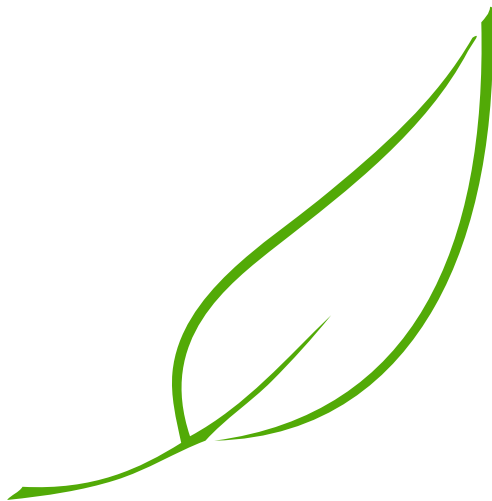


THIS SPEECH CONTEST HAS BEEN CANCELLED

by Ken Bradbury



GREEN ROOM PRESS

greenroompress.com

Copyright Notice

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 Green Room Press. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Green Room Press. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Green Room Press. 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 Green Room Press.

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 Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. 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 Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: *Produced by special arrangement with Green Room Press.*

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 Green Room Press.

**THIS SPEECH CONTEST HAS BEEN
CANCELLED
by Ken Bradbury**

THIS SPEECH CONTEST HAS BEEN CANCELLED

by Ken Bradbury

PALMER: (*entering*) That's it! Hold everything! Stop it! The speech contest has been cancelled! (*to the audience*) You folks can go home now. (*to the judge*) You can pick up your check in the office! Go ahead! Go home! Go home!

RAGAN: (*running in*) What're you doing?

PALMER: I'm cancelling the speech contest.

RAGAN: You're doing what?

PALMER: Cancelling the whole thing. It's over ... done with. Bing-bang, ya-da, ya-da, we're out of here!

RAGAN: (*to the audience*) Uh ... excuse us a moment. (*pulling Palmer aside*) Are you crazy? You can't do this!

PALMER: Oh, I'm pretty sure I can. I'm pretty sure I just did. (*to the audience*) What are you waiting for? The show's over.

RAGAN: (*to the audience*) He's/She's kidding. Would you stop that? This school is filled with kids today. You can't send everybody home. What's the matter?

PALMER: My partner.

RAGAN: What about your partner?

PALMER: He's not here. Bubba's a no-show.

RAGAN: Oh, no.

PALMER: Oh, yes. I knew this was gonna happen. He cancels every rehearsal and last night he still didn't have his lines down.

RAGAN: Maybe he's sick.

PALMER: He's not sick. He's a jerk. He did this to me last year. He came to contest and stumbled around and we got last place.

RAGAN: So why'd you pick him as a partner again?

PALMER: Because we always practice at his house and his mom makes really good pizza.

RAGAN: You're kidding.

PALMER: And he's got the biggest TV set in the world.

RAGAN: I'm not hearing this.

PALMER: And his sister/brother is really cute.

RAGAN: Oh good grief. You mean you pick Bubba for a partner but he's got no talent?

PALMER: She uses three kinds of cheese on her pizza.

RAGAN: But he can't act?

PALMER: And his brother/sister's drop-dead gorgeous.

RAGAN: You know, you deserve this. You deserve everything you've got coming to you. You should pick a speech partner because they work hard and they're talented.

PALMER: I just found that out. *(to the audience)* Seriously folks, there's no need for you to hang around any longer.

RAGAN: Hold it! Hold it! Just because you can't perform that doesn't mean all the other kids can't compete today.

PALMER: But what's a speech contest without me?

RAGAN: A speech contest without you.

PALMER: You are doing serious damage to my ego.

RAGAN: I'm going to do serious damage to the back of your head if you don't stop this.

PALMER: Then tell me ... Just what am I supposed to do?

RAGAN: Just ... you know ... walk around, see some speeches, encourage your friends.

PALMER: Oh sure. What are you doing in contest today? "I'm doing a monologue!" "I've got a great duet!" "I'm doing poetry!" Then they look at me ... Uh ... let's see ... I got a drink at the water fountain, I found a nametag in the hallway, and I got really excited by eating a bag of popcorn that I found on the lunchroom table. Yeah. I'm having a great day.

RAGAN: Look, maybe your partner will show up at the last minute.

PALMER: It's already the last minute. Hey! Wow! Why I didn't I think of this before? I just got the greatest idea! You!

RAGAN: Me? Me? What?

PALMER: You! You're my new partner!

RAGAN: You're nuts.

PALMER: Of course I am. I'm an actor. Come on, you can do it!

RAGAN: You're out of your mind! I don't know Bubba's lines!

PALMER: You can do it! Really! I'll help you through it! I give you cues! Just follow me!

RAGAN: No way!

PALMER: We can do this! Come on! I've just got to perform at speech contest and you're my only hope! My life will be ruined if you don't say yes!

RAGAN: Ruined?

PALMER: At least dented a little.

RAGAN: But the judge ... the audience ... they'll know.

PALMER: (*stops, walks over and views the audience closely*) This group? No, I don't think so. Come on! Please! We're up next!

RAGAN: I can't ... (*but Palmer grabs Ragan and places him/her into position in front of the audience*)

PALMER: Hi. My name is Palmer Gordon and this is my partner Ragan and we are doing "A Pirate's Life," by Ben Kradbury.

RAGAN: Who?

PALMER: Just follow me. (*quickly becoming a pirate*) Oh, 'tis a stormy, stormy day, Blackliver! (*whispers*) 'Tis indeed, Captain!

RAGAN: 'Tis indeed, Captain!

PALMER: Look through your telescope, you scurvy dog! Tell me what you see!

RAGAN: (*peers through an imaginary scope*) A speech judge!

PALMER: (*aside*) No! "Her Majesty's fleet!"

RAGAN: Her Majesty's fleet!

PALMER: And what's it doing?

RAGAN: Just sitting there looking at us.

PALMER: (*aside*) Wrong! "It's coming right at us, Captain!"

RAGAN: "It's coming right at us, Captain!" And they've got swords!

PALMER: (*aside*) Cannons.

RAGAN: "Cannons!" ... and knives!



GREEN ROOM PRESS

*Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:
THIS SPEECH CONTEST HAS BEEN CANCELLED
by Ken Bradbury.*

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

GREEN ROOM PRESS, INC.
customerservice@greenroompress.com
www.greenroompress.com