



**THE DRAMA GROUP**

**by Jade Hardrade Grosz  
and the Baked Bean Company**

**Adapted from The Drama Group (Books Beyond Words, 2015)  
by Hugh Grant, Sheila Hollins and Nigel Hollins,  
illustrated by Lisa Kopper**

[www.acttoo.com/bbtc.html](http://www.acttoo.com/bbtc.html)

[www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk](http://www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk)



## Characters

DANCE COMPANY

DEAN                      a young man  
CHRIS                     Dean's friend  
RICK                      Dean's supporter

TEACHER  
NIGEL  
WAYNE  
GUS  
KATE  
ADEOLA  
JASON  
Other members

} the DRAMA GROUP

PARAMEDIC

## Characters from 'Romeo and Juliet', played by members of the Drama Group

PRINCE  
LADY MONTAGUE  
LORD MONTAGUE  
LADY CAPULET  
LORD CAPULET  
NURSE  
TYBALT  
PARIS  
JULIET  
MERCUTIO  
BENVOLIO  
ROMEO  
FRIAR  
CAPULETS  
MONTAGUES



## **Scene 1**

*DANCE*

*We see a DANCE COMPANY opening allowing the audience to think that this is the "show".*

*Towards the end of this opening number CHRIS and DEAN arrive late making a lot fuss and noise as they get to their seats. The dancers show their distaste and then continue with the finale of their show - almost as though this interruption has taken over the whole show. They finish and bow.*

*DEAN and CHRIS applaud and overreact to the piece.*

*DEAN runs on stage - CHRIS follows.*

**CHRIS**

Dean! Come back!

*DEAN collects autographs and photos in a rather excited fashion.*

*Coffee table, two chairs, coffee and papers are set stage centre in spot light behind DANCE COMPANY.*

*DANCE COMPANY and CHRIS exit stage right.*

*DEAN remains stage centre, looking at his autographs and programme.*

*Lights move to central spot over the chair and table - DEAN sits as the scene moves to a coffee shop.*



## Scene 2

*A coffee shop. DEAN is sitting. RICK enters upstage left and joins him.*

**RICK** Morning, Dean.

**DEAN** Hi, Rick. thanks for coming.

**RICK** It sounded important - what's up?

**DEAN** I saw a show last night and I loved it.

**RICK** Oh yeah, you went with Chris and his family?

**DEAN** Uh huh.

**RICK** So what was it like?

**DEAN** It was amazing - there were dancers and lights and music. It was awesome, man.

**RICK** Awesome, huh?

**DEAN** Uh huh.

**RICK** So what's up?

**DEAN** I wish I could do something like that.

**RICK** Well what's stopping you?

**DEAN** I don't know.

**RICK** Well I've heard about this fab place where they teach acting, singing and dance.

**DEAN** Really? Where's that?

**RICK** The Drama Group.

**DEAN** Yep. But they wouldn't want me.

**RICK** Course they would! Handsome guy like you. Come on, let's check it out.

**DEAN** I don't know.

**RICK** I'll come with you.

**DEAN** Ok.

*DEAN and RICK exit upstage left.*





### Scene 3

*Lights to full wash as we arrive at the Drama Group workshop space.*

*DRAMA GROUP actors and support staff enter stage right and set table and chairs to stage right where they sit - all at ease, chilling and chatting.*

*DEAN and RICK enter upstage left.*

*Everyone slowly falls silent and looks at DEAN. DEAN turns and tries to leave.*

**RICK** Oh no you don't. Come on, you can do this.

**DEAN** I can do this.

*TEACHER jumps up from audience bringing the hat prop for the first game from under the chair.*

**TEACHER** Morning everybody! Sorry I'm late. Come on, let's get cracking.  
(to RICK and DEAN) Hi! You must be Dean and you must be Nick.

**RICK** It's Rick.

**TEACHER** My apologies. Come on, everybody, gather round. Lots to do today.

*DRAMA GROUP make a good size semicircle stage left.*

First off, everybody - let's say hi to Dean. He will be joining us today. I'm sure you'll all make him feel very welcome.

**DRAMA GROUP** Hi, Dean.

**TEACHER** Let's begin with some emotion work. I've got a new game for you today. In my hat, I've got pieces of paper, with pictures of emotions on them. I would like you to pick a piece of paper, look at the emotion and then show us that emotion. Would you like me to demonstrate?



**DRAMA GROUP**

Yes please!

**TEACHER**

Would you hold this for me Kay?

*TEACHER picks a piece of paper from hat, looks at it, replaces it and then demonstrates 'excitement'.*

**DRAMA GROUP**

Excitement!

**TEACHER**

Excellent. Can you show me how you look when you are excited?

*DRAMA GROUP demonstrate 'excitement'. DEAN is watching but does not join in.*

**TEACHER**

Excellent! Right who's going to start us off?!

**DRAMA GROUP**

Me! Me! Me!

**TEACHER**

Ok, Gus! Would you like to start today?

**GUS**

*(Takes a piece of paper from hat and demonstrates 'anger'.)*

**DRAMA GROUP**

Anger.

**TEACHER**

Well done. Now how do you look when you are angry?

**DRAMA GROUP**

*(Demonstrate 'anger'.)*

**TEACHER**

Adeola would you like a go now?  
*(Offers hat to ADEOLA.)*

**ADEOLA**

*(Takes a piece of paper from hat and demonstrates 'sadness'.)*

**DRAMA GROUP**

*(together) She's sad. She's crying.*

**TEACHER**

Well done - can you show me sadness?

**DRAMA GROUP**

*(Demonstrate 'sadness'.)*

**TEACHER**

*(Offers hat to KATE.)*

**KATE**

*(Takes a piece of paper from hat and demonstrates 'happiness'.)*



**DRAMA GROUP**

(Guess and in turn demonstrate 'happiness'.)

*Throughout this, TEACHER and DRAMA GROUP are offering positive encouragement and applause and DEAN is looking more and more uncomfortable as the hat gets closer and closer to him.*

**TEACHER**

Dean, would you like a go?

**DEAN**

(mumbling) No... no... (shouting) NO!

*DEAN storms off and sits stage right. TEACHER and RICK go to follow.*

**RICK**

(to TEACHER) Don't worry, I'll go.  
(Follows DEAN) Dean...?

*Lights up stage right on DEAN and RICK sitting at a table. Lights down stage left on DRAMA GROUP. During the following scene DRAMA GROUP are given props from a box, e.g. cowboy hats, crowns etc.*

**RICK**

Dean, what was that all about?

**DEAN**

I can't do this!

**RICK**

Of course you can. You can do anything you put your mind to.

**DEAN**

I didn't want to play that game. It was too much pressure, everybody was looking at me.

**RICK**

Listen, Dean, nobody is going to make you do anything you don't want to.

**DEAN**

I don't know anybody.

**RICK**

You will. The teacher seems really lovely.

**DEAN**

I suppose so. But she's so loud, and I hate being put on the spot. What if I make a fool out of myself?

**RICK**

That's what acting is all about.

**DEAN**

Really?



**RICK** You bet. All actors make fools out of themselves at some point. Believe me! It's part of the job description.

**DEAN** You wanna know the truth? I was scared.

**RICK** Look, Dean. Life is about taking risks sometimes. I know you can do this. Let's try again. What's the worst that can happen?

**DEAN** Good point.

**RICK** If you want to be on stage, then you have to believe in yourself.

**DEAN** I guess you are right

**RICK** I believe in you, Dean. Come on, give it another go.

**DEAN** Ok! Let's do this!

**RICK** I'll be just over here if you need me.

*RICK exits to audience.*





## Scene 4

*DEAN enters stage left. Lights up.*

**TEACHER** I'm really sorry if I put you on the spot, Dean.

**DEAN** I'm sorry I walked off like that.

**TEACHER** Look. This is supposed to be fun, you know. Just do what you are comfortable with. Ok?

**DEAN** Ok.

**TEACHER** We are doing another game now using some props. Kate will help you if you like.

**DEAN** Ok.

**KATE** Hello, Dean.

**DEAN** Hi.

**KATE** *(Kate picks up a wig from the prop box and puts it on.)* Boo boo bee doo! Why don't you try?

**DEAN** *(Picks up pirate bandana and puts it on, and then a sword from the prop box.)*

**KATE** Oh. Shiver me timbers!

**DEAN** I'm gonna make you walk the plank. Ha ha ha!

**TEACHER** Okay. Well done, everybody. Really good work. If you would like to put your props back in the box and take a seat, we can move on to the next part of our morning.

**NIGEL** *(Brings on flipchart.)*

**TEACHER** Thank you, Nigel. Ok, so it's that time of year when we rehearse for our annual performance and this year you have chosen to do?

**DRAMA GROUP** Romeo and Juliet!



**TEACHER** That's right - the Shakespeare classic Romeo and Juliet. Ok, so we've decided on the piece and we've been discussing roles, so..

*TEACHER goes through pictures of the cast of Romeo and Juliet on the flipchart and the group put their hands up for who plays which role. The actors show how they feel about their roles - generally very happy. Eventually only DEAN is left.*

**TEACHER** Dean, would you like to be in Romeo's gang? With Charlie and Rory?

**DEAN** No, no, no.

**TEACHER** Ok, that's fine. Would you like to help me - with the props and set perhaps?

**DEAN** Yes - yes that'd be great.

**TEACHER** Great - Nigel will show you what to do. Nigel is it ok if Dean helps you?

**NIGEL** Of course.

**TEACHER** Ok, guys. Let's get this rehearsal started!

*The following scene is done to music and is a montage of the rehearsal process including voice and physical warm ups, costume fittings, sword fights, learning to bow or curtsy. During this time the set is also built on stage and props created.*

*DEAN is taking it all in from his props table. We see him copying moves and reciting lines - also reading the script. KATE as Juliet takes her place on the balcony and JASON as Romeo is below. TEACHER is helping them rehearse the famous balcony scene while the masks for the masked ball are tried on by the rest of the cast stage centre.*

*TEACHER goes to the group to look at the masks being tried on. While her back is turned, JASON attempts to climb the balcony.*

**KATE** Nooooo!

**TEACHER** (Turns to see.) Nooooo!



*Black out. JASON falls.*

*Lights up. JASON is on the ground. TEACHER and KATE are by his side. The rest of the DRAMA GROUP are looking on aghast.*

*Blue flashing light and siren sound. PARAMEDIC enters stage left.*

**PARAMEDIC** What's happened here?

**TEACHER** He fell from the ladder

**PARAMEDIC** Hello, mate. What's your name?

**JASON** Romeo. Erm... Jason.

**PARAMEDIC** Looks like you've had a good bump, Jason.

**JASON** My arm hurts.

**PARAMEDIC** Looks like it's broken. Let's get you to hospital.

**JASON** But what about the show?

**PARAMEDIC** Sorry mate - no show for you.

**JASON** But...

**TEACHER** Don't worry, Jason. We'll be ok.

*JASON and PARAMEDIC exit.*

**TEACHER** What are we going to do?

**DRAMA GROUP** (*talking amongst themselves*) What are we going to do?

**TEACHER** Shhhhh, guys. Let me think..

**KATE** (*whispering to TEACHER*) Dean could do it.

**TEACHER** What?

**KATE** Yes. I've seen him. He knows the whole show.

**TEACHER** Dean?

**KATE** Yes!



**TEACHER** Dean, could you come here a minute?

**DEAN** Yes?

**TEACHER** Did you see what just happened here?

**DEAN** Um, yes. Jason's gone to hospital.

**TEACHER** Yes, Dean. Romeo has gone to hospital.

**DEAN** Yep.

**TEACHER** Kate tells me you know the whole play.

**DEAN** Yep - I have been watching it and reading it - I like it.

**TEACHER** Dean, do you know Romeo's part?

**DEAN** Yep. I think so...  
But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks?  
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.  
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon.

**TEACHER** Dean, could you be Romeo?

**DEAN** Oh. Um... I'm not sure.

**TEACHER** Dean... We need you!

**DRAMA GROUP** We need you!

**DEAN** (*aside*) Sometimes you gotta take a risk.

**TEACHER** Sorry?

**DEAN** Nothing. just something Rick said.

**TEACHER** So will you do it? Will you be Romeo?

**DEAN** I'll do it!

**DRAMA GROUP** (*All cheer.*)

**TEACHER** Right - get him dressed! Positions, everybody!

*ALL on stage. Everyone takes positions by now in costume with masks for the ball scene.*

3... 2... 1... ACTION





## Scene 5

DANCE.

*The cast have split to ladies one side and gentlemen the other, all are facing their partners. Music.*

*PRINCE opens the ball. LORD and LADY MONTAGUE walk to meet stage centre. They bow/curtsey, take hands, promenade down stage to bow and curtsey to the audience, and join their prospective lines again.*

*The others follow suit:*

*LORD and LADY CAPULET*

*NURSE and TYBALT*

*PARIS and JULIET*

*Just as PARIS and JULIET are about to promenade, MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO trick PARIS into joining them. They lure him away, almost pulling him away from JULIET without her noticing. At the last moment, ROMEO steps into his place and dances with JULIET. Set piece continues.*

**TYBALT** (noticing something is afoot, and removing ROMEO's mask) A Montague!

**LORD CAPULET** A Montague!

**ROMEO** (Kisses JULIET's hand and runs off.)

**JULIET** (Screams and faints.)

*NURSE runs to JULIET and helps her off stage. Other guests follow, leaving just LORD and LADY MONTAGUE and LORD and LADY CAPULET.)*

**ROMEO** (To MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO) Fly, gentlemen!

*TYBALT chases ROMEO, MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO off stage. When he returns, he stands stage centre.*

**TYBALT** Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes



A pair of star-crossed lovers take their  
life;  
The which if you with patient ears  
attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall  
strive to mend.

*TYBALT exits.*



## Scene 5

*A balcony. JULIET looks out. ROMEO is below, gazing up at her.*

**ROMEO** But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks?  
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.

**JULIET** *(brushing hair)* Aye me!

**ROMEO** She speaks.  
O, speak again, bright angel.

**JULIET** O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?  
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;  
Or if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love  
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

**ROMEO** I take thee at thy word: Call me but love,  
and I'll be new baptized;  
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

*MUSICAL INTERLUDE.*

*ROMEO and JULIET mime falling in love. ROMEO climbs the balcony and then they come down and walk together in the gardens, laughing, playing.*

**NURSE** *(off stage)* Juliet? Juliet? Where are you?

*ROMEO and JULIET shush each other and hide behind a rose bush.*

*NURSE enters.*

**NURSE** Juliet, I know you're out there.  
You'll catch your death - come inside to bed.

*JULIET tries to go in, but ROMEO stops her.*

*NURSE exits.*

*ROMEO offers JULIET a rose, and they walk to stage centre.*



**NURSE**

(*off stage*) Juliet!

*ROMEO proposes on one knee. JULIET is surprised but accepts.*

*NURSE enters.*

**NURSE**

Juliet! Get in before I get your dad.

**JULIET**

Parting is such sweet sorrow  
That I shall say good night till it  
be morrow.

**ROMEO**

Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in  
thy breast!  
Would I were sleep and peace, so  
sweet to rest!

**NURSE**

Don't be so rude - I'll box your  
ears, young man! Juliet get to bed!

*ALL exit.*





## **Scene 7**

*MIME.*

*FRIAR enters and stands stage centre.*

*ROMEO and JULIET enter from either side, and run into each other's arms. NURSE follows JULIET as witness.*

*FRIAR conducts the wedding. ROMEO and JULIET kiss. Black out.*



## SCENE 8

*A market place.*

*MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO are walking around the town.*

*TYBALT enters with the CAPULETS.*

**BENVOLIO** By my head, here come the Capulets.

**MERCUTIO** By my heel, I care not.

**TYBALT** (to PARIS) Follow me close, for I will speak them. Gentlemen, good-den: a word with one of you.

*MERCUTIO holds up his sword ready to fight. TYBALT meets it.*

**TYBALT** Mercutio, thou consort'st with Romeo.

**MERCUTIO** Consort?

*ROMEO enters.*

**TYBALT** Peace be with you - here's my man!  
Thou art a villain!

**ROMEO** Villain I am none -  
I do protest I never injured thee,  
But love thee better than thou canst  
devise  
Till thou shall know the reasons of  
my love.

**MERCUTIO** Vile submission!  
Tybalt, you rat catcher, will you  
walk?

**ROMEO** Gentle Mercutio, put thy rapier away!

*TYBALT and MERCUTIO fight.*

**ROMEO** Hold, Tybalt! Good Mercutio!

*TYBALT stabs MERCUTIO.*



**MERCUTIO**

I am hurt! A plague on both your houses!

*MERCUTIO dies.*

*ROMEO physically confronts TYBALT. They fight to TYBALT's death.*

**BENVOLIO**

Romeo - be gone!

*They remove MERCUTIO and leave just BENVOLIO and the dead TYBALT.*

*Enter LORD and LADY MONTAGUE and LORD and LADY CAPULET with the PRINCE.*

**LADY CAPULET**

Tybalt, my cousin, oh my brother's child!

**PRINCE**

Who did this?

*ALL look at BENVOLIO, who holds up his hands and shakes his head. BENVOLIO mimes the previous events.*

**LADY CAPULET**

Liar! He is a kinsman to the Montagues -  
I beg for justice which thou Prince must give - Romeo slew Tybalt, Romeo must not live!

**PRINCE**

And for that offence we do exile him hence!

*ALL exit. BENVOLIO runs off to tell ROMEO.*



## **SCENE 9**

*MIME.*

*FRIAR and ROMEO enter. ROMEO asks the FRIAR for help, and they walk and talk.*

*NURSE enters and points ROMEO to poor JULIET so they can say goodbye. They caress and ROMEO is pulled away. JULIET collapses in tears. NURSE doesn't know what to do, so the FRIAR gives JULIET a sleeping potion and gives the NURSE a letter to send to ROMEO.*

*A comedy of errors ensues. Entire cast play Chinese whispers and pass the note about - everyone that is except for the intended recipient: ROMEO.*

*The note goes missing. ALL forget about it and exit.*





## **SCENE 10**

*JULIET enters and lays out cushions and blanket etc. She takes the poison and sleeps.*

*ROMEO returns to find her. He is in despair and takes a vial of poison himself. He dies.*

*JULIET awakes to find ROMEO dead. She tries to take his poison, but the bottle is empty so she falls on Romeo's dagger. She too dies.*

*Play ends.*

*ALL enter for curtain.*

*RICK runs on stage and asks for DEAN's autograph.*