



# BREAK A LEG

A FIASCO PLAYSET BY  
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# MPO1 BREAK A LEG

## CREDITS

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*Break A Leg* was Playset of the Month, June 2011

## BOILERPLATE

This Playset is an accessory for the *Fiasco* role-playing game by Bully Pulpit Games.

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If you'd like to create your own Playset or other *Fiasco*-related content, we'd like to help. Write us at [info@bullypulpitgames.com](mailto:info@bullypulpitgames.com).



"When you play, play *hard*." - Theodore Roosevelt

# THE SCORE

## ALL THE WORLD'S A FRICKIN' STAGE

The director slept with half the cast, your lighting designer is homicidal and that bastard from the Daily News just panned the show in his column. You'll be lucky on opening night if the cast remembers their lines, nobody mentions the Scottish Play and the scenery doesn't fall down mid-performance. But hey, the art is all that's important, right?

*Break A Leg!* is a tribute to the grand traditions and superstitions of the Theatre – from the casting couch to the Great White Way.

## MOVIE NIGHT

*Waiting for Guffman, Slings & Arrows, Extras, Noises Off, An Awfully Big Adventure*

## A SPECIAL NOTE

Special thanks to all the theatres we have worked at over the years that have given us inspiration for this Playset. Almost everything in here may have actually happened to one or both of us during our time working onstage and backstage, including the big box of swords with no lock on it and the severed finger.

Also thanks to one particular production of Uncle Vanya and to the theater departments at Columbia College and Northwestern University for twisting us into the thespians we are today.

# RELATIONSHIPS...

## 1 FAMILY

- "We are show people!"
- ◡ "Apparently they're cousins but don't mention it."
- ◢ Current semi-legal partners
- ◣ Not-so-current spouses
- ◤ Might as well be family
- ⋮ Parent and child

## 2 WORK

- "We're both wearing black and wearing headsets. So no, we're not actors, but thanks for asking."
- ◡ Actor and inferior actor
- ◢ Artistes
- ◣ Director and functionary (playwright, cast, crew, designer)
- ◤ Co-producers
- ⋮ "Volunteers"

## 3 FRIENDSHIP

- For the good of the production
- ◡ Drinking buddies
- ◢ Best worst friends
- ◣ 'Til the bitter end
- ◤ User and used
- ⋮ "We're friends? News to me, but if she says so..."

## 4 ROMANCE

- ◻ Showmance!
- ◻◦ Director and most recent conquest
- ◻◦ Thespian and non-thespian
- ◻◻◦ “It’s just a crush. Nothing serious.”
- ◻◻◦ Secret lovers
- ◻◻◻ One night stand

## 5 HISTORY

- ◻ Went to school together
- ◻◦ Bad (stage) blood
- ◻◦ Former theatrical business partners
- ◻◻◦ Former child actors
- ◻◻◦ “We’ve never met, but our reputations precede us.”
- ◻◻◻ “You’ll remember me when I’m famous, bitches!”

## 6 COMMUNITY

- ◻ Alcoholic and sponsor
- ◻◦ Dubious side project
- ◻◦ Diva and ingénue
- ◻◻◦ Bitter rivals
- ◻◻◦ Community theatre/summer stock players
- ◻◻◻ Mentor and protégé

...IN THE THEATRE

# NEEDS...

## 1 TO GET LAID

- ...once a show, every show
- ...to show everyone who is boss
- ...to get the part
- ...to maintain your reputation
- ...for the first time
- ...to come out of the closet

## 2 TO GET REVENGE

- ...for being passed over
- ...by sabotaging the show
- ...for the humiliation you suffer daily
- ...on the one who broke your heart
- ...for your misspelled name in the fucking program
- ...on the director

## 3 TO GET MORE REVENGE

- ...on the actor who can never find her light
- ...on the playwright that keeps cutting your scenes
- ...on that wealthy patron who thinks they call the shots
- ...on that one particular reviewer
- ...on the bastards who won't cut your check
- ...on the small-minded people who don't appreciate innovative, quality theatre when they see it

## 4 TO GET FAMOUS

- ...because this is your moment and you deserve it
- ◡ ...and prove the doubters wrong
- ◢ ...so you can finally make real art
- ◣ ...so your parents will accept you
- ◤ ...so that everyone knows your name – *Fame!*
- ⋮ ...to be just like [insert famous person here]

## 5 TO GET OUT

- ...of this terrible show
- ◡ ...of this terrible career
- ◢ ...of this terrible town
- ◣ ...of this terrible contract
- ◤ ...of this terrible relationship
- ⋮ ...of this terrible costume

## 6 TO GET RESPECT

- ...from everyone, by doing this role justice
- ◡ ...from everyone, by atoning for a dreadful mistake
- ◢ ...for yourself, by finally treading the boards
- ◣ ...from the press, by getting a good review
- ◤ ...or not, either way, this is art so who cares?
- ⋮ ...because you'll die without it

**...IN THE THEATRE**

# LOCATIONS...

## 1 FRONT OF HOUSE

- Box office
- Cash bar
- Lobby
- Atop the marquee
- Bathroom
- General admission seating

## 2 BACKSTAGE

- The grid (rafters above the stage)
- Dressing rooms
- Tech booth
- Prop room
- Green room
- Director's office

## 3 THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- Parking lot and valet stand
- Convenience store
- Back alley, marked with a warning
- Smoky stairwell
- Thrift shop
- The dealer's house



## 4 PLACE TO CRASH

- ▣ Tiny studio apartment
- ▣ Van parked behind the theatre
- ▣ Your parent's house
- ▣ Four bedrooms, seven people, no problem
- ▣ A greasy couch
- ▣ "How did you afford this place?"

## 5 MICHELLE'S TAVERN

- ▣ Out front with the smokers
- ▣ Under a table, accidentally or on purpose
- ▣ Bathroom, with or without sex currently happening
- ▣ Behind the Golden Tee machine
- ▣ "Holy shit, there's more tequila back here!"
- ▣ The techie table

## 6 CAST PARTY

- ▣ The director's loft apartment
- ▣ High end nightclub called KNOLL
- ▣ The Chicken Hut
- ▣ A muddy field off County Road Sixteen
- ▣ Grover Cleveland High School
- ▣ Somebody's too-small apartment

**...IN THE THEATRE**

# OBJECTS...

## 1 PROPS

- Antique wheelchair
- ◻ Porcelain Buddha statue that must be smashed on stage nightly
- ◻ Alcohol—lots and lots of alcohol
- ◻ Live animal
- ◻ Human skull
- ◻ Two hundred highly flammable Christmas trees

## 2 WEAPONS

- A revolver loaded with blanks
- ◻ A big box of swords with no lock on it
- ◻ A *totally safe* grenade
- ◻ Gloves with claws, stolen from a touring production of *Cats*
- ◻ Nunchucks
- ◻ Anti-aircraft gun left over from a production of *Mister Roberts*

## 3 TECHNICAL

- Poorly-wired lighting instrument
- ◻ Sandbag
- ◻ Glow tape—lots and lots of glow tape
- ◻ Trap door
- ◻ Rain machine
- ◻ Giant red fire-retardant teaser curtain

## 4 DUBIOUS

- The community marijuana stash
- ◻ A sex DVD starring someone in the cast
- ◻ A severed finger
- ◻ PUBLIC SAFETY – CONDEMNED notice
- ◻ Pregnancy test
- ◻ Secret shrine to Julie Taymor

## 5 VALUABLE

- The next show's unreleased cast list
- ◻ Keys to the theatre
- ◻ Director's mobile phone number
- ◻ Stage manager's prompt book
- ◻ Bad review, as yet unpublished
- ◻ The real reason the last actor quit

## 6 SENTIMENTAL

- Stephen Sondheim's autograph
- ◻ Tear-stained love letter
- ◻ Security blanket
- ◻ A director's moment of kindness, captured on film
- ◻ Flowers from opening night
- ◻ Somebody else's Tony award

**...IN THE THEATRE**

# A SUPER DRAMATIC INSTA-SETUP

## RELATIONSHIPS IN THE THEATRE

For three players...

- \* History: Bad (stage) blood
- \* Work: Actor and inferior actor
- \* Romance: Showmance!

For four players, add...

- \* Family: Current semi-legal partners

For five players, add...

- \* Friendship: Drinking buddies

## NEEDS IN THE THEATRE

For three players...

- \* To Get Revenge: ...on the one who broke your heart

For four or five players, add...

- \* To Get Laid: To come out of the closet

## LOCATIONS IN THE THEATRE

For three or four players...

- \* Michelle's Tavern: Out front with the smokers

## OBJECTS IN THE THEATRE

For three or four players...

- \* Weapons: Nunchucks

For five players, add...

- \* Sentimental: Tear-stained love letter