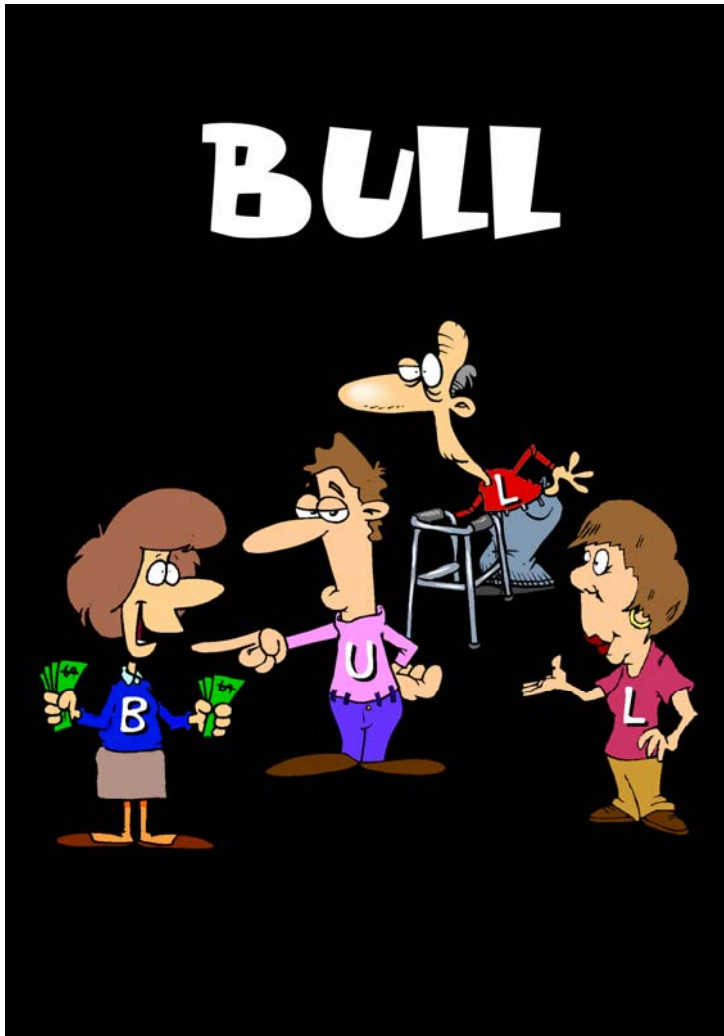


BULL



Clint Snyder

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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*To Mr. Ryan Boomwallah Jackson,
one of the most talented actors I know.*

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BULL was first produced as a staged reading in the Black Box Theatre at the University of Maine New Play Festival, March 16, 2012: Caleb Perry, director.

MINDY: Britney Mitchell

DAMIEN: Jeremy Walsh

ROSS: Caleb Perry

VELMA: Megan Bonney

LESTER: Ryan Jackson

BRANDI: Goldie Irvine

ELAINE: Sophie Veilleux

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Apple Award for best new play,
University of Maine New Play Festival

FARCE. In what may be the worst bully play ever written, actors provide “useful” solutions to prevent bullying like spraying the bully in the eyes with a can of industrial-strength mace, bribing the bully with \$300, looking really crazy so that the bully will leave you alone, and giving the bully a watermelon-shaped eraser. However, much to their chagrin, the actors discover that there is only one student in the class, and as the play unfolds, it appears as if the playwright is the biggest bully of all! Easy to stage, students will love the zany characters in this hilarious play!

Performance Time: Approximately 30 minutes.

CHARACTERS

(2 M, 4 F, 1 flexible)

DAMIEN/DAMIENNE: Fourth-grade student; wears black clothing; can be played by an adult dressed as a child; flexible.

MINDY: Large, hulking playwright who has written a play; about bullying entitled, "BULL"; has a strong Minnesota accent (opt.); female.

ROSS: Cast member of "BULL"; wears a T-shirt with a large "U" on it; has a strong Minnesota accent (opt.); male.

VELMA: Cast member of "BULL"; wears a T-shirt with a large "L" on it; has a strong Minnesota accent (opt.); female.

LESTER: Elderly cast member of "BULL"; uses a walker and wears a T-shirt with a large "L" on it; has a strong Minnesota accent (opt.); male.

BRANDI: Cheery cast member of "BULL"; has pigtails and wears a T-shirt with a large "B" on it; has a strong Minnesota accent (opt.); female.

ELAINE: Embittered former cast member of "BULL"; wears a T-shirt with a large "Y" on it; has a strong Minnesota accent (opt.); female.

NOTE: For flexible roles, change the script accordingly.

SETTING

A small fourth-grade classroom.

SET

Classroom. An impromptu stage is set up at the front of the classroom. There are a few scattered black boxes and a few pieces of masking that the actors can hide behind. There is a desk or chair for Damien that faces the same direction as the audience.

PROPS

Pencil
Paper
Pen
Can of "mace"
Wad of money

SOUND EFFECTS

Peppy, upbeat music
Bell ringing
School bus horn (honking sound)

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**"THE TITLE IS VERY DEEP
AND HAS A HIGHLY METAPHORICAL MEANING."**

—MINDY

BULL

(AT RISE: A small fourth-grade classroom. Damien is seated and looking down, sulking. His desk faces the same direction as the audience. At the front of the class, there is an impromptu stage set up. There are a few scattered black boxes and a few pieces of masking that the actors hide behind. Mindy is in front of the classroom looking pleased that her play is being produced. Mindy occasionally falls into a pattern of talking like she is speaking to a two year old.)

MINDY: Welcome, welcome. It's so great to be back! I've heard a little about the situation here at this school, and you know what? That makes me very sad... *(Pretends to wipe away tears.)* Sad that all of your other classmates are either dead or have transferred out of this school. Sad that your teacher has PTSD and is seeing a therapist instead of teaching your class. Sad that the toolbox of acceptance has not been accepted by the students in this school. But Mindy's back here with my brand-new social-problem play that will help you better understand that intolerance will not be tolerated. By anyone! Anywhere! *(To Damien.)* Even by you, scary little you, sitting there staring at me with those beady little eyes. Judging me. Judging *me!* With those *beady little eyes!* Well, I'll tell you something, mister...I've been bullied my entire life for my incredibly homely face and my size, and I will not be pushed around by the likes of you. *(Pause. No reaction from Damien.)* Oh, you think this is funny. You think intolerance is a big joke, huh?

(Pause.)

DAMIEN: I didn't do anything.

MINDY: Oh, so you're one of those, then? The Guilty by Association, who stands by and watches poor victims like myself get pushed around with hurtful words. You sick, sadistic weirdo.

(Mindy tosses a pen at Damien. Damien ducks.)

DAMIEN: Hey, I—

MINDY: Don't speak. Your actions have spoken for you. They were loud and they had a sort of...European accent. You...the bully. The fiend. The silent-but-oh-so-loud criminal. *(Pause, waits for a response. Damien doesn't respond.)* Oh, so now you have no words? No words for Mindy, the victim?!

DAMIEN: You just asked me—

MINDY: Be quiet! I will not be a victim of your terrible insults. I am not a victim. *(Shouts.)* I am not a victim! *(Normal voice.)* At least that's what my psychologist tells me.

DAMIEN: Oh, good.

MINDY: Yes, yes, it is good. Almost as good as my show. I call it "Bully." The title is very deep and has a highly metaphorical meaning. It's all about bullies and the things that bullies do...mainly bully people.

DAMIEN: Can I go have recess now?

MINDY: You would like that, wouldn't you?

DAMIEN: Yes.

MINDY: Another chance for you to beat up on your classmates? I don't think so. If you even think about bullying anyone, I'll pound your face into the floor!

DAMIEN: They've all either died or moved.

MINDY: Because of your bullying, no doubt. Did you think you could just get away with it? Well, not here. Not anymore. We're going to change your behavior, young man...through the power and beauty of theatre. Do you think you can handle the power of my writings?

DAMIEN: *(Casually.)* Yes.

MINDY: The writing is based around the acronym, "BULLY." The idea took me years to develop... *(Points at her head.)* ...but this productive little bean came through. I did, of course, have to do a few creative last-minute rewrites after our letter "Y" went off the beam and into the dark,

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scary world of schizophrenia, no doubt brought on by some regressed bullying that has just come back to haunt her and will certainly affect you when you get older. Oh, well, without any further ado, I present to you "BULL"!

(Peppy, upbeat music plays and the cast of "BULL" enters from behind the masking, clapping with wildly excited expressions on their faces. Brandi enters, wearing a T-shirt with a "B" on it. When she reaches CS she winks and gives a big thumbs-up.)

BRANDI: "I'm Brandi!"

(Brandi steps to the side but still bounces back and forth. Ross dances out wearing a T-shirt with a "U" on it.)

ROSS: "I'm Ross!"

(Ross salutes and then jogs out of the way. Velma enters wearing a T-shirt with an "L" on it.)

VELMA: "I'm Velma!"

(Velma shimmies and then dances to the side. Lester enters slowly using a walker. He is wearing a T-shirt with an "L" on it. Lester takes much longer getting DCS than the others, who dance and smile awkwardly as they wait for him.)

LESTER: *(Out of breath.)* "I'm...Lester."

(Lester slowly scoots into position as they line up, forming the word "BULL.")

[END OF FREEVIEW]