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Icabod!

An adaptation of The Legend of
Sleepy Hollow

by CRAIG SODARO



Meriwether Publishing Ltd.

Contemporary Drama Service

PO Box 7710 • Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7710

CAST OF CHARACTERS

ICABOD CRANE — the schoolmaster

KATRINA VAN TASSEL — the farmer's daughter

BROM BONES — the bully

BILLY VAN BRUNT — his sidekick

CLARA MATLING — an admirer of Brom

BERTHA VAN RIPPER — a landlady

TILLY VAN RIPPER — her sister

BALTUS VAN TASSEL — Katrina's father

DAME VAN TASSEL — Katrina's mother

THE SCHOOLCHILDREN:

JON

MARTHA

HENRIETTA

CLAUDE

GRETEL

HANS

THE TOWNSPEOPLE:

MAYOR HORACE VANDERBLAH

MINNIE VANDERBLAH

FRANZ GRIPPER

GIDDY GRIPPER

CONSTABLE KLINKDIP

DAME KLINKDIP — always referred to as "DAME"

PRODUCTION NOTES

TIME: Late summer and fall, 1820.

SETTING: The town of Sleepy Hollow along the Hudson River in New York State. A representational setting is ideal, with two "buildings" free-standing: at Left a house, representing the Van Tassel farm; at Right the schoolhouse. They should be big enough to hide behind. Against the back curtain we see free-standing pine trees, haystacks, and cornshucks neatly gathered beneath a full moon. **NOTE:** The play should move smoothly, with no scene changes. The townspeople move the necessary furnishings about as required.

CHARACTERS: Ten male, eleven female. Doubling of children and townspeople can reduce size. In original production, the Headless Horseman was played by Brom Bones. A separate actor may play the part.

PLAYING TIME: 25-30 minutes.

COSTUMES: Nineteenth century dress. The men should wear knickers (or pants rolled up), white socks, vests, pale shirts, with a sport coat pinned back to form tails. Tri-cornered hats for townsmen and perhaps a pilgrim or other unusual hat for Icabod. Women should wear long dresses, mobcaps, and shawls around the shoulders, tied just below the neck. Children should wear typical clothes: boys, plaid or plain shirts and knickers with white socks; girls, shorter dresses with bows in their hair. Black robe for Headless Horseman.

PROPERTIES: Four or five benches (simple, light, rough-hewn look), a small table for Icabod's desk, a schoolbell, six slates with chalk, a switch, two large boxes covered with cloth, paper (for airplanes), notebook (for poetry), sword, rope, signs reading "Dracula," "Guts," and a drawing of a "happy face," a note (invitation to party), bowls of fruit and other "food" for party, flowers or other decorations for party, tree branches sprayed white to catch the light, jack-o-lantern with light.

LIGHTING: Lights dim, flash as indicated (a strobe is effective).

SOUND: Nineteenth century dance music (optional) where indicated. Spooky music (optional) where indicated.

1 **AT RISE:** MAYOR HORACE enters from Left, carrying a bench.
2 Each TOWNSPERSON also brings in bench on his or her line.
3 All benches are placed before the schoolhouse to form the
4 classroom.
5 **HORACE:** Welcome, good friends, to Sleepy Hollow! As
6 Mayor of this tiny settlement, I invite you to sit a spell,
7 take refreshment, and enjoy! (*Sits on bench.*)
8 **MINNIE:** (*Calling from Off Right*) Horace!
9 **HORACE:** (*Jumping up*) Ah, my good wife!
10 **MINNIE:** (*Entering Right*) An old woman ought not break her
11 back carrying furniture about. (*HORACE takes her bench.*)
12 **GIDDY:** (*Entering from Left*) Sleepy Hollow is much like towns
13 in the rest of the world.
14 **FRANZ:** (*Enter Right*) A peaceable place to settle, noted for
15 our fine crops.
16 **CONSTABLE:** Our linens and lace are the best in all New
17 York.
18 **DAME:** And our furniture is sought by those of good taste
19 throughout these new United States.
20 **MINNIE:** (*Knowingly*) But — !
21 **HORACE:** Minnie, not a word more.
22 **CONSTABLE:** It's not good for business!
23 **GIDDY:** Let her tell! We're fools to think they don't know
24 already.
25 **MINNIE:** That's right! Sleepy Hollow is most famous for our
26 ghost! (*Schoolbell rings. The CHILDREN enter happily from*
27 *Left and Right. FRANZ and CONSTABLE exit.*)
28 **HORACE:** The new schoolmaster arrives! (*He exits.*)
29 **MINNIE:** (*Adoringly*) Master Icabod Crane. (*Exit*)
30 **DAME:** A dandy and a gentleman! (*Exit*)
31 **GIDDY:** (*To ICABOD, who enters.*) Good morning, Master Crane!
32 **ICABOD:** (*Grandly*) Why, Dame Gripper! You're charming as
33 a plate of roast pork stuffed with apples. Shall I see you
34 at choir practice tonight?
35 **GIDDY:** (*Giggling*) Oh, yes! I wouldn't miss it! (*She runs off Right.*)

1 **ICABOD:** (*Picking up his switch*) **All right, students!** (*The*
2 *CHILDREN ignore him.*) **Students!** (*He cracks stick.*) **Good**
3 **morning.**

4 **CHILDREN:** (*In unison*) **Good morning, Master Crane.**

5 **ICABOD:** (*Each CHILD answering*) **Jon? Martha? Henrietta?**
6 **Claude? Gretel? Hans?** (*There is no answer.*) **Where is Hans?**

7 **GRETEL:** (*Frightened*) **He... he stopped to feed Herr**
8 **Gripper's goat.**

9 **ICABOD:** (*Furiously*) **Stopped to feed a goat?!** (*HANS runs on*
10 *from Right.*) **Well, the delinquent Master Hans! What have**
11 **you to say?**

12 **HANS:** (*Terrified*) **Herr Gripper's goat blocked my way. I**
13 **couldn't get around him nohow.**

14 **ICABOD:** **Anyhow!**

15 **HANS:** (*Pleadingly*) **No how, neither!**

16 **ICABOD:** **Then how did you get here?**

17 **HANS:** **I had to feed the goat!**

18 **ICABOD:** **And what did you feed it?**

19 **HANS:** (*Sheepishly*) **My homework.**

20 **ICABOD:** **Tardy? No homework?!** **Over the bench!** (*HANS*
21 *tiredly flops over bench. ICABOD is about to spank him when*
22 *BERTHA and TILLY enter from Left, carrying a large box,*
23 *neatly covered.*)

24 **BERTHA:** **Master Crane?**

25 **ICABOD:** **Why, the Sisters Van Ripper.**

26 **TILLY:** **You forgot your lunch.**

27 **ICABOD:** **Why, I can't imagine two more thoughtful land-**
28 **ladies.**

29 **BERTHA:** **It's just what you like: a roast turkey, two cornish**
30 **hens, a potato pie . . .**

31 **TILLY:** **Cheese bread, gooseberry pie, and a pint of ale.**

32 **ICABOD:** **That ought to hold me 'til supper.**

33 **BERTHA:** **We also have news for you, Master Crane.**

34 **TILLY:** (*Ominously*) **Since you must walk the lonely road from**
35 **the schoolhouse.**

1 **BERTHA:** He was spotted last night.
2 **ICABOD:** Who was spotted?
3 **JON:** (*Excitedly*) The Headless Horseman, of course!
4 **ICABOD:** (*Terror-struck*) Headless?
5 **MARTHA:** (*Thrilled*) He's terribly wicked!
6 **HENRIETTA:** He got his head shot off in the Revolution. A
7 cannonball hit it just like this! (*She mimics the horrible death.*)
8 **ICABOD:** (*Weakly*) I don't believe it!
9 **BERTHA:** (*Aghast*) It's true as we're standing here, Master
10 Crane.
11 **CLAUDE:** He wanders around Sleepy Hollow looking for his
12 head.
13 **GRETEL:** And anybody who crosses his path —
14 **HANS:** (*With finality*) He sees to it they don't come back to tell!
15 **ICABOD:** (*Nervously*) Well, local folklore is so charming
16 around here.
17 **BERTHA:** (*Ominously*) We told you for your own sake.
18 **TILLY:** And for the sake of the children! Beware!
19 **ICABOD:** Thank you, good ladies! (*TILLY and BERTHA exit*
20 *Right.*)
21 **JON:** Can we go out and look for him?
22 **ICABOD:** Waste time on silly nonsense?
23 **CLAUDE:** My grandfather saw him!
24 **MARTHA:** He holds his head in his hands!
25 **GRETEL:** But he can see as good as any of us!
26 **ICABOD:** Children! Back to work! Now . . . where was I?
27 **HANS:** (*Quickly, the model student*) The history lesson, sir!
28 **ICABOD:** Why, yes . . . of course. Yesterday we spoke of
29 Cleopatra sailing down the Nile . . . when she arrived at
30 the Delta she met Julius Caesar and there they plotted
31 to take over the world! (*MINNIE enters.*)
32 **MINNIE:** (*Walking across the stage*) In the interest of preserving
33 your sanity, we jump ahead several centuries of ancient
34 history. (*CHILDREN are bored; they throw airplanes.*)
35 **ICABOD:** And there Cleopatra died . . . a tragic end to her

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