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# High School: It's a Concept

by MARY KRELL-OISHI

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**Contemporary Drama Service**

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# **High School: It's a Concept**

by MARY KRELL-OISHI

***CAST***

**Angela**

**Bryce**

**Suemee**

**Mark**

**Bertram**

**Brian**

**Ryan**

**Matt**

**Sam**

**Rachel**

**Hopkins**

**Robo**

**Monti**

**Tammy**

**Leah**

**Heather**

**Eddy**

**Danielle**

**Suzanne**

**Brandy**

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

The objectives of the play, *High School: It's a Concept*, are that of creative staging and an openness to new ideas. When the play was first conceived, it came from many exercises dealing with blocking and body movement. My main thought was to deal with the students as pure actors, eliminating sets, lighting, costume and make-up. Any and all staging was done with their own bodies used as levels on the stage area. Students were chairs, cars, trees, and movie screens. The costuming was whatever they happened to wear on the day of the performance. My original intent for the script was to perform it at our feeder junior high schools as an introduction to the high school experience and expectations they would have as incoming freshmen. We performed the play at four different schools, using only two choir risers and two chairs. All else was done with the actors themselves.

Please, however, do not let this limit you in your concept of production. I have had fellow high school drama teachers in my own district stage this play and seen it done many different ways. One in particular went all out with lighting, setting mood and tone, as well as pace, with different light levels. The stage itself, though, was left relatively bare.

In terms of the cast numbers, parts may be doubled throughout the play quite simply. You will notice that everyone has pretty much the same amount of lines. I didn't want the hassle of "star syndrome," so I actually counted off each person to make sure everyone was equal. Feel free to double up if needed. The only adjustment one would have to make would be at the end, where each senior names his or her new destiny. I would suggest adapting this portion to fit your students, anyway. It gives them a chance to truly feel the experience of growth.

The one thing I must impress upon any director, however, is pace. There should be absolutely no break in the action whatsoever. Each segment flows smoothly into the next, and any break in the action will destroy that fluidity. Your blocking should reflect the movement of the script and its story line. The play is about feelings starting high school and the things that happen to students while they are there, taking them through to graduation. I know it sounds quick, four years in about 25 minutes, but think back. Isn't that how it seems in retrospect?

**Most importantly, have fun with this script. Let your kids play with ideas in blocking. Your only limit is your imagination.**

**Have a great time . . . we did!**

*Mary Krell-Oishi*

1    **ANGELA:** High school. It's a concept . . .

2    **BRYCE:** Concept . . . an idea.

3    **SUEMEE:** It's so big . . . I'll get lost.

4    **MARK:** Where do we go at break?

5    **BERTRAM:** Let's head over there.

6    **BRIAN:** Hey, that's Senior Square. Move it. *(The six share a*  
7        *look and break off, chastised. BRIAN watches until they are*  
8        *gone, then moves to his place.)*

9    **RYAN:** Concept . . . a belief . . . *(MATT talks to RYAN and SAM.*  
10       *RACHEL and MONTI stand alone, between ROBO and*  
11       *HOPKINS, who come together in a high five on their line.)*

12   **MATT:** I don't know anyone.

13   **SAM:** None of my friends have my class.

14   **RACHEL:** I'll never fit in.

15   **HOPKINS:** No problem, my brother goes here.

16   **ROBO:** No problem, my sister goes here.

17   **MONTI:** I'm alone. *(All freeze, looking off in different directions*  
18       *and go to places alone.)*

19   **TAMMY:** Concept . . . a mental image formed on the basis of  
20        knowledge or experience. *(LEAH talks to HEATHER and*  
21        *EDDY to DANIELLE. All four move after DANIELLE's line.)*

22   **LEAH:** I can just see myself . . . dateless . . .

23   **HEATHER:** Wandering aimlessly . . .

24   **EDDY:** Never fitting in.

25   **DANIELLE:** Riding the bus forever. *(SUZANNE is left standing*  
26        *by herself.)*

27   **SUZANNE:** Sitting alone at lunch. *(By now, all should be in*  
28        *assigned area.)*

29   **BRIAN:** Concept . . . a thought or a notion, a generalized idea.

30   **MONTI:** Did you see who got . . .

31   **ANGELA:** ASB president?

32   **RYAN:** The lead in the fall play?

33   **MATT:** Most popular?

34   **TAMMY:** Same people, every time.

35   **BRANDY:** It will always be like this.

1 SAM: Nothing will ever change.  
2 BRYCE: It's always the same people.  
3 RACHEL: Didn't he just move here?  
4 THE GROUP: (*Looking sheepish*) Oh, yeah, I forgot. (*Various*  
5 *other phrases to show their mistake*)  
6 SUEMEE: Who am I?  
7 HOPKINS: I am alone.  
8 ROBO: So, I joined a gang. Mi familia . . .  
9 MATT: That's just stupid.  
10 SUEMEE: I don't *belong* anywhere.  
11 HOPKINS: Maybe I'll try . . .  
12 ROBO: I am who I am . . . accept it.  
13 RYAN: I do what I feel.  
14 BERTRAM: No one knows how I feel.  
15 MARK: No one knows.  
16 MATT: No one knows.  
17 MONTI: No one knows.  
18 DANIELLE: Only me.  
19 SUZANNE: No one ever felt this way.  
20 LEAH: No one.  
21 EDDY: No one.  
22 ANGELA: No one understands.  
23 TAMMY: I remember my first day.  
24 MARK: I'd like to forget it.  
25 ANGELA: I was only thirteen.  
26 HEATHER: I felt so young.  
27 BRIAN: My friends all changed.  
28 THE GROUP: (*Surrounding BRIAN*) You're different!  
29 DANIELLE: My friends said I had changed.  
30 THE GROUP: (*Surrounding DANIELLE*) You're different!  
31 EDDY: Nothing changed.  
32 SUEMEE: I expected it to be different.  
33 SAM: It was all so new.  
34 LEAH: I wanted something to happen.  
35 RYAN: Something that made a difference.



1 **BERTRAM:** I knew something would happen.  
2 **HOPKINS:** I didn't know when, but it would happen.  
3 **SUZANNE:** I felt like I was waiting.  
4 **MATT:** Hey, it's high school. So happen.  
5 **BRANDY:** I'll just watch and see.  
6 **ROBO:** I'll wait for my friends and see what they say.  
7 **BRYCE:** I don't know, what do you think?  
8 **MONTI:** It's a thought.  
9 **MATT:** I thought it would be ... different ...  
10 **SUEMEE:** More fun ...  
11 **SAM:** Less cliquey ...  
12 **ROBO:** Much harder ...  
13 **BRANDY:** I hoped it would get easier ...  
14 **DANIELLE:** Nothing does.  
15 **LEAH:** I wanted so much to be happy ...  
16 **TAMMY:** To be liked ...  
17 **RACHEL:** To fit in ...  
18 **BRYCE:** To stand out ...  
19 **BERTRAM:** To prove myself ...  
20 **MATT:** To try something new.  
21 **RYAN:** It's all so new ...  
22 **BRIAN:** And different ...  
23 **HOPKINS:** And cool ...  
24 **ANGELA:** And scary ...  
25 **EDDY:** And strange ...  
26 **HEATHER:** And big ...  
27 **SUZANNE:** It's high school ...  
28 **SAM:** It's what you make of it.  
29 **ALL:** It's a concept.  
30 *(CAST should be in positions On-stage for the group scenes.)*  
31 **GROUP 1**  
32 **SAM:** Everyone says that the best thing about high school  
33 is that it is over before you know it.  
34 **ROBO:** That was probably your mom talking.  
35 **MONTI:** I saw four long years.

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