

PLAYGROUND SUPERHERO

A Play for Young Audiences
in Three Short Acts

by

Andrew Perry

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Playground Superhero was first produced by Pollyanna Theatre Company in Austin TX at the Long Center for the Performing Arts' Rollins Studio Theatre in October 2012. The cast & crew were as follows:

<u>SETH DUNCAN:</u>	Aaron Alexander
<u>RACHEL MYERS:</u>	Bethany Harbaugh
<u>KOBYN VICKERS:</u>	Toby Minor
<u>MRS. DUNCAN:</u>	Gricelda Silva
<u>ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VICKERS:</u>	Michelle Keffer
<u>BOBBIE:</u>	Julie Linnard
<u>PATRICK:</u>	Gricelda Silva
<u>RENEE:</u>	Michelle Keffer
<u>DIRECTOR:</u>	Judy Matetzschk-Campbell
<u>STAGE MANAGER:</u>	Andrew Perry
<u>SCENIC DESIGNER:</u>	Ia Ensterä
<u>COSTUME DESIGNER:</u>	Ia Ensterä
<u>LIGHTING DESIGNER:</u>	Don Day
<u>SOUND DESIGNER:</u>	Breton Christopherson

Cast of Characters

<u>SETH DUNCAN:</u>	A young imaginative boy
<u>RACHEL MYERS:</u>	A smart young girl
<u>KOBYN VICKERS:</u>	A young boy who is a bully
<u>MRS. DUNCAN:</u>	A teacher, SETH's mother*
<u>ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VICKERS:</u>	KOBYN's strict mother**
<u>BOBBIE:</u>	A young girl
<u>PATRICK:</u>	A young boy, RENEE's brother*
<u>RENEE:</u>	A young girl, PATRICK's sister**

Production may be done with six to eight actors.

*The roles of MRS. DUNCAN and PATRICK can be doubled by one actor.

**The Roles of ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VICKERS and RENEE can be doubled by one actor.

Scene

A modern home kitchen and an elementary school playground

Time

The present

ACT I

SETTING: In the kitchen of the DUNCAN's new home. There is a small table covered in various toys and breakfast items. Visible outside the home is a portion of the school playground.

AT RISE: SETH plays at the table while dressed in a ridiculous manner, which might include things like a cape, a space suit, or a cowboy hat. There are small toys and trinkets all around. He is mostly playing with and talking to his breakfast instead of eating it. His favorite toy is a Large Soldier Figure named Man-O-Man, which he carries constantly.

SETH

(with dramatic vibrato)

Have no fear, Bagelites! I have come to save the planet of Good Morning from the terrible Evil, Hungerius! That munch monster may think he can get away with all the breakfast in the universe, but I have a plan that will save every savory slice of buttery toast! Little does that egg scrambler know, I'm an orange-juice-belt in Cereal-Dunk-Fu! Man-O-Man and his trusty milk gun will have that crispy villain so soggy he'll wish he'd never rolled outta bed. This is our time, flakey friends! Pray for your biscuits! We need to rise, sunny side up, and seize the bacon!

MRS. DUNCAN

(from off-stage)

Seth!

SETH

(not hearing at first)

We're gonna flip that scoundrel's pancake plans! It'll be a sticky mess he'll wish he'd never-

MRS. DUNCAN

(from off-stage)

Seth!

SETH

(to his toys)

Um, hold on a sec.

(yelling to his mother, but
is still in "character")

Who dares to interrupt me, the hero of Oatmealions?

MRS. DUNCAN

(from off-stage)

Seth! Are you finished eating?

SETH

I'm trying, Mom, but I have to save the Good Morning Planet
from the monster first!

MRS. DUNCAN

(entering, busy with
paperwork)

Seth, honey, please. We can't be late! It's a big day
today! Just let the monster have the good morning for once
and eat.

SETH

All right, All right. I'm eating. I'm eating.

(back to playing with a
little bit of eating)

Look out, cerealizens! AHHH! The Hunger Monster is winning!
Nom-nom-nom!

MRS. DUNCAN

Where is that list? I know I had it when I was studying
last night, but now I can't... Seth, hon, have you seen
that bundle of papers for- OH!

(Suddenly, the contents of
MRS. DUNCAN's briefcase
spill onto the floor, with
papers going everywhere.
SETH immediately stops
eating and helps to pick it
all up.)

SETH

Avalanche!

MRS. DUNCAN

What else can go wrong this morning?

SETH

Don't worry, Mom. I'm helping.

MRS. DUNCAN

Thank you, sweetie. I'm just so nervous about today. I know we've moved around a lot with your dad in the army, but this is the first time we've had to do it in the middle of the semester.

SETH

I love first times!

MRS. DUNCAN

You do?

SETH

Well, yeah. They're exciting and new. I know there'll be a lot of stuff to catch up on, but I can't wait to meet some new friends and my new teacher.

MRS. DUNCAN

You know, most kids would be scared to have to start at a new school mid-way through like this. I know I'm scared and I get to be the teacher!

SETH

Dad always says that it's up to me to be brave and turn scary times into fun times. He says that's how to be a real hero. And he should know. He is one!

MRS. DUNCAN

Wow. Your father would be so proud of you.

SETH

Well, I'm proud of him! Besides, I was kinda glad we moved. My last teacher looked a little too much like a witch. Plus she always smelled like fried okra.

MRS. DUNCAN

Stop it! She did not.

SETH

Seriously. Like, all the time.

MRS. DUNCAN

Okay, well, maybe she did.

SETH

I wonder what my new teacher will smell like.

MRS. DUNCAN

You know there's another cool first about this new school. Since it's so close, we can walk there together instead of taking the bus.

SETH

Really?

MRS. DUNCAN

Yep. And we also get to have lunch together any day you want. Yet another perk of being a teacher at the same school where your kid's a student.

SETH

No more bumpy bus rides and we get to have lunch together every day? Sweet! How cool is that?

MRS. DUNCAN

Well, I don't know about every day, but- Oh, look! My class roster! I think that means I've got everything. Are you ready to go?

SETH

(suddenly dramatic)

Oh Warden! Not yet! I'm not ready! Please don't take me to reading row! I swear I'm innocent. Please, oh please, oh please!

MRS. DUNCAN

(playing along)

Prisoner, you have been tried by an honorable judge and I must carry out the jury's sentence. Execution of education! Only a call from the Governor can save you now!

(Both laugh at their own silliness. Suddenly, the phone rings, startling them both, which makes them laugh even more.)

SETH

It's the Governor! I'm saved!

MRS. DUNCAN
(answering the phone)
Governor! You've called just in the nick of time!

(On another part of the stage, we see ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VICKERS on her phone calling from the school.)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VICKERS
Excuse me? This is supposed to be the Duncan residence. This is Assistant Principal Vickers speaking.

MRS. DUNCAN
Oh! Yes, this is the Duncan House. I'm sorry Ms. Vickers, ma'am, I didn't expect-

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VICKERS
It's Principal Vickers, thank you. Have you had a chance to unpack your clock?

MRS. DUNCAN
Um, excuse me? Why do you-

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VICKERS
I'm sorry. I guess I shouldn't have assumed that your old school expected their teachers to be on time, but at this school we do require them to be punctual.

MRS. DUNCAN
I'm sorry? I thought-

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VICKERS
New teacher orientation was scheduled to begin promptly at 6:30 this morning. Did you receive the information packet we sent you? This was all clearly spelled out quite clearly. Maybe you were too busy to read it.

MRS. DUNCAN
No, no, no! I'm sorry, ma'am. I promise I'm on my way right now.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VICKERS
I expected better, Mrs. Duncan. I hate to do this, but this is your first strike.

(ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
VICKERS hangs up her phone
and exits.)

MRS. DUNCAN

Yes, ma'am.

(hangs up her phone)

Seth, get you stuff. We need to go now.

SETH

(rushing to gather his
stuff in his bag)

Is everything okay?

MRS. DUNCAN

(clearly flustered)

Everything's fine, but we have to leave right now. I could have sworn they told me to be there at 7:00, but Ms. Vick-I mean Assistant Principal Vickers said... Well, she didn't have to be so mean about it. Anyway, come on. Let's go before it gets worse.

SETH

Well, at least it's just a short walk down the road! And we get to walk together!

MRS. DUNCAN

Just like your father. Always looking on the bright side. Honey, are you sure you want to take your "special" bag to school?

SETH

Are you kidding? Of course, I do! Dad always taught me a hero is ready for anything. Look! Yesterday, I found this great stick in our new front yard. And here's a fancy towel in case it gets cold!

MRS. DUNCAN

All right, all right. But you better stay out of trouble. I know how you can be.

SETH

I have no idea what you're talking about.

(Over the following
dialogue, the house moves
aside revealing the school

playground as MRS. DUNCAN
and SETH travel.)

MRS. DUNCAN

Okay. Let's go, kiddo. Time to face the music. Hey, I know you're excited to walk together, but I still have loads of teacher's names and school policies to learn. Would you mind if I studied some paperwork while we walk?

SETH

Well, only because you have the rest of the school year to make it up to me.

MRS. DUNCAN

Gee, thanks. Now where is that handbook...

(she pulls out some papers
and studies while they walk,
occasionally mumbling)

So, there's a Mrs. Johnson who teaches history and a Mrs. Johnston who's the librarian. That'll be fun. Who knew one little "T" could cause so much confusion? I'll never be able to remember all this!

SETH

Hey, I have just the thing!

(he digs into his bag and
pulls out a strange piece
of something, which he
hands to his mother)

It's a Memory Twiddle!

MRS. DUNCAN

A what?

SETH

A Memory Twiddle! You've never heard of one?

MRS. DUNCAN

No. Is it like a magical charm thingy that's supposed to help me remember all these policies and names? I could sure use that.

SETH

No, it helps you remember me! With you learning all this new stuff, I don't want you forgetting which kid in there is yours.

MRS. DUNCAN

Honey, there is nothing in this world that could make me forget you.

(suddenly seeing that they've arrived at the school)

Oh, are we here already? Are you gonna be all right out here in the playground until class begins?

SETH

You bet I will! I'm gonna look around and try to meet some of the other kids.

MRS. DUNCAN

All right, sweetie. Have a good day and please try to stay out of trouble. I'll see you at lunch, okay?

SETH

Okay, Mom. See you then!

Ms. Vickers

(yelling from offstage)

Mrs. Duncan! So nice of you to finally join me! Hurry along, please!

SETH

That doesn't sound good.

MRS. DUNCAN

(exiting)

Wish me luck!

SETH

Good luck!

(now alone, he takes out his Soldier Figure)

Boy, Man-O-Man, the Assistant Principal sounds kinda mean. But maybe she's just having a bad day. Dad says that sometimes first meetings can be bad, but it doesn't mean that the person is. I'm sure Mom'll tell me at lunch how cool she really is. They just have to get to know each other! I bet they're laughing already! Boy, I hope I can make friends as fast as Mom. Hmmm... What to do 'til then...

(a beat)

Oh, Man- O-Man! I have such a good idea.

(He digs into his bag and pulls out a beanie-style

hat and a large pair of
goggles.)

Seth (Cont.)

I always wanted to be a bug on the wall! They get to see everything!

(Once he has the items on,
he begins his bug act,
buzzing around with great
silliness, holding his
hands like pinchers.)

Bzzzzzzzz. Bzzzzzzzz. I think I'll fly over here! Bzzzzzzzz.
Bzzzzzzzz. Perhapzzzzz over there is a better zzzzzzzpot.
Bzzzzzzzz. Bzzzzzzzz. Ah, here I can zzzzzzzzee the whole
playground! Bzzzzzzzz.

(As SETH settles into his
chosen bug perch, buzzing
away, RACHEL enters. She is
carrying a book and humming
to herself. She sits on the
bench and reads. The
SIBLINGS, PATRICK and
RENEE, enter and run to a
shed labeled "Playground
Supplies - Use the Honor
System and Play Nice". They
are always competing. While
fighting over the ball,
they rush to their usual
basketball spot to begin
their usual game.)

RENEE

Hey! No pushing!

PATRICK

Ha ha! Another point for Patrick! The Champ has the ball!

RENEE

You are so about to lose to a girl, tough guy.

PATRICK

Yeah right, sis. No girl's ever gonna beat me! I own this court!

RENEE

You own nothin'! And there's a first time for everything!
I've got a good feeling about today, brother. You just look
out! Anything could happen today!

(From offstage, we hear
BOBBIE's voice just as
KOBYN enters.)

BOBBIE

Kobyn! Hey, wait up!

(KOBYN ignores BOBBIE and
walks to center stage and
stops. He turns and faces
where the SIBLINGS are
playing just as BOBBIE
enters.)

BOBBIE

(a bit out of breath)

Hey, Kobyn! What's up? I've been trying to catch you.
Didn't you-

(KOBYN pushes BOBBIE out of
the way and crosses toward
the SIBLINGS. KOBYN
suddenly slaps the
basketball away from the
twins, making it roll
offstage. The SIBLINGS
react simultaneously before
they see it's KOBYN.)

PATRICK

Hey! What'd you do that for?!

RENEE

Oh, now there's gonna be... uh... world...

(KOBYN is giving the
SIBLINGS the Eyes of Death.
Slowly, he raises a fist,
cutting off any
opposition.)

PATRICK

Um, gee sis, maybe we should go get our ball that I just accidentally dropped.

RENEE

I think that is the best idea I've ever heard ever, ever.

(The SIBLINGS quickly turn and run offstage. KOBYN then turns his attention to RACHEL who has been pretending to be totally absorbed in her book.)

BOBBIE

Hey, Kobyn, I just got the new Power Purple Game! Wanna-

KOBYN

Bobbie! Be quiet!

(RACHEL jumps at KOBYN's yell. Everyone is quiet for a moment. KOBYN crosses quickly to RACHEL and grabs the book out of her hand.)

RACHEL

(standing)

Hey! Give that back!

KOBYN

You want this back? Fine. Go get it.

(KOBYN throws the book aside. As RACHEL tries to step to get it, he blocks her way.)

RACHEL

Please, just let me have my book back.

KOBYN

Why do you gotta be so smart?

RACHEL

What? What do you mean? Can I please have my book? I really need it.

KOBYN

Bobbie! Get Rachel's book!

BOBBIE

Got it, Kobyn!

(tries to cross to RACHEL)

Should I give it back?

KOBYN

(stopping BOBBIE)

No, Bobbie. Throw it in the trash.

RACHEL

What? No!

BOBBIE

In the trash? But there could be something gross in there!

KOBYN

The book goes in the trash or you do. Take your pick.

BOBBIE

But... uh...

KOBYN

(angered more by BOBBIE's
hesitation)

Do it, Bobbie, or I'll break your head!

BOBBIE

(after thinking briefly)

Sorry, Rachel.

(BOBBIE crosses to the
trash can and holds the
book over it for a moment
before dropping it.)

RACHEL

Bobbie! Please don't! I'm begging you! Kobyn, why are you making her do this? No!

SETH

That'zzzzz enough! BZZZZZZZ!!!! ZZZZZAVE THE BOOKZZZZZ!!!!
BZZZZZ!!

(SETH leaps out of his observation point and begins buzzing around the stage.)

BOBBIE

Who is that?

(SETH makes a few curvy turns and then begins buzzing KOBYN. He tickles, buzzes, and circles to be as annoying a pest as possible.)

SETH

Bzzzz! Bzzzz!

KOBYN

Hey! Get off me, kid! What, are you some kinda weirdo or something?

(SETH pokes at KOBYN)

That tickles! Ha! Stop it! I mean it! Ha ha! Quit it or I'll beat your face into next Wednesday! Stop!

BOBBIE

What are you doing to him? Hey!

(BOBBIE tries to step in but is caught up in being buzzed and tickled.)

Ha ha! Stop it! Ha!

SETH

Bzzzz! Bzzzz!

KOBYN

Ha ha ha! AHFFF! I can't stand it! You freak!

(KOBYN runs offstage to go into the school as SETH continues to tickle BOBBIE.)

BOBBIE

Ha ha ha! Please! Please! No more! No more! Ha ha!

(SETH finally releases BOBBIE and buzzes to another perch.)

Whew! Oh man! Thank goodness that's over... Hey, where did Kobyn go?

RACHEL

Um, he ran inside.

BOBBIE

Oh man, he'll be mad if I don't follow after him!

(BOBBIE exits. RACHEL is now left alone with SETH, who is still acting like a bug.)

RACHEL

Uh... Hi! What's your name?

SETH

Bzzzz! Bzzzz!

(SETH buzzes around again and finds a new perch.)

RACHEL

Okay... So you must be that new kid Maria said she saw playing with sticks in her new neighbor's yard yesterday.

(SETH does not respond.)

Well, my name is Rachel.

SETH

Bzzzz! Bzzzz!

(SETH buzzes toward RACHEL, tickling her as he quickly passes. This time when he perches, he holds totally still, with eyes wide.)

RACHEL

Ha ha ha! You sure are weird! Who are you?

(SETH remains motionless, but does a quick bug-like lick of the tongue, which only makes RACHEL laugh more.)

Why won't you answer me?

SETH

(finally starting to drop
the act)

I'm trying to change color like a fancy bug so you can't see me. I guess it isn't working.

RACHEL

Nope, I still see you.

SETH

Oh well. I'll just have to keep trying. There's a first time for everything.

RACHEL

Do you do this every morning?

SETH

(removing the goggles and
hat)

This is my first time to ever be a bug, but I like to play it by the nose! I'm Seth.

RACHEL

I think you mean play it by ear. It was pretty fun in the end. A lot more fun than most mornings.

(beat)

Thanks for making Kobyn go away. I hate when he's like that.

SETH

(crosses over to the trash
to get the book)

Yeah, he sure was being mean to you for no reason. What's up with him?

RACHEL

I don't really know. He's just like that. His mom is Assistant Principal Vickers. So most kids are scared to tell on him.

SETH

(hands the book to RACHEL)

Wow. That is tricky.

PATRICK & RENEE

Pssst! Rachel! Hey!

RACHEL
Oh! Hey guys!

RENEE
Is Killer Kobyn gone?

RACHEL
Yeah, it's safe. Seth saved the day!

PATRICK
Who is Seth?

SETH
I am!

RENEE
What do you mean he saved the day?

RACHEL
You should have seen it! He was hilarious! He did this
crazy bug act thing...

(She poorly tries to
imitate SETH's bug act.)
He totally made Kobyn run away screaming!

PATRICK
Whaaaaat?!

RENEE
No way!

RACHEL
Really! I've never seen anyone do anything like that! Seth
meet the Siblings.

SETH
Siblings?

RENEE
Hi! I'm Renee.

PATRICK
And I'm Patrick. Holy Cow! I guess there's a new Sheriff in
town!

RACHEL
Ha ha! Seriously!

SETH

Sheriff? Me?

(He quickly drops into a bad cowboy act, pulling a fake mustache and mini cowboy hat out of his bag.)

I reckon I like the sound of that. Pleased to meet you, Brother and Sister Sibling! You settlers can rest easy now that Sheriff Seth Duncan is ridin' these here halls. Bang bang!

(SETH fires his fingers as guns.)

RENEE

What a riot!

PATRICK

Does that mean he has a horse?

(A school bell rings.)

RACHEL

Oh, it's time for class. Seth, do you wanna walk in with us?

RENEE

Yeah! Come on! We'll find a seat for you near us.

SETH

(still playing cowboy)

Just lead the way, cowgirls-

PATRICK

Hey!

SETH

And boy.

PATRICK

That's right! Yeee-Hooooo! Bing bang!

(PATRICK tries to copy SETH's bad cowboy act.)

SETH

Me 'n' Patty the Kid here'll cover yer hides all the way through this canyon. Them bandits ain't gonna git the drop on us while the gunslinger's in town. Bang bang!

RENEE

He doesn't really know when to stop does he?

SETH

YEEE-HAAAW!

PATRICK

Okay, buddy. Settle down. Let's just go inside now.

SETH

This is the best dog-gone first day ever! Yeee-haaaw!

(RACHEL and RENEE giggle at
SETH as they all exit.)

(BLACK OUT)

(END OF ACT)