**Zombies!**

A Dark Comedy

by Taunya Page

With special thanks to Jim Bird and Mike Brantley

For contributions to the editing process—

And to Karen Bird for the French translations

For MHHS Encore Co. 2016-17

Cover Art by

Mike Morin

Copyright 2016

All Rights Reserved

**All Rights Reserved**

Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that a royalty must be paid for every performance, whether or not admission is charged. All inquiries regarding scripts and rights for performances should be addressed to Taunya Page by emailing page210@yahoo.com.

Rights to this play—including but not limited to amateur, professional, and translation into foreign languages—are controlled by Taunya Page, without whose permission no performance, reading or presentation of any kind in whole or in part may be given. These rights are fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and of all countries covered by the Universal Copyright Convention or with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, including Canada, Mexico, Australia and all nations of the United Kingdom. Conscientious observance of copyright law is not only ethical, it encourages authors to continue their creative work.

Anyone who violates an author’s copyright is liable as a copyright infringer under United States and international law. The author is entitled to institute legal action for any such infringement, which can subject the infringer to actual damages, statutory damages, and attorney’s fees. A court may impose statutory damages of up to $150,000 for willful copyright infringements. U.S. copyright law also provides for possible criminal sanctions. Visit the websites of the U.S. copyright Office (www.copyright.gov) for more information.

**Copying or reproducing all or any part of this book in any manner is strictly forbidden by law.**

**Restriction of Alterations**: There shall be no deletions, substitutions, alterations, or changes of any kind made to the play, including the cutting of dialogue unless directly authorized by the author. The title of the play shall not be altered.

**Statement of Non-affiliation**: This play may include references to brand names and trademarks owned by third parties, and may include references to public figures. The author is not necessarily affiliated with these public figures, or with the owners of such trademarks and brand names. Such references are included solely for parody, political comment, or other permitted purposes. This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, businesses, places, events and incidents are either the products of the author’s imagination or used in a fictitious manner. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

**On all programs, printing and advertising, the following information must appear:**

The full name of the play—

*Zombies! A Dark Comedy*

The full name of the playwright—

Taunya Page

**Acknowledgements**

*Zombies!* premiered October 27, 2016 at Mountain Home High School in Mountain Home, Idaho. The production was directed by Taunya Page and featured the following cast and crew:

Alice………………………………………………………………. Mikayla Beck

Ella……………………………………………………………….. June Emerson

Miss Walker…………………………………………………Jennica Lockett

Floyd…………………………………………………………………Tyson Coles

Laney…………………………………………………………….Rachel Criddle

Jason…………………………………………………………………... Nick Beck

Taylor ………………………..….……….………………..………..Ally Criddle

Emery………………………….……….…………………………...Noah Garza

Toni ……………………………………………………..………….Laney Aaron

Chad………………………………….….….…………….…Isaac Gunderson

Louise……………………………………………………………...Cierra Webb

Cathleen…………………………..………………………..…Iris Hernandez

Delilah……………………….….…….……………..…Katelyn Richardson

Hans……………………….…….………………………………...Ryan Darkes

Mrs. Carrier…………………………………………….………..Taryn Olaso

Angelique…………………………………………….……….Allison Nicora

Neo………………………………………..……....…Nathaniel Hernandez

Detective Schroeder…………………………..……..……Sekoya Tong

Sergeant Allen………………………………………..………..Tori Bartlett

Sergeant Clark………………………………..………Destiny Campbell

Nick …………………………………………………….………Nick Parkinson

Brandon……………………………………..……………..Caleb Schneider

Natasha………………………………………………..……..Bryanna Strom

Tracy……………………………………………………………..Brianna Floyd

Mrs. Wright……………………………………………………Shelby Raber

Mr. Gunderson………………………….……………...Sam Gunderson

Extra Zombies ……………………………………………..Sarah Conway, Jenna Gunderson, Logan Tibbitts, Joel Viola, Patrick Wood

Assistant Director…….………….…………………….…Tyson Coles

Stage Manager……….………..………………….…..Sarah Conway

Costume Design…….…..........MHHS Costume Design Class

Set Design, Sound,Props, Lights…………...MHHS Stagecraft

Sound Technician…………………….………………..Haylee Harris

Lighting Technician……………..………...………..…Jillian Rogers

**Cast of Characters**

(In order of appearance)

Alice

Ella

Miss Walker

Floyd

Laney

Jason

Taylor

Emery

Toni

Chad

Louise

Cathleen

Delilah

Hans

Mrs. Carrier

Angelique

Neo

Detective Schroeder

Sergeant Allen

Sergeant Clark

Nick

Brandon

Natasha

Tracy

Mrs. Wright

Mr. Gunderson

Extra Zombies

**Character Descriptions**

**Alice**: Finally got the lead in the school play

**Ella:** The stage manager of the school’s *Alice in* *Wonderland* production, always late

**Miss Walker**: An inexperienced, long-term sub for Mr. White’s chemistry class. She wears a lanyard with her teacher’s badge and carries a clipboard.

**Jason**: A good looking senior soccer player with a scholarship in the fall. He’s fantastic—and knows it.

**Taylor**: Academically brilliant and jealous of Jason’s soccer success

**Laney**: An over-confident chemistry student willing to help, or take charge, in any classroom situation

**Emery**: A visionary poet with a strong sense of style

**Floyd**: A less-than-motivated high school student—worried about the police searching his locker

**Toni**: The school’s southern receptionist

**Chad**: Otherwise known as Recycle Bin Boy, an environmentalist-surfer dude out to save the planet

**Louise**: A journalism student who goes out on a limb for any big story

**Cathleen**: A photography student working for the school newspaper

**Delilah**: Beautiful, not bright

**Hans**: The custodian—he’s kind of a big deal

**Mrs. Carrier**: The librarian, a prepper with a survival guide

**Angelique**: A French foreign exchange student who understands a bit of English, but really doesn’t speak a lick of it

**Neo**: The new kid

**Detective Schroeder**: A veteran secret service agent, now a small town officer of the law

**Sergeant Allen**: A police officer with orders to search Floyd’s locker

**Sergeant Clark**: Another

**Nick**: Senior class president

**Natasha**: *Wonderland’s* makeup artist

**Brandon**: A toothpick-sized kid who recently took up weight lifting

**Tracy**: An energetic cheerleader in uniform

**Mrs. Wright**: Neo’s over-protective mother

**Mr. Gunderson**: The school principal. A cameo role with no lines, other than some zombie grunting, of course. (Feel free to substitute the name of your school principal here and invite him/her to participate in your show!)

**Extra Zombies**: You know, they’re zombies—students, teachers, the UPS guy, whomever you’d like

**Set Description**

It is homecoming week at the local high school. The permanent set represents an interior collage of the school, including the chemistry lab, the library, a hallway of lockers, and the zoology classroom. Simple props like desks, tables, shelves of books, and a portable wall of lockers move in and out to easily establish locations. See-through windows allow zombies visibility as they wander by and pound on imaginary glass to gain entry, a constant threat to the survivors throughout the show. Several entrances accommodate the farcical nature of the play, and the pace of the production is not interrupted with cumbersome set changes or curtain closures.

**Act One**

Scene I The Stage/ The Chemistry Lab

Scene II The Library

Scene III A Hallway of Lockers

Scene IV The Zoology Classroom

**Act Two**

Scene I The Library/ Lockers/ Chemistry Lab

Scene II The Library

Scene III A Hallway of Lockers

**Act One: Scene One**

The Stage/ The Chemistry Lab

(Music box chimes play as the curtain opens to reveal a spot light on Alice. She is on a school stage rehearsing in costume for her upcoming performance of *Alice in* *Wonderland*. Her delivery is overwhelmingly eerie.)

**Alice**: When suddenly a white rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her! She had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit hole under the hedge. In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again.

(She poses dramatically as the spot light fades. In the darkness we hear Ella’s voice from behind the audience.)

**Ella**: Okay, can we have the lights back on? Nick, can you turn them back on? (The spot light comes back up.)

**Alice**: What? What’s the problem?

**Ella**: (Making her way to the stage, trying to be sensitive) Ok, well, I know I came in late, but from what I saw, it’s just a little too…Alice-in-rehab, you know? You said you wanted my honest opinion, and I don’t want to make you upset, but…

**Alice**: It’s probably just the lighting—too dreary. Nick, let’s change it up again, and I’m sure…

**Ella**: (With haste) Ok, well, if you think that’s what it is. Look, I’ve gotta go. I’m late!

**Alice**: Late again! Ella, you’re the stage manager. You’re supposed to rehearse with me.

**Ella**: I know, and I will. I just can’t right now. If I get one more tardy, I’m eatin’ lunch with the breakfast club! I’m late! Always late! (She exits swiftly.)

**Alice**: Alright, Nick, give me that light cue again, and I’ll try something different. (She takes a deep breath and uses a melodramatic hand gesture to get into character. Nick gives her the light cue, and she starts again, this time with a more treacherous tone.) In another moment, down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again!

(She smiles dangerously as the lights fade to blackout, and the fourth period bell rings. Lights come up on the chemistry lab as Miss Walker enters and writes notes on the board while she flips through papers on her clipboard. Students with backpacks and notebooks shuffle in taking their seats at the tables—Floyd (empty-handed), Emery, Laney, Taylor, Jason, and extra students if desired. They chat amongst themselves and settle into their routine by getting on their phones.)

**Miss Walker**: Ok, everyone—hey, everyone—everyone! Ahem! Let’s get started. I’m Miss Walker. As you know, Mr. White’s disappearance threw us all for a loop, so I’ll be stepping in as your long-term sub until his return. All right?

**Floyd**: (Smiling and nodding) All right! (He arranges his jacket as a pillow on his desk, puts his head down, and immediately goes to sleep.)

**Miss Walker**: Um, all right. So according to this curriculum map from your principal, Mr. Gunderson, we should be running this lab today, uh, (looking for the title on her clipboard notes) Synthesis of Methyllithium.

**Taylor**: Cool! Methyllithium is a precursor for a lot of organic chemistry reactions.

**Laney**: (Crossing to the front of the classroom) It’s fine, Miss Walker. (Taking her clipboard) I’m Laney, Mr. White’s lab assistant, and I’m totally qualified to run all of the labs without any…

**Taylor**: *Olive’*s the lab assistant. You’re not even qualified to clean the equipment.

**Jason**: Yeah, Laney. Confidence doesn’t equal qualified.

**Laney**: Well, Olive hasn’t been to class in like three weeks…

**Emery**: (Writing poetry in his notebook) Hey, wait a minute! Miss Walker, weren’t you serving in the cafeteria yesterday? I saw you at the potato bar.

**Taylor**: I doubt that makes you eligible to take on DC Chemistry.

**Jason**: And what are you, like nineteen?

**Miss Walker**: Well, kids, I’m working on my certification, and I should be done in a couple years. So let’s just never mind about all that—

**Toni**: (On the intercom) Hey, y’all. Sorry for the interruption. Just so’s ya know, bus twelve’s gonna be late due to the Tuesday traffic—Mr. Sala’s dog was chasin’ the bus again, and let’s just say it didn’t end the way Mr. Sala’s dog might’ve hoped. Anyway, so don’t mark all those kids tardy.

**Laney**: (Getting supplies prepared) Okay, so these are the materials you’ll need for the lab. (Putting on her apron) Put on your aprons, and we’ll get started.

(Chad enters with an empty recycle bin.)

**Chad**: Hey, Miss, uh…?

**Miss Walker**: Walker.

**Chad**: Walker. Yes, well, sorry to interrupt, but here’s the recycle bin you requested. I hope you won’t be usin’ as much paper as Mr. White—you know, save the planet ‘n stuff. (To the class) Am I right? And if any of you are interested, I’m heading up a recycling club with Mrs. Carrier in the library after school today. (Pointing at Emery as he exits) I’m countin’ on you, Emery. (Emery gives him a head nod, and he’s out.)

**Miss Walker**: (Passing out papers) Here’s the list of instructions; so just follow the directions, and I’m sure there won’t be any problems.

(Louise enters theatrically with several copies of the school newspaper. Cathleen follows her, camera in hand.)

**Louise**: (Proudly) Here. It. Is! Jason, you’re on the front page of the *Tribune* just like I promised. (She gives newspapers to all the students while pushing Miss Walker out of the way.) Maybe you’ll give me another interview when you sign with the college next week.

**Jason**: You know I will. You’re the only real reporter we have at this school. Well, and Cathleen, I guess, but she just takes pictures.

**Cathleen**: (Adjusting her lens) I suppose I’ll take that as a compliment.

**Miss Walker**: (Attempting to gain control of the class) If we could just…

(Louise poses with Jason as Cathleen gets their photo.)

**Louise**: (Ignoring Miss Walker) I need a new story for my portfolio. Let’s say next Tuesday? It’s gotta be big! Something over the top! They’ll be calling *me*, and I’ll be at *The Times* in no time!

**Taylor**: (Eagerly) Hey, Louise, you can write about me if you want.

**Louise**: Right. No offense, but I want the guy who actually did something.

**Cathleen**: (Softening the blow) Don’t sweat it, Taylor. You’re just a junior. You can get that scholarship next year.

**Emery**: Yeah, don’t give up, man. Hey, listen, I have something for that. (He flips through his notebook.)

**Laney**: (Still working on organizing the lab) Of course you do, Emery.

**Emery**: Here it is: Haiku 145 by Emery Lawson. I call it (with flourish) “Perseverance.” (He stands to deliver his poem.)

Yeah, don’t give up, man—

You need to try hard again.

Alright bro, will do.

(He snaps his own applause then closes his notebook and waits for a response.)

**Miss Walker**: Emery, that was…interesting. So if we can just get back to…

**Toni**: (On the intercom) Hey, y’all. Sorry to interrupt, but the libary’s closed ‘til further notice. Mrs. Carrier will be taking inventory—some kind of ketchup graffiti in popular fiction. Hans, can we get you over there for clean up?

**Miss Walker**: (Trying to get everyone on task with the lab assignment) So now, everyone—if everyone can just turn to page…

**Floyd**: (Waking up, raising his hand) Hey, Miss, uh…?

**Miss Walker**: Walker. Oh, good! You’re back with us! (Smiling) And you have a question?

**Floyd**: Yeah. I need to use the bathroom. (He puts on his jacket, then dons a pairs of goggles and grabs his lab directions.)

**Miss Walker**: Yes, well…

**Laney**: I’ll get the pass, Miss Walker.

(She gets the hall pass from the desk and gives it to Floyd.)

**Miss Walker**: Well, I was actually hoping he would…

**Floyd**: (Smiling) Nature calls, ya know.

**Laney:** Floyd, you won’t be needing your goggles in the bathroom.

**Floyd:** Backsplash.You can never be too safe. (He exits.)

**Taylor:** The struggle is real.

**Louise**: (Taking out her cell phone to record the conversation with Jason) So, Jason, tell me about your trip to the campus.

**Cathleen**: (Taking more pictures) Did you get to see the dorms?

**Miss Walker**: Now, ladies, I’m trying to run a lab here.

**Laney**: (Interjecting) Actually, *I’m* trying to run a lab here.

(Delilah enters with a note from the office.)

**Delilah**: (Holding the note up, her best pageant smile) A note for Neo. His mother’s in the office.

**Laney**: (Looking around) We don’t have a Neo in our class. (She continues setting up the lab, handing out goggles to the students.)

**Emery**: (Styling his apron) Neo’s the new kid. I met him in the potato line yesterday. Hey, you remember, Miss Walker, butter and cheese, no sour cream?

**Miss Walker**: (To Delilah) Yes, well, you’ll have to tell the office he’s not here.

**Delilah**: (Sitting next to the girls) Hey, Louise, I saw your new article. You laid it on pretty thick, girl. (Flirting with Jason) That Jason sounds like a *really* nice guy.

**Jason**: (Flirting back) Um, excuse me. I *am* the nicest guy I know.

**Louise**: That’s adding pizazz to my portfolio, Delilah. Now I really need something that blows everything else out of the water. Something with bite!

**Delilah**: (With an eye roll) I see you also gave Alice some front page space.

**Cathleen**: It’s her first lead. She’s pretty excited—said her mom might actually come to the show this time. It only seemed natural to run her story.

**Louise**: (Flatly) She paid me.

**Miss Walker**: (Putting on her apron) Now, ladies, there’s three of you here who don’t belong, so put on an apron or you’ll have to skedaddle.

**Cathleen**: Let’s go take some pictures of the mess in the library. You can add ketchup to your portfolio.

**Delilah**: (As she exits with the girls) See you guys later. Nick’s setting up tug-a-war for the lunch time activity.

**Cathleen**: Teachers against students again?

**Louise**: Let’s check it out. Homecoming week is the best!

(Cathleen exits with Louise and Delilah.)

**Laney**: Miss Walker, this is ready to go. I have all the equipment, and none of the students have on open-toed shoes. Let’s stack those chairs, everyone.

(Students stack the chairs in the back to accommodate an easy set change as Miss Walker reads from the clipboard.)

**Miss Walker**: No open-toed shoes, goggles, aprons. Perfect! (Reviewing the directions) This looks great to me! So, let me just read these safety precautions, and the notes about…

**Taylor**: Should we send someone to look for Floyd?

**Miss Walker**: The bathroom’s just around the corner. I’m sure he’ll….

**Emery**: He’s not coming back.

**Jason**: He never does.

(Hans the custodian enters in a yellow hazmat suit.)

**Hans**: (Removing his helmet intensely) I was told someone broke another thermometer.

**Laney**: (Introducing) Hans, Miss Walker. Miss Walker, Hans.

**Emery:** There’s some white powder on the floor over there. Could be mercury chloride.

**Hans**: Now stand back, everyone! I’m a hazmat responder. Everything’s under control. Just go about your business, and I’ll be out of your way in a jiffy. (He puts the helmet back on with gusto then goes about scrubbing in the back.)

**Miss Walker**: Um, Hans, shouldn’t we evacuate for a mercury spill?

**Jason**: He can’t hear you.

**Laney**: We evacuated last time, and parents complained.

**Taylor**: (Nodding confirmation) No daycare.

**Miss Walker**: (A sigh) Does any teaching actually take place in this classroom?

**Laney**: (Patting her on the back, giving her an apron) Of course, Miss Walker. (Laney puts on goggles and becomes very serious.) Now let’s do this.

(General adlib from the students as they move into positions to conduct the lab. Hans continues to clean, but when Laney prepares the first chemical mixture, there’s a huge explosion—lighting and sound effects ensue, and fog fills the room. Dim lights come up, and Hans is the only one left standing. He looks around in the foggy silence, and he speaks into his walkie-talkie, making the sound effects himself.)

**Hans**: Cshcsh. Uh, Mr. Gunderson, I think you’d better get over here to the chem lab. This looks a bit worse than last time, and it definitely tops what’s going on in the library. Cshcsh.

(Hans holsters his walkie-talkie and pulls the fire alarm. He moves out cautiously as Miss Walker and the students struggle slowly to their feet--bodies contorted, eyes rolling, minimal control of their limbs. Everyone pauses for a moment then they groan and wail into the darkness as the lights fade. Toni’s voice is heard in the blackout while the set changes to the library.)

**Toni**: Sorry to interrupt, y’all. But tonight’s production of *Alice in Wonderland* has been cancelled due to some sorta explosion in the chemistry lab. Apparently the fire has spread to three parts of the buildin’, includin’ the stage. Schoo’ is still in session ‘til further notice, so we’ll see y’all for the tug-a-war at lunch time!

**Act One: Scene Two**

The Library

(The library is established during the blackout, and when the lights come up, Alice is standing center stage. She carries an ax, and the front of her apron is splattered with blood.)

**Alice**: (Bitterly) Well, thought Alice to herself, after such a fall as this, I shall think nothing of tumbling down stairs! How brave they’ll all think me at home! Down, down, down! (Laughing) How funny it’ll seem to come out among the people that walk with their heads downward! (A student enters zombie-like—head down, moaning and groaning, arms reaching. Alice turns to address her.) Please, ma’am, is this New Zealand or Australia? And she tried to curtsey as she spoke—fancy curtseying as you’re falling through the air! Do you think you could manage it? And what an ignorant little girl she’ll think me for asking! (She takes a swing with the ax and lands it in the Zombie’s gut.) [See production notes regarding violence.] No, it’ll never do to ask.

**End of Free Preview**