

Plays by Raymond Fast

Nearly all of Raymond Fast's plays are written with community theatres in mind and are intended to exploit the often limited resources available to them while making full, satisfying, theatric productions entirely possible. He considers playwriting to be a collaborative act. While expecting his scripts to be adhered to and his dialogue to be absolutely adhered to, he depends heavily on the creativity and initiative of the director, cast, and crew to explore and discover, finding the play in his script. Most of all, he encourages them to have fun. After all, that's why it's called a "play!"

A Dickens of a Holiday

10-minute play

Synopsis: The Spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future had left Ebenezer Scrooge a changed man. Now, if they'd only leave the man alone - but, no! They're back and they're making this Christmas a real dickens of a holiday!

Characters: (1 female, 3 male, 2 ambiguous or undetermined)

SCROOGE: Former stingy old man; now warm-hearted, happy, and benevolent.

PAST: The Ghost of Christmas Past. A petite youth with long white hair. Wears a white tunic and a shimmering belt trimmed with summer flowers.

PRESENT: The Ghost of Christmas Present. A jolly giant but aged to the point of dementia. Long, wild, gray hair. Wears a large, loose-fitting green robe and a wreath of holly about his head.

FUTURE: The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. A draped and hooded phantom covered in a heavy black garment. Tall and stately. He does not speak.

FRED: A young man; SCROOGE's nephew.

FRED'S WIFE: A young woman (FRED's wife).

Castling note:

Neither FRED nor FRED'S WIFE appear on stage. Their voices can be cast using actors cast for PAST, PRESENT, and/or FUTURE.

Set: A guest bedroom in Victorian London.

Time: Late Christmas night, 1843.

Special Costumes: Victorian attire (SCROOGE); Spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future.

Props/Tech: Period party music, singing; church bells.

Production History: December, 2013 - Norcross, GA.

A Match Made in Cyberspace

10-minute play

Synopsis: Andy's supposed to get married in ten minutes. His best man objects and his bride is twenty-five hundred miles away, but he's counting on unconditional bonds of love, commitment, and devotion to pull things together - with a little help from the internet, a hot maid of honor, and a senile judge.

Characters: (2 male)

ANDY: A man in his late twenties; a bit of a geek.

BOB: A man in his late twenties.

Set: Minimal; Andy's Atlanta apartment.

Time: The present; A Saturday afternoon.

Special Costumes: One tux.

Props/Tech: Minimal; no special effects.

Production History: None.

American Honeymoon

Full-length play in two acts; run time: about 90 minutes

Synopsis: Crystal and Marcelo's marriage was all business - a plan to get Marcelo his unconditional green card so he could bring his fiancée to America and live out the American dream. Everything was going according to plan - until somebody fell in love. Set in a west Georgia mobile home, *American Honeymoon* is a romantic comedy with a cast of five and a set that is simple and easily achieved in virtually any theater configuration.

Characters: (2 female, 3 male)

CRYSTAL: A woman of about thirty. Attractive but no model. Southern girl, but not a hick. A hairdresser who operates her own shop.

MARCELO: A very attractive man of about thirty. A Brazilian immigrant. Blue collar guy but with a flair for style ("metrosexual"). An airport limousine driver.

DIXIE: A vivacious woman of about fifty. She's been around the block a few times and is always ready for another trip. Very much a "redneck girl." A waitress at the Hungry Hashbrown.

CATFISH: A man in his mid twenties. The quintessential southern redneck. An unemployed roofer.

KENT: A man of at least thirty-five. Straight laced, all business immigration officer.

Set: A west Georgia mobile home. Three entrances: SR, USC, SL. Window. Full kitchen.

Time: The present; Summer.

Special Costumes: Airport shuttle service uniform, waitress uniform, clip-on tie, NASCAR t-shirt.

Props/Tech: Simple.

Production History: None.

Bonneville Love

Semifinalist in 2010 Lionheart Theatre Make the House Roar Script Contest

Finalist in 2010 Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre ScriptFEST Script Contest

Polk Street Players' 2011/2012 Audience Favorite

Nominated for 2011/2012 Metropolitan Atlanta Theatre Award for Best New Work

Full-length play in two acts; run time: about 90 minutes

Synopsis: No matter how bad things may seem, they can always get worse. But love conquers all - if you're clever enough to make it look like an accident. Set in 1967, *Bonneville Love* is a dark comedy written with tongue in cheek in a style reminiscent of the period, and is appropriate for the entire family.

Characters: (2-4 female, 2-5 male)

LILLY: A woman of around 30. Ethnic Latina; raised in the American Deep South. Typical 1960's housewife. Not refined, but a little street smart.

CURTIS: Well educated, practical, loving husband. Early 30's.

MRS. VAUGHN: Nosy, widowed neighbor lady. 60's.

DOCTOR SILVERS: Disheveled, eccentric (perhaps senile?), general practitioner. Jewish. 60's or older.

MAMA: LILLY's Mother. Cuban immigrant in her Late 50's. Diluted Spanish accent.

PAPI: LILLY's Father. Cuban immigrant, around 60. Heavy Spanish accent.

DOCTOR GOULD: Warm, personable general practitioner. 30 or older.

SERGEANT WARNER: Plain-clothes homicide detective. "Old school;" not known for neatness or tact. 40 or older.

Casting notes:

All parts beside LILLY and CURTIS could be played by one female and one male.

Act II, Scene 6 is set in the present and LILLY has aged accordingly. The part is written for one actor, however consideration might be given to casting two, one around 30 years old and the other in her 70's

Set: The living room in a suburban home (two entrances), with brief visits to two doctors' offices and a police detective's office.

Time: Spring, 1967; The present.

Special Costumes: Doctor's smock.

Props/Tech: Simple.

Production History: May, 2012 - Marietta, GA; February, 2015 - Marietta, GA.

Common Ground

10-minute play

Synopsis: When Adam, a homeless man, is befriended by twelve-year-old Savannah, their innocent, unassuming friendship challenges the girl's protective grandmother's perception of others and herself.

Characters: (2 female, 1 male)

SAVANNAH: A 12-year-old girl.

ADAM: A man in his thirties.

NANA: A fifty-five-year-old woman

Set: Simple; a back yard in an outlying Atlanta suburb.

Time: The present; summer, late at night.

Special Costumes: None.

Props/Tech: Simple.

Production History: June, 2010 - Norcross, GA; August, 2011 - Norcross, GA; November, 2013 - White Bear Lake, MN; November, 2013 - Roswell, GA

Family Tree

10-minute play

Synopsis: When one man learns the truth about his family, he must reconsider what he sees in himself.

Characters: (2 male)

MICHAEL: Male, 42; a Methodist preacher.

DAD: Male, 66; Michael's father.

Set: Simple; a bedroom.

Time: Sunday morning, July 12, 2009.

Special Costumes: None.

Props/Tech: Simple.

Production History: May, 2014 - Marietta, GA.

Grouse Creek Hollow

Short one-act play; run time: about 15 minutes

Synopsis: There's a time for everything: a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. But when is it the right time to give up on a seemingly futile battle when doing so means letting go of a legacy?

Characters: (2 female, 1 male)

KASEY: A woman in her mid-twenties. "Techy." Grew up in West Virginia; lives in greater Chicago.

GRA'MA: Seventy-year-old woman. Kasey's grandmother. Lives in West Virginia.

ZACH: A man in his mid-thirties. Kasey's brother. West Virginia coal miner.

Set: Simple; an old family home in the West Virginia coal country.

Time: The present; Summer.

Special Costumes: None.

Props/Tech: Simple; note: window panes are broken during the play.

Production History: None.

Keyless Entry

10-minute play

Synopsis: Will Andrea's long-awaited reunion with her beloved husband be wrecked by his codependent relationship with their passive-aggressive son?

Characters: (1 female, 2 male)

ANDREA: A woman of around forty.

VAUGHN: A man in his early-mid fifties.

TODD: A twenty-six-year-old man

Set: Simple; a funeral parlor shortly after a funeral.

Time: The present.

Special Costumes: None.

Props/Tech: Simple.

Production History: June, 2011 - Norcross, GA.

Last Love

Full-length play in two acts; run time: about 90 minutes

Synopsis: He thinks they're in a passionless marriage. She thinks he's in a midlife crisis. He thinks he's curious about an old girlfriend. She thinks he's stalking. He thinks he's seeking the passion of his youth. She thinks he's cheating. Can the remnants of their relationship withstand the smoldering embers of first love?

Characters: (4-5 female, 2 male)

WENDY: Male, 48.

AMANDA: Female, mid forties.

YOUNG WENDY: Male, 17.

YOUNG RENÉE: Female, 17.

RENÉE: Female, 48.

JACLYN: Female, late 20's.

JENNIFER: Female, around 20.

TONYA: Female, 17.

Casting notes:

The same actress should be cast for the roles of YOUNG RENÉE and JENNIFER.

One actress may be cast for the roles of JACLYN and TONYA.

Set: The living room in a modest suburban home (3 entrances); the nurse's station in a colorectal surgeon's office; an engineering office located in a home; a dream world.

Time: The present, and 1980.

Special Costumes: None.

Props/Tech: lighting/sound to indicate passage of time and dreams.

Production History: None.

Monster

10-minute play

Synopsis: What makes a man a monster? What does a monster see when he looks at himself? Edgar stands accused of murder and must convince the world of his innocence. When the victim takes exception to his plea, Edgar finds himself hard to convince.

Characters: (1 female, 2 male)

EDGAR: A man in his late fifties with anger issues.

BOY: A seventeen-year-old boy. Troublemaker. Smug. He's an apparition, a fabrication of EDGAR's own mind; the "ghost" of the boy EDGAR is charged with killing.

ED: EDGAR's conscience, an inner voice. Another apparition manifest in the same embodiment with BOY, but speaks EDGAR's words in EDGAR's character.

RAVEN: A woman of about fifty; EDGAR's wife.

Casting note:

The same actor plays BOY and ED simultaneously.

Set: Simple; The visitation cell of a jail.

Time: The present.

Special Costumes: Prison garb (1).

Props/Tech: Simple; note: a fresh tomato is smashed onto an upstage wall during the play.

Production History: October, 2012 - Omaha, NE, May, 2014 - Marietta, GA.

Nobody's Christmas

10-minute play

Synopsis: When a grieving grandmother's search for the young man who can bring her closure leads her to a homeless camp, she finds she has as much comfort to offer as she stands to receive.

Characters: (2 female, 2 male)

ALICE: Woman, sixty-five, from New Jersey.

CALEB: Man, early thirties, homeless, military veteran.

BILLY: Man, late forties to early fifties, homeless.

DUSTY: Woman, late thirties, homeless.

Set: Simple; A suburban homeless camp in a wooded area behind a strip mall, metropolitan Atlanta.

Time: The present.

Special Costumes: None.

Props/Tech: Minimal; lighted Christmas tree.

Production History: December, 2013 - Decatur.

Saving Starla

10-minute play

Synopsis: There's always hope, even when we don't know it, even when we don't want it. Starla is ready to end it all when hope arrives at her door in the form of her peeping Tom neighbor, Eddy. She fights him until he leaves, but will hope remain to carry Starla through another day?

Characters: (1 female, 1 male)

STARLA: A woman of around thirty.

EDDY: A man of around thirty.

Set: Simple; Starla's nearly empty apartment.

Time: The present.

Special Costumes: None.

Props/Tech: Minimal; no special effects.

Production History: June, 2008 - Norcross, GA; July, 2011 - New York, NY; June, 2013 - Los Angeles, CA.

Scorned

Nominated for 2012/2013 Metropolitan Atlanta Theatre Award for Best New Work

(Adult content)

One-act play; run time: about 55 minutes

Synopsis: Three travelers discover that they may have too much baggage when they find themselves stranded in a mountain wilderness during a relentless winter storm. It's a fight for survival against the elements - and each other. Temperatures drop and tempers rise when what begins as a cold day in hell proves to have no fury like a woman scorned. NOTE: This play can be produced as part of a macabre double feature with *Touched*.

Characters: (2 female, 1 male)

RHONDA: Female, around forty. Experienced emergency room nurse.

JOYCE: Female, two years older than RHONDA (RHONDA's sister).

CHASE: Male, early-mid forties. RHONDA's husband.

Set: A dilapidated make-shift shelter on a remote West Virginia mountainside.

Time: The present, during a snowstorm.

Special Costumes: Ski wear.

Props/Tech: Lighting/sound: blizzard.

Production History: September, 2012 - Marietta, GA.

The Scrapbook: A Modern Christmas Carol

Nominated for 2010/2011 Metropolitan Atlanta Theatre Award for Best New Work

Full-length play in two acts; run time: about 90 minutes

Synopsis: You can't buy happiness. Nice thought - until your money's gone. Since Gary's heart attack, he and wife Micki have lost their business, home, and savings. Now Gary thinks their kids and grandkids would be happier not traveling across country to visit them for Christmas. Can the memories awakened by a scrapbook remind Gary that love has no price tag, needs no trappings, and is worth more than anything money can buy?

Characters: (4 adult female, 3 adult male; 2-9+ girls, 2-8+ boys)

GARY: A man in his late fifties.

MICKI: A woman in her late fifties; GARY's wife.

BROOKE: Girl/woman, appears at ages 7, 9, 11, 13, and 33. GARY's daughter.

DYLAN: Boy/man, appears at ages 9, 11, 13, 15, and 35. GARY's son.

EMILY: Girl/woman, appears at ages 7, 9, 11, 31. GARY's daughter.

STERLING: Boy/man, appears at ages 7, 9, and 29. GARY's son.

HEATHER: Woman in her thirties; DYLAN's wife.

MICHELLE: Girl, 13, DYLAN's daughter.

DJ: Boy, 11, DYLAN's son.

MANDY: Girl, 9, EMILY's daughter.

SCOTTY: Boy, 7, EMILY's son.

PARTY GUESTS: Children ages 6 to 16. PARTY GUESTS have no scripted lines but will join in several Christmas carols.

Casting note:

Aside from the PARTY GUESTS, the 17 children's speaking roles can be cast such that as few as four children (2 boys and 2 girls) are required. Casting suggestions are included in the script.

Set: The living room in a small apartment in an Atlanta suburb.

Time: December 22, 2010, with flashbacks to Christmases in 1989, 1991, 1993, and 1995.

Special Costumes: None.

Props/Tech: Special effect: a Christmas tree changes appearance several times.

Production History: December, 2010 - Cartersville, GA.

The Train to Tranquility

10-minute play

Synopsis: We share the same space, but do we live in the same world? There is a place where people all around us live - a place most of us have a difficult time imagining, let alone experiencing. *The Train to Tranquility* explores that place as two people living in different worlds try to connect.

Characters: (3 female, see casting note)

MIND: Female, 20.

BODY: Female, 20.

STRANGER: Female, 40 or older.

PUBLIC ADDRESS ONE: Male (suggested but may be female); a recorded voice from the public address system.

PUBLIC ADDRESS TWO: Female (suggested but may be male); a live or recorded voice from the public address system.

TRAVELERS: Any number of men and women of various ages; represent a crowd.

Casting note:

TRAVELERS should be of nonspecific appearance such that they come across as much as set pieces as they do characters. TRAVELERS do not speak.

Set: Minimal; a train station.

Time: The present.

Special Costumes: None.

Props/Tech: Simple; recorded announcement.

Production History: May, 2014 - Norcross, GA; July, 2014 - Houston, TX.

Therapy

Short one-act play; run time: about 15 minutes

Synopsis: Therapy is always difficult - especially when the ex is involved.

Characters: (1 female, 1 male)

STUART: Man in his 40's. Physical therapy patient recovering from a broken femur.

TRACY: Woman in her 40's. Physical therapist; attractive, fit; mountain climber, scuba diver, bungee jumper, and overall glutton for excitement.

Set: A physical therapy clinic.

Time: The present.

Special Costumes: Physical therapist's smock.

Props/Tech: Mat table, parallel bars, wheel chair.

Production History: January, 2009 - Norcross, GA.

Touched

(Adult content)

One-act play; run time: about 40 minutes

Synopsis: What's a girl to do when her overbearing parents keep getting in the way of her love life? Candy just wants to live a normal life, but things are never quite right once you're touched. NOTE: This play can be produced as part of a macabre double feature with *Scorned*.

Characters: (2 female, 2-3 male)

CANDY: Female, 32 years old. Adult victim of child abuse (by her father). Cunning, narcissistic, manipulative, amoral, pathological liar and psychopathic serial killer.

COLIN: Male, early 20's. Naive. Mama's boy on his own for the first time since his mother's recent death.

REGINA: Female, mid 50's. CANDY's mother. Pious passive aggressive in denial of her daughter's abuse, yet latently aware of the responsibility she shares. Feels guilty and wants to restore her daughter's childhood; unwilling to accept the fact that it's a bit late.

WALTER: Male, mid 50's. CANDY's father. Arrogant, mean spirited, intimidating, short-fused. Abused his daughter; continues to keep her on a short leash.

STEVE: Male, early 20's. Victim.

Casting note:

STEVE has no lines and his face is never seen. STEVE and COLIN can be played by the same actor.

Set: A basement apartment (4 entrances).

Time: The present.

Special Costumes: Sexy lingerie, handcuffs, and a gimp mask.

Props/Tech: Sound effects: dogs barking, skull being crushed, meat grinder.

Production History: May, 2012 - Atlanta, GA; September, 2012 - Marietta, GA.

Waiting for Leonard

10-minute play

Synopsis: Letting go can be scary. Holding on can be more so. Choosing which to do can be the scariest thing of all.

Characters: (2 female, 2 male)

MILLIE: An eighty-year-old woman.

LEAH: A woman of around thirty.

JUSTIN: A man of around thirty.

LEONARD: A twenty-year-old man.

Set: Minimal; a public park.

Time: The present.

Special Costumes: 1950's military uniform.

Props/Tech: Simple; no special effects.

Production History: June, 2012 - Norcross, GA, May, 2014 - Marietta, GA.

Wild Bears and Biscuits

10-minute play

Synopsis: Sometimes love can be as frightening as confronting a wild bear. Ruthie, a young war widow, finds love again - but is it forbidden love? She tries to avoid it until she's pushed into it's path.

Characters: (2 female, 1 male)

RUTHIE: Female, mid-twenties, from Clarksville, Tennessee.

DEL: Female, about fifty, from the northern gulf coast of Florida.

BO: Male, mid-twenties, from the northern gulf coast of Florida.

Set: Simple; dining area in DEL's north Florida home.

Time: The present, evening, during a storm.

Special Costumes: None.

Props/Tech: Simple; sound: thunder.

Production History: Under (non-exclusive) contract for production during the period September, 2012 through February, 2013 - Atlanta, GA.

Yes Georgia, There Is a Santa Claus

(Adult content)

One-act play; run time: about 18 minutes

Synopsis: Georgia insists that the intruder Bobby subdues in their living room on Christmas Eve is Santa Claus.

The tree is trimmed with sex, lies, and mistaken identities in this holiday farce, but in the end, Santa always knows who's been nice and who's been naughty.

Characters: (1 female, 3 male)

BOBBY: A man in his thirties.

GEORGIA: A woman in her thirties.

SHANE: A man in his thirties.

SANTA: A jolly old elf about 500 years old.

Set: The living room of a blue-collar home in the suburbs northwest of Atlanta.

Time: The present; Christmas eve.

Special Costumes: Santa suit.

Props/Tech: Simple.

Production History: December, 2013 - Marietta, GA; December, 2013 - Chattanooga, TN.

About the Playwright

It has been said that the circumstances surrounding one's conception determine his or her destiny. Raymond Fast was conceived on Thanksgiving day when hormonal teens in the throes of puppy love slipped away from the lock-step trappings of traditional family gatherings and surrendered to their uncharted passion. He is an artist of quintessential eccentricity with a flair for spontaneity, adventure, and romance.

Raymond has always been a writer. Even before he could manipulate a pencil and paper into intelligible text, he was writing in his head. As a child in school, he looked forward to assignments to compose stories, poems, anything creative. Though most of his energy in high school was dedicated to the visual arts (he also draws and paints), he found time to write for the school newspaper and was actually asked to curb his submissions to the annual school literary magazine because their numbers so overwhelmed those of his fellow students.

In spite of his history and the long list of literary ventures he started, with virtually no instruction or mentoring he languished in his craft until 2004. That was when he met a group of professional and aspiring writers and helped them establish Main Street Writers Association in Cartersville, Georgia. An attentive and committed student, he learned quickly and soon began seeing his work in print. The following year, he discovered the stage and became enamored with every aspect of putting on a show, from set construction, to teching, to acting. He soon introduced his pen to the enchantment of live theatre and has since applied himself unceasingly to writing plays.

A military veteran, Raymond supported two wives (one at a time) and two sons (both at once) by working multiple jobs (two to four at a time). he has done everything from delivering newspapers to typesetting them, cleaning homes to building them, loading trucks to repairing them. In 1998, he took a job as a manufacturing code inspector, earning (for once) a salary which alone is enough. His sons have moved on to engage in lives of their own. He has remarried and settled down with the woman of his dreams who encourages and supports his writing.

Raymond has traveled throughout the eastern United States and visited such foreign lands as England, Italy, Ecuador, and Louisiana. Among his many adventures, he has been homeless, lived with a genuine con artist, and experienced unexplainable phenomena while on a submarine in the Bermuda triangle on Friday the thirteenth. Given his genetic predisposition to live well into his nineties, he is only half way into the crazy, challenging, fascinating odyssey of life. Nonetheless, he has enough material to keep him busy writing for the other half. He has great expectations that his work will reach beyond what he sees and live beyond his years.

Raymond is a member of Atlanta's Working Title Playwrights, The Playwrights' Center of Minneapolis, and The Dramatists Guild of America. He is a fellow of The Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences and sits on the board of directors of Onion Man Productions in Norcross, GA.

This list was last updated in April, 2015. Raymond Fast will end a one-year hiatus from writing as the summer begins. During that time, his focus has been catching up on home improvements, car repairs, and other long neglected domestic functions, but he has also taken time to research and develop his writing processes. Look for him to return to finishing new plays and making them available soon. For an updated list or more information about plays by Raymond Fast, contact him via e-mail (raymondfast@raymondfast.com) or snail mail (71 Eagle Pointe Drive, Dallas, GA 30132).