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Dramatic Publishing

A Play In One-Act

Ed Opus (Rex)

By
William Gleason

Special Thanks to Sophocles



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(ED OPUS [REX])

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ED OPUS (REX)
or
What Really Happened to Teen Angel?
For Six Men and One Woman
Extras*

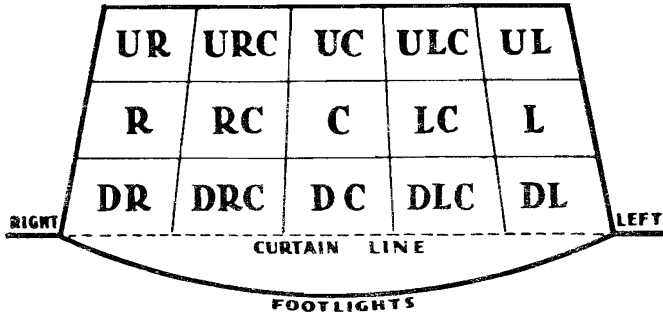
C H A R A C T E R S

- ED OPUS (REX). . . *beloved and loving student body president, West Thebes High School*
- YO-YO COSTA *steady girl friend of Ed Opus*
- CLEON *student body vice president and brother of Yo-Yo*
- TY REESIAS . . . *President of the Soothsayer Club*
- RITZO SPHINX *leader of the infamous Riddle Gang*
- SHEP HURD *of the Corinth Adoption Agency*
- DR. SOPH *police psychiatrist and fingerprint expert*

All the action takes place in the West Thebes High School parking lot. The only stage property is a telephone on the floor downstage center.

*Old man, three members of the Riddle Gang, messenger, eight-member chorus with two optional chorus leaders.

CHART OF STAGE POSITIONS



STAGE POSITIONS

Upstage means away from the footlights, *downstage* means toward the footlights, and *right* and *left* are used with reference to the actor as he faces the audience. R means *right*, L means *left*, U means *up*, D means *down*, C means *center*, and these abbreviations are used in combination, as: UR for *up right*, RC for *right center*, DLC for *down left center*, etc. A territory designated on the stage refers to a general area, rather than to a given point.

NOTE: Before starting rehearsals, chalk off your stage or rehearsal space as indicated above in the *Chart of Stage Positions*. Then teach your actors the meanings and positions of these fundamental terms of stage movement by having them walk from one position to another until they are familiar with them. The use of these abbreviated terms in directing the play saves time, speeds up rehearsals, and reduces the amount of explanation the director has to give to his actors.

Ed Opus (Rev)

Two CHEERLEADERS lead the CHORUS in from Stage R and L. The stage is bare with the exception of a telephone DC. The two parts of the CHORUS walk slowly and in unison. When the two halves of the CHORUS are about to meet, the CHEERLEADERS yell commands.)

CHEERLEADERS. Parados halt! (The CHORUS stops.) Face front! (Chorus faces front. CHEERLEADER #1 steps forward.)

#1. Oh woe is me! (CHEERLEADER #2 steps forward.)

#2. Oh woe is me!

CHORUS. Oh woe is we!

#1 (to #2). Is we woe?

#2. We is woe alwight.

#1. Why is we woe?

#2. Why, we is woe because . . .

CHORUS (individually, across stage L to R).

1. Our football team's lost every game.
2. The principal's gone crazy.
3. The Senior Prom's about to bomb
4. 'Cause the student body's lazy.
5. The rats all died in biology class
6. And the Coke machines are broken.
7. This school is falling apart at the seams.
8. And brother, we ain't jokin'!

#1. Oh! That's why we is woe!

CHORUS. Yeah!

#1. Then what are we to do?

#2. What else? We must call on our noble, red-blooded, all-American, two-fisted, far-sighted, up-and-coming, true blue student body president, whom we all love, admire, respect, cherish, adore, bless and trust -- Ed Opus!

CHORUS. Yeah!

#1. Let's hear it for Ed.

CHORUS. Hear what?

#1. A cheer!

CHORUS.

Rah. Rah.

Sis boom bah.

Sis sis boom

and bah bah bah

He's the man

With a plan

Save our souls, Ed baby.

#1. Now we must find him quickly. He is our hope and our salvation. Scatter to the four winds! Search the campus! Leave no stone unturned! (They all break up and walk around onstage calling for Ed. Some exit and return. Some whistle as if calling for a dog. "Here, Ed. C'mere, boy." They bump into each other, "Seen Ed lately?" and respond, "No, sure haven't." Etc., etc.)

(ED enters L. He is wearing a letterman's sweater with many stripes down both sleeves. Over his heart are the letters WT. His cheeks are rosy as he bounds onstage.)

ED. You rang?

CHORUS. Did we ever!

ED. Tell me about it. (They all crowd in around him -- all talking at once. He raises his hand and the noise stops. He looks around as if to

say "silence." He drops his hand and the noise starts up again. He raises his hand and it stops. He starts to speak and drops his hand and the noise starts again. He raises it -- the noise stops. Finally, he lowers and raises it as if he is conducting and the chorus fluctuates accordingly. He jumps DC and yells:) Cool it!

CHORUS. We're sorry, Ed.

ED. I didn't mean to yell.

CHORUS. We understand.

ED. It's just that the burden of leadership weighs heavy on my head.

CHORUS (impressed by his language, gives a slow:)
W O W.

ED (clearing his throat). Now. What seems to be the trouble?

#1. We is woe.

ED. Woe?

CHORUS. Woe!

ED. We've been woe before. But didn't we always come out of it with our banners flying high? Didn't we always get going when the going got tough? Hasn't our reach always exceeded our grasp?

CHORUS. In a manner of speaking.

#2. You tell 'em, Ed.

ED. Haven't I always done what's right for West Thebes High?

#1. But this is something big, Ed. Really big!

ED. I know. Things have been going downhill all semester, but we've had big problems before. You can depend on me. Why, just this morning I sent Cleon, our student body vice president and brother of my steady girl friend, Yo-Yo Costa, over to the radio station to speak with our favorite prophetic disc-jockey,