

' THE CLASS ACT'

Treatment for a movie for television
by David Goossen

An original story
Registered WGC #S98-1032

Log Line: To attract the attention of a girl, a naive high school student joins the drama club with unforeseen repercussions.

ACT I

ERIC, a nice looking high school guy, is trying out for football. He goes out of a pass and is knocked out by the football. Eric trying out for basketball. He misses his lay up and smashes against the post.

Eric in the computer club. He can't even understand what they're talking about and sadly leaves. Eric looses in a record number of moves in the chess club.

Eric and **ROBERT** are in the gym watching the school play, 'Romeo and Juliet'. Starring **JONATHON** and **MIA**. Eric has to pick an extra curricular club or he won't graduate. He doesn't know what to do. On stage, Jonathon is terrible, overacting Romeo to the point of distraction. But Mia is radiant, really becoming Juliet on the cheap high school stage. Eric falls completely in love with Mia. He can't take his eyes off her.

Eric, Robert and **SARAH** are wandering down the hallway. Eric sees a signup sheet for next play. Mia and Jonathon and the rest of the theatre group are there, milling about. Eric gets convinced by Jonathon to try out for the play. He'll be close to Mia, long nights of rehearsals... Jonathon is looking forward to embarrassing Eric.

Eric signs up to audition for the stage play. If he gets in, that's his club. Even though he's never acted before. He does it to be near Mia. Sarah and Robert are going to be in the crew, no one has to audition for crew. Mia loans Eric her pen. Eric is awe struck. Mia flirts with Eric, and is mean to Sarah, knowing that Eric is hung up on her. Her intention from the start is to mess with Eric's mind. Jonathon takes Eric aside and, helpfully, tells Eric he will need a song for the auditions.

That night, Eric gets rid of his parents and his sister then tries to find a song to sing. Something appropriate, whatever that means.

At the auditions, Eric watches from the wings as Mia does her monologue. She is very good and Eric falls even more in love with her. Jonathon is assured the lead because his mom is sleeping with **MR. ROBBINS**, the director. **DOUG** and **DAVE**, two other guys trying out for the show, watch all, commenting from the wings. Eric goes out and does his audition song, 'Louie, Louie', singing along with a ghetto blaster. Once the crew get him to stop, he is embarrassed off the stage. But the director, Mr. Robbins, is more forgiving and asks him back to try some acting, since the play isn't a musical. Jonathon ridicules him as Eric tries to leave.

Eric tries out for synchronized swimming the next day and is almost killed. He's really depressed, totally dejected, but the lifeguard will be ok.

Theatre group start hassling Eric as he walks down the hall, singing 'Louie, Louie', until Eric finds out he's got a major part in the play as Jonathon's brother. And as his stand in should something happen to Jonathon. Jonathon is furious at this casting and storms off to find Mr. Robbins. Mia is all smiles and welcomes him to the play. Nothing is going to change, Eric assures Sarah and Robert. But they don't believe it for one second as Eric watches Mia walk off.

At the first rehearsal, Eric walks into his new world. Jonathon and Mia are holding court beside Mr. Robbins. Meeting the cast. Setting out the stage and the way things will go. Eric meets Dave and Doug, the two other guys in the play who seem to irritate Jonathon just as much as he does. Jonathon sneaks off at one point, while Mr. Robbins is talking. Eric and the guys all wonder where exactly Jonathon has gone. After rehearsal Eric finds out there is a party at Jonathon's the next night. When Eric finds out Mia will be there, he decides to go. He wants to be with Mia, no matter where she is.

Eric has to lie his way out of getting together with Robert and Sarah to go to the party. Eric feels some guilt because Jonathon tells him that no crew will be there, crew can't hang with actors, meaning that Sarah and Robert aren't invited.

cut to:

ACT II

The party. It's a weird theatre group party. Eric is set up and embarrassed by not knowing about Andrew Lloyd Webber and ends up alone in the corner with a bottle of gin. All around him, the theatre group have a great time, excluding him completely.

After Eric stumbles off home, the party turns to snide remarks

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about him by the rest of the group. The sincere turn catty with Mia front and center, leading the attack.

Eric meets Dave and Doug on the way home. They are juiced up on multiple espressos. They ask Eric about the party, if Eric got embarrassed by not knowing arcane facts about Broadway composers, just like they did last year. Doug takes a photo of the three of them with his Polaroid. Eric is fine, but Doug and Dave come out totally blurry from all the caffeine.

The next morning, Sarah arrives at Eric's house to study with him. He is truly hung over and just can't understand why the theatre group is so weird. But at least Mia likes him. Sarah warns him that it's just starting, what he's experienced is nothing. Eric doesn't understand, and Sarah sighs, it's going to be a long show.

A dozen rehearsals later, Jonathon is arguing every move his character makes and is making the night miserable for everyone. Eric is sniping back at Jonathon, frustrated and bored. It is the final rehearsal before midterms and anyone who fails a midterm is out of the play. So everyone is given a week off to study and pass their tests before returning to the play. Jonathon and Mia roll their eyes, they hate doing other school work, especially in the middle of a play.

Jonathon and Mia get together to study, and spend all their time bitching about everyone they don't like. Mia is angry at Eric staring at her, in love with her all the time. He even sent her a love letter. She wants him and Dave and Doug out of the play. Now. Jonathon smiles and assures her that he's taken care of it.
cut to:

ACT III

Jonathon starts inviting Eric to join them at lunch, for after school get together's, the works. Everyone studying for their exams. Robert and Sarah are left behind as Jonathon makes Eric a part of the theatre group. All they see of Eric is him lounging in the hall with the theatre group, cracking jokes, having meanspirited fun. At the end of the week, they all take their exams. It's hard, but Eric is pretty sure he aced them all.

And then everyone is back in rehearsals. The play is going fine while everyone waits for the exam results to come in. But Jonathon is being really nice to Eric and it has Doug, Dave, Sarah and Robert worried. It's not like Jonathon to be nice, especially to Eric...

After rehearsal, Dave and Doug try to get Eric to join them, but

he's going to a trendy restaurant with Jonathon and Mia. At the restaurant, Eric is introduced to cappuccinos, antipasto, and a host of other things. Jonathon continues slagging off everyone who isn't part of the theatre group. Eric starts to agree with him.

Eric starts ignoring Sarah and Robert at school. He has been assimilated. He's getting holier than thou. And even worse, he starts looking the part of a trendy theatre groupie, as directed by Jonathon and Mia.

In the middle of class, Eric, Dave and Doug are called to the principals office. They have all failed Algebra 12. They are all out of the show. And the show may be cancelled if they can't recast in time. The three can't understand, they're all sure they didn't fail, but their marks are proof.

Everyone is really angry with the three of them, even though they are all sure that they didn't fail. Even Sarah and Robert are angry with Eric. Jonathon and Mia are saddened and disappointed in him, laying guilt on him, just when he feels worst. He's all alone and totally depressed. How could he fail the exam and let everyone down?

cut to:

ACT IV

Eric, Dave and Doug are slouching outside the school, depressed, shunned by everyone, looking in at the rehearsal as everyone suffers thru the recasting of three characters. They take a sad photo of themselves. But when they see Jonathon sneak off with Mr. Robbins keys, they decide to follow, curious about what Jonathon does when he goes off by himself.

Jonathon lets himself into the main office. The three climb up into the ceiling and down into the principals private office. Thru the door, they can see Jonathon working in the student files in a computer. They take his photo. He realizes someone did something but can't find out from where. He quickly finishes and leaves. A janitor comes in and the three scramble to get back into the ceiling without being caught. They realize Jonathon changed their grades to get them out of the play. they've got to get him back.

Eric is trying to talk to Sarah and Robert in the hall. He's being snubbed by everyone for failing algebra and letting down the show.

That night, while another rehearsal goes on, the three change

their grades back. They get in, dressed in black, right out of 'Mission Impossible'. They are just able to get it done before the janitor comes in.

Eric is outside the school with Dave and Doug, again. No one has bothered to check the records again, and they can't really ask someone to. And the show is going on, but with awful actors playing their parts. They remain outside, drinking coffee until Sarah sees them. She rushes out to tell them they're back in the play! The mistake was found! They didn't fail!

They are ushered into the rehearsal, to the cheers of everyone, the play can go on. Jonathon is upset his plan didn't work. Mia is furious that Jonathon didn't get them out of the play. Now it's her turn. Jonathon sees Dave take a photo of Doug and Eric. Jonathon realizes it was them who saw him and took his picture. He's scared, what are they going to do to him?

cut to:

ACT V

At the next rehearsal, Eric and Jonathon are being snarky to each other. Sarah double checks that she and Eric are going to a movie together. Eric confirms. But then Mia, who overheard this, invites Eric over to rehearse with her. Eric decides to go with Mia, and dumps Sarah. Sarah's really upset at him, but he chooses Mia. Mia's decided to cancel on Eric, having made Sarah mad at him, so she can hang with Jonathon. Mia's going to make Eric's life miserable since Jonathon couldn't get him out of the play.

Eric gets cancelled by Mia when he arrives at her front door. Sarah is at home, alone. Eric goes home, alone. Everyone is alone except Mia and Jonathon. They're having a good laugh at Eric's expense. But Jonathon's a bit scared about doing anything worse because they have photos of him in the computer. Mia is angry at him, too, because he's being a chicken. The next day, Mia starts spreading rumours in school, with Jonathon's reluctant help, about Eric and Robert as a couple and Sarah being pregnant.

Sarah is pretty upset about the rumours, which is what Mia wanted. That night, it's the last rehearsal before they move into the theatre and rehearse on stage with all the props and the set. Everyone is really excited.

The next day is set up in the theatre. Everyone is working away, building the set, lighting, painting, except Mia and Jonathon. They don't do stage work, they're actors. Eric is called in to help set up a video camera onto the quick change room for the girls. This is secret thing that the techies do to get their

thrills. Eric tries to talk to Sarah but she's not interested. He's still sure that Mia likes him, and Sarah doesn't care anymore, she's given up on him, after he stood her up.

During the dress rehearsal, Mia comes off for her quick change and Eric sneaks over to watch with the rest of the male crew. Jonathon stumbles in on their monitor and in the ensuing scramble, the set topples over leaving Mia on stage in underwear and everyone in a pile at her feet, with Eric on top, right in front of her. She screams, Jonathon screams and Mr. Robbins yells cut.

Mr. Robbins tells them that a bad dress makes a great show. He sure hopes this is true. Mia is furious at everyone, especially Eric. She's going to take him down, big time. But she can't mess up the show, but she can mess up someone involved with Eric. And she's going to get Jonathon's help, against his wishes. No one messes with Mia.

cut to:

ACT VI

Backstage before opening. Everyone is pacing around nervous. Eric isn't ready to go on, he's scared. Sarah wishes him good luck. Break a leg. Mia watches her do this, she hasn't thought of anything yet to get back at Eric, neither has Jonathon. Eric takes his place and holds his breath as the curtain rises and the show starts.

Backstage, Eric comes off. He is juiced up from performing. Lee thinks he did great. He's trying to explain the rush of performing, trying to understand. Sarah understands what he's talking about. Regardless of his infatuation with Mia, he's hooked on performing. But Mia is still being nice to him.

Jonathon and Mia talk secretly. This is it. Tonight is the final performance of the play. They've got to do something, now. Mia's sick and tired of being nice to Eric for the sake of the show. But Jonathon chickens out, he can't forget the photos they have of him. Furious, Mia pushes him out of the way and goes down to the empty dressing rooms. Mia takes a toxic chemical and slips it into Eric's makeup stick. With an evil grin, she leaves.

Before the final show, the cast is on stage, for their final pep talk. As Mr. Robbins waxes poetic about acting, Jonathon sneaks away from the pep talk.

Jonathon slips into the empty dressing rooms, looking thru everyone's stuff. He sees Eric's newer makeup stick and takes it, replacing it with his old one. He grins and goes back up to the

pep talk.

Before the show, Mia is ragging on Sarah about her makeup. And her being pregnant, and about Eric and Robert. Sarah is gritting and taking it, just doing her job until Jonathon comes in screaming, his entire face swollen from an allergic reaction to the makeup. As everyone tries to calm him, Mr. Robbins realizes that he can't star, not with a face like that. Eric will have to stand in and play his role, staring with Mia. Of course, Mia is furious. She is sure that Sarah did something to the makeup, switching it to harm Jonathon.

cut to:

ACT VII

During the show, Mia is remaining nice to Eric, contrary to everyone's expectations. This makes life really frustrating for Sarah and the rest of the crew.

But the show finally ends and Mia bites into Eric, trashing him totally. She doesn't need him anymore, she doesn't like him anymore, she doesn't want to ever see him again. Eric is totally confused by what she said and stumbles off in a daze.

Backstage after the show, everyone is milling around, excited that it's over, congratulating each other, starting celebrations. But Eric is confused, alone, depressed about how Mia acted.

The cast party is at Jonathon's house. He's wrapped up like the invisible man. The music is loud, the celebration in full swing when Eric arrives. The techies are in the closet making out with girls. Eric is sarcastic to Jonathon, torturing him, since Jonathon can't speak because of his bandages.

Eric finds Mia fighting with Sarah about the makeup. Mia accuses Sarah of putting the chemical in the makeup, but no one knew what caused Jonathon's rash. Mia has convicted herself to Sarah. Eric hears what Mia really feels about him, that she was just messing with his head. Eric realizes that he's been a total idiot despite what his friends have tried to tell him about Mia and Jonathon.

Bitting his lip, Eric goes over and fauns over Mia, apologizing obsequiously to her, lavishing attention on her. He says he's got a present for her and takes her over to the closet and pushes her in with the techie. Mia's screams turn to screams of passion, and Eric walks across the crowded party to Sarah, to apologize.

A few days later at school. There is another audition sign up for another show. But Eric is walking along, arm in arm with Sarah.

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With their friend, Robert. Sarah asks if he's trying out for the show. Eric shakes his head, he's going to pass on the show this time, it's not worth it. They laugh and walk on.

THE END

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