

The logo for Offbeat Theatre features the words "Offbeat Theatre" in a black, ornate, cursive-style font. The text is centered within a horizontal, wavy banner that has a yellow-to-orange gradient. This banner is set against a solid blue background. On either side of the banner, there are decorative, swirling patterns in shades of purple and blue.

Offbeat Theatre

Seeing Things - Script Preview

A one act comedy
by
Rob Hockley

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Youth Theatres and Schools

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Synopsis

Seeing things is a one act eleven scene comedy about the romantic problems of Brian, A teenage boy who believes he sees ghosts in his “happy” moments. The play focuses on his attempts to resolve this by inviting girls to his house whilst his parents are away.

Characters

All five characters within the play are adolescent teenagers.

Stuart

Brian

Jo

Belinda

Andrea

Setting

The Play consists of eleven scenes set within an ordinary house. The locations are Living room and Hall, Bedroom and outside.

SCENE 1

BRIAN'S BEDROOM. BRIAN AND STUART SIT ON THE BED. BRIAN HOLDS AN OLD TAPE RECORDER. STUART PRESSES ONE OF THE BUTTONS ON THE TAPE RECORDER.

BRIAN Don't do that. Okay?

STUART Kay.

BRIAN It's a sensitive scientific instrument.

STUART Looks like a pile of crap to me.(LEANS ACROSS AND PRESSES BUTTON AGAIN) Does it really work?

BRIAN Yes, it works, Okay? So far. So don't mess. I've got it all set up and everything. So you know, just don't.

STUART Whatever.

BRIAN CARRIES ON ADJUSTING THE TAPE RECORDER.

This is a rubbish party.

BRIAN It's not a party. I told you, it's a serious scientific experiment.

STUART But I get to score with girls right?

BRIAN As an important part of a serious scientific experiment yes.

STUART So it's a party right?

BRIAN I told you already. No, it's not a party.

STUART Yeah. I'm a little confused. If it's a party then where's all the mind altering chemicals and the booze and the hot women?

BRIAN There's a bottle of cider.

STUART What? One? A bottle?

BRIAN Yes, a bottle. My Mum and Dad only had the one. It's enough for experimental purposes and we don't need large amounts of intoxicating fluids to enjoy ourselves.

STUART Yes we do. We're teenagers. Don't you watch television? What am I supposed to do with one bottle of Cider? Party till I burp?

BRIAN It's not a party.

STUART Okay. So no booze. What about the mind altering chemicals? You definitely promised there'd be mind altering chemicals. Come to my house, there'll be

mind altering chemicals were your exact words. Sort of.

BRIAN Yeah. There aren't any.

STUART No mind altering chemicals? You promised.

BRIAN I changed my mind.

STUART So your people were out of those too then.

BRIAN No. They took it with them.

STUART They can't do that. That's just wrong. They're responsible adults, they're supposed to ensure our development as growing humans by providing huge quantities of interesting opportunities to make serious lifestyle mistakes that we can regret later on. Not nick all the gear and leg it.

BRIAN Sorry. I tried, but there's no talking to them in crown green bowling season.

STUART That's bad. They can't keep off the grass and you're the one that ends up getting hurt.

BRIAN (GRIMACING) You're not going to keep on doing that are you?

STUART This is going to be a real fun party, I can tell.

BRIAN It's not a party.

STUART Okay, so no booze, no chemicals and no fun. How are we looking for hot women?

BRIAN Don't worry, I've got it all under control.

STUART How would that not worry me?

BRIAN I know what I'm doing.

STUART No you don't. You don't know anything about girls. You've never even had a girlfriend.

BRIAN Yes I have.

STUART Since you were six.

BRIAN Still counts.

STUART Who did you ask?

BRIAN Andrea, Belinda and Jo.

STUART (PAUSES) Seriously?

BRIAN Yeah, what's wrong with that? You know all of them don't you?

STUART That's because they're all my ex-girlfriends you smurf.

BRIAN I know.

STUART That I dumped.

BRIAN And?

STUART Still not seeing a downside are you?

BRIAN They're girls. They're coming to my house. While my parents are out. How is this bad?

STUART Really. Nothing at all. No knowledge whatsoever. Okay, much as I'd love to stay and belch apples with a clear head whilst mad women rip my nuts off I've suddenly remembered some important surviving I'd promised myself to do, Oh, ages ago. (STANDS TO LEAVE)

BRIAN Hey just wait, you can't leave, you're a vital component of the experiment. It won't work without you.

STUART Experiment? What experiment?

BRIAN The experiment I've been telling you about.

STUART (SITS) I thought it was a party. Why haven't you mentioned this before?

BRIAN I don't know. Maybe I've been too preoccupied with girls and drugs and booze?

STUART Now you're thinking of the party again. You're getting a bit obsessed there you know? Let's just stick to the experiment thing yes? What's it about?

BRIAN If I told you you'd think I was mad.

STUART Then you have nothing to lose.

BRIAN Okay, you asked for it. Somewhere in this room, I don't know where, There's a ghost.

STUART You're not wrong about the mad thing are you?

BRIAN Thanks. But really. There is.

STUART Ghost.

BRIAN Yes.

STUART Ghost?

BRIAN I've seen her.

STUART Her?

BRIAN Yes.

STUART Ghost and girl?

BRIAN Yes.

STUART You mean like? (DOES SPOOKY GESTURES WITH CLEAVAGE)

BRIAN I'm serious. There's a ghost.

STUART Where? When?

BRIAN I see her sitting in that chair. Whenever I'm feeling- you know-

STUART What?

BRIAN You know. Happy. Ish.

STUART Ish happy?

BRIAN When I.....you know....Take a walk to my happy place and get all.....sort of...

STUART What? You mean-

BRIAN Excited.

THE CHAIR MOVES. THE BOYS DO NOT NOTICE

STUART Oh gross.

BRIAN I can't help it.

STUART So, every time you're- you see a ghost?

BRIAN Yes.

STUART Wow. What does she look like?

BRIAN Bloody terrifying. What do you think she looks like? She's a ghost.

STUART Doesn't that scare you?

BRIAN Yes. Yes of course it bloody does. Now can we drop it please? I don't really like talking about it.

STUART Sure yeah I understand. (PAUSE) So this happens-

BRIAN Yes alright?

STUART So, how do you.....get by?

BRIAN Can we really not talk about this?

STUART Well I was just asking. I mean, it seems to me that getting by must be pretty difficult if-

BRIAN I don't alright? Happy? I don't get by. I don't. I'm too bloody scared.

STUART Sorry. Just asking.

BRIAN Fine. Okay.

STUART Okay.

BRIAN Good.

BRIAN CRAWLS UNDER THE BED WITH THE TAPE RECORDER.

STUART So how do you know she's a ghost? I mean, you could be going mad couldn't you?

BRIAN Thanks.

STUART Particularly if you haven't got by for a while, that can happen you know.

BRIAN Yes I know. Thanks for pointing it out. That's what this experiment is all about, that's why it's important why it matters. To prove that the afterlife exists and I'm not just some lame sad case weirdo.

STUART I think you're going to need a bigger experiment.

BRIAN GETS BACK OUT FROM UNDER THE BED.

BRIAN I'm serious about this. You don't get it do you?

STUART Oh I get it. You've dragged me over here so I can be torn apart by hormonally challenged madwomen and once I'm nicely dead I'll just pop over to the afterlife to check out the spook quotient in your happy place. Tempting, but, no.

BRIAN You don't understand it doesn't work like that it's the thing, the other thing the unresolved sexual tension stuff that makes the spook appear. That's why I need you.

STUART The thing?

BRIAN Yeah, you know. Unresolved thingstuff.

STUART Oh.

BRIAN Word has it that you are rich in thingstuff.

STUART It does? Really? Whose?

BRIAN Well yours mostly.

STUART It's an authoritative source I'll give you that.

BRIAN All I need you to do is wait till the girls show up and do your stuff, work your thing on them. Given your past history of unresolvedness the energy levels should be huge.

STUART Sounds like me.

BRIAN And when it all gets high enough the ghost will manifest and I can record her on the tape machine proving that I'm not a sad desperate loner.

STUART Oh, that's why you put the tape machine under the bed.

BRIAN Well yeah. What did you think?

STUART Dunno. Sad desperate loner I suppose.

BRIAN Cheers.

STUART Well most people don't experience the afterlife in their me moments do they? It's not exactly normal is it?

BRIAN Really? It isn't? I had no idea.

STUART And I've got to say, it's a dumb plan.

BRIAN Thanks. You're a real help.

STUART Taping ghosts. It's as dumb as- I can't think of anything it's as dumb as but if I could then that's how dumb it would be.

BRIAN Look, you said you were going to help. Are you going to help or not?

STUART I don't know, those girls are were pretty steamed last I heard.

BRIAN That's because they're still into you.

STUART You think?

BRIAN Sure, why else would they care? It's because they can't get with you and it's driving them crazy. Just think, if this whole thing works out you could end up with multiple snogs. Simultaneously.

STUART That is a noble goal. But what if doesn't go right and it all goes wrong instead?

BRIAN That can't happen. This is science. Science never goes wrong.

STUART True. And I am pretty amazing with women.

BRIAN Then it's a deal. I'll get the party started and then you come in and pull your moves. Instant spooksville guaranteed. Just don't say anything about this to the girls.

STUART No sweat. Scouts honour. Did you just say you'll get the party started?

BRIAN Sure. Why not?

STUART You're sure?

BRIAN Yeah. How hard can it be?

SCENE 2

THE LIVING ROOM. BELINDA, ANDREA AND JO SIT ON THE COUCH AT THE TABLE.

BELINDA This is a crap party Jo. How long do we have to stay?

JO Bit more. Then you can go. I just need to get, you know, settled.

ANDREA Can't you just get on with it? It's not like the guy's going to fight you off or anything is it?

BELINDA She wants romance remember?

ANDREA From Brian? We'll be here for weeks.

JO Don't say it like that. Brian's alright, he's nice.

BELINDA Too nice. He's never going to make a move.

JO He will, He just needs a little encouragement is all. That's why you're here isn't it?

ANDREA I'm not doing the our friend really likes you thing Jo, I told you already.

JO There are other ways.

BELINDA And we're not flirting with him for you either.

ANDREA Strictly moral support only.

BRIAN ENTERS CARRYING DRINKS.

BRIAN There you go.

BRIAN PUTS THE DRINKS DOWN AND SITS ON AN ARMCHAIR. HE PICKS UP A DRINK.

Whoo.

JO SMILES. BELINDA AND ANDREA DON'T. BRIAN SIPS HIS DRINK AND FIDGETS UNCOMFORTABLY. THE GIRLS TAKE THEIR DRINKS. BELINDA LOOKS DISGUSTED AS SHE DRINKS.

BELINDA Brian? What is this? Is this fruit juice?

BRIAN Yes.

JO It's really good Brian. Fruit juice. What else is in it?

BRIAN More fruit juice?

ANDREA Whooh.
BELINDA This is a crap party Brian.
BRIAN Ha. Yeah. Good one.

THERE IS A LONG SILENCE

ANDREA Seriously.
BRIAN I'll get some cider.
BELINDA Oh god.

BRIAN LEAVES

JO Yeah thanks a lot guys. Great support. Couldn't have chased him out the room without you.
BELINDA Well honestly. Cider. I mean.
ANDREA What do you see in him anyway?
JO He's just nice alright?
ANDREA He's a geek.
JO He's intelligent. Clever. I like that. When he talks to me he actually talks to me, you know?
BELINDA But he's still looking at your boobs isn't he.
JO On and off yes but the point is that he talks to me, like I'm a person, a person he likes.
ANDREA He'd like you better if you lost five pounds and wore a short skirt.
JO No he wouldn't. Brian's not like that. He's intelligent. He doesn't do all that sleazy stuff.
BELINDA Really? You think?
JO Yeah. Yeah I really do.
ANDREA Well we'll just see shall we?
JO Yeah. You will.

ANDREA AND BELINDA EXCHANGE A KNOWING
GLANCE.

BELINDA Yeah. We will