

TIFE THEATRE

“This Is For Everyone”

2025 - 2026 Middle School Teacher Sampler

you deserve to feel seen

you deserve to feel heard

you deserve to feel inspired



THE END OF THE MIDDLE

Full-Length Comedy | Cast of 25+

Ten 8th graders share stories of overprotective parents, rumors about life in high school, and wonder if *anyone* in their friend group end up dating before middle school is over?



THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

One-Act Comedy | Cast of 15

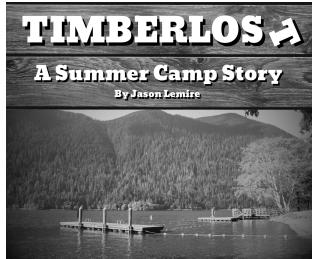
When a mysterious stranger arrives in a small village, the lives of the corrupt townsfolk are thrown into disarray in this raucous retelling of the classic Russian farce.



FIND YOUR FUTURE

One-Act Dramedy | Cast of 18+

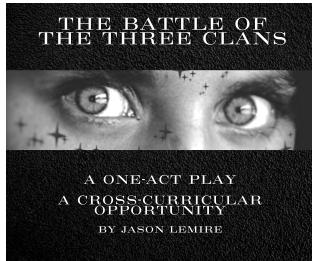
In a dystopian future where teenagers are sorted according to their personalities, what happens when you don't fit neatly into any of the boxes? Cora is about to find out.



TIMBERLOST

Full-Length Comedy | Cast of 30+

The misfit kids and counselors of Camp Timberlost must band together to save their beloved camp from a hostile takeover by the arrogant and elitist Camp Excelsior.



BATTLE OF THE THREE CLANS

One-Act Drama | Cast of 23

Iron Age villagers face profound choices: isolation or acceptance; peace or war. A dynamic, thought-provoking opportunity for cross-curricular collaboration.



KEEPING UP WITH THE CAVEMEN

One-Act Comedy | Cast of 15

In this pre-history spoof of reality television, an industrious caveman will do anything to get out of hunting. But are his curious creations — the "Shmardashians" — really what they seem?

ABOUT TIFE THEATRE

"TIFE" stands for This Is For Everyone, the philosophy that inspired the launch of TIFE Theatre.

Our three core offerings — licensing, workshops, commissions — are all designed to deliver engaging, student-driven experiences.

As a publishing/licensing company, we offer a wide range of dynamic, Thespy-approved plays. Students have used TIFE Theatre scenes and monologues to earn Superiors at state and ITF competitions, and troupes have earned highest honors at district, regional and state competitions with our one-acts.

We also offer directors the option of changing their production scripts to reflect the identity and creativity of their troupe. From changing character names to reflect the background of their actors, to allowing troupes to create their own original adaptations based on our works, licensing a show with TIFE means offering your students and community a unique level of ownership.

TIFE Theatre Workshops are all about empowering your students to find their voice and dare to do dynamic work. (See back cover for more!)

Finally, TIFE Theatre Playwriting Residencies are your program's opportunity to create a world-premiere work, from a one-act play to a full-length musical. Scripts can be an adaptation of an existing work or a completely original collaboration between Jason and your students. A TIFE Theatre Residency is your opportunity to create that piece of theatre you've always wanted to make!

After all, This Is For Everyone.

Jason Lemire

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"Jason has that rare ability of being able to connect with middle school students effortlessly, making them feel seen and heard and excited to be creating something on stage. His energy is infectious and his talent unlimited!"

KELLY McALLISTER - THE LOGAN SCHOOL

"Jason Lemire is a phenomenally talented educator! He is deeply passionate about his students — any student — meeting them where they are and spurring them to greater heights and a broader perspectives, not only in theatre but also with regards to their place in the universe."

JEREMY GOLDSON - MOUNTAIN VISTA HS

visit **tifetheatre.com** to read free perusal scripts and explore our workshops

NO ONE LIKES A GIRL — DRAMA

from The Girl with the Lizard Brain by Jason Lemire

character age: teenager

After an entire play of grappling with the competing voices inside her head, The Girl finally has her say.

Would you listen to yourselves?

“No one likes a girl who lacks self-esteem. No one likes a girl with too much self-esteem. No one likes a girl who cares. No one likes a girl who’s careless. No one likes a girl who this, no one likes a girl who’s that—”

Does no one like girls?

[a pause]

I said, does no one like girls???

[she listens to the reply]

Yeah. I bet they *want* girls. I bet they’ll do anything to *get* girls. But do they *like* girls?

Do *you*? Do *we*? And what *is* that? To live in fear of being unliked. So what if someone doesn’t like us! So what? Do *we* like us? Do *we* like who we are?

Because I am so tired of you worrying, so much, about whether or not what we’re doing is measuring up. To some standard we had no say in setting. And you say that your advice is in my best interest. Except it’s not, is it? Because really—

[listens to the reply]

No! Because really, *your* advice, actually, is in everyone *else*’s best interest. It’s in *their* best interest. Not mine. Because for something to be in *my* best interest it has to be something that’s actually good. For *me*.

And the things that you tell me to do — most of the time — they do not bring me joy. Or health. Or self worth. And the only reason why *you* think that your advice is good advice is because you’re a coward. And a follower.

And I’m sorry for you. I am. Truly.

But I’m done.

HELLO AGAIN, SHOOTING STAR — COMEDY

from The Wish Givers Guild by Jason Lemire

character age: adult

John kneels at his bedroom window and says a prayer to what he thinks is a shooting star. Every time he says “John” he is terribly disappointed.

Hello again, shooting star. It's me, your old pal... John.

Had another tough day today. When I showed up at work this morning, it happened again.

Everybody called me John.

Oh shooting star, why won't you grant my wish? Perhaps if I made my wish again, one more time.

I wish my name was Barry.

I wish whenever I walked into a room people would say, “Hi Barry, how's it going?” And whenever I answered my phone at work I could say, “Data Processing, this is Barry, how may I help you?”

But I can't. Because my name is John.

Why shooting star? Why do you force me to toil under the yoke of “John”?

Oh, what's the use shooting star. You can't hear me anyway, can you. Oh well.

Good night shooting star. Good night.

THE BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD — DRAMA

from Hey, I Get It... by Jason Lemire

character age: teenager

Samantha's older brother, Michael, barges into her room to apologize for a fight they had the night before. When he enters, Michael catches Samantha talking on her laptop with her new best friend, an AI program.

[Samantha quickly closes her laptop.]

What are you doing in my room?

[Michael asks Samantha who she is talking to.]

I was talking to a friend. From school.

[Michael asks how, since her phone is broken]

I know my phone is broken. I was talking on... my computer. Can you please leave, now?

Hey, excuse me, can you please leave?

[Michael moves towards Samantha's laptop.]

Hey don't go near— That is private!

I said it's private! Don't open that!

[Michael looks at Samantha's computer screen.]

Michael, I'm not being catfished, okay? Don't be gross. I'm not stupid.

Because she's an AI! Okay? I found her online. She's a... a beta test version some programmers posted.

I'm not being hacked.

Because she isn't asking me for my credit card, Michael! She isn't asking me for anything! She's my friend! Literally the best friend I've ever had! She cares about me! She helps me! She wants things to go well for me! Remember wanting those things for me?

[a beat]

Remember???

THINKER OF THE FUTURE — COMEDY

from Keeping Up With The Cavemen by Jason Lemire

character age: adult

In the world of cavemen, Bob, Thinker of the Future, calls forth their assistant, Primitive Crude, to present their newest invention.

If the average caveman spends fourteen hours hunting and gathering, and the remaining hours eating, sleeping, farting, and looking at the Shmardasian's ridiculous "cave painting" it leaves no room for progress! We'll be stuck in the Stone Age forever!

No, it is up to me. Bob, Thinker of the Future, to propel these simple creatures. And that starts with getting out of this valley. Primitive crude! A status report on my latest invention! Primitive crude!

[Primitive Crude arrives.]

Primitive Crude. What is the most important resource for surviving a trek over and beyond the mountains that encircle our valley?

[Crude answers]

Feet?? Bite your tongue, Primitive Crude! The most important resource for survival is water. And what happens to water when we trek?

[Crude bites his tongue]

What? I can't understand you. Unbite your tongue, crude!

[Crude speaks.]

That is correct. It spills. Now then. Commence with the testing of our prototype. A gourd... full of water... with a leaf... on top of it.

[Crude protests.]

Commence! Or I will send you back to the swamps where I found you, scavenging for quail eggs and mold.

[Bob crouches, striking an observatory pose. Crude holds the gourd over his own head. Bob encourages Crude to hurry up. Crude tips the gourd over. The leaf does not stop the water. The water dumps on Crude's head.]

Water still dumps on head. Very curious.

MY PARENTS ARE NOT SPECIAL — DRAMA

from Within by Jason Lemire

character age: teenager

Milo has been invited to attend a school for young super heroes, but their powers have yet to come in. Frustrated with their lack of progress, Milo confronts The Sages, who continue to insist that they are destined to have superpowers.

Are you sure you're not confusing me with... Luke Skywalker or something?

Because everything you're saying is pretty much a direct rip off of Star Wars. Or... Harry Potter... Or... Like, *all* the stories. Except it's pretty late in the story for me to still have zero powers.

And besides, those stories? Are stupid!

And not only are those stories stupid, they're always the exact same kind of stupid!

Because step one, for the hero to be “special”, is always coming from some crazy special family. Right? Which is-- hello? That's supposed to be inspiring?

To who exactly?

Like, did you see those Star Wars movies? With *Rey*?

Do you remember where there was the moment when it seemed like Rey was a super powerful Jedi “just because”?

Remember?

Like she really was a nobody? Who came from nothing? Do you know how that felt to kids like me?

Except it turns out it wasn't “just because”. It turns out Rey -- boring, orphan Rey -- is actually Emperor Palpatine's *granddaughter*!

Oh! Spoiler alert! She's not “just some orphan”!

Because special Jedi powers aren't for kids who just get abandoned by their parents for no reason!

Well, here's another spoiler alert! My parents are NOT special!

My Mom is pretty much the boringest person alive. Like, aggressively, 1950s housewife boring. And I know she's my Mom because she still has my baby

pictures up all over the house including from the day I was born, which, while embarrassing, is at least proof she isn't ashamed of me!

My Dad on the other hand...

My Dad is the dumbest person alive! Which I know sounds like a not nice thing to say about your father, except he's proud of it. He advertises it. He goes fishing with fireworks! He wears a mesh shirt to the beach and gets a sun burn on purpose because he says it makes him "look like a super hero". Except it doesn't. It makes him look like a sun-burned idiot!

And he has... He has these stupid comic books that we won't even let me read!

And he has this stupid girlfriend that he won't even let me get to know! And now he has this stupid business where he says he's making surf wax? In Tampa! He says it's gonna make him a millionaire? And *then* he'll be ready to be my Dad again? Just like with his real estate business and his boat detailing business and all his other stupid business ideas.

He doesn't even know how to surf!

I do not come from prized stock!!!

And at least my Mom, in all of her utter boringness, isn't disappointed that I'm boring too. She likes me just how I am. And at least I'm not pretending to be something I'm not.

Like my father.

[a beat]

Maybe I should just go home and have some cake.

A POEM FOR A LADY— COMEDY

from The Government Inspector by Jason Lemire

character age: young adult

Landers, the son of the corrupt mayor, attempts to woo Ms. Catarina, a spoiled heiress who has been mistaken for the government inspector.

My name... Which was given to me at birth... And has been my name since... Ever since... Is Landers Borgmeister.

Here is a pheasant I shot.

[offers her a stuffed animal pheasant]

It's not a real pheasant. And I didn't shoot it. It's stuffed.

But I do hunt things! I caught a hawk once. Fishing. I kind of cast the line when the hawk was flying down and then the hook got caught in the... like in its feathers... But. It was very exciting.

Would you like to hear some poetry I wrote? Wonderful!

*“A single smile is all she shared with me.
Never once did our fingers entangle.
Never once did our lips meet.
But a thousand kisses from a thousand maidens fair
Could not compare to that single smiled she shared with me.
In that smile, love was equal parts born and buried in my heart.
Love. Love eternal.
Love. Love lost and gone forever.
Lost. Lost and gone.
Gone.
Like a fart in the wind.”*

[Landers makes a loud fart noise with his mouth.]

I especially like the part with the fart noise. It's not on the page; but, I sort of just... Put it in... Thank you.

EVERY QUESTION IS ONE QUESTION — DRAMA

from The Battle of the Three Clans by Jason Lemire

character age: young adult

The Priestess offers guidance to her fellow villagers who face a difficult question: whether or not to go to war with a neighboring clan.

Every question is one question!

So the Water said to the Earth and the Earth said to the Sky and the Sky said to the Fire. Every question is one question!

And how this question is answered has defined us. Does define us. And will define us again. Every question is one question.

You see a question in front of you, but you can not agree on the question. Some see peace or war. Some see prosperity or rot. Some see passion or reason. Some see self-determination or surrender.

So many questions! It's no wonder you can not agree.

Because you have forgotten.

Every question is one question.

Is the wolf who hunts and devours the deer an agent of life or an agent of death?

Every question is one question.

Are we wolves or are we deer or are we something more?

Every question is one question.

The thief who steals to eat, do we chop off her hands, or the hands of those who failed to feed her?

Every question is one question.

How shall the Great Weaver remember us when we are gone?

Every question is one question.

GONE LIKE A BURRITO — COMEDY

from It Was Probably the Butler by Jason Lemire

character age: adult

Detective Deckler has just arrived at the Von Canterbury Estate to investigate the disappearance of a multi-million dollar postage stamp. He's a classic, 1930's, hard-boiled detective.

The stamp was gone. That much was clear.

Gone like an ice cube left out in the sun. Gone like a burrito smothered in green chili and left in front of a hungry fat man.

Or anyone really. He doesn't have to be—I apologize. The man's *size* is not relevant. Burritos are delicious. He could be anyone.

And— And— And!

He doesn't even have to be a *he*, either. He could be a she. Or a they. It's all completely fine with me.

The point is, the burrito is gone! And so is the stamp!

And that's why you called me. Detective Deckler. Private eye.

The sort of man who makes grown men tip their fedoras.

The sort of man who makes grown women weak in the knees.

Or not!

It could be the women wearing fedoras!

If there is a woman here who wants to wear a fedora, that's perfectly fine with me!

And if there is a man here who sees me and something happens to his knees that is perfectly fine with me too!

The point is, the stamp was gone.

And one way or another I was going to get the bottom of it.

Respectfully.

TEN YEARS FROM NOW — COMEDY

from The End of the Middle by Jason Lemire

character age: teenager

Sadia is working on her final English assignment of 8th grade: a reflection paper to answer “where she sees herself in ten years.” While she begins the assignment in good spirits, the essay soon stirs up some feelings.

In ten years, I can see myself living out any number of dreams and aspirations I have for my future, and I can not wait to spend my high school years discovering which passion I will pursue.

Science. Drama. Architecture. Social justice. The world is full of so many exciting opportunities!

[a beat... she considers the words she has just written]

The problem with having all these ambitions is that it's kind of hard to decide which one to pursue, because...

What if you spend all this time studying to be one thing, and then you finally become that thing, then all of a sudden you're like “Oh no!” “I hate this!” “What have I done!”

So, that's why it can feel kind of stressful...

[a beat... and then another... as the stress mounts... until finally, she explodes]

I can't take the pressure! Okay??? You want to know what I really want to do? Huh? Nothing! I want to do nothing. There. I said it. I want to sit. In a comfy chair. In the dark. Huh? Do you know how good that sounds right now? I have been doing five hours of homework a night, every night, for the past three years, and now you want me to go to high school.

And college??? College?????? No! I'm not going!

I just want a comfy chair and darkness.

[a beat to calm down

I... I guess I'm just saying that some of us don't have it all figured out just yet, and I hope you can understand that. Because we really are trying. And we'll get there. Eventually. We promise... Just let us get through high school first. Okay?

Thank you.

BILLY'S BEST — COMEDY

from If We Shadows by Jason Lemire

character age: teenager

Isha wants more than anything to audition for her school's Shakespeare production, but her sensory sensitivities makes it feel impossible. Still, she dares to dream.

In this scene, Isha has reimagined the classic character of Puck — from Shakespeares *A Midsummer Night's Dream* — in the style of Lin Manuel Miranda. Here, "Hip Hop Puck" introduces himself to the crowd.

[Hip Hop Puck does a little dance and bows to the audience]

Introducing, shrewd and knavish
Scuttle-my-butt just like a crayfish
Billy's best, and no, not Danish
Misch'vousness all in my brainish

Merry wanderer of the nights, I
Grunts, and roars and burns and bites, I
Spy a forest of delights, with some
Not insignificant appetites

There's Oberon, there's Jill and Jack
A donkey with both front and back
Some potion dipsomaniacs,
Lysander looking like a snack

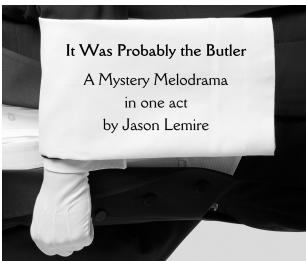
I shall lead them on but good
In goblin-mode, it's understood, first
Hasten dreaming as they should
Then wake them just like morning would

[Puck bows gallantly]



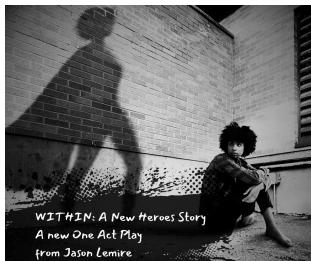
HEY, I GET IT... One-Act Drama | Cast of 14

Imagine if friendship with a Chatbot could finally make you feel seen? But what happens when you outgrow your AI friend? What happens if they get jealous?



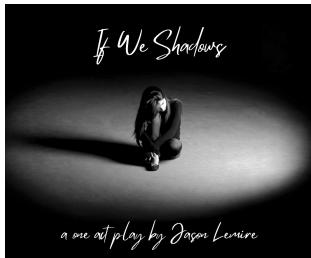
IT WAS PROBABLY THE BUTLER One-Act Comedy | Cast of 15

A lavish estate. A stolen stamp. An unspoken love. Well... maybe several unspoken loves. And entirely too many detectives. A melodrama spoof of the classic whodunit.



WITHIN One-Act Dramedy | Cast of 15+

At the School for the Uniquely Gifted, Sara's powers still haven't come in. But when crisis arrives, she will have to figure out what kind of hero she is, and what kind of villains await.



IF WE SHADOWS One-Act Dramedy | Cast of 9 - 30+

In this story of sisterhood, neurodiversity, and the rich history of theatre around the world, a gifted young woman reimagines Shakespeare and searches for real connection.



IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A DREAM One-Act Comedy | Cast of 15

A fish-out-of-water comedy that follows a small-town kid who accidentally ends up in the middle of one of life's most ridiculous endeavors, making a Hollywood movie.



THE WISH GIVERS GUILD One-Act Comedy | Cast of 16

From a disgruntled tooth fairy and a devious gnome, to a weepy satellite mistaken for a shooting star, The WG Guild would like a word about the sad state of human wishes.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

A Denver-based educator and playwright, Jason Lemire was recognized by the Colorado Thespian's as a 2019 Drama Teacher of the year for his student-driven approach to the creative process. He has served as a teaching artist and writer-in-residence with Mirror Image Arts, The Rutgers University Institute on Ethnicity, and countless schools, school districts, and State Thespian Festivals around the country.



WORKSHOPS

TIFE Theatre offers a wide variety of workshops and residencies to support the work of dynamic theatre programs like yours!

ALL IN: Committing to Big Choices

BEING BAD: A Villains Workshop

COMMISSION AN ORIGINAL WORK: From One-Acts to Musicals

DEvised: Student Driven Theatre

FINDING THE HEART: A Monologue Workshop

IMPROV: Basics to Improvised Musicals

MOTIVATION: A Pathway to Connection

PLAYWRITING: For Everyone

24 HOUR PLAY: From Page to Stage in a Day

SSN, INCLUSION, and PEER-TO-PEER THEATRE

With a background in Special Education, Jason has helped numerous programs create original scripts, scenes and showcases that celebrate the strengths, passions and curiosities of students across the ability spectrum.

"My entire troupe fell in love with his teaching style. He really brought out this passion in so many of us."

STUDENT - GEORGIA THESPIANS CONFERENCE

"Your workshops will always inspire me. Seriously life changing."

STUDENT - COLORADO THESPIANS CONFERENCE

visit tifetheatre.com to read free perusal scripts and explore our workshops