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The Superhero Ultraferno (one-act)

By Don Zolidis

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Cast of Characters

NARRATOR 1 (female)
NARRATOR 2 (male)
SPENCER
MELVIN
BURT
JOLENE
BOY
GIRL
BOY 2
GIRL 2

Part 1. Batman
BATMAN
ROBIN
CLARK (SUPERMAN)

Part 2. Wonder Woman
WONDER WOMAN
BLACK CANARY
WHITE QUEEN
HULK
AMAZONIAN QUEEN
BOSS 1-4
SECRETARY

Part 3. Superman
AQUAMAN
JOR-EL
LARA
MOM
DAD
INS AGENT 1
INS AGENT 2

Part 4. The Avengers
HAWKEYE
NATASHA
STEVE
BRUCE
TONY
THOR
JENNIFER

Part 5. Spiderman
PETER PARKER
CRIMINALS
GWEN STACY
ROBBER
UNCLE BEN
AUNT MAY
GREEN GOBLIN
DOCTOR OCTOPUS
BLACK CAT
ELECTRO
SANDMAN

How to Perform this play: This is a very fast-moving show with lots of roles. The best way to do it is to show the wires, so to speak. Allow the costume changes to be very minor – for the heroes, perhaps using only a mask, or a cape, or something to signify their character, is best. Speed is really important to something like this, so don't get bogged down with set changes either. If pieces can be moved on and off with lightning speed, then go for it, but otherwise there is very little scenery needed.

Gender of Characters: Most super-heroes are male. I make a lot of jokes about this. I have no problem with performers of any gender playing any of the male roles. They should be played as men, though – I don't think it works as well with "Batgirl" instead of "Batman", for instance. The parts for women, (Wonder Woman, Amazonian Queen, Scarlet Witch, etc…) should stay women.

I've written almost all of the other roles as gender neutral (writer, Disney exec, students…) – and these can be any gender too.

Ethnicity of Characters: Same thing for ethnicity. I do make jokes about Superman and Aquaman being white, but there's no reason an actor of color couldn't play those roles. All of the heroes are archetypes, and have been played by different actors over the years. So please feel free to have any actor of any race or ethnicity in any part.

Ad-Libbing: This kind of play works fine with ad-libbing, particularly by the narrators, who are guiding the action. If you come up with something particularly brilliant, go ahead and use it in the show.

Cutting: For time, or for community standards, you may cut any section of the play as necessary.

One last thing: Resist the urge to mug to the audience. Unless it's part of their character, all of the super-heroes should be deadly serious. It's funnier if they don't know they're funny.

Also – This is parody, so I hope DC or Marvel doesn't sue me. I'm a big fan.

The Superhero Ultraferno (one-act) was first performed by Silverado High School in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 10-12, 2015. It was directed by Alan Strait and the original cast was as follows:

The Cast

Narrator 1.....Josh Derico
Narrator 2.....Izzy Welte
Boy 1.....Nick Hicks/Eric Durski
Girl 1.....Jade Howard
Girl 2.....Ciara Fung
Boy 2.....Quinn Wagner
Batman.....Antoni Bran
Robin.....Jorge Ortiz
Superman/Clark Kent.....Ben Brikman
Wonder Woman.....Ashley Ramirez/Alex Romain
Black Canary.....Savannah Robinson
White Queen.....Abbie Mahan
Amazonian Queen.....Kelli Langlands
Amazons.....Natasha Chumakov, Krisitina Guerrero, Abbie Mahan. Mikaela Maute, Kori Shalmy, Savannah Robinson
BOSS 1-4..... Isaiah Calabrese, Peyton Ballard, Andrew Aguirre, CJ Garcia.
Secretary.....Kori Shalmy
Aquaman.....Eric Durski
Jor-El.....Guillermo Vasquez
Lara.....Noelle Niemeier
Mom.....Sabrina Courtney
INS Agent 1.....Mikaela Maute
INS Agent 2.....Maggie Mitic
Hawkeye.....CJ Garcia
Natasha.....Kori Shalmy
Steve.....Peyton Ballard
Bruce/Hulk.....Jacob Meinhart
Tony.....Andrew Aguirre
Thor.....Isaiah Calabrese
Jennifer.....Quincie Hines
Peter Parker .....Alexis Elge

Gwen Stacy.....Ben Brikman
Robber.....Kristina Guerrero
Uncle Ben.....Joseph Proctor
Aunt May.....Megan Gilbert
Green Goblin.....Andrew Aguirre
Doctor Octupus.....Guillermo Vasquez
Black Cat.....Sydney Taylor
Electro.....Nick Hicks/Diego Hicks
Sandman.....Jacob Meinhart

The Crew

Director.....Alan Strait
Light Designer.....Ryan Kennedy
Sound Designer.....Roy Mendez

Act One

(The set can be very flexible. A typical American high school works for most settings. You could also do something abstract or stylized, like giant comic book covers.)

(Creepy music.)
(Perhaps fog.)

NARRATOR 2
Something terrible is happening in our high schools. Something that looks a lot like… THIS! BEHOLD!
(Thunder)

(BOY and GIRL enter, mid-conversation. He looks very dorky. She's beautiful.)

BOY
And he was telling me – I'm not a Shi'ar, I'm a Skrull.

GIRL
Ha ha ha ha! You are so funny!

BOY
That was actually a tragic statement. You see Skrulls have shape-shifting abilities whereas Shi'ar are descended from birds.

GIRL

Oh. Right. Yes I knew that.

BOY

I'm afraid I can't date you anymore. I must leave you now.

(GIRL 2 runs in.)

GIRL 2

Ooh! Go out with me instead!

BOY

I suppose. Come, I've equipped my car to look like Penguin's submarine.

GIRL 2

Yayyy!

(They exit, hand-in-hand.)

(GIRL cries.)

GIRL

Nooo! I had my chance to hold on to him and I failed! If only I understood the properties of alien races! Why did I spend so much time not learning that?!

(She breaks down and cries as BOY 2, a jock, enters.)

BOY 2

Hey I'm the starting quarterback on the football team –

GIRL

Leave me alone, loser!

(BOY 2 runs off, crying.)

BOY 2 *(while running off)*

It hurts so much!

(NARRATOR 1 enters.)

NARRATOR 1

Just what is going on here?!

GIRL

I don't know!

BOY 2 *(returning)*

Neither do I!

NARRATOR 1

Well I'll tell you. Nerds have taken over the world!

NARRATOR 2

You see, in the 1980s, a whole bunch of comic-book loving, Stars-Wars arguing, Dungeons and Dragons playing nerds infiltrated Hollywood and TOOK OVER!

BOY 2

No! It can't be!

NARRATOR 1

That's why every month there's a new superhero movie.

NARRATOR 2

Or Star Trek movie, or Star Wars movie, or TV series.

GIRL

It's all so clear now. How do we stop them?

NARRATOR 1

I'm afraid it's too late for that.
(GIRL cries.)

NARRATOR 2

Shhh…. There's a place for you in the new order.

NARRATOR 1

That's why we're here today. To teach you.

NARRATOR 2

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S TIME FOR THE SUPERHERO ULTRAFERNO!

NARRATOR 1

Indeed it is.

NARRATOR 2

ULTRAFERNO!

NARRATOR 1

Not even a word.

NARRATOR 2

Where I'm coming from, we don't need words. Boom! Back to the Future reference. Who's with me?

NARRATOR 1

You'll have to excuse <*Narrator 2's real name*>, he was raised by monkeys.

NARRATOR 2

Now we've heard that some of you might not have spent every waking hour reading comic books in your bedrooms.

NARRATOR 1

Losers.

NARRATOR 2

And you might need a primer on superheroes in order to participate in modern life. NOW THAT THE GEEKS RULE THE WORLD! High five! Who's with me? Any dorky people in the audience?

(He turns to NARRATOR 1)

NARRATOR 1

I suppose.

NARRATOR 2

Yes!

(High five)

You want to hug it out?

NARRATOR 1

No I do not.

NARRATOR 2

All right then.

NARRATOR 1

Part One: Historical Context.

NARRATOR 2

Unnecessary! Skip it! We're just diving in!

NARRATOR 1

Superheroes originated in the aftermath of World War 2, when they were patriotic symbols to fight the Nazis.

NARRATOR 2

Who cares? Moving on!

Part 1. Batman

NARRATOR 1

Fine. Part 1 – The Batman.

NARRATOR 2

Or, a billionaire white dude is the victim of crime and uses his fortune to scare the hell out of everyone else in his insane quest to make the world safe for other billionaires.

NARRATOR 1

You may be familiar with his Dark Knight incarnation, but there have been many Batmans. Many, many Batmans. In fact, the best one was this guy – 1960s TV Batman.

(BATMAN and ROBIN, in old-timey costumes, run in.)

BATMAN

Well, chum, this looks like a job for the Dynamic Duo.

ROBIN

I was hoping I could wear pants. Do we have pants I could wear?

BATMAN

Have no fear, good friend. Your legs are a credit to your gender.

ROBIN

Thanks. That's not awkward.

BATMAN

Is your suit riding up? Mine rides up.

ROBIN

You gotta wear the right kind of underwear.

BATMAN

That just slows me down, Boy Wonder. Come, I'll need your acrobatic assistance to try something out.

ROBIN

What are we going to do?

BATMAN

Luckily, my utility belt is equipped with the Batsuit- Un-wedgifier.

(He produces a long pole-like device.)

ROBIN

I'm ready, Batman! Though it might take all of my strength!

BATMAN

Fear not, Robin. Your extensive calisthenics will provide you with all the strength and flexibility you need.

ROBIN

Holy Fishing Expedition, Batman!

BATMAN

You stand behind me here and –

NARRATOR 2

Can we actually get to the crime fighting?

NARRATOR 1

I was getting to that.

BATMAN

Wait! There's no time. I'll just have to keep my concentration away from my personal discomfort. It's a Riddle from that Capricious Cavalier, the Riddler.

ROBIN

Holy Holy Things, Batman! What does it say?

BATMAN

It's series of pictographs.

ROBIN

Holy Crap!

BATMAN

Robin. Though we are pressed on all sides by super-criminals, if we start using poor language, they've already beaten us.

ROBIN

I was referring to the Crappie. A kind of fish.

BATMAN

My apologies, Boy Wonder. I should have known I could trust you.

ROBIN

So what do the pictographs mean? If only we had the Bat-Computer to tell us.

BATMAN

We have no need of the Batcomputer as I have already deciphered this riddle with my very own brain.

ROBIN

Holy Crap!

BATMAN

Another fish?

ROBIN

Sure.

BATMAN

Clearly, there's a picture of a kitten, followed by three eyes and an alien spacecraft. Quite obviously, the Riddler is planning on striking Fort Knox.

ROBIN

Oh. Let's take a taxi there!

BATMAN

I'm afraid it's rush hour and we would likely be stuck with a cabbie who doesn't speak English.

ROBIN

Holy Cab!

BATMAN

Luckily, my muscles are warm and loose and my suit breathes well. We bat-jog there.

ROBIN

Brilliant idea, Batman! And we can get some exercise. Let's go!

(They jog off.)

NARRATOR 2

I wish more superheroes would jog to crime.

NARRATOR 1

Now you might be thinking that being a superhero is a job for a man.

(CLARK enters.)

CLARK

Not just any man. A super… man.

NARRATOR 2

We're not ready for you yet.

CLARK

All right. I'll just be over here using my x-ray vision to make you uncomfortable.

NARRATOR 2

What?

CLARK

Heh-heh-heh.

(He exits.)

Skipping Forward

Probably. Look – you are wearing the revealing outfit because you're evil, and it reveals your evil-ness. And you, Black Canary, are wearing a revealing outfit because you're a hero, and it shows your heroic sides. All over the place. Your ample heroic sides.

NARRATOR 1

All right, we're done with this.

(HULK enters, wearing a bathrobe.)

HULK

Hulk not comfortable showing this much skin. Rarrrrhg!

NARRATOR 2

All right fine! Ditch the costumes. Wear whatever makes you comfortable!

WONDER WOMAN

Thank you.

(She leaves.)

HULK

Hulk smash gender stereotypes!

(BLACK CANARY and the WHITE QUEEN exit.)

NARRATOR 2

Any-way, where were we?

NARRATOR 1

We were learning about sexism in comics.

NARRATOR 2

No I mean in the story.

NARRATOR 1

Oh we were at Wonder Woman's origin.

NARRATOR 2

Right. So on the Amazonian island of Themiskera, there was a great princess. Diana.

(WONDER WOMAN enters in full-coverage pajamas.)

Seriously?

WONDER WOMAN

You said whatever makes me comfortable.

NARRATOR 2

And on the islands were all the other Amazons.

(AMAZONS enter, wearing business suits, or other suitably non-sexy outfits.)

Really? Amazons? This is what you're wearing on your island in the Mediterranean?

AMAZONIAN QUEEN
Diana. You're willing to give up your place here to help out losers?

WONDER WOMAN
Yes, Mother. I can't help it. I love the mortals.

AMAZONIAN QUEEN
Why?

WONDER WOMAN
Um… no reason really. Can't think of one. But also we have really poor cell phone service here.

AMAZONIAN QUEEN
We're working on that.

WONDER WOMAN
I want to see the world!

AMAZONIAN QUEEN
All right. Fine. Whatever. I've got other daughters.

WONDER WOMAN
Great!

AMAZONIAN QUEEN
And put some clothes on.

WONDER WOMAN
Stop telling me what to do, Mom! This is what all the mortal girls are wearing!
(She storms off.)

NARRATOR 2
Wonder Woman takes on a secret identity, Diana Prince.

NARRATOR 1
She's not really getting the whole name thing.

NARRATOR 2
And takes a job as a lady secretary.

WONDER WOMAN
My womanly powers will best be used typing and filing!

NARRATOR 2
For a handsome boss. A dreamily handsome boss.

(BOSS enters.)

BOSS

Miss Prince, I'm going to need those files filed pronto. We've got a big case coming up.

WONDER WOMAN

Yes, sir.

BOSS

And would it kill you to wear some more makeup? I'm running a business here, not a commune.

WONDER WOMAN

Great Hera! I think I love him! But will he be able to accept a powerful woman as a girlfriend? And what if I can't cook!? This is more dangerous than a seven-headed hydra and…
(she breaks character)
I'm sorry this is just…

NARRATOR 1

Yeah I know. Actually – Wonder Woman was a feminist at the very beginning, but then DC freaked out and made her into a secretary in magic underwear later on.

NARRATOR 2

You're ruining this!

WONDER WOMAN

This is just –

NARRATOR 2

And remember you have super-powers until you are tied up by a man. In which case you're helpless.

WONDER WOMAN

What? Batman doesn't have to deal with this.

BOSS

Miss Prince! I don't pay you for gossip! Now I know, as a female, you're required to do a certain amount of idle chatter, but I'm running a business here!

WONDER WOMAN

I think I know what to do!

BOSS

Yes, you should. I only explained it to you three times – you wear some high heels, and then do the –
(BAM! WONDER WOMAN punches him in the face.)

NARRATOR 1

And she killed him.

WONDER WOMAN

What?

NARRATOR 1

You can lift a 50,000 pound boulder over your head, what do you think happens when you punch a guy in the face?

WONDER WOMAN

Oh darn it. Well, he probably deserved to die.

NARRATOR 2

This is not what happens in Wonder Woman's origin story!

NARRATOR 1

Here's something else to learn about comics: Every five years, they rewrite the entire history of every character and change things. It's called ret-conning.

WONDER WOMAN

But now I'm a murderer!

NARRATOR 1

No worries. You're a princess from a foreign country. You've got diplomatic immunity.

WONDER WOMAN

Sweet!

NARRATOR 1

And so Wonder Woman fought her way through the business world, killing all the sexists.

NARRATOR 2

What?

NARRATOR 1

It took her a while.

WONDER WOMAN

I AM WOMAN! HEAR ME PUNCH YOU IN THE FACE!

(BOSS 2, BOSS 3, and BOSS 4 enter in opposite parts of the stage.)

BOSS 2

No one's gonna watch women's soccer unless they wear tighter outfits.

(BAM! WONDER WOMAN punches him in the face, killing him.)

BOSS 3

So I've got this great idea for a restaurant: Hooters.

(BAM! Punched. Dead.)

BOSS 4 *(calling to a SECRETARY)*

Hey Sweetheart get me a coffee, will ya?

WONDER WOMAN

She's not your sweetheart!

(BAM! WONDER WOMAN punches him in the face, killing him.)

(SECRETARY enters.)

SECRETARY

Actually, we're married… we kind of do a little thing where I pretend to be the secretary… Keeps our marriage interesting. Or it did. Before you killed him.

WONDER WOMAN

Oh. My bad.

NARRATOR 1

And she lived happily ever after. And was elected President. And helped girls feel comfortable with their body image.

(WONDER WOMAN exits.)

NARRATOR 2

Wow. Yep.

GIRL

When does Wonder Woman get her own movie?

NARRATOR 2

Um… Pretty sure Warner Brothers doesn't think anyone will go see a movie starring a girl.

NARRATOR 1

Like Hunger Games. Or Divergent. Or Frozen. Or Inside Out.

(she keeps naming movies with female protagonists)

Part 3: Superman

NARRATOR 2

Moving on! The last of the three great heroes in the DC Comics universe:

(CLARK enters, showing a little bit of his suit beneath his clothes)

Aquaman!

(AQUAMAN runs out.)

AQUAMAN

Woo! If there are any crimes happening in the water, I'm your man!

CLARK

Whoah, hold on.

AQUAMAN

Let's say someone is stealing a giant pearl – from the ocean – I can be there!

CLARK

Aquaman? Seriously? I can basically do everything you can do.

AQUAMAN

Can you talk to fish?

CLARK

I can eat fish. I fry them up with my laser vision and then eat them. You can listen to their screams.

AQUAMAN

What about flying fish? If there were like flying piranhas or something that would be really cool.

CLARK

There are no flying piranhas.

AQUAMAN

What about a Sharknado? That would be pretty awesome if I could control a Sharknado.

NARRATOR 2

All right – I was kidding, Aquaman, you're the worst hero ever, get off the stage.

AQUAMAN

I'm gonna talk to my only friends, the Trout!

NARRATOR 1

Hey what do fish talk about anyway?

AQUAMAN

They mostly listen.

(He runs off, crying.)

NARRATOR 2

All right then. It's time for Superman. An illegal Alien taking American jobs.

NARRATOR 1

Once upon a time, on the planet Krypton.

)JOR-EL runs in with LARA. Distant explosions.)

JOR-EL
We're all going to die! Let's put a baby in a rocket!

LARA
What?

JOR-EL
There's no time for logical thought! I've built a baby-sized rocket which will survive the trip to a distant planet with no ill effects whatsoever!

LARA
Why didn't you make it big enough for us?

JOR-EL
Woman, I told you there was no time for logical thought! Quick, bring me Kal-El!

LARA
No. You're insane.

JOR-EL
That's what they said when I said I wanted to make the rocket only big enough for a baby. But who's laughing now?! Ha ha ha. Seriously – hand me our only child, this is probably going to work.

LARA
That's what you said about our last son.

JOR-EL
And I'm sure he's doing great out there in space by himself with no food.

LARA
I don't know, Jor-El.

JOR-EL
NO ONE'S GOING TO STOP ME FROM PUTTING A BABY IN A ROCKET! THIS IS A GOOD IDEA!

LARA
You're going to look really dumb if the planet doesn't blow up.

JOR-EL
Lara. I need you to trust me. This time the planet's going to blow up for sure.

LARA
I should've married your brother.

JOR-EL

Give me the baby!

LARA

Fine, but I'm not making another one!

JOR-EL

Sweet! Also – I've built a dog-sized rocket for our dog.

(They head off.)

NARRATOR 1

And so, like the greatest parents on Krypton, they placed their infant son in an untested rocket and sent him to Earth.

NARRATOR 2

Question: He's an alien from a distant planet?

NARRATOR 1

Yes.

NARRATOR 2

And yet, he basically looks like a white dude from Kansas?

NARRATOR 1

Yeah. What a coincidence!

NARRATOR 2

Like, why wouldn't he be like 2 inches tall, or made out of silicon, or be like a weird fish-type thing?

(AQUAMAN enters.)

AQUAMAN

Ooh!

NARRATOR 2

Shut up. You can only talk to Earth fish anyway.

AQUAMAN

Dang it.

NARRATOR 1

Stop asking intelligent questions! Anyway, Superman grows up and totally doesn't abuse his powers or accidentally kill his foster parents or DO ANYTHING WRONG AT ALL.

CLARK

Can you imagine what it was like being twelve with X-ray vision? One word for you: Enlightening. And scary. And not as cool as you might think.

NARRATOR 2

Can you imagine a three-year old that can lift an airplane throwing a temper tantrum?

NARRATOR 1

Yeah, we're just gonna skip his childhood as that makes even less sense than the whole rest of this story.

NARRATOR 2

Anyway, there was one defining moment in his young life –

(CLARK enters, with football helmet.)

MOM

Clark?

CLARK

Yeah, Mom?

MOM

What did I tell you about playing on the football team?

CLARK

Hey, I toned it down. Plus, chicks totally dig me now.

MOM

You scored forty-three touchdowns last game.

CLARK

I thought I would take it easy.

MOM

The other team started running away from you, son.

CLARK

I'm not your son! I'm adopted! My real parents would let me play football! And put me into a rocket by myself. I'm alone, don't you get it?! Dominating every sport in high school is my way of dealing with my abandonment issues!

MOM

Shhhh! There are… people here to see you.

CLARK

What people? College scouts? I'm going to Notre Dame, I've already decided. Heisman Trophies, here I come.

(Two INS AGENTS enter.)

INS AGENT 1

Hi there Clark.

INS AGENT 2

What's up, Slugger?

MOM

Clark is a little busy right now.

INS AGENT 1

Oh sure. We understand.

INS AGENT 2

We'll make this quick.

INS AGENT 1

We're from the INS.

INS AGENT 2

Immigration and Nationalization Services.

CLARK

I don't care about your Acronyms.

INS AGENT 1

We don't either.

INS AGENT 2

But we have reason to believe that you… are an illegal alien.

MOM

Ha ha. Ha ha. That's crazy. Clark is just like us. Except different.

INS AGENT 1

And we're pretty sure you're going to take American jobs. We're gonna need to see a birth certificate –

CLARK

Or what?! What are you gonna do about it! I'm a star high school athlete! No laws apply to me!

MOM

Settle down, Clark.

CLARK

Skipping Forward

team, so everybody's hitting on her. And, yes, her name is Black Widow, which suggests that she will kill me with poison after she mates with me, but… that's a risk I'm willing to take.

(The phone rings.)

NATASHA

Avengers Headquarters. Natasha speaking. How may I direct your call? No I'm sorry – Iron Man usually doesn't come in till ten. But I've got Hawkeye here and… She hung up.

(NATASHA looks into the camera.)

Most annoying in the office? Hands down: Thor. He's all like, "I'm a God," which is technically true, but I don't care if you're immortal or not, when you empty the printer, you need to replace the paper. I mean, it doesn't take Godlike strength to reach down, open the cabinet, and put some more paper in there, you know? Like – oh that's so *beneath* him, you know? `The Son of Odin kneels to no one! Least of all this printer!' Such a jerk.

(HAWKEYE comes over.)

HAWKEYE

I know, right? And don't get me started on Captain America. Total power trip.

NATASHA

Hawkeye, I'm doing my confessional right now.

HAWKEYE

Oh, right. Right. Sorry.

(THOR approaches with hammer.)

THOR

Pull my hammer.

NATASHA

No.

THOR

Do it. Pull my hammer. If you dare.

NATASHA

I really don't think this is funny.

THOR

Only the worthy may pull my hammer. I'll just set this here.

(He sets his hammer down, sits next to NATASHA.)

Are we speaking into the magic box?

NATASHA

Yes, it's the video cameras – they're doing a documentary.

(THOR stares into the camera.)

THOR

Behold Thor, God of Thunder. You want to see the Gun Show? It's about time for the Gun Show!

NATASHA

Thor!

THOR

Pull my hammer.

NATASHA

You're so juvenile.

THOR

Ha ha ha ha ha. What about you, Hawkeye? Feeling lucky?

HAWKEYE

Thor, don't you have some faxing to do?

THOR

Speak to me not of faxing! There will be no faxing from now on!

NATASHA

What did you do to the fax machine?

THOR

It was possessed by a demon. I have liberated it. With violence.

NATASHA

Oh man did you break another fax machine?

THOR

I saved all of us. You may show your appreciation by pulling my hammer.

HAWKEYE

All right. I'm going back to work. There's a lot of applications coming in to replace Iron Man when he goes on paternity leave.

THOR

The God of Thunder needs no paternity leave!

(STEVE rushes in, in his Captain America costume.)

STEVE

Head's up everyone! We've got a robbery in progress at Seventh Avenue and Market Street! Avengers Assemble!

(BRUCE enters.)

BRUCE

Steve, come on.

STEVE

This is a live one!

BRUCE

I'm not gonna Hulk-out for this. Robbery? Is there like mind control involved?

STEVE

This is pretty frightening! We're gonna need back-up! I'm going to call the West Coast Avengers!

HAWKEYE

Steve. It's like six in the morning there. Chill out for a second.

STEVE

What?

HAWKEYE

Don't you think this is a little below our pay grade?

STEVE

We're doing broken windows policing now. If we ignore the small crimes, pretty soon we'll have super crimes.

BRUCE

Look, I'd love to help out, but I just bought these clothes.

(Lights up on TONY, talking into the camera.)

TONY

Yeah, I mean, I love Steve like a brother. But he's so gung ho, you know? I mean, if you're not having any fun saving the world, why bother right? Anyway, so we're doing the fall membership drive – which is just really brings out the crazy.

(THOR approaches.)

THOR

Pull my hammer.

TONY

Thor. I'm in the middle of this.

(The Avengers seat themselves as JENNIFER enters.)

JENNIFER

Hey there, my name's Jennifer Walters.

TONY

Awesome. What do you got for us, babe?

NATASHA

Would you stop it? That was sexist.

TONY

I didn't call her Sweetcheeks. I could've called her Sweetcheeks and I didn't.

THOR

High-Five!

NATASHA

No! No High-Fives!

THOR

The God of Thunder will determine his own high-fives!

TONY

Just a question: how do you feel about wearing a leather bodysuit? Just throwing ideas out there.

JENNIFER

I don't really feel comfortable with that.

TONY

She's out!

HAWKEYE

Can you show us your powers?

JENNIFER

Sure I can. But first I just want to… here's my resume…
(she hands out copies of her resumes to people.)

THOR

I don't read.

JENNIFER

Oh. Um…

THOR

I could read, but I choose not to.

JENNIFER

Anyway, you can see – I interned with the Fantastic Four, and I had a team-up with Spiderman for a while, he's one of my references on page two.

TONY

I'm sorry, what is your power?

JENNIFER

I'm known as the She-Hulk.

BRUCE

Oh man. No way. We already got one!

JENNIFER

You can't use two hulks?

BRUCE

The position is filled! I'm getting angry! You won't like me when I'm angry!

JENNIFER

That's the difference between us. I'm in control of my mind when I Hulk out, unlike a typical man.

BRUCE

Whoah! Arrrrhg!

TONY

Settle down, Greenie.

THOR

You want to pull my hammer?

HAWKEYE

Thor! That is not appropriate!

TONY

So is the bodysuit out then?

NATASHA

This is a really poisonous work environment, Jennifer. Maybe you should join the X-men or something.

JENNIFER

They only let mutants in.

NATASHA

You're not a mutant?

JENNIFER

No, I mutated, but I'm not a mutant.

BRUCE

Hey where do you shop for clothes, by the way?

JENNIFER

Spandex. Really works. Expands.

BRUCE

Huh.

JENNIFER

Very form-fitting, though.

BRUCE

Yeah. That might not… uh… be the best choice for me. I don't want to be the obscene Hulk, know what I mean?

TONY

All right, look, we're probably full of strong guys right now. We're really looking for someone with super-speed or laser powers or um…

HAWKEYE

Telepathy.

TONY

That would be way cool. So we'll call you.

JENNIFER

Maybe you should call him He-Hulk.
(She walks out.)

THOR

I liked her.
(An Alarm Sounds!)
(STEVE rushes to check something.)

STEVE

Emergency! We've got tax fraud at a downtown law firm! Avengers Assemble!
(He runs out.)

NARRATOR 1

Earth's mightiest heroes, indeed.

Part 5: Spiderman.

NARRATOR 1

There's one more superhero we need to talk about.

(AQUAMAN enters.)

AQUAMAN

Where do I come from, you wonder? Would you believe, the sea? Yes, I was a Prince of Atlantis once. Even though I'm a total white guy.

NARRATOR 2

Not you! Get off the stage, loser!

AQUAMAN

Just wait until you're near a stream, buddy! The goldfish never forget! Well, actually, yes they forget every three seconds or, but there are other fish, and those fish are unfriendly!

(AQUAMAN leaves.)

NARRATOR 1

You know who we're talking about:

NARRATOR 2

Spiderman.

(SPIDERMAN enters. Maybe to the original theme song of his television show.)

SPIDERMAN

Just your friendly neighborhood web-crawler here.

NARRATOR 1

Spiderman has been the star of comic books, television shows, cartoons, 31 different movie versions, and of course, a Broadway musical written by Bono and directed by Julie Taymor.

NARRATOR 2

The problem with the musical… was that it wasn't big enough. Go big or Go home. And when you think you've gone too big, go bigger than that. And when people are screaming at you to stop what you're doing for the love of all that is good, go bigger again.

NARRATOR 1

Can you even go bigger than the Spiderman musical?

NARRATOR 2

Oh yes you can. And when you want to go big, you go to the Germans.

NARRATOR 1

Like World War 2.

NARRATOR 2

So what we're gonna do now – in SEVEN MINUTES is SPIDERMAN. THE GERMAN OPERA!

(NARRATOR 1 whispers in NARRATOR 2's ear.)

I GIVE YOU:

(German accent)

DIE SPIEDERMANN!

(Lights down.)

*(*What follows from this point, frankly, is insane. Imagine A Spiderman Opera created by Dieter, [Mike Myers' character from Sprockets on SNL] and you have an idea of the aesthetic at work here. Everything is overly dramatic, highly stylized, and barely comprehensible. Everyone, as much as possible, should have a dramatic German accent. If you can't do a German accent, fake it.)*

(Feel free to sing, opera-style as many of the lines as you wish. I have written singing in in only a few places to give you an idea. I have also suggested musical pieces at certain points, but you may use other music as well. Beethoven, Wagner, anything huge and bombastic will do.)

(The best versions of Die Spiedermann [pronounced "Dee Schpeedermahn"] will use the script below as a starting point and find their own lines and movements.)

(One last thing: Costumes. Feel free to experiment here as well. The black bodysuit with slicked-back hair, eyeliner, and lipstick that Mike Myers wore would be a great starting point.)

NARRATOR 2

America. New York City. Now.

NARRATOR 1

Origin.

(PETER PARKER enters, perhaps wearing a black turtleneck.)

PETER PARKER

Ah! A spider! Oh no I am a god now!

(A ROBBER enters.)

ROBBER

I am a robber.

(UNCLE BEN enters.)

UNCLE BEN

I am Uncle Ben.

ROBBER

I kill you!

(ROBBER kills UNCLE BEN.)

UNCLE BEN

Peter… why didn't you stop him?

PETER PARKER

Oh no! I MUST BECOME DIE SPIEDERMANN!

(CRIMINALS and others enter robotically to the beginning of Beethoven's 5th Symphony.)

EVERYONE

DIE SPIEDERMANN!
DIE SPIEDERMANN!
diespidermann diespiedermann diespiedermann
diespidermann diespiedermann diespiedermann
DIE SPIEDERMANN
DIE SPIEDERMANN
DIE SPIEDERMANN MANN MANN!

(They leave suddenly.)

NARRATOR 1

MONTAGE!

NARRATOR 2

MONTAGE!

(CRIMINALS run in as PETER PARKER puts on a spiderman mask.
THE DANCE OF THE HOODLUMS.

(MUSIC. RIDE OF THE VALKRIES.)

It is best at this point if the Criminals are wearing tights, and/or stripey shirts, or other stereotypical criminal clothing.)

(They dance. The CRIMINALS run about committing crimes, then turn on Spiderman.

CRIMINALS

KILL THE SPIDER
KILL THE SPIDER
KILL THE SPIDER
AND DO SOME CRIME

KILL THE SPIDER
KILL THE SPIDER
KILL THE SPIDER
WE'RE CRIMINALS NOW

SPIDERMAN

I'M GOING TO STOP YOU
I'M GOING TO STOP YOU
I'M GOING TO STOP YOU
BECAUSE I CAN

CRIMINALS

NO YOU CAN'T

SPIDERMAN

YES I SURE CAN

CRIMINALS

NO YOU CAN'T

SPIDERMAN

YES I SURE CAN

SPIDERMAN

I CAN SHOOT WEBS NOW
I CAN SHOOT WEBS NOW
I CAN SHOOT WEBS NOW
OUT OF MY HANDS

(Once the music gets to a slow point)

NARRATOR 2

And inside his mind: The torments of his past!

ROBBER

Thannnnkssss Kidddddd….

UNCLE BEN

Myyyy last wordddsss are…

End of excerpt. To purchase this play, visit www.youthplays.com