

NOTES

Gums is a satire of Stephen Spielberg's blockbuster film, *Jaws*. *Gums* may be performed by a male or female and be entered in Humorous Interpretation. With clever blocking and cutting, two performers may also consider entering this play in Duo Interpretation. When performing a spoof, it is always best to have a working knowledge of the original; therefore, the performer(s) may find it beneficial to watch the original film in order to truly bring out the humor found within this clever satire. There are a myriad of characters found within this play. Make sure each character is clear and distinct for the audience. It will also be important for the performer(s) to accurately reproduce the infamous theme music that accompanied the original film. Because of the diverse locations found throughout the selection, clever blocking and choreography will only add to the overall performance. Be creative, because the physical aspects of this play are just as important as the vocal dynamics required of the characters. This iconic piece of American pop culture is designed to be pure fun for the audience, as well as the performer(s)!

Cast of Characters:

Jenny

Pete

Soundtrack

Brady

Timmy

Radio Voice

Mayor

Guy

Lady

Grandmother

Brady's mother

Mrs. Jacobs

Billy Joe

Loretta

Pearlie Rose

Bubba

Captain Ishmael

Scene 1: On a beach, slightly away from a bonfire party

Jenny: Hurry up Pete! Are you scared?

Pete: I'm not scared, Jenny! I just don't think we should leave the others. Shouldn't we stay at the bonfire?

Jenny: Come on. It's summer. Let's take a swim.

Pete: But, it's dark. I don't think I like swimming at the beach in the middle of the night.

Jenny: Chicken? *(She steps into the water)* The water feels great. *(She swims out, doggy paddling)* Come on in!

Pete: Okay. But let's not stay here too long.

Soundtrack: Dumb Dumb.

Jenny: *(Flinches as something grazes her feet)* Something just touched my feet.

Pete: *(Removing his shirt)* Jenny, stop playing around!

Soundtrack: Dumb Dumb Dumb Dumb.

Jenny: *(Gets pulled under for a moment)* Pete! Something's here! *(She gets pulled under again)* Pete, I think something just...! *(She gets pulled under more violently)*

Soundtrack: Dumb Dumb Dumb Dumb Dumb Dumb.

Jenny: Pete! Help! Help!

Pete: Jenny! Swim back!

Jenny: *(Getting dragged around through the water)* Help me, Pete! It's got my legs! Help! Peeeeeeete!

Scene 2: A populated beach

(Brady, the head lifeguard, is training Timmy, the new lifeguard. Timmy is a total surfer-dude.)

Brady: As head lifeguard, I have to warn you, Timmy. Being a lifeguard on Shark Island isn't just "fun in the sun."

Timmy: But, at least there'll be hot girls in bikinis!

Brady: Not necessarily, Timmy. Take a look at that.

Timmy: Whoa! She's got to be at least eighty. Why would she wear a bikini?

Brady: That's Michelle. She's only twenty-two. She likes to tan.

Radio Voice: Brady, we have a problem on the beach—about two feet from your location.

Brady: *(Into radio)* Ten-Four. I'll be right there. *(To Timmy)* This is what we're here for! Let's move!

(They run in slow-motion a few feet.)

Brady: *(To the onlookers)* Nothing to see here! Nothing to see here! *(To Pete)* What's the problem?

Pete: It's my girlfriend, Jenny. We went swimming last night and...

Brady: How long has she been missing?

Jenny: I'm right here.

Pete: She was attacked.

Timmy: Shark?

Jenny: Not a shark. Actually, it felt more like it “gummed” me...almost like it was sucking my legs.

Pete: (*Shocked*) It’s like it “gummed” her legs raw!

Brady: (*Revelation*) Oh my, sweet mother! He’s back! I never thought this would happen again. Gums is back! (*Yelling to Swimmers*) Get out of the water! Get out of the water! Now! Salmon! Salmon!

Scene 3: A town meeting

Brady: Okay everybody! Settle down! I called this town meeting, because there is an emergency.

Mayor: As Mayor of this town, I didn’t know a lifeguard was authorized to call a town meeting.

Brady: Tourist season is coming up...

Guy: Why do we call it tourist season if we can’t shoot them?

All: Yeah!

Brady: We already discussed this.

Lady: My late grandmother always said, “Don’t sweat the petty stuff and don’t pet the sweaty stuff.”

Guy: That’s what your grandmother said?

Grandmother: Oh honey, I did say that, and I apologize for being late.

Brady: (*Trying to regain control of the meeting*) As head lifeguard...

Guy: You’re a horrible lifeguard! I saw at least fifteen people drown today alone!

Brady: (*Ignoring the heckler*) The salmon we call Gums is back!

All: No!

Brady: Calm down! We do have experience with this.

Guy: But experience is something you get after you need it!

Brady: That’s why I called you here today. Shark Island’s tourism is what keeps this town afloat.

Lady: Why did we rename our island *Shark Island*? That’s my first concern!

Brady: We all agreed that Shark Island would be a good name.

Guy: It does sound better than the last name. *Green Pea Shores* didn’t sound as appealing.

Lady: But we grow the best green peas around! They’re organic.

Brady: Let’s focus, people! We all made that decision last year, so don’t blame me.

Mayor: As Mayor of this town, I say we aren’t blaming you, but we *are* saying it’s your fault.

Brady: If we don’t stop Gums, this town will be history and not in a good way.

Mayor: As Mayor of this town, I demand that you take care of this