

# **TIME FREAKS**

A play for weird kids  
(and their weird teachers)  
By David Lee White

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Notes on casting:

Re: Race and ethnicity – Any role can be played by any race or ethnicity.

Re: Gender – Although the gender of characters is referenced in the text, you have the writer's permission and encouragement to alter the gender of the characters in any way you see fit. You may change any and all pronouns within the text to accomplish this. Cast actors who are right for the roles, regardless of gender. Have fun and be funny!

## CHARACTERS

### STUDENTS

Dubs/Past Dubs (He/Him) – a high school senior. Bit of a love-sick sad sack.

Kale (She/Her) – Dubs' friend. Desperate to start her adult life. Bails Dubs out of trouble a lot.

Egg (They/Them) – A high school junior. Also, a genius.

Laze (She/Her) – High school junior. Also a genius but with test-taking anxiety.

Crue (She/Her) – Graduate of the Rising Stars Dance Academy. Star of the drama program.

Bash (He/Him) – Tried drama for the first time his senior year. Got the lead. Punches people in the shoulder.

ENSEMBLE – Any gender

Morelli/Double Dubs – Appears in the play within the play as well as playing Dubs' doppelganger.

Porridge/Double Kale – Appears in play within the play. Plays Kale's doppelganger.

Cavemen/Kales and Dubs – Additional ensemble members play multiple cavemen as well as multiple Kales and Dubs when they begin multiplying at the end of the play.

### ADULTS

Principal Wolf (He/Him) – Middle-aged. Has a lot of stories.

Ms. Grett (She/Her) – Drama teacher. Getting tired of it.

Older Dubs (He/Him) – Dubs in middle-age.

Older Kale (She/Her) – Kale in middle age.

Note: It would be great if the adult roles could be played by adult actors (or teachers) if possible, although that may prove difficult. If these roles are cast with students, please make sure the roles of Older Dubs and Older Kale look enough older than Dubs and Kale to believably play those characters at an older age. You could also just have the actors playing Dubs and Kale slap on some different clothes and play the older versions of themselves. There are solutions!

SCENE: The "cafetorium" of a public high school. Upstage is a platform stage area where the students have been performing the senior play. Downstage is the cafeteria area with tables and chairs. Off to one side is a supply closet. On the other side is the doorway to the dressing room. In creating the set, note that several areas (the closet, for example) will need secret exits so that the actors can leave one location and appear quickly in another without the audience seeing them.

## SCENE I

(It is the night of the final performance of the senior play entitled “Traveler.” A large, student-built “time machine” is center stage. The students stand around it, staring in awe as lights begin to glow from the inside. They wear costume pieces suggesting the Victorian or Edwardian era. They speak with fake British accents.)

CRUE

What is it, Elizabeth? What is this strange machine that suddenly appeared out of thin air?

EGG

Cor! It scared me half to death, it did!

LAZE

It’s the traveler! He’s come back! Returned from the distant past!

(The time machine opens. Everyone gasps. Bash steps out of it. He’s a high school student costumed as an Edwardian dandy.)

BASH

By God, I’ve made it back to the present! (takes a deep breath) Smell that beautiful, fetid English air! What a journey! What an adventure!

EGG

Cor!

CRUE

We can’t wait to hear about it, Mr. Wells! You should write it all down! In simple language, so that even the children who weren’t born into wealth can read it.

BASH

Indeed I shall! But first, where is Elizabeth?

LAZE

Here, Mr. Wells.

BASH

Elizabeth. You don’t know how tempted I was to remain in the past, teaching those primitive creatures about fire and how to create the wheel. But one voice kept calling me back. Do you know whose voice it was?

LAZE

Was it mine? I think it was mine.

BASH

It was.

(Bash and Laze kiss. The rest of the cast watches and smiles.)

BASH

“Time,” my friends!

LAZE

What about time?

BASH

Until one travels backwards in time, one cannot imagine the complexities, the nature of time. Oh, the things I’ve seen. The things I’ve experienced!

LAZE

You should write a book, like I said moments ago. It would be such a good book.

(The ensemble agrees. “Yes! A book!” etc.)

LAZE

We’ve all been waiting for you return Mr. Wells. And we have a surprise for you.

BASH

A surprise, pray tell!

LAZE

Indeed! Where is Morelli, the baker?

MORELLI/ENSEMBLE

Here, Mr. Wells! I made your favorite crullers!

BASH

Morelli, you old so-and-so! How I’ve dreamed of your crullers while languishing in the past prior to the invention of crullers!

LAZE

And Porridge, the Chimney Sweep!

BASH

Porridge! What a sight for sore eyes you are! Where I came from, there were no chimneys! People lived in holes!

PORRIDGE/ENSEMBLE

Right as well be a mite whipped, ya yipper! I got me a new broom just to clean your soot!

LAZE

And Charlie, the Fish-Monger!

(DUBS enters. He is playing Charlie the Fish-Monger. He has one line in the play and he's about to say it. Also, he's carrying a fish. He enters, but suddenly sees Laze and freezes. He is enchanted by her. He has forgotten his line.)

BASH

Uh...hello, Charlie. What is it you have there? Is that a fish?

(Long pause)

LAZE

Why Charlie, do you have anything to say about that fish?

(Brief awkward pause)

BASH

(improvising)

I guess Charlie has lost the power of speech! Tell me, Elizabeth. What is Charlie trying to tell me about that fish?

LAZE

Um...well...I'm sure Charlie can get his speech back and tell us about the fish!

(Dubs continues to stare at them. The entire ensemble becomes uncomfortable.)

BASH

Well, I feel that we can't wait for Charlie the fish-monger to speak any longer! Now everybody follow me to the pub. Oh, what tales I shall tell of time!

(Ensemble cheers. The show is over. They all move into a line to bow, but Dubs runs offstage. They watch him go, then they all bow without him. Time jumps. It's the next day. Dub and Kale are sitting at a table in the cafeteria part of the set. Throughout the scene, other cast members enter as students, sit down at the other tables and begin eating, chatting, etc. Kale is eating and looking at her phone. Dub is banging his head into the table.)

KALE

You gonna eat your pickle?

DUBS

You know I never eat my pickle.

KALE

Then can I have your pickle?

DUBS

You can always have my pickle.

(Kale takes his pickle)

KALE

Why so depressed Charlie Brown? Lucy pull the football away?

DUB

One line. I only had one line. I blew my only line. I'm gonna be mocked for the rest of my life.

KALE

You're paranoid.

(Bash enters)

BASH

Hey, Dubs.

DUB

Hey, Bash.

BASH

I know the play is over and everything –

DUB

Please don't.

BASH

But I wondered if you wanted to go our lines. Hahahahahahaha!!!! Just kidding.

DUB

Yeah, that's super funny.

BASH

I sorta panicked when you forgot your line. But then I improvised. I kinda saved the show if you think about it. (to Kale) Hi, Kale.

KALE

Hey, Bash.

BASH

Well, I gotta go. Let me know if you need to rehearse, okay Dubs? Just kidding.

(Bash exits.)

KALE

Let it go. He's a jerk.

DUBS

Yeah, but later he'll do that thing where he apologizes.

KALE

How do you mean?

DUBS

He just walks up to me and shouts "Dubs!" Then he punches me as hard as he can in the shoulder.

KALE

I don't understand how that's an apology.

DUBS

I didn't say it made sense.

KALE

We will laugh about this someday.

DUB

You will. I won't.

KALE

Sure you will. When we're fifty, I'll call you and be like "Remember that time you forgot that line in the school play?" And then we'll laugh and laugh and laugh.

DUB

I never missed it before. Not once. But then I ran on stage and looked at Laze and I thought "oh my God. The school play is closing, my senior year is ending, and I still haven't kissed her." And suddenly my head was all about Laze and kissing her and then I remembered the audience was there and I just freaking froze.

KALE

It was a nerve-racking moment for sure. Like when you're at a wedding and the groom doesn't show. Except you weren't really a groom. You were more like an usher.

DUB

You get it, though, right? Laze is cute. And cool. And cute.

KALE

I guess. I mean I don't... Sure, she's cute.

DUB

You remember when we were, like, eight and you showed me that watch?

KALE

The one from my grandfather.

DUB

And you told me it could stop time? I'm standing there backstage after my screw up and the image of that watch just popped in my mind. I kept wishing it was real so I could somehow go back and fix my mistake. Then I missed the curtain call.

KALE

My watch can't do that, though.

DUB

I know, I'm just saying I wish it could.

KALE

I was lying when I told you that. We were eight.

DUBS

Yeah, I know.

KALE

You're making much too big a deal out of this. I'm sure no one even noticed.

(PRINCIPAL WOLF enters)

WOLF

Hey, Dubs. Really enjoyed the school play yesterday. Nice work.

DUBS

Thanks, Principal Wolf.

WOLF

What happened at the end there? You forget your line or what?

DUBS

Uh...

KALE

Actually, Principal Wolf, Dub made an artistic choice to not say his line.

WOLF

Really?

KALE

He decided that Charlie the fish-monger would be so overwhelmed by seeing the time-traveler that he would be, you know, speechless.

WOLF

Can you do that? Just cut a line out of a play like that?

KALE

Oh, sure. It's encouraged.

WOLF

What was the line supposed to be?

DUBS

"Mr. Wells! I brought you a Gudgeon! Straight from the Thames!"

WOLF

What's a gudgeon?

DUBS

It's a fish.

KALE

See? No one even knows it's a fish. Why even say the line?

WOLF

Would have been educational. Some audience members may not know what a gudgeon is. The arts teach us things. Oh, well. Maybe next year.

DUBS

Actually, I'm graduating in a couple of weeks.

WOLF

Really? Where you going to college?

DUBS

I dunno. I've visited three campuses and they all kind of suck. Maybe I just won't go.

WOLF

Scoot over.

(Wolf sits next to them)

KALE

Oh my God, what's happening right now?

WOLF

Look, you guys are practically adults now, right?

DUBS

Sure.

WOLF

Now, I'm just an old guy who doesn't know anything, right? But you should know that if you don't go to college right out of high school, it could set you on a path that means you'll never be happy a day in your life.

KALE

Wow.

DUBS

The thing is, I'm a screw up. I pretty much mess up everything.

WOLF

I'm sure that's not true.

KALE

It's kind of true.

WOLF

We can't let our mistakes define us. You know what I mean?

DUBS

No.

KALE

What happened was, Dubs is super in love with Laze and that's why he got flustered and missed his line.

DUBS

Kale!

KALE

I'm sorry! I start talking and the truth shoots out!

WOLF

I thought the two of you were an item.

KALE

Us? An "item?" Eiu.

DUBS

No way. We've known each other since we were eight.

KALE

I could never date Dubs. He's seen all my emotions.

WOLF

So..Laze, huh? Have you kissed her?

DUBS

This is really inappropriate.

WOLF

You're right. None of my business. And I admire you for calling me on it.

KALE

Dubs hasn't kissed anyone ever.

DUBS

Kale!

KALE

Sorry! Truth shooting out!

WOLF

Just hang in there, kiddo. You know what I did one time? I was too scared to ask this girl to prom. So I went to prom with a bunch of my friends. We dressed like stormtroopers. The Star Wars kind, not the Nazi kind. You know Star Wars?

DUBS

I've seen it, yeah.

WOLF

We had the helmets on and everything.

KALE

At prom.

WOLF

Right. But the idea was that at some point we'd take off our stormtrooper outfits and have tuxedos on underneath, right? But guess what I forgot?

KALE

Your pants.

WOLF

I forgot my pants! So there I was in a tuxedo jacket on top and stormtrooper armor on the bottom and I walked up to Susan Marachek and said “Do you want to dance?” What do you think she said?

KALE

She said “No.”

WOLF

She may have said “No.” And yes, I may have looked a little foolish. But that did not stop me from breakdancing.

DUBS

Wow.

KALE

I can see it. It’s like I’m right there.

WOLF

And then I went to college and met a bunch of people who also dressed like Star Wars characters and I fit right in. My point is, we can take our mistakes and turn them into strengths by simply embracing who we are. Capeesh? Glad we had this talk.

(Wolf exits. Dubs leaps up and begins pacing.)

DUBS

That was a truly awful thing that just happened.

KALE

Relax.

DUBS

I don’t want to embrace my mistakes!

KALE

Turn down the freak dial.

DUBS

The man went to prom in a Stormtrooper suit and tried to breakdance and he thinks I’m just like him!

KALE

You stop it right now, Dubs Ross. You are going to take this existential anxiety and use it! You’re gonna march right over to Laze’s table and ask her out on a date. And I mean a real date. None of this “Let’s hang at the mall” BS. You’re an adult. She’s cool, she’s cute. Ask her to dinner.

DUBS

That's insane.

KALE

My boyfriend is in college and I am in an adult relationship and I can tell you right now that adults ask one another out to dinner.

DUBS

What you're suggesting is madness.

KALE

Go. Now. You'll thank me.

DUBS

Come with me.

KALE

Nope.

DUBS

You can do that thing where you stand there and talk about how you're an adult because you have a boyfriend in college.

KALE

I don't do that.

DUBS

Yes, you do.

KALE

Well maybe it's because I'm an adult now, Dubs, and I talk about adult things in a normal, healthy way.

DUBS

Yes! Do that! Then Laze will hear how great it is and she'll decide she needs an adult relationship!

KALE

No. Go over to her table and ask to talk to her privately.

DUBS

And say what?

KALE

Improvise!

DUBS

What would you say?

KALE

“Laze, you’re cute. And cool. And cute. You make me feel funny inside.”

DUBS

Seriously?

KALE

Go!

(Dubs walks over to the lunch table where Laze, Crue and other students are sitting)

DUBS

(trying to be an adult – whatever that means)

Hey, Laze.

LAZE

Hi, Dubs! How are you? Good show, last night! I mean, you know, mostly.

DUBS

Umm... Could I maybe...talk at you a sec?

LAZE

Sure. I can talk! I’d love to talk! What’s up?

(Crue stands up)

CRUE

Whoa. Hold on. I have some things to say to this guy.

DUBS

I really just wanted to talk to Laze.

CRUE

Maybe later. But first I want to talk to you about my grandma. You know my grandma? The woman is ninety-seven and a half. She’s missing a kidney and sees double. My parents had to rent a special van to bring her to the show. And you know what happened?

DUBS

She saw two of you on stage?

CRUE

No, Wiseass. You dropped your line. Right at the end of the play when she should have been celebrating the last show of my high school career, you screwed it up.

DUBS

Sorry.

CRUE

Do you know what I've learned in the twelve years I've spent training at the Rising Stars afterschool dance academy?

DUBS

Dance?

CRUE

Also discipline. Show business is a difficult, grueling existence full of pain and humiliation. There is no room for mistakes. I hope you're not planning on going into it.

DUBS

I'm not.

CRUE

Good! Because what if you were a doctor operating on a baby and you forgot what instruments to use. That would be bad, right?

DUBS

Yes?

CRUE

Now translate that to the world of theatre my friend. You know, I could have been bitter and jealous when Laze got the lead instead of me and not given my performance everything I had. But I didn't do that. You know why? Because of maturity! I think I've made my point.

(Dubs turns around to leave.)

LAZE

Dubs? Did you want to talk to me?

DUBS

Never mind.

(Bash enters)

BASH

Dubs!

(He punches Dubs hard in the shoulder, then exits. Dubs returns to his table.)

DUBS

Gimme your watch.

KALE

What?

DUBS

Your grandfather's watch. Let me see it.

(Kale pulls out an old pocket watch.)

KALE

I can't let you touch it.

DUBS

(to watch)

Why can't you be real??

KALE

It's real. It's a real watch.

DUBS

(still yelling at watch)

But why can't you stop time? Why, why, why!

(Dubs grabs the watch away from Kale.)

KALE

Dubs! No! Give it back!

DUBS

I just want the watch to tell me why!!!

(Kale grabs the watch. They both struggle with it.)

KALE

Stop! Give it back before you...!

(Suddenly the lights flicker, time slows down, everyone but Dubs and Kale comes to a complete, frozen halt.)

DUBS

Oh, my God. What just happened?

KALE

Damn it, Dubs! I told you not to touch it!

DUBS

No one's moving. Why is no one moving?

KALE

Because we were both touching the watch and we stopped the watch and that stops time. Duh!

DUBS

You mean...(realizing) Oh, my God you just start talking and the truth shoots out!

KALE

I promised my grandfather I'd never tell anyone but then I told you when we were kids but you didn't believe me, so I just went with that and never corrected you.

DUBS

Wait...how did your grandfather get a watch that stops time?

KALE

I don't know. Some things in life remain a mystery because they're not all that important to your overall story.

DUBS

Fair point. So how do we start time back up again?

(Kale clicks the watch. Lights flicker. Time starts back up again. People resume movement.)

DUBS

I am freaking out.

KALE

Don't tell anyone, Dubs. Not a soul. I swear to God.

DUBS

So, do you use this often? Have you ever, you know, cheated on a test or anything?

KALE

No, Dubs. I'm a perfect person with integrity.

DUBS

Oh.

KALE

I'm kidding! Hell yes, I've used it to cheat on a test!

DUBS

What test?

KALE

French. I failed anyway. Turns out I can't learn French no matter how much time I have.

DUBS

So, you're telling me that you've had the power to stop time for all these years and you've hardly ever used it?

KALE

My grandpa told me that with great power comes great responsibility.

DUBS

That's from Spider-man!

KALE

Grandpa was a nerd.

DUBS

Okay. Here's my idea.

KALE

Dear God, please don't have any ideas.

DUBS

You and me go back in time to last night's performance, I say my line, I'm not humiliated, Laze loves me, I ask her out, we kiss before I graduate.

KALE

The watch stops time! It doesn't go back in time!

DUBS

You stop it by hitting the button on the top, right?

KALE

Right. Watch stops, time stops.

DUBS

So, what happens if we wind it backwards? Change the time to last night and start the watch back up.

(The school bell rings)

KALE

I have to go.

DUBS

Wait.

(Dubs grabs the watch and while they both have their hands on it, he clicks the button. Lights flicker. Time slows down, then stops.)

DUBS

I need this, okay? I'm about to graduate high school without being good anything. This is my last chance to get something right. I could get through the play without messing up, I could finally get the girl, I could finally put a cap on the whole high school nightmare and move on with my life.

KALE

What's in it for me?

DUBS

Okay. Let's say it's next year. You're at college. You're visiting your boyfriend in his dorm.

KALE

Gary and I are going to be living in an off-campus apartment.

DUBS

Whatever. And maybe...I dunno...maybe things suddenly aren't going so well between the two of you.

KALE

What are you saying? Gary leaves me? What?

DUBS

And one night you overhear him talking to someone on the phone. He's saying "Yes, yes, I love you. I adore you. I want to be with you." But when you walk into the room, he hangs up real quick.

KALE

Oh, my God.

DUBS

You obsess over it all night. You can't eat. Can't sleep. Then you remember..." I can go back in time and hear the rest of that phone call."

KALE

I can. I can do that.

DUBS

So, you wind the watch back, sneak into the hallway when you know he's making the call and listen.

KALE

What do I hear?

DUBS

He wasn't seeing someone else. He was talking to his beloved Aunt Ruthie.

KALE

Oh, thank God.

DUBS

See? No more stress, no more jealousy.

KALE

Although can we agree that "I want to be with you" is a weird thing to say to your Aunt Ruthie?

DUBS

My point is, these things are gonna come up. And you can use your magic watch to help foster nice, adult, healthy relationships. But we need to practice.

KALE

And we practice by going back in time and fixing your mistake.

DUBS

And you don't have to do anything. I have a plan.

KALE

(pulling watch away from him)

Okay. But don't screw it up.

(Kale winds the watch backward. Lights flicker. People begin walking backwards until they've exited the stage. After a few moments, Kale stops winding and hits the button, starting the watch back up again.)

KALE

Okay. It's last night. And by that, I mean, it's tonight. I set the watch back to a few minutes before your call time.

DUBS

Perfect.

KALE

Wait. What if you walk in the door and see yourself standing here? Pretty sure that could break time.

DUBS

You can't just "break time." Relax.

(Dubs runs behind the stage.)

Where are you going?  
KALE

(Egg enters)

Hello.  
EGG

Hey! Egg! Hi!  
KALE

EGG  
You're Kale. You're in the Photography Club. You're also a childhood friend of Dubs'. We've spoken before.

Right. How are you Egg?  
KALE

I'm fine. I got a scholarship to MIT.  
EGG

Wow. Aren't you only a junior?  
KALE

EGG  
They deferred it until the following year. My mother wanted me to stay in high school, so I had one more year to make friends.

Ah. So, are you making friends?  
KALE

No.  
EGG

(Dubs re-enters carrying a wig and a pair of sunglasses.)

DUBS  
Oh! Hi, Egg. Ready for the show?

EGG  
Why are you stealing costume pieces from backstage?

DUBS  
Ha! I'm not stealing! It's a...it's a...

KALE

It's a closing night prank.

DUBS

But we're not pranking you. We promise.

EGG

That sounds like something you'd say to someone you were about to prank.

DUBS

You know what, Egg? Since we're here early, we should go do some of those theatrical warm-ups. Like tongue exercises and whatnot.

KALE

(to Dubs)

Seriously? You do tongue exercises?

DUBS

We roll down our spine too. It's a whole thing.

(Laze, Crue, Bash and other cast members enter. Dubs hides the wig and sunglasses behind his back.)

LAZE

Hey, Dubs.

DUBS

Uh...Hi...Laze.

BASH

Dubs!

(Bash punches Dubs in the shoulder.)

LAZE

That's so weird. I thought I just saw you in the parking lot.

CRUE

I did too. What, do you have a twin or something?

DUBS

No, of course not!

KALE

It's his cousin. They look alike. Right, Dubs?

CRUE

(to Kale)

What are you even doing here?

KALE

Just seeing the show. Can't wait! Was Dub's cousin on his way inside, like, now?

CRUE

Are you even allowed to be here?

(GRETT enters)

GRETT

Good evening, actors! Everyone ready for the final performance?

LAZE

Yes, Ms. Grett!

GRETT

Ah, Laze. My break-out star.

LAZE

Thank you for everything, Ms. Grett. I've really grown.

GRETT

Of course, you have. I'm a very committed teacher.

LAZE

Seriously, I used to have a problem with thinking people were always looking at me.

GRETT

Uh-huh.

LAZE

Because what if they were secretly judging me?

GRETT

Right.

LAZE

That's why I've always had so much test-taking anxiety.

GRETT

I know.

LAZE

But now I know I can get through a whole evening with people looking at me and judging me.

GRETT

Yes, you do.

LAZE

It's such a feeling of freedom. I feel like a new person.

GRETT

Yes. You're much more verbally expressive as well.

LAZE

I am!

GRETT

Now let's all go warm-up because if we don't warm-up we aren't ready to perform. And if we aren't ready to perform we make mistakes and I slam doors and don't sleep for weeks.

CRUE

Ms. Grett, is she (points at Kale) allowed to be here? It's almost half-hour and the actors need their private sacred space.

GRETT

(to Dubs)

Dubs, how did you get in here so fast? We were just talking in the parking lot.

DUBS

Let's go do some tongue exercises!

GRETT

To the dressing rooms everyone!

(Grett, Crue, Egg, Laze and students exit)

KALE

Go, go, go! Your past self is on his way here right now!

DUBS

I've got this! Hide!

KALE

Why?

DUBS

Trust me!

(Dubs hustles Kale backstage.<sup>1</sup> *Past Dubs enters. This is Dubs from the past and he is played by the same actor that plays Dubs.* Just as he enters, he hears a noise coming from backstage. He looks around, then hears the faint sounds of Kale and Dubs arguing. Suddenly, the Dubs from the present – aka Double Dubs in this moment and played by a different actor than Dubs – enters wearing the wig and sunglasses.)

PAST DUBS  
Aaaagggghhh!

(Double-Dubs grabs Past Dubs and hustles him over to the supply closet. He opens the closet and they both disappear inside. The door closes. Kale enters.)

KALE  
What the hell is happening?

(Dubs exits the closet and slams the door behind him, trapping the other Dubs inside. He is wearing the wig and mask.<sup>2</sup>)

DUBS  
Yes! Nailed it!

PAST DUBS VOICE  
(from inside the closet)  
Let me out!

KALE  
Did you just shove yourself in the closet?

(There is a pounding on the door from inside the closet.)

DUBS  
Yep! Now he stays in the closet while I take his place and do the show and get my line right. Smart, huh?

KALE  
And then your past-self spends the next ten years in therapy because he was attacked by a psychotic clown.

DUBS  
He'll get over it.

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<sup>1</sup> Since the actor playing Dubs will now have to enter as Past Dubs, the actor playing Double Dubs should put on the wig and sunglasses backstage and prepare to enter.

<sup>2</sup> Let's go over what has just happened here, shall we? Dubs from the past has entered. Present day Dubs has put on the wig and mask, shoved Past-Dubs into the closet and shut the door. However, executing this means that a second actor (aka Double-Dubs) has to exchange the wig and sunglasses with the actor playing Dubs in order to maintain the illusion. Make sense? God, I hope so.

He's you! Would you get over it?  
KALE

Ummm...  
DUBS

How are you gonna keep him in an unlocked closet for three hours? And even if you could, you really think no one's gonna hear him?  
KALE

For the love of God someone help meeeeeee!  
PAST DUBS VOICE

(taking the wig and glasses)  
Give me this and go hide.  
KALE

But –  
DUBS

Do what I say.  
KALE

(Dubs takes off the wig and mask, then runs backstage. Kale leans against the door to prevent it from opening, then puts on the wig and mask. The pounding continues. Finally, she turns around and opens the door. Past Dubs stumbles out.<sup>3</sup>)

PAST DUBS  
Are you gonna murder me?

(Kale takes off wig and sunglasses)

Dubs! Relax! It's me!  
KALE

What the hell, Kale??  
PAST DUBS

It was a closing night prank! I didn't know you would freak out!  
KALE

PAST DUBS

---

<sup>3</sup> The actor playing Dubs has gone into the closet via a back entrance and traded places with the actor playing Double-Dubs.

You put on a disguise and shoved me in a closet! In what world did you think that wouldn't freak me out??

KALE

I was trying to, you know...raise your adrenaline. Give you some good performance energy!

PAST DUBS

Oh, my God! Do you hate me? I almost had an anxiety attack! How am I supposed to do the show now?

KALE

Let's practice your line.

PAST DUBS

I only have one line.

KALE

Which is...?

PAST DUBS

I'm not an idiot, Kale. I know my line.

KALE

So say it.

PAST DUBS

"Mr. Wells! I brought you a Gudgeon! Straight from the Thames!"

KALE

Perfect. Again.

PAST DUBS

"Mr. Wells! I brought you a Gudgeon! Straight from the Thames!"

KALE

One more time.

PAST DUBS

"Mr. Wells! I brought you a Gudgeon! Straight from the Thames!"

KALE

Okay. You're ready.

PAST DUBS

I am?

KALE

Yep. You're gonna be great.

PAST DUBS

You really just did all that to help me with my performance?

KALE

Why, yes. Yes I did.

PAST DUBS

Hey. Thanks, bestie.

KALE

Just looking out for my pal.

PAST DUBS

Can I tell you a secret?

KALE

(glancing to where present-day Dubs is hiding)

Um...sure.

PAST DUBS

I'm gonna try and kiss Laze after the show.

KALE

Really? Wow!

PAST DUBS

I'm getting a positive vibe from her. I just have to get through the show, say my line, take my bow and then I'm home free.

(Egg enters and watches them. Kale and Dubs don't see him.)

KALE

Say your line again.

PAST DUBS

"Mr. Wells! I brought you a Gudgeon! Straight from the Thames!"

KALE

Great. Ms. Grett was just in here and she said anyone that shows up late for the warm-up can't come to the cast party.

PAST DUBS

What? Seriously, Kale!

(Past Dubs exits)

KALE

Okay. He's gone.

(Present day Dubs enters still wearing wig and glasses.)

DUBS

You think he'll do it?

KALE

I don't know. I mean, he's you.

DUBS

(removing wig and glasses)

Right.

EGG

AAAHHHHHHGGG!

DUBS

Egg!

KALE

Oh my God.

EGG

Why are there two of you?

KALE

Calm down, Egg.

EGG

I just saw you go into the dressing room! You have a doppelganger!

DUBS

I don't have a doppelganger.

EGG

I saw him! I saw you! I saw both of you!

KALE

Calm down. Breathe.

(Egg tries to breathe deeply, without much success at first.)

That's it. Suck in that air –	KALE
	(Egg inhales.)
And let it out.	KALE
	(Egg exhales.)
There we go.	KALE
What is happening?	EGG
Nothing is happening.	DUBS
But I saw –	EGG
Tell us what you think you saw.	KALE
I saw two Dubs.	EGG
	DUBS
(looking around)	
Looks like there's only one of me, Egg.	EGG
The other one, he... and then you...	EGG
	KALE
We all know there aren't two Dubs. Isn't possible that you made a mistake?	EGG
I don't actually make mistakes. Ask Dubs.	DUBS
They really never make mistakes.	EGG

I have to go tell somebody!

(Egg tries to run away. They pull them back.)

DUBS

Whoa, whoa, whoa!

KALE

Listen, Egg. It's the last night of the play. You're nervous. Sometimes stress makes us see things that aren't there.

EGG

Huh?

DUBS

You should meet Crue's grandma. She also sees double.

EGG

But wait...there has to be an explanation for what I saw.

DUBS

You mean what you think you saw.

EGG

What I think I saw. Right. Okay. There aren't two Dubs?

DUBS

Nope.

Huh-uh.

KALE

EGG

I guess I should go warm-up.

KALE

Good idea.

(Egg starts to head to dressing room.)

DUBS

Wait! Egg!

EGG

Yeah?

DUBS

I'm gonna...um...go to the dressing room too but down the other hall. So I'll probably get there before you. And I don't want to embarrass you, so I'll just, you know, pretend that this conversation never happened.

EGG

Huh?

DUBS

Yeah. And if you mention it to me, I'll act all confused. Make sense?

EGG

I guess?

(Egg exits)

KALE

Good catch.

DUBS

Thank you.

KALE

You don't think Egg will figure out what's going on, do you?

DUBS

I am one hundred percent sure they will. Hopefully it will take them a day or so. Now what?

KALE

Now we wait for the show to start and hope that past-Dubs will remember my coaching and not forget his line.

(Wolf enters)

WOLF

Dubs! How are you, young man?

DUBS

Hi, Principal Wolf. I'm good. Just...you know...hanging out.

KALE

Trying to soak in the magic of theatre...or whatever.

WOLF

You know I was in the school play when I was your age.

DUBS

Really?

WOLF

It was called “Someone Stop That Crazy Tiger!” Guess who I played.

KALE

The tiger.

WOLF

I played the tiger! It was about a tiger that escapes from a home for tigers. Then a family brings him to their house for Thanksgiving but he remembers he’s a tiger. So he runs around and around and everyone shouts “Someone Stop that Crazy Tiger!”

DUBS

Sounds good.

WOLF

It was written by Thomas Peyton. He wrote over 900 plays for high school students You know what play I wish they’d do here? “Our Town.” It’s about a whole town that mimes things. Then a girl dies and comes back to life and talks about clocks. Anyway, break a leg!

DUBS

Thanks.

(Wolf exits.)

KALE

Okay. Suit up.

DUBS

I got this for you too.

(Dubs hands Kale another wig and sunglasses. They put them on.)

DUBS

Now we can watch the show from the audience without anyone thinking that there are two Dubs.

KALE

Instead, they’ll think we’re spies that just had eye surgery.

(Sounds from offstage. Bash and Crue are approaching.)

KALE

Uh-oh.

(Kale and Dubs hide backstage as Crue and Bash enter.)

CRUE

I just wanted to talk to you away from the others, you know.

BASH

Yeah. Talking's cool.

CRUE

You are so good in the play.

BASH

Thanks. It was hard to learn the British accent. It's like a whole different language with the same exact words.

CRUE

You are so good at it, though.

BASH

Thanks.

(Pause)

CRUE

Do you think I'm good in the show?

BASH

Oh, yeah! Sure! You're the best of everyone.

CRUE

It's because I'm a professional.

BASH

You're being paid??

CRUE

No, no. I mean professional, like I did research to create a backstory for my character.

BASH

Oh, okay.

CRUE

I did all this research on old time diseases and decided my character was dying from cholera. That's why I cough sometimes while other people are speaking.

BASH

I wondered about that!

CRUE

So that's what makes me a professional instead of money. I am totally fine that Laze got the lead, though. She's so good.

BASH

So good.

CRUE

I mean basically, she's good.

BASH

Like on a scale of one to ten she's like -

CRUE  
(simultaneously)

BASH

A four.

A ten.

CRUE

Oh. Or a ten.

BASH

I mean she's like an actress that would be in a movie someday.

CRUE

Not all actresses are good, though. Some are lucky.

BASH

Yeah. And I thought maybe I liked her. Like to go out with. After I kissed her onstage and stuff.

CRUE

Kissing someone onstage is weird.

BASH

Right? It's really weird.

CRUE

So weird. And from the outside watching it, you can't really tell if those two people really like each other or if they're just acting.

BASH

Yeah, well I thought I liked Laze, like I said, but then she told me she liked someone else.

CRUE

Who?

BASH

I don't know.

CRUE

I'm just saying that if I had been cast in that role and you and I had to kiss onstage, I wouldn't have liked someone else.

(Pause)

BASH

Could you say that again but really slow down?

CRUE

Sure. If I...had kissed you onstage...I wouldn't have liked someone else.

BASH

So...are you saying that you would have liked me?

CRUE

Yes.

(Pause)

BASH

Okay. So hypothetically...if we kissed...in the show...

CRUE

Or anywhere, really.

BASH

Right. So you would like that.

CRUE

Yes.

(Pause)

BASH

Okay. So if we were somewhere that wasn't the show –

(Crue kisses Bash)

CRUE

I think you get it now.

BASH

Oh...bavy.

CRUE

Did you just call me “bavy?”

BASH

I started to say “Baby” but that felt weird so I tried to change it to “gravy.”

CRUE

You called me “gravy?”

BASH

Yeah I love gravy.

CRUE

Oh. Okay.

BASH

And I’m glad you kissed me.

CRUE

I mean we’re about to graduate, right? What if we turn forty someday and we look back and regret not having done something that we really wanted to do?

BASH

I think I agree but like last time, I’m gonna need you to repeat it.

CRUE

Later. We should get back. Let’s not look unprofessional.

BASH

Yeah.

(They slowly walk toward the exit hand in hand)

BASH

Maybe you could come visit me at college next year.

CRUE

Are you gonna be rooming with Gary?

BASH

That’s the plan.

CRUE

Is he still dating that Kale girl that’s always with Dubs?

BASH

Yeah, but I don't think he's that into her anymore.

(They exit. Dubs and Kale reappear. They are wearing the wigs and sunglasses.)

DUBS

Did you hear that?

KALE

I heard.

DUBS

Laze likes someone. But we don't know who. So it could be me.

KALE

Huh?

DUBS

That's what I heard. What did you hear?

KALE

Oh. Nothing. I didn't hear anything.

DUBS

Now I'm all nervous again. I'm gonna screw up the line.

KALE

You're not saying the line. Past-Dubs is saying the line.

DUBS

But past-Dubs is me.

KALE

But he doesn't know what Bash just said.

DUBS

How can there be two mes but we don't know the same thing? We are totally gonna break time!

KALE

Calm. The frick. Down.

DUBS

I can't watch this! Wait! We can skip ahead! Let's just skip ahead!

KALE

Okay.

(Kale takes out the watch and they both put their hands on it. Kale winds the watch forward. Lights flicker. Time moves forward. The ensemble takes their places – it's the same placement that we see at the beginning of this play.)

KALE

Ready?

DUBS

Ready.

(Kale starts the watch. They realize the audience can see them.)

KALE

Crap!

(They run away and hide in the audience.<sup>4</sup> It is the night of the final performance of the senior play entitled "Traveler." A large, student-built "time machine" is center stage. The students stand around it, staring in awe as lights begin to glow from the inside. They wear costume pieces suggesting the Victorian or Edwardian era. They speak with fake British accents.)

CRUE

What is it, Elizabeth? What is this strange machine that suddenly appeared out of thin air?

EGG

(Egg looks shaken.)

Cor! (realizing) Time travel. Oh my God. Time Travel!

(Pause. This is the precise moment in which Egg figures out that Dubs and Kale are traveling through time.)

EGG

They're traveling through time. They're traveling through time!

CRUE

(improvising)

Yes, Douglas. You're about to say that the machine scared you half to death. It's true. It did scare you half to death. I saw it happen.

LAZE

It's the traveler! He's come back! Returned from the distant past!

---

<sup>4</sup> Please note that at this point, the actor playing Dubs will need to remove his wig and sunglasses and go backstage to prepare for his "entrance." The actor will be replaced by Dubs Double who will sit with Kale in the audience.

(The time machine opens. Everyone gasps. Bash steps out of it. He's a high school student costumed as an Edwardian dandy.)

BASH

By God, I've made it back to the present! (takes a deep breath) Smell that beautiful, fetid English air! What a journey! What an adventure!

(Pause. Everyone looks at Egg.)

EGG

Sorry. Cor! Time travel. Doppelgangers!

CRUE

Are you okay Douglas? Are you feverish? Perhaps you also have cholera. (she coughs.)

EGG

(confused)

Cor!

CRUE

Stop saying "Cor," Douglas.

BASH

(confused)

Uh...Bring me a cruller!

LAZE

Um...Mr. Wells, don't you wish to kiss me first?

BASH

Yes! Of course! I will kiss you before I get my cruller!

(Bash and Laze quickly kiss. The cast is confused. They are about to fall apart completely.)

LAZE

Everyone is staring at us. Wait...that's not my line. Wait...I'm saying all this out loud.

BASH

"Time," my friends!

CRUE

You should write a book, like I said. And we have a surprise for you.

BASH

Oh, boy. Is it that cruller I mentioned earlier?

CRUE

Indeed! Where is Morelli, the baker?

MORELLI/ENSEMBLE

Here, Mr. Wells! I made your favorite crullers!

BASH

Morelli, you old so-and-so! Thank you for the cruller I predicted!

CRUE

And Chimney, the Porridge Sweep!

BASH

Porridge! What a sight for sore eyes you are! Where I came from, there were no people in chimneys

PORRIDGE/ENSEMBLE

Right as soot be a clean whipped, ya broomer! (to him/herself) Dammit!

CRUE

And Charlie the Fish-Monger!

(Past Dubs enters. He is playing Charlie the Fish-Monger. He has one line in the play and he's about to say it. Also, he's carrying a fish.)

EGG

Cor!

CRUE

Really, Douglas! I think that you're dying of a tragic disease just like I am! (coughs)

EGG

(pointing at Dubs)

Doppelganger!

LAZE

Uh...what are you talking about, Douglas?

EGG

He's a doppelganger!

BASH

Is that like a cruller?

EGG

Time travel is real!

LAZE

Of course it's real, Douglas. The Traveler has returned to tell us all about it!

PAST DUBS

Mr. Wells! I brought you a Gudgeon! Straight from the Thames!

EGG

He's not Dubs! He's a time-traveler! He created a doppelganger!

CRUE

Oh, Douglas! Every time you grow more feverish, I get sicker! (cough, cough, cough)

PAST DUBS

Mr. Wells! I brought you a Gudgeon!

EGG

(pointing in the audience)

There he is! I see them!

(Kale and Double Dubs emerge from the audience.)

KALE

(to Dubs Double)

Dubs! Run!

PAST DUBS

(from the stage)

Kale?

KALE

(to Dubs onstage)

Not you!

(Double Dubs and Kale begin making their way through the audience. Grett stands up)

GRETT

This is not part of the show! I did not direct them to do this! (yelling at the stage) What is wrong with you people? Did you not warm-up properly?

(Wolf stands up)

WOLF

Calm down, Ms. Grett.

GRETT

Don't tell me to calm down, you giant man-nerd! I've been in this building twelve hours a day, every day for six weeks! I haven't seen daylight in a month and I lost two of my cats! I skipped meals so I could help these little freaks learn to project and stop making awkward gestures with their hands! This is as calm as I am capable of being right now!

(Suddenly, time freezes. Everyone is still. Kale emerges from the audience holding the watch. She looks around, trying to catch her breath. She walks to the edge of the stage and examines the frozen Past Dubs. Then she walks to Wolf and gradually releases Dubs Double from his grip. She places Dubs Double's hand on the watch with hers and begins winding it forward. Then she presses the button. Lights flicker. Time moves forward. Everyone takes their place in the cafeteria the next day. Kale and Double Dubs go backstage to dispense with their wigs.<sup>5</sup> Once everyone is in place, the lights flicker and time unfreezes. Kale and Dubs enter the cafeteria.)

DUBS

Where are we?

KALE

We're back to the day after the last show.

DUBS

But I got my line out this time.

KALE

Only no one heard it because Egg and Ms. Grett were having a simultaneous psychotic break.

DUBS

But I said it right. Everyone else screwed up, but I got it right! Boo-yah!

KALE

(sarcastically)

That's the spirit.

DUBS

So...do I still have a doppelganger?

KALE

I made sure we came back to a point just after we left last time so there wouldn't be two of each of us in the same room at the same time.

DUBS

Smart.

(Principal Wolf steps onto the stage.)

WOLF

---

<sup>5</sup> At this point, the actor playing Dubs will trade places with the actor playing Double Dubs.

Can I have your attention everyone? Ears open, eyes up here. I know that many of you were present for the melee that took place here last night. I'd like to open by apologizing to Ms. Grett. It was inappropriate for me to tell her to calm down when all hell was breaking loose and she was watching her career go down the tubes. I'm sorry. Secondly, a lot of you have expressed particular concern about your friend Eggbert. I'm sorry to say that Egg won't be returning to school.

(General hubbub)

WOLF

After last night's incident, their parents have decided to withdraw them from Festial High and send them to the Anselmo Home for the Profoundly Gifted. I know that you'll miss Egg. We all will. But it was everyone's conviction that they'll be much happier in their new surroundings where their genius will be understood. And now Ms. Grett would like to say a few words.

(Grett steps onstage. She is nervous.)

GRETT

First of all, I would like to publicly apologize for shouting at Principal Wolf and calling him a giant man-nerd. I understand that a man-nerd is an adult male who still plays with action figures, whereas Principal Wolf keeps his sealed in boxes so that they increase in value. Secondly, I found my cats and they're fine. They were hiding in the closet because over the past two months, they had grown afraid of me. Lastly, this will be my last year teaching drama at Festial High School. After several decades in the business, I've decided theatre isn't for me. I'm moving to Colorado to help my twin sister run her candle store. Goodbye.

(Grett exits.)

KALE

Wow.

DUBS

We destroyed the whole theatre program, gave Ms. Grett PTSD and melted Egg's brain.

KALE

We have to fix it.