

The Great Steven Stravinsky premiered as part of Texas Tech University's Raider Red's One-Act Play Spectacular in the Lab Theatre on March 2, 2015, through March 8, 2015. The cast was as follows:

STEVEN: Raymond Compton
 TRAVIS: Hannah Johnson
 AMANDA: Aubree May Zuniga

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CHARACTERS

STEVEN: *an 11-year-old boy; he wants to be a magician.*

TRAVIS: *a 6-year-old boy; STEVEN's little brother.*

AMANDA: *an 11-year-old girl; STEVEN's friend.*

TIME

The present day.

SETTING

STEVEN's backyard. *It is set up for STEVEN's birthday party. STEVEN has a magic station, with a box big enough to fit a person inside of.*

TRAVIS and AMANDA are watching STEVEN's show.

STEVEN: Abracadabra! [*He turns his hat upside down and a stuffed rabbit falls out, along with a handful of Velcro strips. He looks horrified.*] It would've worked with a real rabbit.

AMANDA: I'm sure it would've.

TRAVIS: Mom and Dad said he couldn't have a rabbit because of what he did to the goldfish.

STEVEN: Shut up, Travis!

TRAVIS: You can't tell me to shut up! Mom said!

STEVEN: [*He turns to AMANDA.*] That's not what actually happened—

TRAVIS: Is too! You killed Sprinkles and Sandy on accident.

STEVEN: Travis! Let it go!

[*STEVEN turns to AMANDA and begins to speak, but then stops.*]

AMANDA: Goldfish die all of the time. It probably had nothing to do with you.

[*STEVEN and AMANDA share a look.*]

TRAVIS: No. It was Steven's fault. [*STEVEN shoots TRAVIS an angry look.*] But he didn't mean to kill them. They're in a better place now anyway. They're in heaven because Daddy flushed them down the—

AMANDA: What's the next trick? I want to see more magic.

STEVEN: My next trick is complicated. Give me a minute to set up.
[He busies himself setting up the giant box. TRAVIS begins to speak to AMANDA in rapid whispers.]

TRAVIS: Do you like *SpongeBob*? There's a *SpongeBob* marathon on right now. I bet if you tell Steven you want to watch it, he'll let us go.

AMANDA: I think Steven has more tricks to show us. Don't you want to see what he does next?

TRAVIS: He only has four tricks. I wanna watch *SpongeBob*!

AMANDA: Maybe after he's done we can watch some of the marathon.

TRAVIS: Are you only saying that because Steven likes you? Is that why you want to stay out here and watch this stupid show?

[AMANDA looks over at STEVEN and smiles. STEVEN struggles to free his cape from the back of the giant box.]

AMANDA: What do you mean he "likes me?"

TRAVIS: It's what Mom was telling Dad last night. Dad was complaining about Steven always being in the bathroom, and then Mom said, "He's at that age!" Then I heard them laugh before Mom said, "Steven likes the girl that is coming to his birthday party."

AMANDA: Where did you hear all of this?

STEVEN: *[Yelling from behind the box.]* I'm almost ready, guys!

TRAVIS: I was doing this thing called easy-dropping outside their door. I'm gonna be a spy when I grow up.

AMANDA: What else did they say?

TRAVIS: They talked about a bunch of boring stuff and then they started making weird noises. I think they were wrestling again. They've been doing that a lot since Dad got his happy pills in the mail. *[Beat.]* I was going to easy-drop on Steven, but he was still in the bathroom. Dad says that we might have to build him his own bathroom at this rate.

[STEVEN makes grand gestures with his cape and steps in front of the box.]

STEVEN: For my next trick, I will need a volunteer. Are there any volunteers? How about you, sir?

TRAVIS: Me?

STEVEN: You are the only sir here.

TRAVIS: But you said the next time I touch your magic stuff, you would give me a swirly.

[STEVEN looks embarrassingly at AMANDA and then back at TRAVIS.]

STEVEN: Just get in the box!

TRAVIS: Are you sure I'm not going to get into trouble? I don't want another swirly.

AMANDA: I don't think he's going to give you a swirly, Travis. He seems to really want you to get into the box.

TRAVIS: Okay, but I'm going to say I told you so if I get a . . .

STEVEN: Travis! Get in the box!

[TRAVIS walks hesitantly towards the box.]

TRAVIS: Which trick is this?

STEVEN: The one we rehearsed all week.

TRAVIS: Is this the one where you tap the box and I climb o—

STEVEN: Stop talking, Travis!

[AMANDA laughs and tries to cover it with a cough.]

STEVEN: For this trick, the Great Steven Stravinsky will make this child disappear.

TRAVIS: Our last name is Walters.

STEVEN: It's my stage name! Just get in the box, Travis.

TRAVIS: Fine!

[TRAVIS climbs into the box and STEVEN closes the lid. STEVEN uses his wand to tap the lid a few times.]

STEVEN: Abracadabra!

[STEVEN opens the box and TRAVIS is still there.]

TRAVIS: I got stuck!

STEVEN: Why do you ruin everything?!

[AMANDA *stands up*.]

AMANDA: I'm sure he didn't mean to get stuck. Let's just get him unstuck so you can try again.

STEVEN: Fine!

[STEVEN *pulls TRAVIS out of the box. TRAVIS's shirt rips and he begins to cry*.]

TRAVIS: You ripped my Batman shirt!

STEVEN: It was an accident.

TRAVIS: I'm telling!

[TRAVIS *runs into the house crying. STEVEN turns to AMANDA*.]

STEVEN: It was an accident!

AMANDA: I'm sure it was. [*She walks over to STEVEN and begins to rub his cape*.] I really like your cape.

STEVEN: Thanks! I brought it with my own allowance. It took me a few months to save up for it, but I needed it. Otherwise, how would people know that I am a real magician?

AMANDA: Right! [*Beat*.] Thanks for inviting me to your party!

STEVEN: Thanks for coming! I was hoping there would be more people, so that you could have lots of people to talk to.

AMANDA: This is more fun. I like talking to you.

STEVEN: I like talking to you too. [*STEVEN and AMANDA have a moment. STEVEN begins to lean into her, but abruptly stops*.] Do you want to hold my wand? It's just like the one Harry Potter uses in the movies.

AMANDA: Oh . . . that's awesome!

STEVEN: It was a gift. It would've taken me a lot more than a few months to afford something this cool.

[STEVEN *hands the wand to AMANDA*.]

AMANDA: It's really cool, Steven. [*Beat*.] Steven . . . Travis told me that he overheard . . . that you like me.

[STEVEN *gets uncomfortable*.]

STEVEN: I wish I could make him disappear for good.

AMANDA: I just wanted you to know that I know. Sometimes . . . I think you're going to kiss me and I just thought you might actually kiss me if you knew . . . that I knew and I was okay with it.

[*She begins to really focus on the wand. STEVEN gets more uncomfortable*.]

STEVEN: So . . . when would be a good time to . . . do that.

AMANDA: Whenever. Now is fine too. Or, whenever.

STEVEN: Oh . . . I'm just not sure how to . . . I mean I know how, but I've never actually . . .

AMANDA: Me either. We could just try it and see what happens. I mean, if you want to.

STEVEN: I want to. I really want to.

[*He begins to lean in again. AMANDA smiles*.]

TRAVIS: Steven! [*TRAVIS runs out of the house. STEVEN and AMANDA separate*.] Mom said she would buy me a new T-shirt if I don't tell you about the surprise she's bringing out. So, I can forgive you this time. [*Beat*.] Can I play with your new magic set when she brings it out?

STEVEN: Travis!

TRAVIS: What?

[*AMANDA laughs and gives STEVEN back his wand*.]

AMANDA: Let's see some more magic!

[*She sits back down and looks at STEVEN*.]

STEVEN: Travis, get in the box. We are going to do it right this time.

[*TRAVIS gets into the box. STEVEN taps it with his wand*.]

STEVEN: Abracadabra!

[*STEVEN opens the box and TRAVIS is still there*.]

TRAVIS: I didn't hear you say the magic word!

STEVEN: Travis!

TRAVIS: You said not to climb out until I hear the word!

STEVEN: Stop talking! Just stop talking!

[TRAVIS *steps out of the box*. AMANDA *stands up and goes over to intervene*.]

TRAVIS: Nobody even wants to see your stupid show. I wanted to watch *SpongeBob* with Amanda! You need to learn how to share your girlfriend—

AMANDA: Guys! How about we do a different magic trick?

TRAVIS: He's already done all of the ones he knows.

STEVEN: That's not true! I have other tricks, Travis.

TRAVIS: The other one involves fire and Mom said you're not allowed to play with matches anymore because you set the tablecloth on fire at Aunt Mary's wedding.

STEVEN: Shut up, Travis!

TRAVIS: You can't tell me to shut up! Mom said!

AMANDA: Why don't we play a game?

TRAVIS: Because Steven cheats!

STEVEN: I don't cheat! You're just not smart enough to win!

AMANDA: Travis, go pick a board game. We'll take a magic break and then try this trick again later.

TRAVIS: Even your girlfriend doesn't want to see any more of your stupid act.

[AMANDA *looks at STEVEN* and STEVEN *looks at his shoes*.]

AMANDA: I like your act. I think it's cool. I never said it was stupid.

STEVEN: She's not my . . . she's . . . shut up, Travis!

TRAVIS: You can't tell me to shut up! Mom said!

[TRAVIS *proceeds to lose it*. He *grabs STEVEN's wand and begins to run in circles as he pulls down decorations*. STEVEN *chases after him as they yell at each other*. TRAVIS *yells so loud and fast that it sounds like a war chant*.]

You can shut up! You can shut up! You can shut up!

STEVEN: Give me back my wand, you brat!

AMANDA: [*Shouting over the ruckus*.] Hey, Travis! If you give Steven back his wand, you can watch *SpongeBob*!

TRAVIS: [TRAVIS *negotiates with AMANDA without breaking his stride*.] Will you watch it with me?

AMANDA: Sure. After the magic show is over.

TRAVIS: Promise?

AMANDA: I promise to watch some of the marathon with you after Steven's show.

[TRAVIS *throws the wand down and runs toward the house*. STEVEN *picks up his wand and checks it for damage*. AMANDA *joins him in his inspection*.]

AMANDA: Is it broken?

[STEVEN *waves it around a few times before resting it against his chest in a protective manner*.]

STEVEN: It's okay. I was so scared.

AMANDA: I'm glad it wasn't broken. I really would like to see more magic someday.

STEVEN: Really?

AMANDA: Yeah! I like watching your show. I've never known a real magician before.

[STEVEN *looks pleased*. STEVEN *realizes that AMANDA is rubbing her arms and shivering*. He *unties his cape and wraps it around her*. STEVEN *begins to tie the strings around her neck and then stops himself*. AMANDA *ties the cape on as STEVEN fiddles with his wand*.]

STEVEN: Thank you! [*Beat*.] Thanks for saving my wand, too! It means a lot to me.

AMANDA: Glad I could help! [*Beat*.] Your little brother would get along with my little sister. She's a nightmare too. Maybe if you ever come over to my place, you could bring him with you.

STEVEN: He's so annoying! I wish I was an only kid! [*He realizes what just happened*.] I would like that . . . to come over to your

place. I mean, with Travis, because he would get along with your sister and stuff . . .

AMANDA: I think she'd like that too.

STEVEN: That would be really good for Travis. He doesn't have any friends. We only moved here six months ago and the other kids in his class think he's weird.

[STEVEN realizes that he is playing with his wand as he stares at AMANDA. He abruptly stops doing both.]

AMANDA: I don't think he's weird. I think the other kids are stupid. I had an awesome time here today. I'm really happy you invited me.

STEVEN: I'm really happy you could make it. I know there was a pool party that everyone else was invited to.

AMANDA: This was much better than that stupid party. I'm still really mad they threw a party after you sent your invitations out.

STEVEN: It's okay. I'm kind of used to it . . .

AMANDA: It was still really mean. I don't like how those boys pick on you—

STEVEN: Are you here because you felt sorry for me?

AMANDA: No. I'm here because I . . . I like you . . . and I thought that you liked me, too. [Beat.] Also, magic is really cool.

[STEVEN and AMANDA share a moment.]

TRAVIS: [From offstage.] Is the show over, yet? I want Amanda to come watch *SpongeBob* with me!

STEVEN: [Returning the yell.] In a minute! [To AMANDA.] He ruins everything.

AMANDA: Steven . . .

STEVEN: I think he does it on purpose. Just to . . .

AMANDA: Steven. [Beat.] Do you still want to . . .

STEVEN: Yes! [Beat.] I mean . . . if you still want to.

AMANDA: I still want to.

[She looks at him expectantly. It takes STEVEN a moment to realize what is happening.]

STEVEN: Oh! Like . . . do you want to do that now?

[AMANDA nods her head. STEVEN begins to lean in. They share an awkward kiss.]

STEVEN: Was that okay?

[AMANDA wraps herself in the cape and smiles.]

AMANDA: It was very okay.

STEVEN: Thank you . . . I mean . . .

[AMANDA giggles.]

AMANDA: We should go inside before Travis gets mad again.

[She holds her hand out. STEVEN takes a moment to figure out what is going on. He eagerly grabs her hand and begins to follow her into the house.]

TRAVIS: [From offstage.] What are you guys doing out there? You're missing the best part!

[Lights fade.]

END OF PLAY