

# Bat Boy – The Musical

By Keythe Farley, Brian Flemming and Laurence O’Keefe

*Suggested Roles: Actor 1: Rick Taylor, Daisy, Mayor Maggie, Meredith Parker, Roy, Rev. Hightower*

*Actor 2: Ruthie Taylor, Sherriff, Lorraine, Shelley Parker, Bat Boy, Bud, Dr. Thomas Parker, Doctor*



**NOTE:** This cutting asks each student to portray multiple characters, which is permissible for Nationals and SOME states. It may not meet the rules requirement for DUO in your state! Be sure to check your STATE rules before performing at local tournaments.

*(Singing, off stage [both])* IN A CAVE MANY MILES TO THE SOUTH LIVES A BOY BORN WITH FANGS IN HIS MOUTH.

*A cave near Hope Falls, WV (population 500) In darkness. Rick and Ruthie Taylor, two local teens, are rappelling down to the bottom.*

**RICK:** (Pg 7-8) Whoa. . . Look at this.

**BAT BOY:** *(offstage sound by Actor 2) Oo-oo-Oo-Oo-Oo (wings flapping)*

**RUTHIE:** We've never been this deep before.

**BAT BOY:** *(offstage sound by Actor 1) Oo-oo-Oo-Oo-Oo (wings flapping)*

**RUTHIE:** *(focus off-stage front)* It's some deformed kid.

**RICK:** *(focus off-stage front)* It's a Bat Boy. It's okay, little guy. I'm Rick Taylor. And this is my sister Ruthie.

**RUTHIE:** *(focus off-stage front)* Can you say "Ruthie"?

**RICK:** We are totally keeping this thing.

**RUTHIE:** *(focus off-stage front)* See if it likes Fritos. *(produces some and offers them to Bat Boy)*

Fritos. See? Fritos. *(pantomime Bat Boy attacks Ruthie)* AAAAAHHHHHH! I'm bit! I'm bit!

**RICK:** You freakin' animal! *(pantomime Rick pulls Bat Boy off Ruthie and pins him to the ground)*

## INTRODUCTION

**ACTOR 1:** *In the early 1990s, people didn't have smartphones, Netflix, email or the Internet.*

**ACTOR 2:** *What they did have was the checkout aisle at [Insert name of local grocery store].*

**ACTOR 1:** *Children forced to grocery shop with their parents sat in shopping carts and stared longingly at bubble gum, Tic Tacs, and -- of course -- headlines from the Weekly World News tabloid*

**ACTOR 2:** *"Einstein's Brain Comes to Life!*

**ACTOR 1:** *"Aliens Abduct Cheerleaders!" . . . and the BEST one . . .*

**ACTOR 2:** *"Bat Child Found in Cave!"*

**ACTOR 1:** *The Bat Boy story went as viral as any "fake news" story could in the days before social media.*

**ACTOR 2:** *But then some brilliant writers decided to take this bizarre and outlandish story and make it something more --*

**ACTOR 1:** *A musical that quickly became a campy cult favorite with a message about being different; about the desire to be accepted for who we are.*

**TOGETHER:** *Bat Boy -- The Musical*

**ACTOR 2:** *by Keythe Farley, Brian Flemming and Laurence O'Keefe*

*(Singing, off stage [both])* IN A CAVE MANY MILES TO THE SOUTH LIVES A BOY BORN WITH FANGS IN HIS MOUTH.

*At the Sheriff's Office -- Rick hefts a burlap sack containing Bat Boy from his back and sets it on the ground.*

**SHERIFF:** (Pg 10-11) You say it's the Bat Boy?

**RICK:** Yeah! It bit Ruthie. You gotta lock it up, Sherriff. *(kicks the bag. Bat Boy squeals)*

**DAISY:** Can we see it?

**SHERIFF:** All right. *(Opens bag a little; ladies peek; Bat Boy squeals)*

**DAISY:** Aaah! Sweet wounded Jesus!

**SHERIFF:** *(to Rick)* You go on and look after your sister. I'll just take it up to Dr. Parker. Dr.

Parker's a good veterinarian, I'm sure he'll just put it down with no trouble.

**MAGGIE:** Seems like a waste of resources. We could put him on display and charge admission.

**LORRAINE:** People would pay good money to see a Bat Boy. We could be the next Branson.

**SHERIFF:** Good day, ladies.

\*\*\*\*\*Veterinarian Parker's home\*\*\*\*\*

**SHERIFF:** (Pg 14-15) *(authoritative knock at the door)* It's Sheriff Reynolds, Meredith! *(gestures outside)* I figure maybe we need a veterinarian to sort this out. I'm hoping Dr. Parker will

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know what to do.

**MEREDITH:** *(focus off-stage front)* **(Pg 16)** Is it an animal or a . . . **(Pg 15)** boy? Shelley, get away.

**SHELLEY:** *(focus off-stage front)* **(Pg 17)** Mom! What's wrong with him? **(Pg 16)** He's so gross!

**MEREDITH:** All right, Sheriff. I'll take care of the boy for you. Dr. Parker has some cages. I'm sure we can find one that works.

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*Bat Boy, screaming, is now in a cage off-stage front (screaming voiced by Actor 1 off-stage)*

**SHELLEY:** **(Pg 18-19)** *(hands over ears)* Shut up shut up shut up SHUT. UP!!! *(calling offstage)*  
Mom, he won't shut up!

**MEREDITH:** *(Meredith enters. Bat Boy stops screaming)* Yelling at him won't help, sweetheart.

**SHELLEY:** Such an ugly boy.

**MEREDITH:** Shelley, that's not nice. He's just different. **(Pg 20)** What would you like to name him?

**SHELLEY:** Bat Boy.

**MEREDITH:** We're not calling him Bat Boy. That's cruel.

**SHELLEY:** But that's what he looks like! *(beat)* How about Ugly?

**MEREDITH:** Maybe Edgar. *(Calling)* Ed-gar!

**BAT BOY:** *(Looks at Meredith)* Gggnnnnwwgwoooo?

**MEREDITH:** Edgar it is!

**SHELLEY:** He likes Ugly better. *(exits in a huff)*

\*\*\*\*\*Town Council Meeting\*\*\*\*\*

**MAGGIE:** **(Pg 26)** As Mayor of Hope Falls, West Virginia, I hereby call this meeting of the Town Council to order. *(gavel)* First order of business. We've got a crisis on our hands!

**BUD:** **(Pg 28)** Mayor Maggie, I'm telling you, this town is cursed! First the coal mines dried up. Now all the cows are dropping like flies. **(Pg 27)** Twenty-two dead cows . . . **(Pg 28)** and I'm thinking of blaming . . .

**LORRAINE:** **(Pg 29)** . . . that little Bat Boy they found in the bag? *(long pause)* Well, Dr. Parker's a good man. I'm sure he'll kill it!

\*\*\*\*\*Veterinarian Parker's home\*\*\*\*\*

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**DR. PARKER: (Pg 30-31)** Sorry I'm so late! Hello! *(bangs into cage. Bat Boy screams voiced by Actor 1 off-stage)* Sweet wounded Jesus! How did you get here? *(Parker pulls a syringe from his doctor's bag and fills it with liquid from a vial)* This'll put one of us out of our misery.

**MEREDITH: (enters quickly)** Thomas, no! Please. Don't.

**DR. PARKER:** They'll have my head for something like this, Meredith.

**MEREDITH:** You can't just kill him like an animal. Oh, please, Thomas. Please, please

**BAT BOY: (Pg 36)** Eeeeeeee . . . *(he continues to make pleading sounds)*

**MEREDITH:** Hellooo? Can you say hello? You can do it. Look at my lips. *(points to her lips)* Lips.

Hellllloooo. *(Bat Boy imitates)* Hellllooooo . . . *(Bat Boy gets better and better at it, until)*

**BAT BOY:** Hhhhellllooo.

**MEREDITH: (applauds and smiles)** Good. *(Bat Boy copies her - he applauds and smiles.)* Now, can you say "boy"?

**BAT BOY:** Boy! Boy, boy, boy, boy, boy!

**MEREDITH:** You're a smart boy, too. We'll turn you into a proper young man in no time.

## TRANSITION

**ACTOR 1:** *Bat Boy evolves at a lightning pace learning from flash cards, photographs, videotapes and records.*

**ACTOR 2:** *He learns etiquette, how to dress and even gets his GED.*

**AS SHELLEY:** *That's more than I can say for Rick Taylor!!*

**ACTOR 1:** *But still, that's not enough for the good folks of Hope Falls.*

## \*\*\*\*\*Town Council Meeting\*\*\*\*\*

**MAGGIE: (Pg 43)** I hereby call this special meeting of the Town Council to order. Let's discuss safety issues for this weekend's Revival Meeting.

**ROY: (Pg 45) (yelling out)** Doc, we want a guarantee. He can't be allowed to come!

**DR. PARKER: (Pg 43)** I can assure you as a veterinarian that the boy is not a danger. Meredith has done wonders with Edgar. He's practically a member of the family.

**BUD:** Oh, for Pete's sake, we got Ruthie Taylor still in the hospital, and I've got a sinking suspicion that your **Bat Boy** is responsible for the cattle plague! I swear!

**ROY: (Pg 44)** You should just be grateful we don't hang him from a tree.

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**DR. PARKER: (Pg 45)** This is going to be hard on Meredith. But I give you my word. Edgar will not attend the revival.

**ROY:** Thank God, you'll be showin' some Christian charity (*through gritted teeth*) and some dang sense.

\*\*\*\*\*Veterinarian Parker's home\*\*\*\*\*

**DR. PARKER:** (*In the kitchen with Meredith*) [I gave them] my word of honor . . .

**MEREDITH: (Pg 46-47)** I don't like the Town Council telling me what to do with my family.

(*Meredith enters the living room where Edgar is adjusting his clothes in front of a mirror*)

Don't you look lovely, Edgar.

**BAT BOY:** (*with a British accent, adjusts his tie, suit*) Thank you, Mrs. Parker. You're looking splendid yourself.

**MEREDITH:** Why, thank you. Those BBC language tapes are really helping your diction.

**BAT BOY:** You know, I was reading the newspaper this morning. (*excited*) The Reverend Billy Hightower is holding a weekend revival. I have just finished reading the Bible **again**, and it would mean so much to me if I could attend. It would be a nice coming out for me.

**MEREDITH:** Oh, Edgar, I feel horrible telling you no, but some people . . . (*sighs*)

**BAT BOY: (Pg 49)** I might as well be in a cage! You must allow me to show myself! (*he breaks down and cries*)

**MEREDITH:** Oh, Thomas, can't we just let him go? He's so charming, and well-spoken. Once they see what a proper young man he is, they'll change their minds, don't you think?

**DR. PARKER:** No no no no no! None of us will attend the revival, and that's final!

\*\*\*\*\*The Revival\*\*\*\*\*

(*hand clapping, singing, humming, feet stomping, dancing, shouting*)

*Suggested music: I'll Fly Away -- originally written in 1929 by Albert E. Brumley and first published in 1932 by the Hartford Music Company. It is frequently played in worship services.*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYyyfw349FI>

**REV. HIGHTOWER: (Pg 59-60)** All right, let's bring it down. I know there's someone out there who needs healing. Step forward! Let the Holy Ghost heal you!

**BAT BOY:** I want to be healed.

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**REV. HIGHTOWER:** *(staring at him in horror)* Oh, Jesus, Son of God.

**LORRAINE:** *(pointing)* It's the Bat Boy! The Bat Boy! I'm going to faint!

**BUD:** Sweet wounded Jesus!

**BAT BOY:** *(clears throat)* I know you hate me. But I have to believe that it's because you don't know me.

**RICK:** **(Pg 22)** You freak! . . . You wanna bite me like you bit my sister, tough guy?

**MEREDITH:** **(Pg 63-64)** Please! Everyone! It's true Edgar was not civilized when he was first captured. Since then . . . I mean, look at him. You all just heard him. Can't you see that he's not a danger to any of us?

**BAT BOY:** I never meant to hurt anyone.

**RICK:** Animal!

**MEREDITH:** **(Pg 82)** Stop! All of you! If you would only listen to his story, you'd understand. *(to Dr. Parker)* For God's sake, Thomas, let's just tell the truth. *(beat; they talk directly to the audience)* I was Thomas' assistant at the time. I loved him dearly.

**\*\*\*\*\*Flashback to story\*\*\*\*\***

**DR. PARKER:** **(Pg 83-84)** I loved her dearly. [But] I was a young and ambitious vet just starting out, developing a pheromone to increase birth yield in cattle. *(raising a test tube)*

**MEREDITH:** He introduced the pheromones of a dozen other animals.

**DR. PARKER:** We were working late one night in my laboratory.

**MEREDITH:** And that's when the accident happened. *(Parker spills the contents of the test tube on Meredith)*

**DR. PARKER:** *(Grabs Meredith)* You are so beautiful.

**MEREDITH:** Thomas, no! *(stage slap – Meredith runs out)* I had no idea what was about to happen . . . *(a bat flutters too close to her head. She ducks. The bat returns and attaches itself to her dress. She struggles to pull it off. Another attaches itself, then another, and another. Young Meredith screams)* The bats were attracted by the pheromone. They were everywhere. They violated me.

**DR. PARKER:** The next morning, I found Meredith barely alive. When I discovered, two months after the incident, that Meredith was pregnant, I begged her to marry me. We moved to

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Hope Falls, where I was sure we could put the horrors of the past behind us. But the true horror was yet to come.

**MEREDITH:** (Pg 85) *(huffing and puffing in pain)*

**DOCTOR:** *(off stage)* Just one more push. That's it . . . *(Meredith gives birth to Bat Boy)*

**BAT BOY:** *(emerges)* Oo-oo-Oo-Oo-Oo *(tiny wings flapping)*

**DR. PARKER:** *(holding the bat baby)* The job fell to me. I took the bat child out to the woods.

Killing the thing should not have been a problem. But I couldn't do it. So, I left [him] at the mouth of a cave, *(sets the bundle down)* certain that time or predators would do what I couldn't do myself. But I was wrong. . .

**MEREDITH:** *(softly echoing as she shakes her head sadly)* (Pg 79) Abomination . . . hideous . . .

\*\*\*\*\*End of Flashback\*\*\*\*\*

**MEREDITH:** (Pg 86) *(to the crowd)* So you see, he's not a beast. He's my son. He's one of us.

**LORRAINE:** Kill the freak!

**DR. PARKER:** (Pg 88-89) Meredith, I'm sorry. *(Grabs Edgar from behind in pantomime)* I can't bear to look at him. (Pg 56) He's a beast. He's a monster. *(takes a knife from his belt, raises it, stabs Edgar then lets the body fall)*

**MEREDITH:** (Pg 89) Oh, Edgar. My dear sweet boy.

**BAT BOY:** I am not a boy. I am an animal. *(he dies)*

**MEREDITH:** *(Singing, sadly)* IN A CAVE MANY MILES TO THE SOUTH LIVE[D] A BOY BORN WITH FANGS IN HIS MOUTH.

## **SOURCE INFORMATION**

*Author: Keythe Farley, Brian Flemming and Laurence O'Keefe*

*ISBN: 978-0822218340*

*Publisher: Dramatists Play Service*

*Date (Month/Year): Sept 2002*

## **AWARD HISTORY**

*2004 National Qualifier*

*2006 National Qualifier*

*2008 National Qualifier*

*2010 National Qualifier*

*2012 National Qualifier*

*2013 National Qualifier*

*2023 National Qualifier*

*2025 National Qualifier*

*NIETOC*

*IN State Qualifier*

*MN State Qualifier*