

Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog (The Book)

By Joss Whedon, Maurissa Tanchareon, Jed Whedon and Zack Whedon

Suggested Roles: **Actress:** Moist, Captain Hammer, The Freeze Ray, Penny, Bad Horse
Chorus, Female Anchor

Actor: Dr. Horrible / Billy, Male Anchor, Mayor



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.

Dr. Horrible's Lab – Moist is setting up the camera for Dr. Horrible's taping. She counts down to LIVE . . . 3, 2, 1 . . . and exits. Dr. Horrible dons a lab coat, gloves and goggles that rest on his forehead.

DR. HORRIBLE: (Pg 16) *(laughs an evil, maniacal laugh into the camera)* AH-ah-ha-ha-ha-ha!!!

Ah – HAH-haha-ha . . . *(pause)* So that's, you know, coming along . . . You don't get into the Evil League of Evil without a memorable laugh. No response BTW from the League yet, but fingers crossed . . . **(Pg 16)** This world is a mess and I just need to rule it. *(shuffles through schematics and disassembled electronic devices)* The Freeze Ray is almost up! This is the one. Stops time. Freeze Ray. Heard it here first! *(MOIST enters)* **(Pg 19)** Moist! My evil moisture . . . buddy. What's going on?

MOIST: (Pg 19) Hey Doc. Got your mail.

DR. HORRIBLE: (Pg 16) *(takes mail from Moist, which leaves a long trail of icky moisture. He leafs through it and rips open a letter – to camera)* Oh, great. Our old friend Johnny Snow. "Doctor Horrible, I see you are once again afraid to do battle with your nemesis . . ." Dude. You're not my nemesis. My nemesis is

DR. HORRIBLE & CAPTAIN HAMMER: Captain Hammer.

CAPTAIN HAMMER: (Poses in standard Superhero pose) (Pg 27) A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do! Captain Hammer's here, hair blowing in the breeze. *(the classic hair flip)*

4NG Fanatics

DR. HORRIBLE: (Pg 16) Corporate tool. Dislocated my shoulder – again – last week.

MOIST: (Pg 21) You need anything. . . dampened, or made soggy?

DR. HORRIBLE: (Pg 16) Thanks, but . . . (*opens another letter*) DeadNotSleeping writes “. . . You always say in your blog that you will show her the way. Who is ‘her’ and does she even know that you’re . . .” (*He falls silent, mouthing the beginning of a response . . .*)

******* SCENE CHANGE – LAUNDROMAT *******

(Pg 18-19) (*Cut to scene with Dr. Horrible in street clothes, obviously the same guy, but goes by the name Billy, enters a laundromat with a bunch of laundry. He sees Penny, vocalizing while doing her laundry clearly “the girl.”*)

DR. HORRIBLE: (*lyrically to the same tune Penny is vocalizing as he begins to do his laundry – both should continue pantomime laundry activities in coordination through this sequence*)
Laundry day. See you there. Wanna say . . . Love your hair. Here I go . . . (*Mumbling an awkward introduction, then returns to lyrical monologuing*) With my freeze ray I will find the time to find the words to . . . What’s the phrase . . . (*to Penny*) Love your hair!

PENNY: What?

DR. HORRIBLE: (*embarrassed*) No – I just . . . love the . . . the . . . **AIR** . . .

INTRODUCTION

ACTRESS: Wait . . . Wait . . . Wait . . . Before we get going, think about something. Just what is it that makes a superhero “SUPER”? Is it their powers?

ACTOR: If that was the case, Batman wouldn’t be considered much of a superhero, would he? No!

ACTRESS: The key to every great superhero is an equally great, yet undeniably evil, supervillain.

ACTOR: Batman and . . . the Joker!

ACTRESS: Superman and . . . Lex Luthor!

ACTOR: Exactly! And the bottom line is that unless you can fly on your own or shoot webs out of your hands, gadgets are a key component to being a superhero or supervillain.

ACTRESS: Gadgets can mean the difference between saving the world,

ACTOR: Achieving world domination, (*evil maniacal laugh*)

ACTRESS: Or simply winning the affection of the girl with the big heart and wonderful hair.

ACTOR: Dr. Horrible’s Sing-Along Blog (*The Book*)

ACTRESS: Featuring the script and songs by Joss Whedon, Maurissa Tanchareon, Jed Whedon and Zack Whedon

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*Dr. Horrible is in the lab working on The Freeze Ray (played by Actress). He adjusts various levels and dials, and powers the system up. It appears that it will work, but then abruptly powers down with a message synthesized message [INSUFFICIENT WONDERFLONIUM] *words not in original script, used for transition purposes**

DR. HORRIBLE: (Pg 21) Are you kidding? (*Dr. Horrible is frustrated, he rapidly flips through a sheaf of papers and his frustration turns to excitement*) This is great! I'm about to pull a **major** heist. The Wonderflonium I need for my Freeze Ray? It's being transported tomorrow.

******* SCENE CHANGE – STREET ON THE DAY OF THE HEIST *******

Penny is handing out flyers for the Caring Hands Homeless Shelter. Dr. Horrible has just hijacked the Wonderflonium and is carrying it in a small duffle-bag.

PENNY: (Pg 22) (*lyrically*) Will you lend a caring hand to shelter those who need it? (*She reacts to a negative response*) No? How about you? (*she approaches Dr. Horrible from behind . . . lyrically*) Will you lend a . . .

DR. HORRIBLE: AHH! (*realizes it is Penny and tries to play it cool*) **(Pg 24-26)** Ahh. Hah. What?

PENNY: Hey, I know you.

DR. HORRIBLE: You know me? Cool. I mean, yeah. Do you?

PENNY: From the laundromat.

DR. HORRIBLE: (*nodding*) Wednesdays and Saturdays, if that was you. It could be someone else, I mean I've **seen** you. Billy is my name.

PENNY: I'm Penny. I'm out here volunteering for the Caring Hands Homeless Shelter. Can you spare a minute?

DR. HORRIBLE: (*peers over his shoulder stealthily, then reluctantly*) Okay. Go.

PENNY: If we get enough signatures (*motions with her clipboard*) There's a great building nearby that the city's just going to demolish and turn into a parking lot.

DR. HORRIBLE: (*disparagingly*) Signatures.

PENNY: Yeah. We'd be able to get people off the streets and into job-training. (*Doc's attention has wandered to his Wonderflonium*) You're not really interested in the homeless are you?

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DR. HORRIBLE: *(dismissively)* They're a symptom. *(his speech turns progressively more sinister)*

The disease consumes the human race while you're getting signatures. I'm talking about an overhaul of the system. Putting the power in . . . *(starts his maniacal laugh while wringing his hands, but turns it into a cough, then speaks more softly while opening his hands beseechingly)* DIFFERENT hands.

PENNY: *(beat)* This petition is about the building.

DR. HORRIBLE: I'm sorry. I come on strong. I'd love to sign *(he does so)* Can't turn my back on a fellow laundry person.

PENNY: *(moving off)* I'll probably see you there . . . *(Dr. Horrible deflates as he realizes he's blown his meeting with Penny)*

DR. HORRIBLE: Why did she talk to me NOW?

******* SCENE CHANGE – DR. HORRIBLE'S LAIR / WEB BLOG *******

Dr. Horrible's Lab – Moist is setting up the camera for Dr. Horrible's taping. She counts down to LIVE . . . 3, 2, 1 . . . and exits.

DR. HORRIBLE: **(Pg 40-41)** *(Actress portrays the Freeze Ray)* All right. The wait is over. With the addition of Wonderflonium, which I obtained at my famously successful heist, this, my friends, is my Freeze Ray. As of tonight, if all goes according to plan, I am in the Evil League of Evil. *(evil laugh as he exits)*

(Pantomime sequence of a battle between Dr. Horrible and Captain Hammer. The Freeze Ray doesn't work properly and Dr. Horrible is defeated)

DR. HORRIBLE: *(turns on webcam again. He is limping, is battered and bruised and a little emotionally fragile. He clears his throat)* The Freeze Ray needs work. I also need to be more careful about what I say on this blog. Apparently the LAPD and Captain Hammer are among our viewers. They were waiting for me at the Mayor's dedication of the Superhero Memorial Bridge. The Freeze Ray takes a few seconds to warm up and I wasn't . . . Captain Hammer threw a car at my head. *(Cell phone rings, he answers)*

BAD HORSE CHORUS: He saw the operation you tried to pull today. Your humiliation means he still votes "neigh." Go kill someone. Signed: Bad Horse.

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MOIST: (*who has been eavesdropping*) Kill someone?

DR. HORRIBLE: Would you do it, to get into the Evil League of Evil?

MOIST: (Pg 42) Look at me. I'm Moist. I make people feel like they want to take a show. I'm not E.L.E. material.

DR. HORRIBLE: Killing's not elegant or creative. It's not my style.

MOIST: You've got more than enough evil hours to get into the henchman's union.

DR. HORRIBLE: (*waves off the idea*) I'm not a henchman. I'm Dr. Horrible. I've got a PhD in horribleness.

MOIST: (*beat*) Is that the new catch-phrase?

DR. HORRIBLE: I deserve to get in. You know I do . . . but killing? Really?

***** SCENE CHANGE – LAUNDROMAT *****

As they do routine laundry activities . . .

DR. HORRIBLE: (Pg 39-40) So how was your weekend? Did you spend the whole time hunting wild signatures?

PENNY: Actually, I went on a date.

DR. HORRIBLE: (*smiling through it*) Get outta town. How was it?

PENNY: (*hoping to make him jealous*) Unexpected. He's a really good-looking guy. (Pg 44-46) He's nice. I'll be interested to know what you think of him. He said he might stop by.

DR. HORRIBLE: (*sudden panic*) Stop by here?! (*he checks the time on his bare wrist*) Wow. Goodness. Look at my wrist. I have to go. (*Starts to exit*)

PENNY: What about your clothes?

DR. HORRIBLE: (*quickly spins to check a washer, lifts the lid and looks in*) I don't love these. See ya! (*He spins and walks face first into . . .*)

CAPTAIN HAMMER: Billy, the laundry buddy. You look **Horribly** familiar. Have I seen you at the gym. (*Flexing his muscles*)

DR. HORRIBLE: (*of course!*) At the gym!

CAPTAIN HAMMER: Who wants to know what the Mayor is doing? He is signing over a certain building to a Caring Hands group as a new homeless shelter.

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DR. HORRIBLE: *(to Penny, sincerely, but defeated)* Congratulations.

PENNY: I can't Believe it! Thank you. THANK YOU! *(washer buzzes and Penny moves away)*

DR. HORRIBLE: Well, this is great. I wish I could stay and chit-chat.

CAPTAIN HAMMER: *(he knows exactly who "Billy" is)* You've got a little crush, don't you, **DOC?** That's gonna make it hard to hear this. Later on, I'm going to take little Penny back to my place. I'm gonna give her the night of her life just because you want her. And I get what you want. See, Penny's with Captain Hammer. And **these** *(holds up his fists)* are not the hammer. *(Gives Dr. Horrible a suggestive look)* The Hammer is . . . *(Dr. Horrible reacts with revulsion as The Hammer exits)*

******* SCENE CHANGE – DR. HORRIBLE'S LAIR *******

Moist is working in the lair and is shocked when Dr. Horrible arrives. His responses are comedic, but wordless.

DR. HORRIBLE: **(Pg 47-48)** *(he is beside himself with anger – ranting against Captain Hamme)*

All the times that you beat me unconscious. All the crimes incomplete! Mr. Cool. Mr. Right. Mr. Know-It-All is through! I'm gonna shock the world. Gonna show Bad Horse. **[TRANSITION** *(these words are not in the script: Moist, Bring my Freeze Ray)* *(Dr. Horrible and Moist get to work, furiously modifying the FREEZE RAY to a DEATH RAY. Once the modification are complete, Dr. Horrible motions Moist to stand a few steps away. He tests the new Deah Ray. Moist dies and Dr. Horrible laughs maniacally)* It's a brand new day. And Penny will see the evil me. Not a joke, not a dork, not a failure. **Captain Hammer . . . You're gonna die!** *(he exits)*

******* SCENE CHANGE – DEDICATION OF THE NEW HOMELESS SHELTER *******

MALE ANCHOR: **(Pg 52)** The mayor himself will be on hand to dedicate the new homeless shelter and unveil the statue of Captain Hammer.

FEMALE ANCHOR: *(laughing)* It's a good day to be homeless! *(cut to Mayor)*

MAYOR: **(Pg 58)** Ladies and Gentlemen, your hero.

CAPTAIN HAMMER: *(leaps onto stage, arms extended wide)* Thank you, Mayor for those kind words. *(reading from index cards)* I hate the homeless *(next card)* –ness that plagues our city.

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Everyone should have . . . You know what? I don't need tiny cue cards (*tosses them on the ground*)

DR. HORRIBLE: (Pg 60) (*suddenly appears from the crowds, he lets out his perfected, evil maniacal laugh*) (Pg 62) Heros are over with. It's Doctor Horrible's turn. (*He powers up his Death Ray, then hesitates*) Here goes – No mercy. (*the device powers up, then suddenly runs out of power – audible energy-drain*) Thaaat's not a good sound . . . (*Captain Hammer punches him on the jaw, sending his Death Ray flying out of his hands – a fist fight ensues, with Captain Hammer easily beating Dr. Horrible. The fight should be comical. Once Dr. Horrible is defeated, Hammer retrieves the Death Ray and returns to lord it over Dr. H.*)

CAPTAIN HAMMER: A Death Ray? Dr. Horrible's moving up. Let's see if this one works any better than your others. (*He points it toward Dr. Horrible's head*) (Pg 64) Give my regards to St. Peter. Or whoever has his job, but in Hell.

DR. HORRIBLE: Don't!!! (*the Ray explodes sending shrapnel everywhere*)

PENNY: (Pg 65) (*is hit by the shrapnel, she takes one piece to her chest and one to her stomach, she is having trouble breathing*)

DR. HORRIBLE: (*moves quickly to Penny*) Penny. No. No. Hold on. Hold on –

PENNY: It's okay. It's okay, Billy. Are you all right? (*trying to smile*) Captain Hammer will save us. (*she dies*)

DR. HORRIBLE: Penny?!? (*long pause as he realizes what he has done*) Here lies everything. The world I wanted at my feet . . . (Pg 41) (*echo of a memory*) As of tonight, if all goes according to plan, I am in the Evil League of Evil. (Pg 42) I deserve to get in. You know I do . . . (*sad evil laugh*) (Pg 65) Well, we all have a choice . . . (*with fake bravado*) and I am fine.

SOURCE INFORMATION

Author: Joss Whedon Maurissa Tanchareon, Jed Whedon and Zack Whedon

ISBN: 978-1848568624

Publisher: Titan Books

Date (Month/Year): March 2011

AWARD HISTORY

2010 National Qualifier

2012 National Qualifier

2014 National Qualifier

2016 National Qualifier

2017 National Qualifier

2019 National Qualifier

2023 National Qualifier

2024 National Qualifier

KS State Qualifier

OH State Qualifier

Watch the original starring Neil Patrick Harris [here](#)

Act 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPImhprnUsE>

Act 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-0bETzLm_A

Act 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c8dOniJIOA>