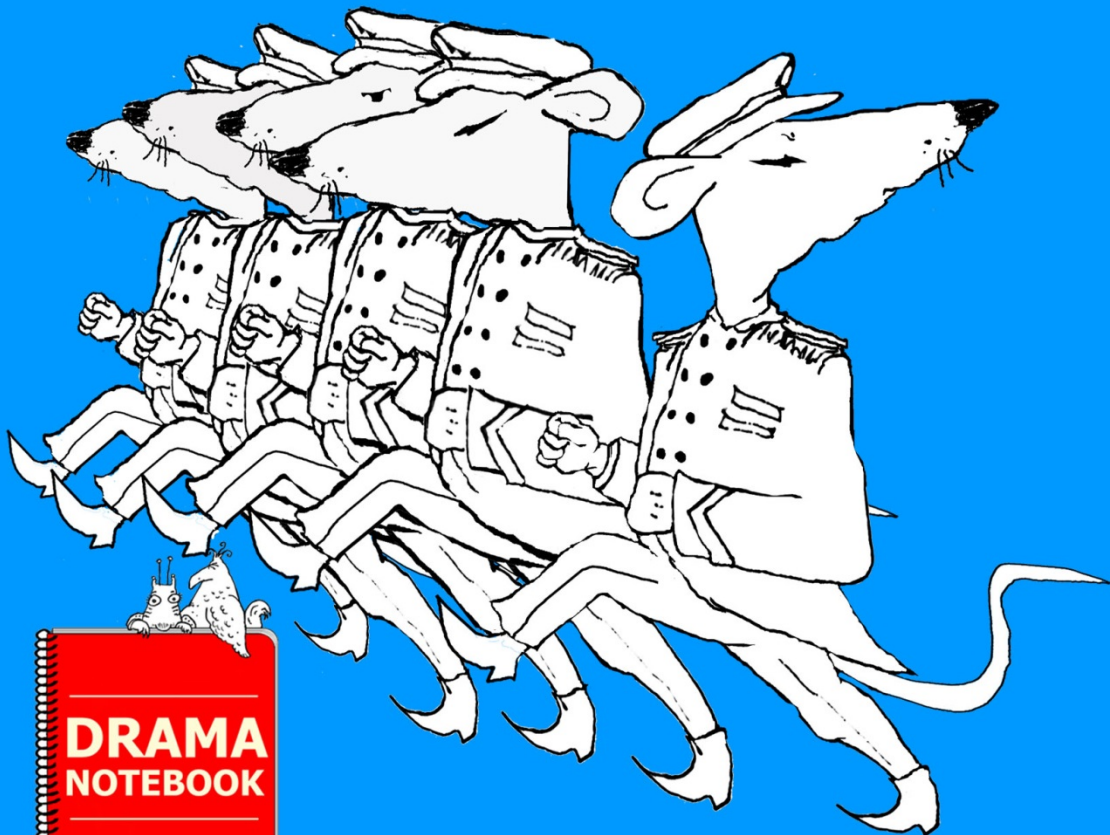


THE PIED PIPER

By Andy Pavey



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About the Author...

Andy Pavey is a commissioned playwright, who writes short plays for Drama Notebook. He is a student who attends UWC-USA. He previously spent nine years with Davenport Junior Theatre, the second-oldest children's theatre in the United States, where he acted in productions, managed the props building, and wrote plays for young actors to perform. In addition to writing, Andy is an avid backpacker!



Thank the Author...

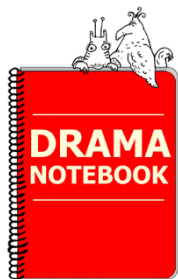
Do you love this play as much as we do? If your group performs this piece, be sure to credit Andy Pavey and Drama Notebook in your program and advertising. You may also wish to make Andy's day by dropping him a line or sending pictures of your production!

Contact Andy at: apavey1@protonmail.com



About the play...

The Pied Piper is the twisted fairy tale about the town of Hamelin. The townsfolk must think of a way to deal with a terrible problem – a rat infestation! When the Mayor is unable to find a way to get rid of the pests, they call upon the Pied Piper. The trouble is, The Pied Piper is nowhere to be found! The narrator's mom arrives just in time and jumps in to help. Armed with nothing but a healthy casserole, a toothbrush, and a bedtime story, this unlikely Pied Piper may be the only chance they've got to save the village!



The Pied Piper

Adapted by Andy Pavey

CHARACTERS (In order of appearance)

Narrator
Mayor
Villager 1
Villager 2
Rat 1
Rat 2
Mom



The Pied Piper

Adapted by Andy Pavey

At rise: The MAYOR, VILLAGERS, and RATS are spread throughout the stage. The NARRATOR is secluded from the rest of the CAST, but will become an important and involved character later on.

NARRATOR

Long, long ago, the town of Hamelin was struck with a terrible problem.

MAYOR

Help! We've been struck with a terrible problem! (*A beat*) Wait, what's the problem again?

VILLAGER 2

There's a rat infestation. Obviously.

The RATS scurry onstage suddenly, then stand on opposite sides of the MAYOR.

VILLAGER 1

Call an exterminator! What are you waiting for?!

RAT 1 (*attempting to convince the MAYOR*)

Are you kidding? No way you're going to be able to afford that.

RAT 2 (*attempting to convince the MAYOR*)

And all those hidden fees... It's going to be a nightmare to get a good bargain.

NARRATOR

I hate to be that guy, but since it was long, long ago, exterminators didn't even exist yet. (*to the MAYOR*) Sorry.

MAYOR

Way to make things complicated for us, dude.

VILLAGER 1

He's a Narrator. It's what they do.

MAYOR

Well, what's the next best thing?

VILLAGER 2

A knight in shining armor?

VILLAGER 1

A powerful wizard with a book of spells? Preferably anti-rodent ones?

MAYOR

I'm liking these ideas, I really am, but I think I'm going to take it a different direction.

RAT 1 (*stage-whispering to RAT 2*)

Thank goodness.

RAT 2 (*stage-whispering to RAT 1*)

If she keeps this up, we've got nothing to worry about.

MAYOR

What did you just say?

RAT 2

Squeak, squeak. Squeak. Squeak.

MAYOR

That's what I thought.

VILLAGER 2

Last time you "took it a different direction," the village burned down. Then we rebuilt it. Then it burned down again.

MAYOR

Third time's the charm, right?

The VILLAGERS sigh and walk offstage, shaking their heads.

MAYOR (*writing in a small notebook*)

Okay, note to self: Avoid fire if possible.

NARRATOR

The Mayor began to think about the best way to get rid of the pests -

The MAYOR begins to pace, thinking.

NARRATOR

- and after about twenty seconds, she gave up.

MAYOR

Well, I tried my hardest, but that was a total failure.

RAT 1 (*to the MAYOR*)

Just like you.

RAT 2

No kidding. We're here to stay!

The RATS attempt to high-five but miss entirely. They try again and miss again. Bluegrass music begins to softly fade in.

NARRATOR

From far away the mayor could hear the sound of music. Not "The Sound of Music," the movie, just the sound of *actual* music.

MAYOR

What... What is that? It sounds like...

RAT 1

.... Country music? Or is it bluegrass?

RAT 2

Is there really a difference?

After about ten seconds of looking around for the source of the noise:

NARRATOR

Where's the Pied Piper? That was his cue.

RAT 1

Who?

NARRATOR

I can't believe he bailed on me again. I've got to find a replacement.

RAT 2

What in the name of blue cheese is going on here?

The NARRATOR takes out their cell phone and begins to dial.

NARRATOR (*stage-whispering on the telephone*)

Hi, yes, Mom. I could really use some help with this play I'm doing. Oh, you're already backstage? How did you - That was YOUR music? Okay. Never mind. I love you too. Okay. Bye.

The NARRATOR looks up to discover the rest of the cast staring, dumbfounded, at him.

NARRATOR (*obviously lying*)

Uh, yeah, it was a work call. Had to take it. Very important.

MAYOR

Unbelievable.

The bluegrass music begins to play louder again as the MOM enters, carrying some casserole.

MOM (*to the NARRATOR*)

Well, hey there darlin'! Are these all your little friends?

NARRATOR

Mom, stop embarrassing me.

MOM

Oops - I forgot. Just pretend I'm not here.

NARRATOR

Yeah, like that will work.

The NARRATOR crosses their arms and moves further away from the scene.

MOM

So, whatcha need Mama Narrator's help with?

NARRATOR

Mom, *stop!*

MOM

Right. Sorry.

MAYOR

We've got a rat infestation, and I'm all out of ideas.

MOM

Well, did 'ya call the exterminator?

NARRATOR

They don't exist. It's medieval times.

MOM

Oh, of course. "Robin Hood" *was* set during medieval times. I guess you're right, darlin'. While I think, how 'bout we get you rats some of Mama's famous casserole?

RAT 1

Unless you're talkin' about cheese casserole, no thanks.

RAT 2

And if it has vegetables in it, it's a big "no" from me.

NARRATOR

Also, this play is "The Pied Piper," not "Robin Hood."

MOM

Nonsense! You've gotta eat your veggies! (*to RAT 2*) When was the last time you ate a carrot?

RAT 2

Uh, last year.

RAT 1

What's a carrot again?

MOM

Yikes. This is going to take longer than I thought it would. Anyone have casserole around here?

VILLAGER 1

Actually, lucky for you rats, I just finished making one!

VILLAGER 1 hands the MOM the casserole.

RAT 2

"Lucky" us.

RAT 1

There's no way I'm eating that.

The MOM pulls out a spoon and walks over to the RATS cheerfully.

MOM

Oh, of course you're going to eat it! It's healthy.

The MOM begins to feed the RATS as though they are infants.

MOM

Here comes the airplane! Come on, open up!

RAT 2

Ewww, it tastes... Healthy...

RAT 1

Wow, this is delicious! (to RAT 2) I mean, totally gross...

MAYOR

Ooh, can I try some? I haven't eaten lunch yet.

VILLAGER 2

Me too, I'm starving!

The MOM continues to spoon-feed the RATS.

RAT 2

Trust me, you do not want any part of this.

MOM

At least you're gettin' your vitamins and nutrients! Someday you'll grow from the small, weak mouse you are now into a big, strong rat!

RAT 2

Hey! I'm twenty-seven years old. And I'm pretty strong already, if you ask me.

VILLAGER 2

Yeah, right. You can't get strong eating rotten pizza and expired potato chips.

RAT 1

And he's twenty-six and a half, actually.

RAT 2 (*quickly, to RAT 1*)

The details aren't really important.

MOM

Well, now that we're done with our delicious casserole, can you guess what's next?

RAT 1

I don't even want to know.

VILLAGER 1

Ooh! Ooh! Is it storytime?

The CAST looks confusedly at VILLAGER 1.

VILLAGER 2

What are you even talking about?

MOM

Here's a fun little pop quiz to jog your memory: What do you normally do after you've eaten dinner and you're about to go to bed?

RAT 2

Watch television for seven hours?

RAT 1

Eat candy until you fall asleep?

NARRATOR

Wow. You live such enriching lives.

MOM

Nice guesses, but you're wrong! You've gotta brush your teeth, silly!

RAT 1

Oh no...

RAT 2

This is getting out of hand.

MOM

Here, take a toothbrush...

The MOM hands out (preferably miniature) toothbrushes to the RATS, who look at them as though they've never seen one before.

VILLAGER 1 (*whining*)

Where's *my* toothbrush?

MAYOR

You don't own a toothbrush? What's wrong with you?

MOM

All right, now get brushin'! It's got some minty fresh toothpaste on it, to keep your teeth nice and clean!

The RATS tentatively raise the toothbrushes to their mouths. RAT 1 puts the opposite end of the toothbrush in their mouth at first, but notices that they're holding it wrong and adjusts.

RAT 2

This toothpaste doesn't taste good! Do you have any Cheetos-flavored toothpaste instead?

RAT 1

Or maybe garbage-flavored?

RAT 2

Ooh, garbage-flavored would be great.

RAT 1

My teeth feel almost *too* clean...

MOM

Oh, hush, now. I know you love it!

RAT 1

That's where you're wrong, lady. That's where you're wrong.

The RATS stop brushing and try to hand the toothbrushes back to the MOM.

MOM

Oh, no! Keep them! I insist. Brush every morning and every night!

The RATS look at the MOM, then back at each other, then back at the MOM, and then toss the toothbrushes over their shoulder.

MOM

All right. Now we're all ready for bed. Do you want to change into some pajamas?

NARRATOR

They're rats. They don't wear clothes.

MOM

I guess I'll let it slide - this time. (*to the VILLAGERS*) Find me some blankets and pillows! It's time for bed.

The VILLAGERS run offstage in different directions. After a few seconds, VILLAGER 1 jogs back onstage, realizing they went the wrong way, and continues to follow VILLAGER 2.

RAT 1

Finally, we get some much-needed sleep.

RAT 2

I feel like this has been a nightmare of its own, to be honest...

MAYOR

Oh, don't complain! You were the ones who infested our peaceful little town!

The VILLAGERS run back onstage with blankets and pillows.

VILLAGER 1 (*out of breath*)

Here... Here are the... Here are...

NARRATOR

What are you talking about, Fred?

VILLAGER 2

Here are the blankets and pillows you asked for.

MOM

Oh, heavens! Why didn't you just say so!

The MOM hands each of the RATS a pillow and a blanket.

RAT 1 (*inspecting the pillow*)

What *is* this?

RAT 2

Is it food? Smells like laundry detergent.

MOM

No! You use 'em for sleeping!

RAT 2

I usually sleep in a pile of trash down in the sewers.

RAT 1

Wow, you live in the sewers? (*to the NARRATOR*) Richest neighborhood in town.

MOM

Just think of this pillow and blanket as a pile of trash!

RAT 2

When you put it that way...

The two RATS immediately lay down on the ground, laying on the blankets and pillows.

MOM

Now it's time for a bedtime story!

The RATS groan and complain.

MOM

Once upon a time, there were two stubborn little rats...

RAT 2

You know what? I can't take this anymore! I quit!

RAT 2 jumps to their feet and storms out.

RAT 1

Really, 'cause I was just starting to get into the story - (*RAT 2 walks past RAT 1 and pulls them along*) I mean, yeah! I'm done too!

MOM

Oh, well, goodbye then!

Silence for a few moments as the RATS exit. The rest of the CAST looks around at one another. Then they all applaud and cheer.

NARRATOR

Thanks to the help of an unlikely Pied Piper, the village was saved from the horrible rat infestation.

VILLAGER 1 (*to MOM*)

Wow. I can't believe it. You did it.

MOM

All in a day's work. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to get going. (*to NARRATOR*) I have a date with your very handsome father.

NARRATOR

Ew! Mom! Stop embarrassing me!

The MOM laughs and exits.

MAYOR

Well, everything's back to normal in our little town. I just wonder if anything interesting will ever happen again...

NARRATOR

Unrelated question - have you ever heard of the three blind mice?

CURTAIN

Need another script?



Have a play to share?

