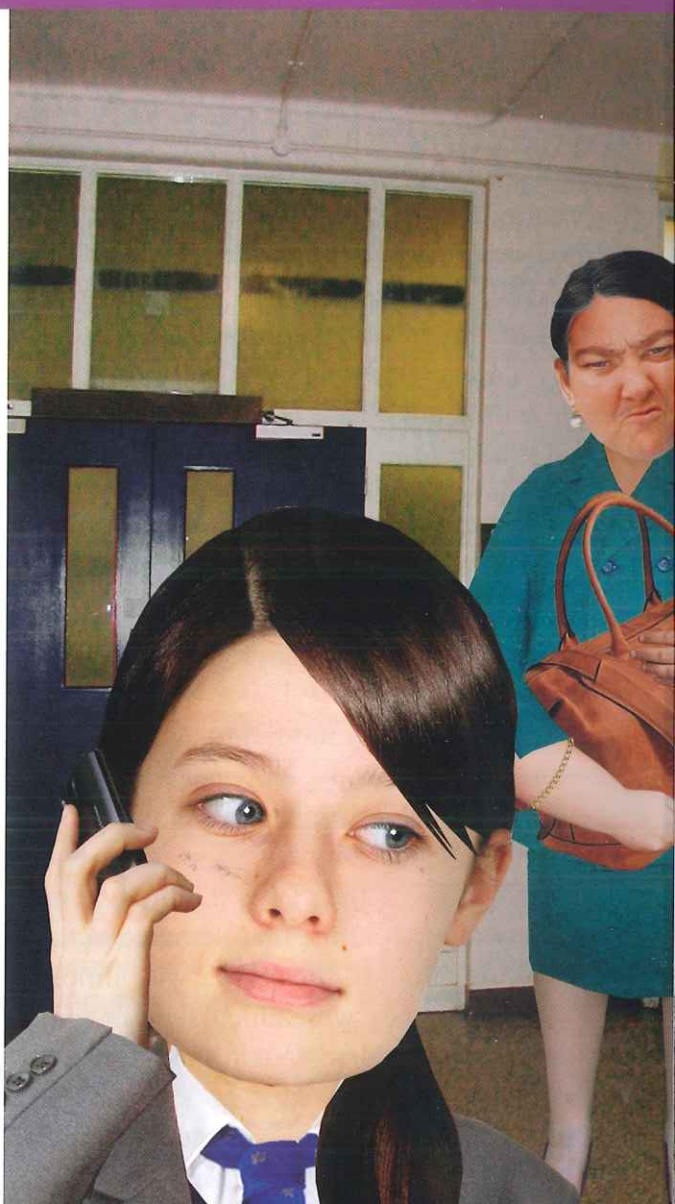


# Dreams come true

## Don't call us ...

- y Oh there you are, Donny! At last. We'll be late for class. Where's Cat? Wasn't she on your bus?
- ny She is normally, but actually, she wasn't today. I was just talking to Spud. I was trying to persuade him to come to the auditions. The school musical?
- y Oh yeah, I forgot.
- ny You forgot? The rest of the dance and drama group can't stop talking about it! I think Spud will audition for a part.
- y Spud? He can't even hum a simple tune. Seriously, can he sing?
- ny Well, he says he can! He told me so himself.
- y Hmm. That's just his opinion. We'll see. I'm more concerned about Cat.
- ny You can stop worrying about her! I'm sure she'll audition successfully. She's very musical.
- y I know all that. I'm aware that she sings fantastically. But something's wrong. She missed the meeting about the show, which the Drama teacher held last week, and she's late for her Drama class again now.





## Amy

Cat's so quiet these days. What's her problem? She was happy but now she skips lessons. I think there's a bully in the class but what can I do?

*Who can you tell about bullies in your class? Does your school have a programme against bullying? Does it work?*

**Donny** Shall we wait for her?

**Amy** I will, but by myself. It isn't necessary for you to hang about here too.

**Donny** But you hate arriving late. Maybe Cat's just ill today. She had a headache and a sore throat yesterday. Look, why don't we send her a text?

**Amy** I did that half an hour ago. She didn't reply, and that's not like her. When she first came to this school, she was so confident and bubbly. She was somebody who never looked unhappy. Now I think somebody is bullying her, but she won't talk to me about it.

**Donny** Call her then. Tell her we'll meet her after school.

**Amy** Right ... Oh, no, here comes the Battleaxe.

**Donny** And a very good morning to you, Miss Axe!

**Miss Axe** Amy, what are you doing with your mobile in school?

**Donny** Er ... Amy's just making an appointment, Miss. She won't be long. Can I carry that heavy bag in for you?

**Miss Axe** Oh! Thank you, Donny, you are kind. But hurry, Amy, because I intend to look carefully at some songs which will be important for this year's musical.

**Donny** Songs, Miss? That's fascinating ...

**Amy** Cat? It's me, Amy. I presume you won't be in school today, so I'll call later, OK? In fact, I'll come over to your place, OK? Er, yeah, OK so see you, bye.

**Miss Axe** Come quickly, Amy, and settle down or I'll start the lesson without you!

**Amy** Coming! Coming ...



# A song and dance

**Donny** So this tiny cottage is where Cat lives, is it? Cute! What did she say when she called you back?

**Amy** She didn't. Call me back I mean. She finally sent me a reply, which just said, 'I'll be home after school so come then. Alone.'

**Donny** Oh boy, so why am I here?

**Amy** It's possible that she meant, she is home alone. Or possibly, come by yourself, not with Jess.

**Donny** Yeah, they recently stopped talking, didn't they? Totally.

**Amy** Look. We're here now. Will you ask her what's wrong or shall I bring up the subject myself?

**Donny** Hey, somebody left the front door open ... Hello? Wow! Is that Cat? I didn't realize she could sing so beautifully!

**Cat**  
*Memory*  
*All alone in the moonlight*  
*I can smile at the old days*  
*I was beautiful then*  
*I remember the time I knew what*  
*happiness was*  
*Let the memory live again*

**Amy** Cat! That was gorgeous!

**Cat** Stop creeping up on people! You nearly gave me a heart attack!

**Donny** Sorry to disturb you, Cat. The door was open, so we just let ourselves in. That number's from the school musical, isn't it? You'll definitely get the lead role, Cat, you're fantastic!

**Cat** So the school musical's going to be Cats, then? I didn't know that.

**Donny** That's because you were absent today! But the auditions will be at the beginning of next week so you won't miss those. Your throat's obviously better.

**Cat** No, that was just an excuse, but I'm not going to audition. I stopped coming to Drama classes when she started laughing at my accent.

**Amy** Don't be an idiot. You've got a better voice than anybody else in the school. Don't worry about Jess, she always starts bullying people she's jealous of.

**Donny** Yeah, don't take any notice of her.

**Amy** Donny's absolutely right, you should ignore Jess. Being the editor of XOL frequently goes to her head and then she's impossible.

**Cat** Jess? Who said anything about her? It wasn't Jess who was so cruel to me.



## Donny

Cat's a great girl and she's got a totally amazing voice, so we wanted to know why she wasn't keen on the auditions. Every year our school performs a play or musical and people love it!

*Do you sing or dance? Does your school do a play or musical every year? Are you usually in it?*

**Donny** Oh no? Who then?

**Cat** That dreadful teacher who takes us for Drama.

**Amy** Old Battleaxe? But she's awful. She speaks cruelly to nearly all of us! Except her blue-eyed boy here, naturally.

**Cat** She hates me and I hate her, so she certainly won't give me a part in Cats.

**Donny** Oh no? We'll see about that!





# Cat gets the cream

**Jess** Well, this is the big moment, isn't it?

**Mike** Will Miss Axe select the soloists immediately?

**Amy** She'll listen to all the singers by themselves and then she'll make her mind up.

**Mike** My sister says she decided last week. She's got her favourites, you know.

**Jess** She can't do that! Not everybody was present. Cat, for example. She was one of the singers who were away that day.

**Amy** Do you want Cat to get a big part, Jess?

**Jess** Of course I do! She even looks like a cat, with those bright green eyes.

**Amy** But, you will audition too, won't you Jess?

**Jess** No, not likely! Singing in public is something I really hate doing.

**Mike** Me too! Singing in the bath's OK! Cat composes music herself you know. Hey, Cat, you write songs yourself, don't you?

**Cat** Yeah, I do, but I only sing them to myself. In private.

**Jess** Here's Donny, with Miss Axe as usual. Makes you sick, doesn't it?

**Amy** Yes, it does, but he's got a suggestion for her. Listen, I think you'll like it.

**Donny** Yes, of course Miss Axe. You're good at spotting talent. I'm sure you'll do this professionally. You know how professionals audition for this show, don't you?

**Miss Axe** Er, yes, of course, well, er, what precisely do you mean?

**Donny** Picking the best voice is the main thing. So why not have a 'blind' audition? The singers hide behind a curtain to sing their solos.

**Miss Axe** Yes, well, of course I knew that. So, will the first performer please get up on the stage and stand behind the curtain – right, now, shall we begin ... right, will the next person come up ... and the next one please ...

**Cat** *Daylight  
I must wait for the sunrise  
I must think of a new life  
And I mustn't give in  
When the dawn comes  
Tonight will be a memory too  
And a new day will begin*

**Miss Axe** Wonderful! Bravo! All right, everybody, that's enough applause. Calm down ... Please, will that singer jump down ... Oh! It's you, Catriona! But ...



## Cat

I saw *Cats* in London's West End once, and I loved it. I look a bit cat-like, and I know all the songs. But our teacher is a battleaxe, and she has favourite pupils, which isn't fair.

*What can you do if you think something is unfair in your school? Is there a teacher you can go to?*

**Cat** You don't hear my Scottish accent when I sing, do you Miss Axe?

**Miss Axe** No, but ...

**Donny** Having an accent isn't a problem for me, and it's not a problem for Cat. Not with a voice like that.

**Miss Axe** No, you're quite right, Donny. Congratulations, young lady, you get the main part ...





# High School Musical



## High School Musical

**High School Musical** is an American television film, which was one of the most successful Disney Channel Original Movies (DCOM) ever, with a television series and a feature film sequel. The film's soundtrack was the best-selling album in the United States in the year it came out.

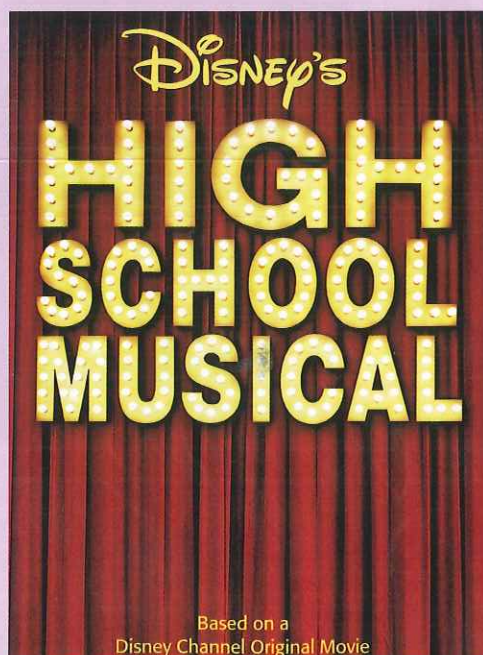
The story is a modern version of Romeo & Juliet. High School Musical is about two high school juniors from rival friendship groups: Troy Bolton, captain of the basketball team, and Gabriella Montez, a clever, shy student who is brilliant in Math and Science. Together, they go for the star parts in their high school musical, and half the school's students are their fans. The other half try to stop

their dreams from coming true, but Troy and Gabriella are both strong characters who will finally do their own thing.

### Main characters

#### Troy Bolton

Troy Bolton (played by Zac Efron) is the male star of the story. At a New Year's party at a ski resort, he has to sing Start of Something New with Gabriella Montez, who is on holiday there too. Before that, he only sings in the shower. Troy can't decide



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between basketball and singing; he wants to sing with Gabriella, the girl he has a crush on. But his team-mates push him away from her with mean tricks. They are worried that his singing will mess up their chances of winning the championship game. Troy, who also loves snowboarding, is the star player of the Wildcats basketball team, and the son of the basketball coach.



### **Gabriella Montez**

Gabriella Montez (played by Vanessa Hudgens) is the female star, who has a secret crush on Troy. She is an intelligent student who changes schools at the beginning of the movie. She originally meets Troy when they have to sing a karaoke song together. She meets him again when she moves to the same school as Troy in

Albuquerque, New Mexico. She hates other students knowing how smart she is, but they soon find out. She stops singing in a church choir after everybody stares at her singing solo. She and Troy audition for their high school musical, and then win the lead parts.

### **Fact Box: the stars behind the stars**

Zachary David Alexander Efron was born in California and began acting as a teenager. Efron has a younger brother, Dylan, and two dogs, Australian shepherds named Dreamer and Puppy, and a cat named Simon. Zac is in a real-life relationship with his co-star Vanessa Hudgens. Vanessa Hudgens, also from California, made her first film when she was fifteen. She also began her music career and her first album was called V. She confirmed in an interview with Teen Magazine that she was dating her co-star Zac Efron.