“Don’t Blink in the Library”

A Doctor Who Parody

Sponsored by the Topeka and Shawnee County Library

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List of Speaking Characters
PATRON 1 – Library computer user
PATRON 2 – Library computer user
DOCTOR – Space- and time-travelling humanoid
HYDRANGEA – DOCTOR’s spunky companion
NEWSPAPER PERSON – Bystander with a newspaper and a bad attitude
COLIN – A helpful librarian
BARISTA – Coffee shop employee

For continuity and editing reasons actors portraying DOCTOR must wear a trench coat and red bow tie, those portraying the companion HYDRANGEA must wear a blonde wig and jean jacket, and actors portraying COLIN must wear a sweater vest and glasses. Also, it is recommended that actors portraying the author statues mentioned in the script wear appropriately identifying costuming (i.e. the actor portraying the Mark Twain statue could wear a white wig and large white moustache). Be creative!

List of Scenes/Locations
Scene 1: Computer center in a library
Scene 2: Grounds of the state capitol building
Scene 3: Library entrance and computer center
Scene 4: Library computer center
Scene 5: Coffee shop
Scene 6: Library
Scene 7: Outside a library or other public building

Filming locations can vary (the library, a city park, your parent’s basement, etc.), just make sure you use appropriate props to imply the script location (i.e. a desk to represent a service desk at the library). Also, make sure that you have permission to film in a location before you begin filming.

If you are filming at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library please check in first at the main desk with the Manager in Charge so that they are aware of your activities.
SCENE 1 (Location: Computer center in a library)

[Various patrons are busy typing away on computers.]

PATRON 1: Woo hoo! I just finished my essay about Billie Piper! Emailed it to the instructor and I am DONE!

PATRON 2: Dang, that was quick. I haven’t finished my essay about Matt Smith yet. Enjoy your freedom – I’ll catch up with you later.

PATRON 1: Okay, loser - see you later.

[PATRON 1 exits; PATRON 2 turns back to the computer, suddenly there is an ominous shadowy figure which places a hand on PATRON 2; PATRON 2 giggles uncontrollably before turning back to the computer; PATRON 2 begins to audibly whisper “Let sane, let sane, let sane…”]

Scene 2 (Location: Grounds of the state capitol building)

[DOCTOR and HYDRANGEA emerge from their special traveling cube and begin walking towards the capitol building]

DOCTOR: Ahh, Hydrangea! Topeka, Kansas! This is what will become to be known as the Universe’s Longest, Continuous Construction Project. In a few millennia the natives will know it as “This is what my tax dollars built for approximately 3,000 years.” The capitol dome is made with pure copper, and it costs a lot of tax dollars, approximately 3,000 years’ worth. Inside are some of the most famous murals. Hmm... I wonder what year this actually is... They don’t seem to be too far along in their project...

[Person walks by with newspaper]

HYDRANGEA: Hey, can we see that newspaper?

NEWSPAPER PERSON: No, buy your own.

HYDRANGEA: (speaking sweetly) Please, we don’t have any of the monies.

NEWSPAPER PERSON: Well maybe you should have thought of that before.

[HYDRANGEA goes ahead and swipes the newspaper from Newspaper Person’s hands, and then DOCTOR takes it from HYDRANGEA]

DOCTOR: Ahh, let’s see...it’s 2013. That was a great...Oi! Check this out!
[DOCTOR shows HYDRANGEA newspaper; headline reads “Library Computer Usage in Crisis”]

DOCTOR: It seems that patrons have been sitting at the library computers constantly, and librarians can’t get them to leave. I believe it’s worth our time to check out.

[Newspaper Person, who has been standing nearby listening to the conversation, grabs the newspaper back]

NEWSPAPER PERSON: Maybe you should go check it out, and LEAVE ME ALONE.

[NEWSPAPER PERSON exits]

HYDRANGEA: To the library?

DOCTOR: To the library!

[HYDRANGEA and DOCTOR begin walking to the library]

HYDRANGEA: (as an afterthought) Is it safe to leave that here (points at traveling cube)?

DOCTOR: What? You mean the RHOMBUS? The Righteously Holographic Other-dimensional Moving Box of Unusual Spaciousness?

HYDRANGEA: Yes.

DOCTOR: It’ll be fine.

[HYDRANGEA and DOCTOR continue walking to the library]

Scene 3 (Location: Library entrance and computer center)

[DOCTOR and HYDRANGEA walk into the library and up to COLIN, a librarian; DOCTOR produces “psychic paper”]

DOCTOR: Bob Smith, Book Inspector.

COLIN (the librarian): Sir, this says “Bikini Inspector.” Do you have your library card?

DOCTOR: Oh, technicalities... Anyway, I’m the Doctor and this is Hydrangea. We were curious about the strange goings-on in the computer area.

COLIN: Doctor what?

DOCTOR: Oh, nothing just Doctor.
COLIN: You look more like a nurse practitioner to me. Anyway... *(looks at psychic paper again)*... Uh, okay, right this way.

[DOCTOR and HYDRANGEA follow COLIN to the computer area where patrons are sitting at the computers muttering the seemingly nonsense sentences “Let Sane,” “Dear angel pole”, “I am a weakish speller”, “I’m raw tank”, and “All-knowing, jet hero”; DOCTOR notices a statue of author JK Rowling nearby]

DOCTOR: *(excitedly)* Is that a statue of JK Rowling!?!?

COLIN: Yes, it’s one of five new statues of famous authors that have been installed this week. I heard they’re a gift from some anonymous benefactor.

DOCTOR: *(inspecting the statue)* Oh, good old JK! Very funny person, she’ll josh around with you and then afterwards she’ll say “JK!”... Not entirely sure what that means, but it’s very hysterical nonetheless. Very creative too. *(To HYDRANGEA)* Did you know she wrote the Harry Potter books? Oh, Deathly Hallows... I cried... *(awkward pause as Doctor gets emotional, HYDRANGEA and COLIN stare at Doctor incredulously)* So, uh... What’s wrong with the patrons?

COLIN: No clue. They came here one day, logged on a computer and never got off. They’re always muttering some weird sentences. Like that one over there keeps saying “Dear Angel Pole”, and that one keeps saying “I am a weakish speller.” It’s rather disconcerting...and grammatically incorrect.

*[Several patrons on computers are shown, mumbling the above phrases]*

HYDRANGEA: Doctor, what’s wrong with these people? Why are they saying these things?

DOCTOR: No clue.

*[DOCTOR goes around muttering, sonic-ing everyone with a sonic stapler; Doctor becomes befuddled when nothing turns up; while this is happening COLIN and HYDRANGEA talk]*

COLIN: What is he doing?

HYDRANGEA: It’s a...tool. A sonic stapler. It’s best not to ask.

COLIN: Never mind. Hey, you ever been to Chuck-E-Cheese?

HYDRANGEA: No.

COLIN: Well, it IS a pinnacle of early 21st century dining and entertainment. And I get off work in exactly one minute.
HYDRANGEA: Well, when you put it that way how can I resist?

COLIN: Let’s go then!

HYDRANGEA: Bye, Doc.

[COLIN and HYDRANGEA leave the library; DOCTOR, who doesn’t notice they have exited, is left alone with patrons at the computers]

DOCTOR: Huh. This person is searching Billie Piper. Wonder who that is?

[Doctor searches Billie Piper on the internet]

DOCTOR: That looks just like Hydrangea! How odd!

[Suddenly a shadowy figure conjures behind the DOCTOR and DOCTOR turns and lets out a girly giggle; a stone hand touches him and then he calmly returns to the computer and starts to mutter “All-knowing jet hero, all-knowing jet hero...”]

Scene 4 (Location: Library computer center)

[COLIN and HYDRANGEA stumble back in to the computer area laughing]

COLIN: And that’s why I always say HAVING FUN ISN’T HARD WHEN YOU’VE GOT A LIBRARY CARD!

[HYDRANGEA and COLIN then notice the DOCTOR is at the computer, playing a game]

HYDRANGEA: (looking at the doctor) NO ... PLEASE...NO... NOOOOOO!

COLIN: Something isn’t right. Let’s get out of here. Maybe we can figure it out.

Scene 5 (Location: Coffee shop)

[COLIN and HYDRANGEA are in line to order coffee]

COLIN: (finishing up a conversation while in line) ...and that’s why I love William Shakespeare.

HYDRANGEA: I can respect that.

BARISTA: So, a white mocha fat-free, sugar-free latte for you (looks at HYDRANGEA) ...and for you sir (looks at COLIN)?
COLIN: I like my coffee like my soul. Black.

[COLIN pays for the order]

BARISTA: (laughing) Alright, what’s the name for the order?

COLIN: Colin Morker.

BARISTA: How do you spell that? Sorry, I am a weakish speller.

COLIN: Wait, what did you say?

BARISTA: I am a weakish speller...?

COLIN: HOLY ANAGRAM HYDRANGEA!

HYDRANGEA: What?

COLIN: THAT SOUNDS LIKE “WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE!”

HYDRANGEA: It does?

COLIN: Yes, and the people in the library were saying the exact same thing!

HYDRANGEA: So...?

COLIN: Well, it’s an anagram.

HYDRANGEA: What’s an anagram?

Colin: An anagram is a word or phrase that’s formed by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase.

HYDRANGEA: So, if I take the phrase “I am a weakish speller” and rearrange the letters I get...

Colin: William Shakespeare!

HYDRANGEA: Wasn’t one of the new statues by the computers at the library of William Shakespeare?

COLIN: Yes, I think there was!

HYDRANGEA: Well that could explain one thing – “I am a weakish speller” could be connected to the Shakespeare statue. But what about the other phrases the patrons were saying? “I’m raw tank”, “Let sane”, “Dear angel pole”, and “All-knowing jet hero”?

COLIN: Maybe they’re anagrams too.
HYDRANGEA: Well, sit down and anagram them out!

COLIN: Why me? And, for the record, I’m pretty sure that “anagram” isn’t a verb.

HYDRANGEA: Are you kidding? I can’t spell to save my life! And I would know. On this one planet we visited, the Doctor and I almost died because I couldn’t spell “Raxacoricofallapatorius”.

COLIN: Is that even a real word?

HYDRANGEA: It’s an alien.

[Awkward pause]

COLIN: (asks sincerely) Are aliens real?

HYDRANGEA: Yes, but that’s not important now. What’s important is figuring out those anagrams!

COLIN: (muttering to himself) Aliens exist and that’s not important right now... (To HYDRANGEA) Get me a piece of paper.

[HYDRANGEA hands him a piece of paper and a pen and the two sit down at a table]

COLIN: Okay, what was the first anagram?

HYDRANGEA: Um... “Let sane”.

COLIN: Let’s see here (writing on paper) “Else ant...”

HYDRANGEA: I don’t think that’s it.

COLIN: Thanks, Sherlock.

HYDRANGEA: Can you pull an author’s name out of it? Like you did with William Shakespeare?

COLIN: Let me see here... (He stares at the paper for a bit) Um... what authors have an “L” in their name?

HYDRANGEA: (looks at Colin in disbelief) You’re a librarian, shouldn’t you know this?

COLIN: Just because I’m a librarian doesn’t mean that I know all the authors. (sheepishly) I may have spent more of my time reading graphic novels and manga volumes rather than classic literature. Are you going to help me or not?
HYDRANGEA: Okay, jeez, I’ll help. Er, let’s see, authors with an L in their name…Lord Byron? *(COLIN shakes head “No”)* Lewis Carroll? *(COLIN shakes head “No”)* Lang? Lorax? Lee? Does Lee work with anything?

[A coffee customer with a Marvel-themed t-shirt walks by and catches COLIN’s eye]

COLIN: YES… *(writing on the paper)* YES IT DOES! Stan Lee wrote most of the best-known Marvel graphic novels! Thor...Spiderman...The Avengers. He even shows up in each of the Marvel movies, complete with his mustache and big glasses.

HYDRANGEA: Wait! There was a statue of him too, I’m sure of it. That’s two statues of anagrammed authors in the library.

COLIN: All those years of reading graphic novels might pay off after all. They must be connected somehow – the statues and the anagrams. What were the other statues in the library?

HYDRANGEA: Well...there were five of them...William Shakespeare...Stan Lee...

COLIN: Do you remember any of the others?

HYDRANGEA: Mark Twain, I think.

COLIN: Yes… *(writing on the paper)* Yes... I think... Mark Twain anagrams into “I’m raw tank”.

HYDRANGEA: I think there was also one of Edgar Allen Poe. At least I think it was him. A funny little guy with a small moustache and a cravat.

COLIN: *(not bothering with the paper)* Edgar Allen Poe...can become... “Dear angel pole!”

HYDRANGEA: What about “All knowing jet hero?”

COLIN: I don’t know.

HYDRANGEA: Write it down on the paper!

*[COLIN begins writing on the paper]*

COLIN: *(suddenly laughing)* Oh that’s brilliant...

HYDRANGEA: What?

COLIN: JK Rowling. Joanne K. Rowling...with an extra letter or two, becomes “All-knowing jet hero.”
HYDRANGEA: *(laughing as well)* That’s amazing. Doctor would be pleased!

COLIN: Well, that solves one problem at least.

HYDRANGEA: The statues of famous authors are somehow causing the patrons’ unusual behavior at the computers.

COLIN: Yep.

HYDRANGEA: Now the big problem is figuring out how to fix it.

COLIN: I don’t have an answer for that, unless it’s hidden in an anagram.

*[COLIN and HYDRANGEA are silent, thinking to themselves]*

HYDRANGEA: *(as if a light bulb has gone off in her head)* What if... the answer is in the books they wrote?

COLIN: What?

HYDRANGEA: Maybe the answer is in the books that the authors wrote.

COLIN: It’s worth a shot!

HYDRANGEA: To the library then?

COLIN: To the library!

BARISTA: *(holding the coffees they ordered earlier, calling after them)* Hey! Don’t you want your coffee?

*[COLIN and HYDRANGEA exit]*

Scene 6 (Location: Library)

HYDRANGEA: *(frustrated)* I can’t find the books Rowling wrote!

COLIN: *(sarcastically)* Maybe you should ask a librarian.

HYDRANGEA: Right...

*[Awkward pause]*

HYDRANGEA: Colin, where are the JK Rowling books?
COLIN:  Hold on, let me get one.

HYDRANGEA:  Okay.

[COLIN leaves to go get a book]

HYDRANGEA:  (calling after him) Be careful! Avoid the statues!

[COLIN takes a while getting a book, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* or whatever JK Rowling book is available; COLIN maneuvers to avoid the statues; unfortunately, as he comes back to HYDRANGEA, a statue begins to follow him]

COLIN:  (calling out to HYDRANGEA) I got the book!

HYDRANGEA:  That’s gr-

[She notices the statue trailing COLIN]

HYDRANGEA:  COLIN! LOOK OUT!

[COLIN looks behind him, notices the statue and begins to run; one of the statues is seen chasing COLIN AND HYDRANGEA around; COLIN and HYDRANGEA lose the statue at some point and run into the computer room and sit down next to DOCTOR]

HYDRANGEA:  Well that was a workout.

[COLIN is breathing very heavily; HYDRANGEA notices]

HYDRANGEA:  Are you alright?

COLIN:  I haven’t run like that since high school.

HYDRANGEA:  Oh.

[Silence]

COLIN:  (still catching his breath) Read the book out loud. It might help to have two people listening and thinking.

HYDRANGEA:  Good idea.

[HYDRANGEA begins to read the JK Rowling book aloud; as soon as she starts reading, DOCTOR makes twitching movements, but these go unnoticed by HYDRANGEA and COLIN; after HYDRANGEA has finished reading the first page of the book, DOCTOR gives a mighty shake and snaps out of his trance]
HYDRANGEA and COLIN: Doctor!

THE DOCTOR: What did I miss? *(big smile)*

[HYDRANGEA and COLIN laugh]

THE DOCTOR: What? *(totally clueless)*

HYDRANGEA: Oh, nothing. Colin just figured everything out.

COLIN: Hydrangea please. You were the one who figured out it had something to do with the books. You’ve got a smart girlfriend there, Doctor.

[DOCTOR and HYDRANGEA start, look at each other awkwardly, and then at COLIN]

HYDRANGEA and DOCTOR: *(both don serious faces)* We’re not dating.

COLIN: …Right. Well, what are we going to do about the rest of these people and the statues?

HYDRANGEA: We know how to fix the people. We have to read them a book by the author they’re anagramming.

DOCTOR: Sounds easy enough.

COLIN: There’s still the problem of the statues though. We’ve got to find a way to stop them from doing this again!

HYDRANGEA: We can’t touch them; otherwise we’ll be stuck in a never ending loop of one of us getting touched by an author statue and the others snapping them out of it!

DOCTOR: I think I have an idea.

COLIN: What is it?

DOCTOR: *(excitedly)* If the readings from my sonic stapler are correct, the statues run off the cerebral energy generated by the people using the computers. This sort of kinetic spark charges the atmosphere in the library to a very high level of potential frequency.

[A very confused COLIN looks from the DOCTOR to HYDRANGEA and back to DOCTOR]

DOCTOR: I think that if we rescue all the people and then turn off the computers, we might just get rid of their source of energy, and then the statues will just…fade away.

HYDRANGEA: Sounds good to me. We’ll have to do it quickly though, look!
[She points towards the entrance of the computer room; EDGAR ALLEN POE, SHAKESPEARE, and MARK TWAIN statues are moving slowly towards the computer room]

DOCTOR: They must be coming to get more power! We haven’t a moment to lose!

[DOCTOR, HYDRANGEA AND COLIN all quickly find a book by each author and begin reading aloud to the people touched by the statues; soon all the “computer zombies” are back to normal, and COLIN and DOCTOR pull the plugs on the computers while HYDRANGEA gathers the former “computer zombies” into the back of the room to protect them; JK ROWLING and STAN LEE have joined the other statues, but all five of them are too late; DOCTOR pulls the last plug out and the statues collapse to the ground; all bystanders and participants cheer]

**Special note: participants do NOT have permission to unplug public computers at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library. Use creative filming techniques to imply this action.**

Scene 7 (Location: Outside a library or other public building)

[The next day, with RHOMBUS nearby]

DOCTOR: Well, that was quite the adventure!

HYDRANGEA: Yes, it was.

COLIN: Agreed.

DOCTOR: And to think, we couldn’t have done it without you, Colin!

COLIN: It was nothing.

HYDRANGEA: It was everything! You were absolutely fantastic, Colin!

COLIN: Aw, thanks, guys!

[All three hug]

DOCTOR: Well, Hydrangea and I best be going.

COLIN: Darn. I was hoping you’d stay a bit longer.

HYDRANGEA: Well, there are other planets to see and save.

COLIN: (sincerely) Sounds like fun.

[DOCTOR and HYDRANGEA share a look]
DOCTOR: You know Colin, you could come with us if you’d like.

COLIN: I would, but I have a job to do here.

DOCTOR: What’s that?

COLIN: Oh, recommending books, reading things, saving the world. You know, library business.

[They all laugh; HYDRANGEA and DOCTOR go into the RHOMBUS, waving goodbye to their new friend; COLIN watches in awe as the RHOMBUS fades away, and then goes and prepares to begin a new day at the library]

End.