

# THE KID WHO RAN FOR PRESIDENT

Based on the book by  
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Adapted for the stage by  
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The Magik Theatre  
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Perusal Copy

**A BARE STAGE. WE SEE RED WHITE AND BLUE BUNTING DRAPED FROM THE BATENS. POLITICAL POSTERS ARE HANGING EVERYWHERE A GROUP OF 12 YEAR OLDS IS IN PLACE AS THE MUSIC STARTS.**

**Have you ever played the game called politics?  
Buy it at TOYS R US, then play  
Players become politicians  
Who determines how we live today.**

**Do we end the war?  
Do we fly to the stars?  
Do we laugh at ideas which seem wild?  
Can we care for the poor?  
Send the greedy to Mars?  
Or maybe just feed a hungry child?**

**So vote for Kid Power  
Give it a chance  
It's the children's hour  
Let them lead this dance.  
So vote for Kid Power  
It's your chance to change the world.**

**AT RISE:**

**A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY, LANE BRAINARD, STANDS IN A SPOT IN FRONT OF THE RED WHITE AND BLUE BUNTING**

**LANE**

**Ladies and gentlemen...boys and girls...boys and girls...at 1:52 Eastern Standard Time, on November 5<sup>th</sup> in the year 2008...CNN and MSBC have both projected that the vote is in California and that the new President of the United States is.....**

**SPOT UP ON JUDSON MOON**

**JUDSON**

**I can't believe this is happening. I may be President of the United States. It started out as a goof. Lane came up with this crazy idea and it got crazier from there. We were sitting in the Tree House, about a year ago**

**LIGHTS OUT ON JUDSON. UP ON A TREE HOUSE. JUDSON MOON AND HIS FRIEND LAN BRAINARD ARE PLAYING A VIDEO GAME. LANE WINS THE GAME.**

**LANE**

**Yes! Brainard remains undefeated.**

**JUDSON**

**Don't rub it in. Let's watch T.V**

**LANE**

**It's Sunday.**

**JUDSON**

**So what?**

**LANE**

**We'd have to watch my favorite show.**

**THEY PLAY AND TALK**

**JUDSON**

**What's your favorite show?**

**LANE**

**Meet the Press.**

**JUDSON**

**Come on...Seriously**

**LANE**

**Seriously. I like Meet the Press.**

**JUDSON**

**You don't find it a little bit boring...**

**LANE**

**No.**

**JUDSON**

**Just a little....tiny...bit.....BORING**

**LANE**

**You know who should be running this country, Moon?**

**JUDSON**

**Bugs Bunny and Michael Jordon.**

**LANE**

**A kid...Can you image that? A kid running for president of the United States. Think about it. We're four years into a new millennium. A kid becomes the most powerful person in the world. What a mindblower!**

**JUDSON**

**Don't you have to be at least thirty-five to run for President?**

LANE

There are ways around that.

JUDSON

You ought to run for president, Lane. You're probably the smartest kid around.

LANE

People don't want a smart President. They want a president who makes them feel good. If they wanted a smart president, Albert Einstein would have been elected.

JUDSON

He wasn't!

LANE

Moon, you're a dunce....a loveable dunce...but a definite dunce.

JUDSON

I was kidding, I know Einstein. He's the one who came up with equation E equals MC squared, which means nothing to kids and grown ups all over the world...but it sounds great when you're trying to impress a girl. Hey..Can I hold you're hand...I don't know...E equals MC square...wow...sure you can walk me home.

LANE

Wait a minute...You are loveable.... Moon,...why don't you run for President?

JUDSON

Very funny. ..HAHAHAHA

LANE

You're perfect! People *like* you. You make them laugh. You put them at ease. You've got a good presidential name, *Judson Moon*. You look like an All-American boy. You're tall. You've got good hair...You look just like a modern politician.

JUDSON

Right...people are going to elect me because they like my hair.

LANE

This is America, Moon...The land of opportunity. They've always taught us that *any* kid can grow up to be President. Judson Moon...this is your chance. You could be president.

JUDSON

Would you cut it out...The joke's gone far enough.

**LANE**

**I am completely, totally, absolutely, one hundred percent serious. YOU HAVE TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT!**

**JUDSON**

**Why?**

**LANE**

**When I was little, we used to play this game called King of the Hill. There would be a big mountain of dirt or gravel. All the kids would scramble to the top. Then we'd push each other and try to knock each other down the mountain. The kid who was still at the top of the hill at the end was the king of the hill. Look at me...I've always been small and skinny...and the other kids always knocked me down on my face. I was never King of The Hill. The President of the United States is sorta like the King of the Hill. I guess...if I could get you elected, it would be sorta like I was King of the Hill, too.**

**LIGHTS OUT ON TREEHOUSE**

**LIGHTS UP ON JUNE SYERS PORCH.  
SHE IS A WISE OLD BLACK LADY WHO  
SITS IN A WHEEL CHAIR ON HER PORCH  
AND WATCHES THE WORLD GO BY. SHE  
IS DRINKING SOME LEMONAIDE AS  
JUDSON WALKS BY**

**JUNE**

**Judson.....**

**HE KEEPS WALKING, OBLIVIOUS.**

**Judson!**

**HE KEEPS WALKING**

**JUDSON MOON!**

**HE STOPS AND TURNS**

**What's the matter with you, son?**

**JUDSON**

**Hi, Mrs. Syers**

**JUNE**

**I been callin your name....You got beans in your ears.**

**JUDSON**

**I was just thinking about something.**

**JUNE**

**You come up here this very minute and have a glass of lemonade with me, or I'll tell your momma on you.**

**JUSDON WALKS ONTO HER PORCH**

**I been baby sittin you since you were three months old child, and you ain't never ignored me before.**

**JUDSON**

**I wasn't ignoring you. I was preoccupied.**

**JUNE**

**You in the fifth grade now, Judson**

**JUDSON**

**Sixth.**

**JUNE**

**That's your problem. Everybody thinks the sixth grade is the perfect grade....You've finally moved out of elementary school, and you know everything in the world there is to know. In the fourth grade, you know nothing. In the fifth grade, you know nothing. Then, suddenly you hit the sixth grade and you know it ALL. Nobody can tell you nothing.**

**JUDSON**

**I don't think I know everything....**

**JUNE**

**But, that new boy, the one with the Brain name.**

**JUDSON**

**Lane Brainard.**

**JUNE**

**He thinks he knows everything.**

**JUDSON**

**He does.**

**JUNE**

**Well...maybe he does....and maybe he doesn't...You know...a funny thing happens when you get older and become a grown up.**

**JUDSON**

**What's that?**

**JUNE**

**You don't know nothing, again. Strangest thing...You don't know nothin**

**SHE LAUGHS, HYSTERICALLY**

**JUDSON**

Who was the first President your voted for, Mrs. Syers?

**JUNE**

Franklin Delllllllllano Roosevelt! You want to know the name of the last President I voted for?

**JUDSON**

Who?

**JUNE**

Frankling Delllllllllano Roosevelt!

**JUDSON**

You haven't voted since-----

**JUNE**

Since 1944. Over fifty years.

**JUDSON**

Why not?

**JUNE**

Haven't come across anybody worth votin for since FDR

**JUDSON**

Truman? Eisenhower? Kennedy,?Reagan? Clinton...Bush?

**JUNE**

You got to be kidding me, son.

**JUSTIN**

None of them were worth voting for?

**JUNE**

Not in my book...They was just men in search of power...When a man---or woman---comes along who really wants to lead this country and not just PLAY politics, then I'll pull the lever for 'em. Till then, I'll just sit here on this porch and watch the world go down the toilet.

**JUDSON GULPS DOWN HIS LEMONADE  
AND PUTS OUT HIS HAND**

**JUDSON**



Mrs. Syers. My name is Judson Moon and I'm running for President.

JUNE

That's good....President of the student council is a good place to start

JUDSON

I'm not talking about the student council. I'm running for President of the You-nited States of America

JUNE

You crazy...Even when you were a toddler, you was crazy...I could see it in your eyes. I still remember the time we were bakin' a cake and you hid my glasses in the pan....Done baked them right into the cake... Runnin' for President...that's about the funniest thing you ever said.

JUDSON

I'm not joking....I'm really gonna do it.

JUNE

I always think of you like a second son, Judson..that's why I'm gonna give you this little piece of advice....Politics changes a person. It rips your heart out, and puts a stone in its place.

JUDSON PUTS THE GLASS DOWN  
AND STARTS OFF

JUDSON

It won't change me...not one little bit.

HE WALKS OFF

JUNE

You're openin a mighty big can of worms, Judson Moon....a mighty big can of worms, indeed!

LIGHTS OUT.

SINGERS

When we elect a man to run our beloved land  
who really runs the show? Wouldn't you like to know?  
Is it the man with the money.  
The wife with the style?  
That's why politics are funny  
And we vote with a smile  
It seems we get confused  
By the candidate we choose  
The words they always say.  
Seem to change from day to day.  
So listen...to the people  
Yes, listen to the people

They're the votes who count

LIGHTS OUT...UP ON SCHOOL CAFETARIA. KIDS ARE TALKING AND LAUGHING. JUDSON AND LANE ENTER.

MATT

Hey, Judson. What's happening?

JUDSON

I'm running for President

ERICA

And I'M Tina Fey

LIZ

I knew that.

JUDSON

I'm not kidding I'm running for President

EVERYONE TURNS...LOOKS AT HIM.. THEN LAUGHS.

JUDSON

I'm serious

LIZ

And I'm gonna fly to the moon on a bicycle built for two with Brad Pitt.

LANE

He's not kidding. He's really going run for President

ARTHUR KRANTZ, WITH GLASSES ON, TIE PERFECTLY KNOTTED, AND POCKET PROTECTOR IN PLACE WALKS OVER

ARTIE

What do you know about the Presidency, Moon?

JUDSON

A lot.

ARTIE

Oh yeah? If the President and the Vice president die, who becomes President?

JUDSON

That's easy. Arnold Schwarzenager