The `plari` document class
Typesetting stageplay scripts with LaTeX 2$_\varepsilon$[*]

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Abstract

A document class for typesetting stageplay scripts is described.

1 Usage

The document class `plari` behaves like the standard document class `report` except that (a) the sectioning commands `\section` *et cetera* do not work and (b) paragraphs are separated, not indented.

In addition the following macros are defined: `\newact` starts a new Act, `\newscene` starts a new scene, `\setting{`⟨*describe setting*⟩`}` starts a new scene and describes the new setting, `\repl{`⟨*speaker*⟩`}` begins a new line of dialogue, spoken by ⟨*speaker*⟩, and `\paren{`⟨*note*⟩`}` typesets a parenthetical note.

2 Implementation

First we warm up.

```
1 ⟨∗class⟩
2 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
3 \ProvidesClass{plari}[\filedate\space\fileversion\space\fileinfo]
4 \typeout{plari <\filedate:\fileversion> - typesetting stageplay scripts}
```

Currently we don't take any special arguments. We just let `report` handle them.

```
5 \DeclareOption*{\PassOptionsToClass{\CurrentOption}{report}}
6 \ProcessOptions
```

We steal most of our code from `report.cls`.

```
7 \LoadClass{report}
```

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[*]This document describes `plari.dtx` version number 19981102-CTAN dated 1998/11/02.

Now we get to the point. Acts are numbered individually, scenes are numbered within acts. When referenced, act numbers are Roman, and scenes are of the form ⟨Act⟩:⟨Scene⟩, where ⟨Scene⟩ is the current scene in Arabic.

```
 8 \newcounter{act}
 9 \newcounter{scene}[act]
10 \renewcommand{\theact}{\Roman{act}}
11 \renewcommand{\thescene}{\Roman{act}:\arabic{scene}}
```

Acts start a new page. Their numbers are typeset bold Huge. Scenes do not start a page, and their numbers are typeset medium Large.

```
12 \newcommand{\newact}{%
13   \refstepcounter{act}%
14   \newpage{\centering\bfseries\Huge--- \Roman{act} ---\par}%
15   \vspace{1.5cm plus .5cm minus .5cm}%
16   }
17 \newcommand{\newscene}{%
18   \refstepcounter{scene}%
19   \bigskip%
20   {\centering\mdseries\Large\arabic{scene}\par}%
21   \medskip%
22   }
```

Most scenes come with a change of scenery. The setting is typeset with normal size italic, but with reduced canavas. Describing a setting changes scene.

```
23 \newcommand{\setting}[1]{%
24   \newscene%
25   \begingroup%
26     \list{}{%
27       \listparindent=\parindent%
28       \parsep=\parskip%
29       \topsep=\z@%
30       \rightmargin=\leftmargin%
31       }%
32     \item%
33     \let\item\@undefined%
34     {\normalsize\itshape\mdseries#1\par}%
35     \endlist%
36   \endgroup%
37   }
```

Every line in dialogue is preceded by a name. The name is typeset centered, in normal size medium series small caps. The next paragraph should not be indented.

```
38 \newcommand{\repl}[1]{%
39   \medskip%
40   {\centering\normalsize\mdseries\scshape#1\par}%
41 %  \smallskip%
42   }
```

Sometimes parenthetical notes must be inserted within dialogue. These notes are typeset in italic.

```
43 \newcommand{\paren}[1]{\textit{#1}}
```

We do not want indents. Instead, we'll have a skip between paragraphs.

44 `\parindent=\z@`
45 `\parskip=\medskipamount\relax`

We don't want the user to use LaTeX standard sectioning.

46 `\let\@startsection\@undefined`

We are done for good.

47 ⟨/class⟩