

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 1: Short Sketches for Adults

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Whilst these sketches were written for adults, some of them may also appeal to children and teenagers. The quoted run-times are a guideline only; so much depends on an individual production.

A 21st Century Nativity

Author Peter van der Sluijs

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 11. Minimum total without doubling = 11. No chorus.

Runtime Around 7 minutes.

Music The producer's copy of the script suggests six carols to be interspersed between the scenes. (These would increase the run time to up to 30 minutes.) Lazy Bee Scripts does not supply any sheet music with this script.

Style Short nativity play (though considerably longer if the suggested carols are sung), with optional traditional nativity tableau. Six scenes, but minimal set requirements.

Outline What would the story of the birth of Jesus be like if it were to happen now?

A Day at the Races

Author Will van der Lande

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 6 minutes.

Music None.

Style A short, absurd sketch. No set requirements, a few props.

Outline It's the Duck Derby and an Aristocrat is exchanging small talk with the owner of today's favourite, Dangerous Dennis. Surely nothing can prevent a win for Dennis today?

A Fever For Me 'At

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short rhyming monologue in a cockney accent! Designed to form part of a music hall entertainment. (No set, no props.)

Outline A lady who glories in the correct headgear (and the accessories for it) reveals the trouble she went to, preparing for tea with the vicar.

A Monster Catch

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Five-minute comedy sketch. No particular set requirements.

Outline Two fishermen discuss a new theory on the nature of the Loch Ness Monster.

A Pilot's Thoughts at the End of the War

Author Philippa Roberts

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Five minute serious monologue with no set or prop requirements.

Outline The war in question is the Second World War, and the pilot is regretting participating in the bombing of Dresden.

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A Play Starring No One

Author Molly McCluskey

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 7 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy skit. Designed to be performed front-of-curtain, so ideal material for covering a scene change in a sketch show.

Outline Harold is working hard to make his customary introduction to a play that's had some trouble with leading ladies, but Noreen keeps interrupting him. What will the audience think? Nothing at all, as it turns out.

A Second Hand

Author Lucy Cooper

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style A short telephone monologue, delivering dead-pan comedy. No set. Simple props.

Outline A salesman tries to buy a second hand car and ends up considering taking a second look at his chosen career.

A Ventriloquist's Tale

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short rhyming comedy monologue (no set or props required).

Outline A Ventriloquist who fears he's being controlled by his dummy seeks professional help and gets some straight talking.

Across The Road

Author Peter Lancaster Walker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 6 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short sketch. Single set. Several domestic props - at least at the start of the play.

Outline Mary and Henry are having a quiet afternoon at home, when Mary spots some strange goings on next door. It's a pity she doesn't keep a better eye on her own house...

Albert in the 21st Century

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 2 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy monologue, in the style of - and referring to - Marriott Edgar's 'Albert and the Lion' (made famous by Stanley Holloway).

Outline You've heard how young Albert Ramsbottom
At a zoo, for a lion, was chow
Now here's a lament from Ray Lawrence
Saying things like that don't happen now!

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An Apple for Newton

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = . Minimum Female roles = . Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 7 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short prose monologue - no set requirements or props, but some ingenuity required for the costume!

Outline An apple tree gets to the core of Isaac Newton's most famous discovery.

An Arrowing Experience

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy monologue, no set, no props. Might even be regarded as educational (English Key Stage 3 history topic 'The Normans')

Outline The famous arrow that took King Harold in the eye at Hastings gives his (or her) side of the story. A humorous monologue with comedy accent.

An Ice Mess You Got Me Into

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Monologue. No set, no props.

Outline An iceberg complains about the unexpected results of being struck by a certain liner in 1912.

Another Ice Mess You Got Me Into

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short prose monologue. No set or props, though the speaker is required to dress as a ship! Contains mild swearing.

Outline A ship reflects on its brief association with an iceberg in 1912 from its position on the seabed.

Anything to Declare?

Author David Lovesy & Steve Clark

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy sketch. Requires a table and a suitcase (the contents of which can either be hidden from the view of the audience, or revealed for greater comic effect).

Outline A traveller has his bags checked at Customs and some unusual items are discovered!

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Archibald Page

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Rhyming comedy monologue

Outline Archibald Page is an aspiring actor whose can't get any work because his face doesn't fit. He visits a plastic surgeon and subsequently has a run-in with a punch-line!

Are We There Yet?

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 6 minutes.

Music None.

Style An allegorical sketch about Advent! (Minimal staging requirements)

Outline A family explore a different way to start their holiday. A play with an Advent theme.

At the Bus Stop

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Simple one-woman sketch!

Outline An old lady rambles to a bus stop, and carries on rambling.

Back in the Bookshop

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = . Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy sketch. Simple props - books!

Outline People go into a bookshop and.. um.. buy books. Or not. (This is not a sequel to the TLC Creative sketch 'In the Bookshop', but it could very easily be the same store, whence the title.)

Bill, Emmie and the Queen of Tonga

Author Philippa Roberts

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style A short play in which a small piece of real history illuminates a slice of family life. Single (simple domestic) set.

Outline A couple have traveled from Tonga to see their own queen come to England, and to make sure that their niece and nephew watch the coronation of Queen Elizabeth the Second on TV while their parents are in London. Unfortunately they are much more interested in the Tongan queen than in Elizabeth.

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Birds, Bees and Gooseberry Bushes

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short sketch, no set requirements, simple props

Outline A father struggles to overcome his embarrassment long enough to explain the facts of life to his teenage son while they are on holiday.

Breaking News

Author Stuart Ardern

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 2 minutes.

Music None.

Style Two minute sketch. Single set (a news desk).

Outline A newsreader has to cope with unforeseen technical problems in the newsroom.

Casual-ty

Author Jack Burgess

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Five-minute sketch spoofing surgical soap opera. (Part of the *Acting Funny* collection of sketches.)

Outline An operation is in progress, and the outlook for the patient is bleak...

Changes

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Two-handed comedy sketch. Single simple set (table and chairs).

Outline James arrives back from work to discover that his home has suddenly succumbed to an attack of minimalism!

Contact

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 7 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch, simple set (a park bench) no props.

Outline In the park, Simon and Alice are both waiting...

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Dad's Revenge

Author Archie Wilson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy sketch, single set (a living-room indicated by the presence of an armchair), simple props.

Outline Natalie is sixteen and trying hard to drive her Dad round the bend. She wants him to drive her and her boyfriend out for their night's clubbing, but can he put a stop to it?

Duck Bread

Author Billy Doyle

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 6 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch. Single (outdoor) set. The script includes mild swearing.

Outline A man is in the park, about to feed bread to the ducks. Unfortunately, it's the wrong sort of bread...

Enlightenment

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy sketch. Single set (the interior of a filling station), simple props.

Outline Victor is seriously depressed - until a chance encounter in a filling station sends his life in an unexpected direction!

For Both of Us

Author Peter Vincent

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short play. Minimal set, minimal props.

Outline Lisa tries to deal with her mother's increasing symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. A story of love, loss and compassion.

Getting Away From It All

Author Peter Lancaster Walker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy sketch, single set (minimal indication of a travel agent's office).

Outline A tricky customer finally gets a holiday he's never tried before, but it's somewhere awfully familiar.

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Goodbye, Again

Author Molly McCluskey

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch/short play. Single simple (restaurant) set - one table. Simple props, although the waiter brings two pasta dishes to the table!

Outline He thinks he knows what he wants... She knows.

Great Moments in History, Number 1

Author Jack Burgess

Roles Minimum Male roles = 4. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 8. No chorus.

Runtime Around 6 minutes.

Music None.

Style Historical skit in three short scenes. (Part of the *Acting Funny* collection of sketches.)

Outline The Norman Conquest. Up-to-the-minute news reports from the Battle of Hastings, using state-of-the-art news-gathering tapestry...

Great Moments in History, Number 2

Author Jack Burgess

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style Historical skit in one short scene. (Part of the *Acting Funny* collection of sketches.) Contains mild swearing and a telescope.

Outline The Spanish Armadillo. A Lady finds a fully paid-up Fool on look-out duty.

Great Moments in History, Number 5

Author Jack Burgess

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Five-minute sketch. (Part of the *Acting Funny* collection of sketches.)

Outline The Sinking of the Titanic. Observed, with stiff-upper-lip, by two elderly gentlemen and by a steward.

Heaven's Gate

Author Hilary Mackelden

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short sketch intended for church groups.

Outline Newcomers checking in at the gates of Heaven. (See also Hebrews 1, 1-3)

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Help! I've a Sausage Up My Nose!

Author Billy Doyle

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style A very silly short sketch. Theoretically set in a pub, but really no set or props required. (Contains mild swearing.)

Outline An old officer comes across his pal in a pub and perceives a problem with his probosis.

I Licked My Cat's Brain

Author Matthew Taylor

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = . Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 2 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short stand-up comedy sketch, two people, no scenery, no props.

Outline Well, the title says it all!

In the Bookshop

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style A short comedy sketch.

Outline A bookseller tries to pre-empt his customer's requests for books.

In the Human Resources Office

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style A short comedy play, or possibly a long sketch. Single office set (a desk).

Outline Tony has just been made redundant and goes to the Human Resources department to be processed. But Tricia is 'just covering'...

In the Magic Shop

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 7 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy sketch.

Outline A customer seeking magic tricks enters a magic shop and suffers the consequences!

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In the Opticians

Author Damian Trasler & David Lovesy

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy sketch of the punning kind. Minimal set requirements, a few simple props.

Outline A customer visits the opticians. Cue a string of daft eye and eyesight gags!

In the Secret Service

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy sketch. Single office set - a desk and two chairs.

Outline A hopeful job applicant attends an interview for the Secret Service.

Joseph's Dream

Author Hilary Mackelden

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short sketch intended for church groups.

Outline Joseph receives a visit from an angel. (Matthew , 18-25)

Leading Ladies

Author Christina Simpkin

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy sketch set on a busy stage!

Outline Bertha and Florence are backstage at the latest big production, preparing for the vital role they play in the piece. But they don't feed lines to anyone...

Light of the World

Author Hilary Mackelden

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 6. Minimum total without doubling = 6. No chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short sketch intended for church groups.

Outline What happened in the Inn the day after Jesus was born.

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Listen With Mother

Author Jack Burgess

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy sketch for one actress. (Part of the *Acting Funny* collection of sketches.) Contains mild swearing.

Outline A story teller reads a slightly twisted tale of a Princess and a Prince.

Lucky Penny

Author Carol Kline

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch with a single set - a park bench.

Outline A man sitting on a bench finds a penny at his feet. Picking it up, he suddenly finds himself the recipient of three doses of good fortune. See a penny...

Meet the Inventor

Author Stuart Ardern

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style A very short sketch. Set requirements: two chairs

Outline An interview with the inventor of a time machine explores just some of the paradoxes inherent in time travel.

Merger Talks

Author Tom Jensen

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy sketch. Single set, simple props.

Outline Two executives apply business principles to that most unmanageable thing - their relationship.

Mother and Daughter

Author Christina Simpkin

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 7 minutes.

Music None.

Style Very short one-act play - a gentle comedy. Single set, representing a living room.

Outline Ruth is off out on a date, but first she's got to answer all her mother's questions. Will mother ever approve of a man met over the internet? And why does she want Ruth to leave her computer on when he goes out?

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Mother of the Bride

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Either a rhyming monologue or a piece for a cast of five! No set requirements, no props.

Outline A mother of four (unwed) daughters bewails the lack of matrimonial bliss in her family.

Mrs Smith Monologue - At Centre Parcs

Author Dominique Vaughan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short character monologue. No set or props required.

Outline Mrs Smith recounts her adventures on a family holiday to Centre Parcs

Mrs Smith Monologue - Language

Author Dominique Vaughan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short character monologue. No set or props required. Contains mild swearing and mild adult themes.

Outline Mrs Smith has overheard some local gossip, which she is happy to share - along with her opinions on the art of appearing not to be listening, and her annoyance at the way meanings change.

Mrs Smith Monologue - Michelle's Diet

Author Dominique Vaughan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short character monologue. No set or props required.

Outline Mrs Smith reviews timekeeping and her daughter's approach to a healthier lifestyle.

Mrs Smith Monologue - My Day Out

Author Dominique Vaughan

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short character monologue. No set or props required.

Outline An account of Mrs. Smith's holiday - a day trip to the Bluewater shopping centre.

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On the Way to Mars

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Science fiction sketch, single simple set.

Outline On the first manned mission to Mars, the boredom and monotony of the long space flight is taking its toll. How long before the crew finally crack?

One Hell of an Interview

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 2 minutes.

Music None.

Style Sketch, single simple set (office)

Outline A recruitment drive for a commercial television channel receives interest from an unlikely and unwelcome source.

Private Moments

Author Philippa Roberts

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy monologue set on a bus.

Outline Through a series of phone conversations, we discover why a young woman on a bus no longer has a job, and we find her aspirations leading in other directions...

Scriptaholic

Author Billy Doyle

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. Chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style Very short comedy sketch with no specific requirements for set or props.

Outline When a new member joins Scriptaholic, a support group for script writers who have lost sight of the boundaries between fantasy and reality, even the group leader finds him too far gone for help.

Standards

Author Bob Tucker

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Two-handed sketch. Simple set.

Outline Penelope tries to help Philip come to terms with his middle age!

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T'um Fu Society Demonstration

Author Jack Burgess

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 7 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short skit. Contains mild swearing. (Part of the *Acting Funny* collection of sketches.)

Outline A demonstration of martial arts by a Great Warrior (Stanley Ramsbottom) and his young assistant.

The Butcher

Author Terry Adlam

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comic sketch, madcap style (think Monty Python), two characters simple set and props.

Outline A customer attempts to buy beef from a crazy butcher.

The Cautionary Tale of Miss Lucy Lockett

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = . Minimum Female roles = . Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy monologue - a cautionary tale told in verse

Outline Desperate for a life on the stage, Lucy Lockett tragically over-stretches herself!

The Crime Done in Rhyme

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 9. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Rhyming skit (parody of Dr. Seuss) no set requirements, a few common props.

Outline There's been murder afoot, but who can have done it? If there's a prize for rhymed mystery, this one has won it! The victim's a cat, but much more than that, He's a cat that has often been seen in a hat. A detective is called and a Mistress is found, (while the corpse of the cat is left there on the ground). It's funny, irreverent and won't take much time, and the best of it is, every line is in rhyme!

The Da Vinci Raffle

Author Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy sketch.

Outline A certain Mr Da Vinci is approached by a friend to see if he can knock out a quick painting to contribute to a raffle the man is holding at a social event the next day.

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The Doctor

Author Gary Diamond & Ray Lawrence

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 2 minutes.

Music None.

Style Very short comedy sketch.

Outline A man is called into his doctor's office for some very bad - and surprising - news.

The Engagement

Author Rebecca Preen

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 3. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy sketch. The essential element of the set is (the outside of) a toilet cubicle with a practical door. Whilst this seems a lot for a short sketch, we think that it's worth it!

Outline Mercedes is very keen for her two mates to admire her new engagement ring and tries to impress them with tales of her man's brilliance. Since they remain un-awed, she goes further and further until he accidentally reveals himself and is a lot less than they expected.

The Facts of Life

Author Mark Niel

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Five minute comedy sketch in which the audience is cast as an embarrassed teenager!. Single set (in theory a living room, but in practice this can be minimal).

Outline Some hands-on parents dealing with an embarrassing discovery. Well, if their son wants to learn about sex, then they'll tell him everything. In fact, better than that...

The Football Manager

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = . Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style An allegorical sketch about Advent! (Minimal staging requirements)

Outline A football manager has a novel approach to the game. A play with an Advent theme.

The Frustrated Poet

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 4 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy sketch. Simple set (desk and chair). Contains mild swearing. And poetry.

Outline A poet tries, but, sadly, fails, to write an ode to nightingales...

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 1: Short Sketches for Adults

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The Life Police

Author Tom Jensen

Roles Minimum Male roles = 3. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 5. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy sketch. Minimal set. Contains mild swearing and adult themes.

Outline Shearer and Gulley are macho cops, on their beat. Called to a domestic disturbance, they find Declan and Martha literally at each other's throats. Revealing their more sensitive side, they restore calm and domestic bliss before being called to another incident.

The Lost Sheep

Author Hilary Mackelden

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short sketch intended for church groups.

Outline A chance meeting on a train - a reflection on Christianity in every-day life.

The Match Girl Controversy

Author Damian Trasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 6 minutes.

Music None.

Style An allegorical sketch about Advent! (Minimal staging requirements)

Outline Discussions about the new 'Seasonal School presentation' get heated. An Advent-themed play.

The Pitch

Author Hilary Mackelden

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 3 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short sketch intended for church groups.

Outline Film-makers pitch a movie called 'The Father of God'. (Matthew , 18-25)

The Price Of A Goat Is Not What It Seems

Author Nikki Harmon

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 6 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short one-act play. No set or props required. Could be performed and enjoyed by a wide range of ages.

Outline A village headman tries to buy some goats for less than their worth, but the wily herdsman gets the better of him.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 1: Short Sketches for Adults

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The Second Amendment

Author Damian Trasler & Steve Clark

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Five minute comedy sketch. Single set (a police interrogation room - so just a couple of chairs and possibly a table).

Outline A police officer explores a hunter's constitutional right to bear arms.

The Work-Love Balance

Author Tom Jensen

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short, offbeat office-based comedy sketch.

Outline An office love triangle comes to a head on Valentine's Day as everyone speaks their mind.

To My Roommate

Author Erica Glenn

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 1. Minimum total without doubling = 1. No chorus.

Runtime Around 2 minutes.

Music None.

Style Very short monologue. (No set or props required.)

Outline A brief rant about the joys of sharing a room with someone given to anxiety!

Traffic Stop

Author Herb Hasler

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 6 minutes.

Music None.

Style Very short comedy play. Single set (or almost complete lack of set - the couple are, in theory, in a car, but this need only be indicated by a little movement).

Outline An argumentative couple have difficulties with each other and a traffic cop on their way to an important appointment.

Two Cops

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy skit with no set or prop requirements - therefore suitable for performing front-of-curtain to cover a scene change during a sketch show.

Outline Two police officers meet and indulge in a sort of bragging contest for who has the funniest police stories.

Section 3: Sketches, Skits and Ten-Minute Plays

Part 1: Short Sketches for Adults

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Two Farmers

Author Damian Trasler & David Lovesy

Roles Minimum Male roles = 0. Minimum Female roles = 0. Minimum total with doubling = 2. Minimum total without doubling = 2. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short sketch with no set and no props (give or take an implicit farm gate!)

Outline Two farmers converse! A thinly disguised string of dreadful farmyard-related jokes!

Upgrades

Author tlc Creative

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 8 minutes.

Music None.

Style Comedy skit. Single set. Some props for visual jokes!

Outline Flushed with the success of his new invention, Alexander Graham Bell describes his plans for upgrading his phone to his assistant, Watson.

Was Blind But Now I See

Author Howard Lipson

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 1. Minimum total with doubling = 7. Minimum total without doubling = 7. No chorus.

Runtime Around 7 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short skit, telling and examining a well-known fable from a Christian perspective. No set requirements.

Outline Five blind people encounter a curious object and work together to find out what it is, while a sighted pair react differently.

Wedding Party

Author Caroline Spencer

Roles Minimum Male roles = 2. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 4. Minimum total without doubling = 4. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Very short play. Single set, simple props. Part of the *Emotions* collection of shorts.

Outline An upper class couple are free with their opinions and disdain at a friends' wedding and end up embarrassing themselves with their assumptions.

You're Not Wearing That

Author Steve Menary

Roles Minimum Male roles = 1. Minimum Female roles = 2. Minimum total with doubling = 3. Minimum total without doubling = 3. No chorus.

Runtime Around 5 minutes.

Music None.

Style Short comedy play for and about teenagers. No set requirements.

Outline A Sister and Brother try to explain the concept of cool to their mother.