

How Could You?

Bara Swain





ArtAge supplies books, plays, and materials to older performers around the world. Directors and actors have come to rely on our 30+ years of experience in the field to help them find useful materials and information that makes their productions stimulating, fun, and entertaining.

ArtAge's unique program has been featured in *American Theatre*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Time Magazine*, *Modern Maturity*, on CNN, NBC, and in many other media sources.

ArtAge is more than a catalog. We also supply information, news, and trends on our top-rated website, www.seniortheatre.com. We stay in touch with the field with our very popular enewsletter, *Senior Theatre Online*. Our President, Bonnie Vorenberg, is asked to speak at conferences and present workshops that supplement her writing and consulting efforts. We're here to help you be successful in Senior Theatre!

We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!

ArtAge Publications

Bonnie L. Vorenberg, President

PO Box 19955

Portland OR 97280

503-246-3000 or 800-858-4998

bonniev@seniortheatre.com

www.seniortheatre.com

NOTICE

Copyright: This play is fully protected under the Copyright Laws of the United States of America, Canada, and all other countries of the Universal Copyright Convention.

The laws are specific regarding the piracy of copyrighted materials. Sharing the material with other organizations or persons is prohibited. Unlawful use of a playwright's work deprives the creator of his or her rightful income.

Cast Copies: Performance cast copies are required for each actor, director, stage manager, lighting and sound crew leader.

Changes to Script: Plays must be performed as written. Any alterations, additions, or deletions to the text must be approved.

Permission to Film: Rights to produce, film, or record, in whole or in part, in any medium or in any language, by any group amateur or professional, are fully reserved.

Royalty: Royalties are due when you perform the play for any audience, paying or non-paying, professional or amateur. This includes readings, cuttings, scenes, and excerpts.

The royalty for amateur productions of this show is posted online. It is payable two weeks prior to your production. Contact us for professional rates or other questions. Royalty fees are subject to change.

Insert the following paragraph in your programs:

“Performed with special permission from ArtAge Publications’ Senior Theatre Resource Center at 800-858-4998, www.seniortheatre.com.”

How Could You? Copyright © 2013 by Bara Swain

HOW COULD YOU?

by

Bara Swain

CAST

RHODA BARTFELD: Rhoda, 60s, is a woman prone to outbursts. She is stubborn, loyal, and a doting stay-at-home wife, who moved from Brooklyn to her upper west side home.

MURIEL KATZ: Muriel, also from Brooklyn, has been Rhoda's best friend for almost 40 years. Muriel works in a hair salon in New York City as a stylist. She was married and divorced several times. She is empathetic but down to earth. Muriel wears a beautician's jacket with pockets.

Place

A hair salon in Manhattan

Time

Late morning

Setting: A New York City hair salon. There is a salon chair, stage center.

At rise: From the wings off-stage comes the sound of a voice shouting hysterically.

RHODA: Young woman, I'll repeat myself one more time! I have Achilles tendonitis in my right ankle! I have bursitis in my left hip! I have a floating uterus and premature ventricular heartbeats! But I do not have an appointment! Now let go of my hand or I'll —

RHODA: *(She rushes onstage. Her hair is a mess; her face is tear-stained. Her blouse is buttoned incorrectly, and she is wearing one shoe.)* MURIEL! Muriel, where are you?

MURIEL, 60s, runs onstage. She is wearing plastic gloves, and her outfit is covered by a long smock.

MURIEL: What happened to you, Rhoda?

RHODA: What happened? (*calling into the wings offstage*) You should mind your elders! (*to Muriel*) I need to talk to you. (*calling again*) And put on a brassiere! (*to Muriel*) How can I take someone seriously who isn't wearing a brassiere?

MURIEL: You're scaring the customers, darling. You're scaring *me*! What's wrong?

RHODA: It's our anniversary!

MURIEL: Rhoda, please. Lower your voice. This is my place of employment!

RHODA: And this is *my* anniversary. Thirty-five years, Muriel. How could he do this to me?

MURIEL: (*gently*) Sit down. Come on, darling. Sit down for a moment.

RHODA: A moment? A MOMENT? The rest of my *life* is at stake and you're giving me a moment!? My husband is fooling around on the side and you're giving me a *moment*?

MURIEL: (*shocked*) Oh, my God, Rhoda! How do you know!?

RHODA: How does any wife know? I know. I know! (*Rhoda chokes on fresh tears.*) Because Seymour scheduled an anterior resection today (*wailing*) — AT TWELVE O'CLOCK!

MURIEL: So?

RHODA: So we've had lunch together every year for the past 34 years at the same time, at the same Italian restaurant where we first met, remember? Oh, Seymour was the handsomest surgical resident in all of Greenwich Village.

MURIEL: (*sternly*) And you think your husband is having an affair because he can't meet you for a slice at Ray's Pizza!? (*looking at her watch*) Rhoda, go home. Take a nice long bath, comb your hair, and —

FreeView

**Warning: This is copyrighted material
Now buy the entire show—such fun!**