

Courtroom Capers

Drena Heizer



ArtAge
Publications



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We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!

ArtAge Publications

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COURTROOM CAPERS

PLOT:

There has been an assault involving a chicken in a supermarket, and our drama takes place in a courtroom. The judge is cranky, the bailiff is snippy, the other two characters are annoyed, and there is a lot of trouble with mispronunciation of names. This finally sends the judge over the edge.

CHARACTERS: 2w, 2m, Narrator

CAST

NARRATOR

BAILIFF: Man

JUDGE: Woman

PETTICOAT: Woman

MILDRED: Man (Yes, a man.)

STAGE POSITIONS: From stage left toward stage right: Petticoat, Mildred, Judge, and the Bailiff.

PROPS: None are necessary, but a lace collar of some kind for the judge is suggested, as a parody of TV's Judge Judy.

PERFORMANCE NOTES: A prominent feature of this skit is the mispronunciation of the name "Hatchuby." Judge Rooney insists on saying "Hutcherby", and Mildred is very annoyed by it. He keeps correcting her and accentuating the first syllable of his correct name by repeating: HAT-chu, HAT-chu! This, of course, sounds something like a sneeze, which is part of the fun-- BUT it is important that the accent NOT be on the second syllable: Hat-CHU, Hat-CHU. Sounding exactly like a sneeze not only mispronounces the name HATchuby, but spoils the joke of the near-sneeze, which is the recurring "shtick."

COURTROOM CAPERS

NARRATOR: Through the magic of television we can now enter courtrooms to observe our judicial system at work—and who among us has not shuddered at the plight of those people who must face the wrath of Judge Judy! Well, appearing before you now in OUR courtroom drama are people who must face the somewhat-less-than-charming Judge Rooney!

BAILIFF: Hear ye! Hear ye! The Court is now in session, Judge Rooney presiding. All you people out there kneel down.

JUDGE: No, no, bailiff. A simple low bow will suffice.

BAILIFF: But you told me to say kneel down.

JUDGE: Never mind. Now what is this case before me?

BAILIFF: It's a case of assault, your honor.

JUDGE: Where did this alleged assault take place?

BAILIFF: In a supermarket.

JUDGE: I see. And who is the plaintiff?

PETTICOAT: I am.

JUDGE: Please state your name.

PETTICOAT: Petticoat Smith.

JUDGE: That's an unusual name.

PETTICOAT: I don't see anything unusual about it. I was named after my father.

JUDGE: Your father's name was Petticoat?

PETTICOAT: No. Smith.

JUDGE: Oh. Right.

BAILIFF: Your honor, the defendants in this case are Mr. and Mrs. Hatchuby, Frank and Mildred.

JUDGE: Then you, sir, are Frank Hatchuby?

MILDRED: No. I'm Mildred. Frank is my wife.

JUDGE: Huh! Rather strange.

MILDRED: Well, yes, she is, but when you get to know her you hardly notice.

JUDGE: No, no, I meant-- Oh, never mind. How do you plead to this charge of assault?

MILDRED: Not guilty, Judge Looney.

JUDGE: That's ROONEY! Judge ROONEY!

MILDRED: Oh. Sorry.

JUDGE: Now, Miss Smith, how did this thing start?

PETTICOAT: I was shopping, your honor, minding my own business.

JUDGE: And what happened?

PETTICOAT: This man, Mildred, walked up and patted my as-paragus.

JUDGE: Patted your as-paragus?

PETTICOAT: Yes. And then he squeezed my yams.

JUDGE: And what did you do?

PETTICOAT: I poked his buns.

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