

Housecleaning

Arthur Strimling



ArtAge
Publications



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We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!

ArtAge Publications

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Housecleaning (From *It's About Time!*)

Ida Harnden, who originated this monologue, was a very energetic eighty-year-old former vaudeville dancer. She was all over the stage during this piece, demonstrating how she controls the mess. The monologue offers the opportunity to break the stereotype of slow-moving old people with a lot of comedic movement.

IDA: I have less time these days, because my energy lasts for just so long. And I use it all outside the house. I enjoy my family, my friends, my theater group, my organizations. I'm overinvolved and I love it. But by the time I get home, I'm exhausted.

So I have evolved a system so I can do everything I want. I don't clean my house! . . . I'm clean. I take showers. It's just my house I don't clean.

I have one room. I call it my "What the hell am I gonna do with this?" room. I have papers from twenty years ago. One of these days I'm gonna get to them; one of these days. For now (*picking up imaginary papers and tossing them*) they go into the "What the hell am I gonna do with this?" room. Letters, pamphlets, things to be ironed, things to be hemmed, bottles to be returned, my goodwill bag. You know, the "I must get to it someday" stuff. Into the room, close the door, and there it stays until . . . someday.

Company? No problem. Where does company go? The living room. Okay, I take all the piles in the living room, shove them in the "What the hell am I gonna do with this?" room and close the door! The kitchen? I just tell them, "I don't like help in my kitchen." Why put away dishes you use every day? That's what dish drains are for!

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