

Silent Movie

Bob Naquin



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ArtAge Publications

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SILENT MOVIE

by

Bob Naquin

CAST

Couple 1: JOE and JANE

Couple 2: SAM and SUE

Couple 3: TOM and TINA

Place

A movie theater with 1 row of six chairs.

Time

The Present.

Production Notes

This play has no speaking parts and is a good exercise in acting. Suggested actions are given, but it is best to let the actors' imaginations take over.

Props

Six chairs

2 popcorn containers

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Setting: Bare stage. Six chairs face the audience. (SOUND CUE: Movie theater music.)

At rise: Couple 1 (Joe/Jane) and Couple 2 (Sam/Sue) enter the theater from stage Left and look over the available seats.

After some gesturing among themselves, the couples take up the four center seats in the row of chairs leaving the end chairs empty. The guys sit next to each other in the center and the girls are on the outside of them.

Couple 3 (Tom/Tina) enter from stage Left. Disappointed there are not two seats together, they indicate to the other couples to move so that they can sit together. They are refused. They resign themselves to sitting separately. Tina makes her way across the others to the empty seat on stage Right, stepping on toes until she reaches her seat. Tom takes the empty seat on stage Left.

Tom and Tina make a big production of leaning forward to look down the row of chairs to see each other. Tom waves to Tina.

(SOUND CUE: Movie soundtrack)

The three couples look up at an imaginary screen.

Tom puts his arm around Sue who is seated next to him. She acts upset that a stranger would put his arm around her. Tom indicates that she is to pass the 'arm on shoulder' down to Tina.

Sue puts her arm around Sam who likes that his girl is getting frisky. He starts to snuggle her. She pushes him away and indicates that the embrace should be passed down to Tina.

Sam has to put his arm around Joe, and he is not sure he wants to do this. After hesitating several times he sneaks his arm onto Joe who acts outraged that Sam is making advances. Sam indicates that the embrace is to be passed down.

Joe puts his arm around Jane who likes it. He indicates that it is to go to Tina. Faced with having to put her arm around Tina, she eases into it. Tina is taken aback by the action. Jane then indicates that it came from Tom on the other end.

Tina and Tom lean forward, look down the row of seats, and wave to each other.

For a moment, all attention returns to the movie. Then Tina then puts her head on Jane's shoulder. Jane acts surprised. Then Tina indicates that she is to pass the endearment on down the line to Tom.

Jane puts her head on Joe's shoulder. He likes this very much. He tries to take her in his arms and kiss her but she pushes him away. She indicates that the endearment is to be passed down the line to Tom.

Joe is faced with putting his head on Sam's shoulder, and he is not sure of what reaction this is going to get. Hesitant, he makes a couple of false starts before putting his head on Sam's shoulder. To his surprise, Sam returns the endearment by putting his head on Joe's head. Joe jumps up, outraged, and indicates that the action is to be passed on down to Tom.

Sam puts his head on Sue's shoulder. She smiles at the public display of affection. Sam breaks it off, indicating it is to be passed on to Tom.

Sue works her way up to putting her head on Tom's shoulder. Tom is taken aback until Sue indicates that it came from his date on the other end of the line.

Tom and Tina lean forward and wave to each other.

Tom thinks for a minute and then tickles Sue. This makes its way across the couples with appropriate reactions. Joe and Sam have the greatest difficulty passing the action on.

Tom and Tina lean forward again and wave to each other.

END OF FREEVIEW
You'll want to read and perform this show!