

Side Effects

Drena Heizer





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*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *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 e-newsletter, *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."*

Copyright 2009

SIDE EFFECTS

By Drena Heizer

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

INTRODUCTION

HELEN

MARTHA

GLORIA

RHODA

PHONE LADY

STAGE POSITIONS: From stage left toward stage right: Rhoda, Martha, Helen, Gloria, Phone lady.

PROPS: Telephone

PERFORMANCE NOTES: The character of Rhoda is consistently cantankerous and rude.

INTRODUCTION: We've all spent a lot of time in doctors' waiting rooms, haven't we? We look at old *National Geographics*, we make out shopping lists, we doodle, or we just stare at the wall and wish we'd brought a book. Well, fortunately, four of the women waiting here are acquainted with each other, so at least they can talk to pass the time. Two of them were already here, and the other two have just arrived. But look—there's a fifth woman sitting at the desk. Wonder who SHE is?

HELEN: Martha! Rhoda! What are you two doing here?

MARTHA: Hi, Helen. We're just waiting for Dr. Quigley.

HELEN: Oh. Is he running late?

MARTHA: He was called out on an emergency.

HELEN: Where's the receptionist?

MARTHA: She went to lunch. But they'll both be back eventually, so we just decided to wait.

HELEN: Well, I guess I'll wait, too. I think you know Gloria.

MARTHA: Yes. We've met before.

GLORIA: It's nice to see you again.

RHODA: (*habitually cantankerous*) I notice you have a lot of extra padding on your behind. That's good, because these chairs are really hard.

GLORIA: (*indignant*) Well, thanks for your concern!

HELEN: My car is in the shop, and Edna was going to bring me here but she couldn't come, so Gloria offered to drive.

MARTHA: What's the matter with Edna?

HELEN: Side effects.

MARTHA: What do you mean?

HELEN: Well, her doctor put her on his new drug, and possible side effects are nausea, teeth falling out, kidney failure, stroke, convulsions and death.

MARTHA: So what's her problem?

HELEN: She's dead.

MARTHA: You're kidding!

HELEN: (*laughing*) Of course I'm kidding. She just has nausea.

RHODA: (*sniffs*) It's probably from all the makeup she wears. It even makes ME nauseated!

GLORIA: What a rude thing to say!

RHODA: Well, it's true. That heavy makeup is the only thing that keeps her face from falling off. And I think she puts her eyebrows on with a Magic Marker. She looks like Groucho Marx!

GLORIA: Wait a minute. I know Edna, and she is a very nice person.

RHODA: Well, she needs to do something about her hair. It looks like a haystack. And she'd better watch her weight, too. Pretty soon she'll have to get her clothes from the tent and awning company!

GLORIA: That's not true! Edna eats like a bird.

RHODA: Yeah. A VULTURE!

PHONE LADY: (*picks up a phone that did not ring*) Hello? What's that? You've just been shot through the head? I see. Do you have an appointment here? No? Well, too bad! (*slams down phone*)

HELEN: Did you hear that phone ring?

GLORIA: No, I didn't.

MARTHA: Neither did I.

HELEN: Who is that woman at the desk?

MARTHA: We don't know. She came in right after the doctor and receptionist left.

HELEN: They must have sent her in to answer the phone while they're gone.

MARTHA: No. Before the receptionist left I heard her tell the answering service to take their calls.

RHODA: Never mind that. Did you know that Edna has a boyfriend?

MARTHA: Yes. I saw them at church. They were standing really close together. It must be love!

RHODA: (*snorts*) Don't be ridiculous! That man is so old he HAS to stand close to keep from falling down.

MARTHA: Well, Edna seemed happy with him.

RHODA: Edna would be happy with Godzilla! She hasn't had a date in years. I don't know why this guy would take up with anybody as ugly as Edna unless he just wants somebody to look after him in his old age.

**FreeView: This is copyrighted material
Now buy the entire show – such fun!**