Volunteering Has Its Moments!

Ann Pugh

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VOLUNTEERING HAS ITS MOMENTS!

by

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CAST

Options: If male actors are available, the role of Megs Abbott, TV Hostess, can be changed to Mark Abbott, TV Host. The role of Tony Stein can be played by a male without name change.

MEGS ABBOTT: A popular TV personality in her own right, much at ease subbing for Opal, the famous TV talk show star. MEGS is a congenial senior, stylishly dressed in pants-suit with handsome accessories and fashionable glasses used when referring to notes on her clipboard.

SYLVIA ARMSTRONG: Vocalist in the Palm Springs Senior Follies and former 'Miss Nevada of 1955,' is striving to retain her 'Glamour Queen' appearance in spite of her age. She is vain, but has a warm sense of humor, winning personality and broad smile. She is well made up -- with artificial eye lashes and blonde wig in the bouffant or 'big-hair' style. Sylvia's wardrobe suggests she clings to theatrically faddish fashions for many seasons: from her gold or silver spike heels to her plastic purse on a gold chain and big chunky jewelry. Sylvia is loaded with stage savvy. If she had a role model it would be Ethel Merman.

ALICE MADISON: A retired secretary, eternal perfectionist and office subordinate (who brought coffee to her boss). She wears a prim tailored suit. Her neat blouse has a 'Peter Pan' Collar. She has no jewelry, and off-the-face hat, non-stylish reading glasses and practical shoes. Her hair is untouched; white or salt-and-pepper. She carries a thick twenty-year-old leather briefcase. One might imagine her as a nun.

WANDA GARRISON: A retired CEO of her own Fortune 500 Company, and proverbial head honcho. She wears a tailored pants-suit with Gucci or Prada silk stole and understated jewelry. Her hair, probably styles in a 5th Avenue salon, is colored henna. Not a smidgen of gray shows. Her stilettos and matching shoulder-strap handbag are Italian leather. She is one bitch.

TONY STEIN: An athletic, casual, free spirit in old jeans, oversize t-shirt boldly emblazoned with '*Independence Speedway*', carelessly untied and worn-out sneakers, sports cap turned backwards *(a national or local team)*, gray pony tail bound with rubber band, and small ear rings in pierced ears.

* * *

To add to the fun: The director can have 'Plants' scattered among audience to applaud on cue, etc. and assure lively audience participation.

Simple staging: At center stage is a rectangular conference table parallel to footlights. When conference table is not available, two card tables can be linked lengthwise parallel to footlights. Downstage side of table has a sign reading: 'THE OPAL SHOW'. Upstage are five desk chairs, preferably swivel type: four behind table and one stage left. On the table is a sign with a handle. It reads: 'APPLAUD'. An overhead upstage banner declares: 'SENIOR VOLUNTEER WEEK.'

Hand props: applause sign, clipboard, old thick briefcase, cell phone, BlackBerry, legal tablet, *Reader's Digest* page, red rose in bud vase, laptop and four body mikes created by using top halves of ball point pins with clips for lapels, etc. Lengths of black wire are attached to clips.

You can find suggestions about how to do a reader's theatre production following the script.

* * *

Place

Network TV Studio

Time

Afternoon, the present

(Megs Abbott with broad smile and a clipboard is Center Stage, addressing audience)

MEGS: Good afternoon! I'm Megs Abbott, standing in for Opal! Welcome to our final segment saluting twenty-seven million seniors over the age of fifty-five, who, according to an AARP survey, volunteer over four hours a week! (*pointedly*) Wow! Twenty-seven million of you!

(Megs scans audience with sign reading: 'APPLAUD.' Audience applauds.)

Your monetary value is over seventy-one million dollars a year! (*pointedly*) Seventy-one million! That's mega bucks!

(Megs scans audience with sign reading: 'APPLAUD.' Audience applauds.)

Our series has honored American Red Cross disaster volunteers, Foster Grandparents, Abused Women Shelters, Aids workers, and dozens of dedicated groups, but today we present some of those rare amusing moments experienced by volunteers. You know about your (*taps on applause sign*) cue to participate. (*places sign on table*) When we go on the air our cameras (*points to right and left areas of rear of theatre*) will often be on you, but please ignore them. Ladies, *(very discreetly*) if you need to use the restroom, go now. Our producer hates to see empty seats, and we don't have folks hired to slip into them like they have at the Oscars. Okay?

 ('Plants' in Audience respond: "Okay".)

Before our producer signals (*does hand signal*) 'You're On', let's have a sneak preview of our guest panelists. (*consults clipboard)* First is Sylvia Armstrong, vocalist with the Palm Springs Senior Follies. Some of you may remember her as Miss Kansas of 1965! (*turns to stage right, and calls off stage*) Meet Sylvia Armstrong!

('APPLAUD' sign business. Audience applauds. Sylvia, the seasoned showgirl, hurries on flashing broad smile and waving to Audience. Audience applauds.)

SYLVIA: Hi! (*strikes a self-assured showgirl pose next to Megs*)

MEGS: *(to Audience*) Next is Alice Madison, 'The 1968 Secretary of The Year!' (*turns to stage right, and calls off*)

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!