

School for Wives

Arthur Keyser



ArtAge
Publications



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We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!

ArtAge Publications

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SCHOOL FOR WIVES

by

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CAST

PENNY: A very thin woman in her mid-sixties. She is dressed in a designer pant suit. She wears a faux diamond necklace and matching earrings.

CARLA: A plump woman, also in her mid-sixties. She wears colorful printed slacks, a large print blouse, long earrings and several large bracelets.

MAGGIE --A woman in her mid-fifties. She wears jeans and a tee shirt with the words Free Love on the front and a peace sign on the back. She wears no make-up or lipstick.

WAITRESS: A young woman.

DEE: An attractive woman in her late forties. She wears a simple dress and modest jewelry.

BRADLEY: A man wearing a tailored suit.

Place

A restaurant.

Time

The present. Midafternoon.

Setting: The outdoor patio area of the restaurant. A table at Center is set for six.

At Rise: Lights come up on PENNY and CARLA who enter and sit down at the table for six. The WAITRESS approaches.

WAITRESS: May I suggest a smaller more comfortable table for two?

PENNY: We're expecting others.

WAITRESS: I can take your drink orders while you're waiting.

CARLA: I'll have a diet coke.

PENNY: Vodka martini. Make it a double and no ice. I don't want it diluted. Fill it to the very brim in the largest glass you can find.

WAITRESS: Would you like to look at the menu?

CARLA: I really shouldn't. I just had lunch. I'll just sneak a peek at your dessert menu.

PENNY: Food between my morning coffee and dinner interferes with my martini schedule.

(The Waitress leaves)

CARLA: Bradley always said you were a world-class drinker.

PENNY: I never even smelled alcohol until I met him. Three years of marriage changed that. After we split, it took me seven years and two more husbands to cut down to four double martinis a day.

CARLA: I wish I had turned to drink instead of chocolate. When I became Bradley's second, I was almost as skinny as you. I went up five sizes in the first two years.

PENNY: Plumpness suits you. It fills out the wrinkles.

CARLA: If I lost too much weight, my skin might hang. Of course, I could always ask you for the name of your plastic surgeon. If you don't mind sharing.

(Before Penny can respond, Maggie arrives at the table. She hugs Penny and Carla, then sits down in one of the chairs.)

MAGGIE: I'm sorry. I couldn't break away from my Origami class. My days are always so full. I don't know how I'd fit everything in if I had to worry about stupid things like lipstick and make-up. Where's Fran?

CARLA: She's always late. It takes her forever to decide on what jewelry to wear.

PENNY: I guess it's not easy when you wear a ring on every finger.

CARLA: I heard she has her own personal shopping assistant in the jewelry department at Walmart.

MAGGIE: I didn't cancel my private yoga class to talk about Fran. I'm only interested in talking about Bradley.

PENNY: You're right, Mag. It's been twelve years since you suggested we meet once a year to tell stories about that snake we each married. And we've never run out of material.

MAGGIE: It's easy for me. I kept a diary. He had such a beastly temper, and the loudest voice I've ever heard.

PENNY: We all remember how easily he would explode. But let's save that for later. I'm glad you're all sitting. I have a surprise. But, I didn't want to say anything till Fran got here.

CARLA: Do we have to wait? I'll have an anxiety attack. And I'll have to eat to calm down.

PENNY: I certainly don't want to be responsible for adding to your body fat. *(pause)* It's about Bradley. He's getting married.

MAGGIE: Again? Four victims weren't enough?

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!