

**DNN – Definitely NOT the News**

**Bob Wilkins**



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**ArtAge Publications**

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by

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Place

The newsroom of DNN. There is a news desk with two chairs on one side of the stage or on the apron. The main stage area is used for the presentation of the news stories and commercials and, except for the furnishings listed, does not require any other scenery.

Time

The present.

CASTING NOTES

All actors are dressed in jeans or black pants and a black t-shirt. The characters the actors play are distinguished by a simple additional piece of apparel.

The play has a total of 28 characters (26 on-stage actors and 2 off-stage voices). Assigning multiple roles to actors will reduce the cast size. As indicated in the cast list, many of the roles may be played by a male or a female. Creativity is encouraged in the casting process.

Minimum Cast: The play can be performed with a minimum of 8 on stage actors (4 females, 2 males, 2 M or F) as shown on the following chart. This minimum accommodates easy costume changes from one scene to the next.

The script that follows is based on a minimum cast.

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CAST

Sketch 1--Sign On

WHITEY (M or F): A stage manager/announcer. He/she wears a headset and a black shirt.

MATTY (M or F): A news anchor. He/she wears a suit coat and tie.

Sketch 2--Alien Sightings

BILLIE DILLIE (M or F): A news reporter. He/she wears a blazer.

AVERY SAVORY (M or F): A country bumpkin. He/she wears a straw hat and a plaid shirt.

Sketch 3--Tornado Tours

DOROTHY: Owner of Tornado Tours. She wears a blouse.

GERTIE: A cowering woman. She wears a raincoat and rain hat.

HANK: A cowering man. He wears a raincoat and rain hat.

Sketch 4--The Financial Report

PATTIE BLACK: A loan officer. She wears a blazer.

MISS/MR. FRAWG: A bank customer. She/he wears a blouse/dress shirt.

MR. EARL: A bank manager. He wears a blazer and tie.

Sketch 5--Hunting Season

RILEY WILEY (M or F): A reporter. He/she wears a dress shirt/blouse.

DERRICK MERRICK: A hunter. He wears a hunting vest and hat.

Sketch 6--Winnie.com

WINNIE (M or F): Owner of Winnie.com dating service. He/she wears a golf shirt.

JACK RATT: A timid man. He wears a dress shirt.

MARLENE RATT: Jack's overbearing wife. She wears a muumuu.

Sketch 7--Mega Pit 45

SAWYER BOYER (M or F): A sports reporter. He/she wears a blazer.

JAMIE RAMIE (M or F): Captain of the Thumpers croquet team. He/she wears a baseball helmet and a sports jersey.

QUINN FINN (M or F): Captain of the Heart Attacks croquet team. He/she wears a baseball helmet and sports jersey.

Sketch 8--Damsel in Distress

WHITEY: Same as *Sign On*.

IMA DITZ: A computer expert who is a ditz. She wears a blouse.

MR. X: Ima's boss. He wears a t-shirt that says "My name is AI."

Sketch 9--Consumer Report

TAYLER MAILER (M or F): A consumer guru. He/she wears a vest.

CALLER ONE (M or F): An off stage telephone voice.

CALLER TWO (M or F): An off stage telephone voice

Sketch 10--MATTY's Lunch

MATTY: Same as *Sign On*.

BILLIE: Same as *Alien Sightings*.

WHITEY: Same as *Sign On*.

Sketch 11--Court Report

JUDGE PUNCH (M or F): A judge. He/she wears a judge's robe.

BAILIFF (*played by the WHITEY actor*): A court bailiff. He/she wears a policeman's hat.

KELLY TELLY (M or F): A defendant. He/she wears a tie dyed t-Shirt.

LESLIE PRESLEY (M or F): A defendant. He/she wears a white t-shirt with a blue stain on it.

JACK RATT: Same as *Winnie.com*

MARLENE RATT: Same as *Winnie.com*

BLAIR GLARE: (M or F): A defendant. He/she wears a dress shirt/blouse.

MAX GOOGLE (M or F): A near-sighted prosecutor. He/she wears a blazer, a tie, and thick glasses.

Sketch 12--Sign-off

MATTY: Same as *Sign On*.

BILLIE: Same as *Alien Sightings*.

WHITEY: Same as *Sign On*.

## Casting Chart for 4 females, 2 males, 2 M or F

	F-1	F-2	F-3	F-4	M-1	M-2	M/F - 1	M/F - 2
<b>Sign-on</b>							Matty	Whitey
<b>Aliens</b>	Billie					Avery	Matty	Whitey
<b>Tours</b>		Dorothy	Gertie		Hank		Matty	Whitey
<b>Finance</b>	Miss Frawg			Pattie		Mr. Earl	Matty	
<b>Hunting</b>		Riley			Derrick		Matty	
<b>Winnie</b>	Winnie		Marlene			Jack	Matty	
<b>Mega Pit</b>		Jamie		Quinn	Sawyer		Matty	
<b>Damsel</b>			Ima			Mr. X	Matty	Whitey
<b>Consumer</b>				Taylor			Matty	Whitey
<b>Lunch</b>	Billie						Matty	Whitey
<b>Court</b>		Punch	Marlene	- Kelly - Blair	- Leslie - Google	Jack	Matty	Bailiff
<b>Sign-off</b>	Billie						Matty	Whitey

Note: 1) Whitey (M or F) – performs as Stage Manager and Bailiff.

2) The Off Stage Voices (M or F) are not included in the Casting Chart. These roles can be voiced by any actor who is not on stage for the “Consumer Report” sketch.

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Sketch 1--Sign On

WHITEY: (*Stands on the opposite side of the stage to the News Desk*) Good evening and welcome to the DNN evening news with your host, Matty Hadler.

MATTY: (*Enters talking on a cell phone. Sits at the News Desk*) That sounds great baby. Let's do lunch some time early next week. (*Pauses*) Denny's sounds great, but not the new one. (*Pauses*) Alright then, it's a date. Tootles for now.

WHITEY: Matty. We're live.

MATTY: Of course we are, but you're looking a little pale.

WHITEY: No, no, no. It's time for you to read the news.

MATTY: Well, why didn't you say so? (*Reads the papers on the desk*) That's very interesting. (*Pauses*) Oh, no, not again! (*Pauses*) I didn't know that! Did you know that, Whitey?

WHITEY: You're supposed to read the news to the audience.

MATTY: Great idea. Let's give it a shot.

WHITEY: You give me such a headache. I need a cup of tea.

MATTY: You drink too much tea. I know an old lady who drank so much tea she turned into an old bag.

WHITEY: Then I'll switch to coffee.

MATTY: I know another old lady who so was addicted to coffee that her husband felt it was grounds for divorce.

WHITEY: I'll drink lemonade.

MATTY: Lemonade? I know an old lady who drank so much lemonade she turned into a sour puss.

WHITEY: Alright! I'll drink water!!

MATTY: OK, but make sure you wear a life jacket.

WHITEY: (*Exiting*) Just read the news.

### Sketch 2 - Alien Sightings

MATTY: Last night there was yet another report of a UFO sighting in Dingdong County bringing the total in the last four days to eleven and a half. We now go live to Billie Dillie with an eyewitness to the latest weird occurrence.

(*Blackout on the News Desk. Lights fade up on Stage Area. BILLIE and AVERY stand at center.*)

BILLIE: Thanks, Matty. I'm here with Avery Savory who was an eye witness to the latest events. What can you tell us about the aliens you say you saw?

AVERY: I didn't say I seen any aliens. I said I seen strange goings on.

BILLIE: And when did you see these things?

AVERY: Well, it all started about a week ago. I went into the livin' room after supper and there was my cat playin' my son's electric guitar.

BILLIE: You mean playing with it like a ball of string or something?

AVERY: No, no! He was really playin', you know, strummin', it.

BILLIE: What was he playing?

AVERY: It sounded something' like *Amazin' Grace*, but it was hard to tell. He ain't that good a guitar player.

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