

Committee of Two

Joyce Stern Greenberg





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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

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COMMITTEE OF TWO

A Musical Ensemble Featuring Song Parodies
To Well-Known Music

By Joyce Stern Greenberg

CAST

In order of appearance:

COOKIE: Co-chairperson of her college reunion committee. Spunky, enjoyed school, likes food, is an organizer and doesn't like to drive on the expressways. She and Mary were friends back in college and haven't seen each other in 50ish years.

ACCOMPANIST

MARY: Co-chairperson of her college reunion committee. Likes to look good, always on a diet, likes to drive fast on the expressways. Looks younger than Cookie.

Place:

A meeting room.

Time:

The present in the afternoon.

Setting: A meeting room with a four-to six-foot table, Up Center. A menu is on the table. A chair is next to the table at Right Center and a stool is next to the table at Left Center. Six other chairs are placed onstage, three on SR and three on SL. Piano may be onstage at either right or left. To set the tone for the show, hand out name tags when the audience enters and welcome them to the 'meeting.'

COOKIE: *(voice heard from rear of theatre)* Is this where the reunion meeting is taking place?

ACCOMPANIST: Yes, yes, come on in.

SONG: *I'm Late [chorus/verse; chorus/verse]*

(Music begins and COOKIE enters from the rear of the theatre, rushing in, carrying tote bag, looking around)

COOKIE: *I'm late, I'm late, for my very important date,
No time to say hello and smile, I'm sorry that I'm late.*

[Vamp]

*The toll roads [or highways] give me such migraines, so I drive city streets
But there's construction everywhere, it makes my day complete.
I know, I'm late, on that I'm very clear,
But at least I made it here, I'm sorry that I'm late.*

*(COOKIE sits in chair, organizes herself as MARY enters, also from the back of the theatre,
clearly in a tizzy due to her lateness)*

MARY: *(sets her bags down on table and breathlessly begins to sing)*

*I'm late, I'm late for my very important date,
No time to say hello and smile, instead I'm late, I'm late.*

[Vamp]

*Love to drive at high speed, the toll road [or highway] can't be beat,
Received another ticket; that makes my day complete.
I know, I'm late, on that I'm very clear,
But at least I made it here, I'm sorry that I'm late.*

COOKIE: *(rises)* Mary? Mary Margaret McDonnell...*(with hesitation)* ...is that you?

MARY: Yes, it's Mary Margaret McDonnell O'Connell now...*(looks at COOKIE)*
Cookie? Cookie Kugelman?

COOKIE: Yes. It's Cookie Kugelman Farfelstein now. Are you my new co-chairperson
on the entertainment planning committee for the reunion?

MARY: Yes, I'm filling in for Betsy Nelson.

BOTH: Oh, that's great, what fun, etc.

COOKIE: You actually look the same as you did in college. How do you do it?

MARY: Well, I have a little secret. It's called 'nip and tuck.'

COOKIE: I'll have to remember that...now, let's get busy...

SONG: *I CAIN'T SAY NO* [1 verse, 1 chorus]

VERSE

COOKIE: *Our class reunion is next year, I said I would help plan
A program after dinner has been served.*

MARY: *I told the chairman I would help out any way I can,
But if the group's too large I'll get unnerved.*

COOKIE: *I hope that I'll remember people's names,*

MARY: *My mem'ry sometimes will go up in flames.*

CHORUS

COOKIE and MARY: *We're just two gals who couldn't say no
To planning a show that we'll do...*

We'll always say, "Come on let's go," when we want to try something new.

COOKIE: *To catch up with you will be such fun,
Now what have you been doing all these years?*

MARY: *I've been in and out and up and down, life is always filled with shifting gears.
We're just two gals who can't say no to meeting with classmates we knew,*

COOKIE: *They never gave me a clue that I'd be working with you,*

BOTH: *We can't say no.*

COOKIE: *It's so nice of all of you committee members to be here today.
Look, there's Joan and Jean, etc*

MARY: *And there's Kathy and Connie, etc.*

COOKIE: *Welcome, everyone. I guess we'd better get started with our planning. Do you
have any ideas yet for the evening's entertainment? I brought some props and stuff.
(COOKIE and MARY start unzipping their tote bags)*

MARY: *I hope that you and I can do a number or two together, like the old days.
I brought my yearbook and my old Northwestern tee shirt. (takes shirt out of bag) Oh, I
bought a gorgeous outfit to wear for the reunion. It's (describes an ornate outfit)...(noticing
COOKIE's impatience) Which reminds me. What are you going to wear that night?*

COOKIE: *I haven't the slightest idea. I don't know what size I'll be by then.*

MARY: *(holds up tee shirt) Boy...I was thinner back then, wasn't I?*

COOKIE: *Weren't we all!*

SONG: *I'm Not Accustomed to Your Face*

MARY: *I'm not accustomed to my waist,
It's more filled out instead of slim,
I'm not accustomed to the gray that creeps in every day
Upon my head...choose blonde instead.
I am an active working gal, also a grandma, mom, and wife,
But when I come across a mirror, whose reflection do I see?
Looks just like my mother who is staring back at me.
The outer package might have changed, with a few things rearranged,
But inside, it's still me.*

COOKIE: *I weigh more now too. And I do try to watch my weight. Wait...I wonder what they'll serve for dinner that night.*

PATTI: *There's a menu here from catering. (gives to MARY)*

MARY: *Oh good. (gets the menu) Here Cookie, take a look. (gives menu to COOKIE)*

SONG: *What Kind of Fool Am I? [2 choruses]*

COOKIE: *What kind of food will be prepared deliciously?
I hope that I will have a choice of something that's salt-free.
And fried foods wouldn't do, [hands menu back to MARY, who sits down]
I've had to learn
Avoid the things that bring on symptoms of heartburn.
What if our classmates now are vegetarians,
If they're allergic or they're kosher...or...Libertarians
Then there are those who will be wanting gluten free,
Wish I could return to how it used to be.*

[goes over to MARY and takes menu to peruse]
*What kind of food will be prepared deliciously?
They have so many different choices that are tempting me.
[hands menu back to MARY]
Like when I have my list and go to shop
At Costco, love their foot-long hot dog...hits the spot
Back in the olden days, chopped liver was a treat,
Salami and pastrami were my fav'rite deli meats,
Now, yogurt, with no fat, steamed broccoli and kale,
Then my brownie with (low fat) ice cream*

[spoken] After [sung] I get off the scale.

MARY: Let's get started working on our program and forget about the food. What do you think about doing an Irving Berlin medley?

COOKIE: Irving Berlin is wonderful, but his music has been done so often over the years. How about a 50's rock & roll medley?

MARY: Mmm. I'm not so sure about that. I know. How about a medley with a travel theme? We all like to travel.

COOKIE: *(looks at list)* Hey, this looks good. It could be a musical journey. *(looks toward ACCOMPANIST)* How about it? *(s/he responds in the affirmative.)* Go for it, ladies!

SONG: *Sentimental Journey* [first eight bars]

COOKIE & MARY: *We can take a reminiscing journey, trav'ling thru the U.S.A. We'll recall songs on this special journey that we still enjoy today.*

(The following songs are to be alternated between COOKIE and MARY. The songs, which are not parodied, are all in the public domain, and are to be performed in the following suggested order. Perform the first eight bars and the last eight bars of each: "Chicago," "Swanee," "Way Down Yonder In New Orleans," "When The Saints Go Marching In," "Meet Me In St. Louis," "St. Louis Blues," "Give My Regards To Broadway.")

MARY: That was fun. Let's put that down as a definite possibility. We need someone to take notes for us today.

COOKIE: Would you be willing to take notes for us? *(MARY hands notebook and pencil to someone in the audience)*

ACCOMPANIST: Ladies, there has been some great music that was written for Broadway shows that were made into movies. How would you like to consider some of those songs?

COOKIE: What do you suggest?

ACCOMPANIST: How about this? *(theatre group selects three songs from Broadway shows that have been made into movies. COOKIE and MARY go into audience and have audience sing along with them.)*

COOKIE: (*goes back onstage*) Those songs remind me of my childhood and the beginning of my love for the movies and the people IN the movies.

SONG: *Everything's Coming up Roses* [1 chorus with break after the bridge, then resume music after impressions]

COOKIE: *Aren't they swell, aren't they great,
All those stars that you love or you hate,
Gable's glance, Grable's dance,
All the starlets who vie for their big chance.
Who they date, what they wear,
The world follows when they change their hair,
Glamour gals, charming guys,
And they all have their eye on the big prize.
Actors say lines that will make them well known,
Recognized by fans tho they'd be far from home*
[music stops]

[*spoken*] Let's see if you recall who said these quotes or what movie they're from.

Here goes: (*in appropriate voice and attitude*)

"Toto, I've got a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore."

(*actors onstage respond accordingly after each impression*) Judy Garland.

"Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn." Clark Gable.

"Why don't you come up sometime and see me...tall, dark and handsome."

Mae West.

(*puts on glasses and fake nose*)

"One morning, I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got in my pajamas, I'll never know" Groucho Marx in "*Animal Crackers*."

[*resume "Roses" song*]

Curtain up, light the lights, we've got nothing to hit but the heights,

We'll be swell, we'll be great, I can tell, mustn't wait...

To plan for the reunion night that's due,

Classmates, we'll have the time of our life, our Committee's for you.

MARY: That was great, Cookie. (*to SECRETARY*) Let's be sure to write that one down. Well, with all this talk about movie stars. I was wondering if that famous movie star classmate of ours will be coming to the reunion.

COOKIE: I was wondering the same thing.

MARY: I had a few classes with him.

COOKIE: So did I.

MARY: I had such a crush on him.

COOKIE: So did I!

SONG: *Razzle Dazzle* [one chorus/break/repeat last eight bars]
(insert a different name of a well-known person in your community, if desired)

MARY: (takes framed photo of WARREN out of tote bag & reveals to audience as she begins to sing)

*When I first met Warren Beatty, how he dazzled me,
He was a guy with unique class and style, twinkling eyes and oh what a smile,
I fell in love and I knew this, almost instantly,
He would be just the one who's meant for me,
Would have had fun if we went dancing
Or had a little romancing,
When I met Warren, how he dazzled me.
[music vamps during the following spoken lines]*

COOKIE: (spoken) I bet he dazzled a lot of you. Raise your hand if you dated Warren.

COOKIE: (repeats last eight bars)
*He dated my sorority sister,
Wasn't meant to be my mister,
When I knew Warren, how he frazzled me, how he dazzled me.*

COOKIE: So you never really dated Warren?

MARY: I thought I did.

COOKIE: Well, you weren't the only one who was dazzled by him.! (turns tote bag around to reveal Warren's photo)

SONG: *McNamara's Band* [1 chorus]

COOKIE: *I had my eye on Warren too, but never gave a sign,
 'Cause if I'd try to talk to him, I'd have to get in line
 But went on dates with other boys I hardly ever kissed,
 Little did I know it then, but my mom kept a list,
 There was Harry, Jerry, Ben, and Burt, Archie, Dick, and Dave,
 Carl, Mort, and Morris, oh those memories I save,
 Shelly, Ronnie, Izzy too, and a boy named Jim,
 The last name on the list was LOUIE, and I married him.*

MARY: Let's get back to planning the show and forget about the boys.

COOKIE: And move on to the men, right?

MARY: Speaking of men, how about this song, which was written back in 1916.

SONG: *A Good Man is Hard to Find* [2 choruses: 4 different styles]

MARY: [while doing a little soft shoe]

*Lord, a good man is hard to find,
 You always get another kind,
 Just when you think that he's your pal,
 You turn around and find him messin' round some other gal.*

COOKIE: Now let's try it this way [blues style, with boas]
*And then you rave, you even crave, to see him lying in his grave,
 So if your man is nice, take my advice,
 Hug him in the mornin' kiss him ev'ry night,
 Give him plenty lovin' treat him right,
 'Cause a good man nowadays is hard to find.*

Why don't we throw in a little cha-cha?

MARY: [sung] *Lord, a good man is hard to find,* (COOKIE: *Cha cha cha*)

You always get another kind, (COOKIE: *Cha cha cha*)

Just when you think that he's your pal,

You turn around and find him messin' round some other gal,

And then you rave, (COOKIE: *Cha cha cha*) *you even crave,* (COOKIE: *Cha cha cha*) *to see him
 lying in his grave,*

COOKIE and MARY [brassy nightclub showgirl style with boas]:

So if your man is nice, take my advice,

*Hug him in the morning, ' kiss him ev'ry night,
Give him plenty lovin, ' treat him right
'Cause a*

COOKIE: *hard man nowadays* [music, singing stops]

MARY: (stage whisper) *Cookie! A GOOD man!*

COOKIE: *Oops!*

COOKIE and MARY: *A good man nowadays is hard to find.*

MARY: That was fun. Let's plan to do that for our show. (to SECRETARY) Will you please write that down?

COOKIE: If that song was written in 1916, do you think a good man is still hard to find in ____ [*insert current year*]?

MARY: Well, it is for friends of mine who are on their second or third time around. Just the other day, my friend Nancy told me...

SONG: *You're Just in Love* [1st chorus]

MARY: *She would like to find a man to date,
But the ones she's met are not so great,
They're not looking for a real soulmate,
She wonders why, she wonders why.
She won't go out with just any guy.
She won't cook or bake him cakes and pies.
Wants to travel, maybe Timbuctoo,
His kids think she's a shrew, she wonders why.*

(COOKIE moves the stool Down Center as she says the following)

COOKIE: Well...you didn't ask my opinion, but here's what I would tell Nancy...

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!