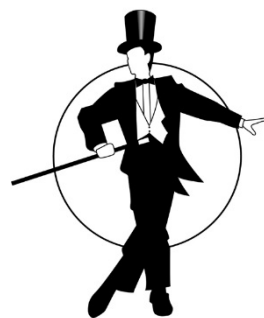


The Casserole Chorus

Lennie Singer



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THE CASSEROLE CHORUS

By Lenny Singer

CAST

WALTER: A resident at the Villa Estates, and waiter at Villas Grill. He carries a lot of years, and shuffles when he walks, yet has a quick wit and even disposition. He can't hear for beans, and loves to tinker with modern electronics.

AGNES: A seventy something divorcee. Pushy, edgy, and a bit crass. But she'd do anything for her bosom buddies.

ROSIE: Seventies. Wants to live life to the fullest. She's all energy and laughter. Vivacious and fun. Not the sharpest pencil in the box, but very caring.

BEA: Late seventies, early eighties. Still on the newest fad diet after all these years. She's very careful about her appearance and primps a lot.

GLADIS: Late seventies, early eighties. Tends toward gossip and is incredibly flighty. Always trying to fix things.

PHARMACIST: (voice over) Male or female. Cheerful, helpful, and somewhat confused. Can be played by a Chorus member.

SIRI: (voice over) Formal. Robotic. Can be played by a Chorus member.

ALEXA: (voice over) Very formal and robot-like. Can be played by a Chorus member.

CHORUS: A Greek-inspired speaking chorus. The preference is to have seven members, with the 7th having the most solos and the troublemaker. The number may change according to the needs of the producing theatre company.

Place

The Villa Estates Grill.

Time

The Present.

THE CASSEROLE CHORUS

At Rise: The Grill at the Villas Estates. The ladies enter stage left, newspaper, iPad, pencil and pads of paper in hand. They sit at same table as Scene 1. WALTER enters stage right with tray of mugs and muffins and sets them on table. Agnes, Gladis and Rosie open their newspapers to the obituary section. Bea pulls out her iPad. Gladis clinks her cup with her spoon. Rosie perks up and winks at Walter. They freeze as Chorus stands and crosses solemnly, like monks, downstage as a unit, toward the ladies' table, all moving toward stage left (except for Chorus #7, who moves right.) Looking pleased and confident, Chorus #7 looks to see no one is there. Mortified, he slinks back to join others, as they turn in unison to chide him.

CHORUS: Feelings from the heart, their aim's toward the bereavement.

So from the very start, feed 'em first is their achievement.

Bellies full are bellies happy, and that's their loving aim.

Thus the ladies' casserole chorus is the name of their game.

(Chorus crosses upstage to their bench and watches the action.)

ROSIE: How's that adorable wife of yours Walter? I heard she's terribly ill. So very sorry.

WALTER: Oh, she's ailing. We're hopeful, but things are looking a bit grim.

ROSIE: *(perking up, looking over her newspaper.)* Oh, that's such a shame. *(with forced empathy.)* Walter, let me ask you a question. *(She cups her hand over his.)*

WALTER: *(looking at her hand, then quickly removes it and begins wiping a bit of the spill)* All right.

ROSIE: Do you like casseroles?

(Agnes and Bea quickly shush her as they look around to see if anyone is looking at them.)

GLADIS: *(Quickly making light of a tenuous situation.)* Ha ha! Nothing like a nice hot tuna casserole, huh, Walter?

WALTER: *(staring blankly)* More coffee?

AGNES: *(loudly)* We're good. Walter. Thank you.

The Casserole Chorus

(shuffles him off with the wave of her hand. Continues loudly.) Okay girls.

(the other women shush her again.) The meeting of the Casserole Chorus will now come to order. Everyone. Stop doing what you're doing. We first have to find out if there's any old business. *(Gladis raises her hand quickly.)* Go ahead, Gladis.

GLADIS: Well, this is, I would say, extremely old business. I went to Corn Hole practice with George Ellsworth last Monday. He confessed that he loved my Piggies in a Blanket Bean and Cheese Casserole. We played a couple of rounds with the corn bags. But he started to belch a little and said he over did it on the Piggies in a Blanket, so he wasn't feeling too spiffy. Next thing I know he's layin' on the ground, grabbing his belly.

ROSIE: Oh my goodness. That's frightening. Is he all right?

GLADIS: Uh, well, let's just say we should probably remove Piggies in a Blanket Bean and Cheese Casserole from the approved food list. The Funeral was last Wednesday.

AGNES: Good grief, Gladis, you're supposed to nurture these poor gentlemen, not kill them! Try to be more in sync with sensitive stomach issues in the future, would you?

All right, now is there any more old business?

(Rosie raises her hand reluctantly, putting it back down, then raising it again) Yes, Rosie?

ROSIE: I think this qualifies as old business. *(Sighs heavily)* I delivered to five gentlemen last week. That's five Corningware oven-to-freezer dishes. Now, I know this is in a gesture of caring and such, but...but...but I, well I...

AGNES: Spit it out Rosie! What is it, for crying out loud!

ROSIE: Well, all right then. I will just do that, Agnes. I will spit it out. *(louder and much more aggressive than her usual tone)* I am out of Corningware Oven-To-Freezer casserole dishes and I think that our club should finance replacements for them. They're a bit pricey, you know, and I can't just go back to these gentlemen and ask for the empties back. *(meek again)* Can I? Well, can I?

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!