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CDS Skit Kit #3

by PEG KEHRET

1. Are You Listening, Philodendron?
 2. De-Barking De Boy
 3. Welcome to Jupiter
 4. Umpire's Training School
 5. Wright On, Brother
 6. The Confession Club
 7. The Murdered Mystic
 8. Ventriloquist Contest
 9. Cleverness Capsules
 10. Principal for a Day
 11. Promise Him Anything
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HOW TO AVOID SKITS-OPHRENIA

(Some hints on getting it all together)

The key to a good skit is informality. Unlike plays, skits do not have to be professional or polished in order to be successful. It isn't necessary to memorize lines, sew costumes or construct scenery. It *is* necessary to have fun. If the players can relax and let their collective sense of humor guide them, the audience will soon get into the spirit, too.

Part of the audience's fun comes simply from seeing friends and acquaintances on stage, "hamming it up." They don't expect to see a professional performance. They ask merely to enjoy a good time: to laugh a little and grin a lot at the antics of the performers.

It is perfectly all right for the players to carry the scripts with them, though most of these skits are short enough to make memorization easy. The lines are not necessarily unalterable. If, by changing a few words, the scene seems funnier or more appropriate for your particular situation, go ahead and change it.

In a few skits, a prop or two is suggested. Nowhere are they completely necessary. If you don't have it, don't worry. Use your imagination instead. If *you* can visualize a make-believe space ship, your audience will be able to see it with you.

Because skits do not have "stars," each participant is as important as every other. Some players will never speak a line but they can still throw themselves whole-heartedly into the action. Many of the characters are stereotypes and will seem funnier if they are portrayed in an exaggerated fashion.

If your group of players is inexperienced, it may be helpful to have a leader for each skit. The best skits are cooperative group efforts but if one person in the cast is responsible for seeing that the performance is ready when the allotted preparation time is up, he may help to draw out the group's ideas more quickly.

Preparation time will vary according to how much is available and how polished a production is planned. But whether your group spends half an hour or several days rehearsing, the main thing to remember is to enjoy what you're doing. If you have a good time, your audience will have a good time, too.

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SKIT 1: Are You Listening, Philodendron?

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CAST: Maw, Paw, Plants

SETTING: The PLANTS enter (any number of people from 2 to 10) and form a semi-circle. They crouch down on the floor, making themselves as small as possible. Enter MAW and PAW. MAW carries a watering can. She enters the semi-circle and begins to “water” her plants. PAW sits at one side, watching her.

MAW: Good morning, Philodendrons. Good morning, Ivy. How are you today, my dears? My, if you aren’t just the prettiest group of plants I’ve ever seen.

PAW: You must be getting old, Maw. You’re talking to yourself.

MAW: To myself? Don’t be silly. I’m talking to my plants. *(To the PLANTS)* Did you hear that? He thought I was talking to myself.

(As MAW continues to water and talk, the plants slowly start to grow. As if in slow motion they rise, gradually extending their arms above their heads and opening their fingers one at a time. This should be done very slowly. Occasionally they nod their heads and smile at something MAW says. By the end of the skit, when MAW leaves, each plant should be standing on tip-toe, with arms forming branches and fingers forming leaves.)

PAW: Well, if that isn’t the silliest thing I ever heard. Talking to your plants. As if they could understand you.

MAW: Of course they can understand me. See how much they’ve grown since last year. Plants are just like children . . . they thrive on love and attention. *(To the PLANTS, who are now growing)* Don’t you, my dears? Ah, Ivy, how lovely you look today. That green is a most becoming color.

PAW: What color did you think an ivy would be? Pink?

MAW: *(Ignoring PAW)* It’s your lucky day, my dears. Fertilizer time. And do I have a treat for you. It’s your very favorite . . . steer manure!

PAW: *(Rubs his stomach and smacks his lips.)* Yum, yum. Steer

1 manure.

2 **MAW:** Don't pay any attention to him, darlings. I know what
3 you like best and I've brought plenty of it. (*She pretends*
4 *to put some fertilizer around the bottom of the plants and work*
5 *it in with a trowel.*) Oh, isn't that delicious? That's just what
6 you need to grow strong and healthy and beautiful.

7 **PAW:** Maybe you should take some yourself.

8 **MAW:** (*Still ignores PAW*) Of course, you are already beautiful
9 but this will make you even more so. You'll be the loveliest
10 group of house plants in the world. It wouldn't surprise
11 me at all if *House and Garden* sent a photographer out
12 to do a feature story on you one of these days.

13 **PAW:** And it wouldn't surprise me if *Psychiatry Today* did a
14 feature story on you.

15 **MAW:** At the very least, I believe I'll enter you in the County
16 Fair next year. It would be nice to have a collection of
17 blue ribbons on display. (*She finishes fertilizing and starts*
18 *to water again.*) Here you are. Just a little drink to wash
19 that down real nice. Oh, I can almost see you growing
20 right before my very eyes. What wonderful plants you
21 are! I love all of you! And I'll be back this afternoon to
22 move you into the sunshine for a few hours. Goodbye my
23 dears. I'll see you soon. (*MAW exits. PAW watches her leave*
24 *and then goes over and stands in the semi-circle of plants. He*
25 *looks at the plants a moment, shakes his head sadly and then*
26 *turns to face the audience.*)

27 **PAW:** I must apologize for my wife. She gets carried away
28 when she gardens. Naturally, you and I know that plants
29 can't understand a word we say. Especially a group of
30 stupid, scrawny, spindly-looking plants like these. (*The*
31 *PLANTS reach out and slowly put their arms around PAW,*
32 *pinning his arms down, while he yells desperately for help.*)

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SKIT 2: De-Barking De Boy

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CAST: Receptionist, Mrs. Bernard, Saint, Dr. Mongrel

SETTING: The scene is a veterinarian's office. Enter MRS. BERNARD and her son, SAINT. The doctor's RECEPTIONIST greets them.

RECEPTIONIST: May I help you?

MRS. BERNARD: I hope so. Oh, I truly hope so.

RECEPTIONIST: What seems to be the problem?

MRS. BERNARD: It's my son's voice. Dr. Mongrel is my last hope to save my son's voice.

RECEPTIONIST: But Dr. Mongrel is a veterinarian. He can't accept a human patient.

MRS. BERNARD: Our case is unique, I assure you. Please couldn't we at least talk to Dr. Mongrel? I'm sure if he heard my son speak, Dr. Mongrel would want to help us.

RECEPTIONIST: I'm sorry, but our rules are very clear. Dogs, cats and rabbits only. We don't even take parakeets. I suggest you go to a general practitioner.

MRS. BERNARD: *(Starts to cry.)* You don't understand. I've already taken my son to every doctor in town. General practitioners, throat specialists, pediatricians. None of them can help him. That's why I said that Dr. Mongrel is my last hope.

RECEPTIONIST: But if all those specialists couldn't do anything for your son's voice, what makes you think that Dr. Mongrel can help him?

MRS. BERNARD: *(To her son)* Say something for the girl, dear. Speak!

SAINT: Woof. Woof. Woof.

RECEPTIONIST: Ha, ha, ha. You have quite a sense of humor Sonny.

MRS. BERNARD: It's no joke. Don't you see? He always talks like that. Ever since he was a baby, he barked instead of talking. Instead of Mama or Dada, his first words were,

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