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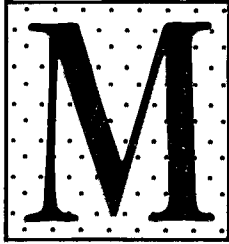
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MORNING IME TIME

*A collection of seven
mime skits*

by DEBBIE HOWELL

1. Morning Paper
2. Bathroom Disaster
3. Morning Jogger
4. Morning Jean Scene
5. Morning Diet Disquiet
6. Morning Paint Job
7. Morning in the Park



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INTRODUCTION

The day dawns, bright and cheerful, the mime wakes to face his world. He is never prepared for what follows. This collection of skits seeks to explore some of the everyday events we could all encounter. They may be performed one at a time or as an entire program. The success of the presentation will depend on how well the mime can capture the mood of the character. Look at the commonplace and seek to exaggerate. You too will enjoy the humor that is distinctly human.

This is a wake-up call for fun!

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Morning Paper

1
2
3 **SCENE:** In front of the house, inside and out, as the morning paper
4 is retrieved.

5 **CHARACTERS:** MASTER: Reader of the morning paper and super
6 trainer of the family dog. FIDO: Family dog, well-trained and
7 not a reader of the morning paper.

8 MASTER enters from Stage Right, stretching and
9 yawning. FIDO is curled in a fetal position just Left of
10 Centerstage. MASTER sleepily walks across the stage
11 without seeing FIDO. The dog reacts to the nudge as
12 MASTER stumbles into his sleeping form. MASTER reaches
13 down to pat FIDO on the head in apology.

14 FIDO snarls in reaction. MASTER jerks back his
15 hand and tries a cautious approach. FIDO shakes himself,
16 and stretches his back as he increases the distance
17 between hands and knees to maintain an "all fours"
18 position. FIDO appears to be fully awake and in a better
19 mood as he shakes his rear end to wag his "tail."

20 MASTER advances to Centerstage, facing the
21 audience, as he unlocks, unlocks and unlocks the well-
22 bolted front door. He points the way down the front walk
23 to the intended object of his search — the morning
24 newspaper. FIDO moves slowly toward the door and also
25 gazes down the walk; he turns and moves away from the
26 door. MASTER applies his training experience to obtain
27 the desired results. He walks toward the door putting
28 his hand on the dog's collar and firmly pulling in the
29 direction of the door.

30 FIDO has another idea. He continues walking away
31 from the front door. MASTER allows himself to be pulled
32 along then releases the dog. MASTER walks to the door
33 and slaps both thighs. FIDO, still in the position of
34 retreat, turns his head to look over one shoulder, shakes
35 his head negative. MASTER tries again but FIDO curls up

1 into his sleep position and resumes his nap.

2 MASTER pulls his clothing tighter to brave the cold
3 and walks out to get his own paper. He bends to pick up
4 the publication and unrolls the cylinder to begin reading
5 the headlines. Behind him, FIDO unwinds and walks to
6 the door nudging it shut with his nose and returns to his
7 sleeping position.

8 MASTER reacts to the slam of the door by looking
9 over his shoulder; he is unconcerned by the supposed
10 windblown portal and resumes his scan of current events.
11 A few seconds pass and MASTER decides to re-enter his
12 castle. He rolls the paper into a cylinder and approaches
13 the door. He turns the knob but the door does not open.
14 MASTER places the paper under one arm and places both
15 hands on the knob. Again the door will not open.

16 MASTER turns to look both directions and sees no
17 chance of help. He pounds on the door with a fist, nothing
18 happens. He rings the doorbell, nothing happens. He
19 remembers the plant which hides a spare key. MASTER
20 lifts the potted plant with much effort to the right of the
21 door, no key.

22 MASTER remembers the watchdog on guard inside.
23 He knocks on the door and listens, no sound. He places
24 two fingers on his lower lip to blow a whistle; he listens
25 for movement inside, no sound. MASTER sits in front of
26 the door, leans his back against the fortress and reaches
27 for his paper. He reads for a moment then puts the paper
28 down to pull his clothing tighter because he is now well
29 chilled. MASTER looks Stage Right and Stage Left, still
30 no help is in sight. He picks up his paper and resumes
31 his reading.

32 FIDO wakes and stretches. He turns his head from side
33 to side and hears nothing. He barks, still nothing. FIDO walks
34 slowly to the front door. He scratches on the door and
35 turns his head to the side, to listen, but nothing happens.

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FIDO stands on his hind legs and places his mouth on the door knob. He turns and the door begins to open slowly. The weight of the MASTER causes the door to swing open as he falls into his castle. FIDO is pleased with his efforts and rushes to grab the paper from his trainer's hand.

FIDO prances proudly around the room waving the paper back and forth as he wags his tail. The MASTER gets to his feet, brushes himself off and advances toward FIDO. MASTER removes the paper from the mouth of FIDO. He carefully rolls the tattered scraps into a neat roll. MASTER slaps the paper against his thigh and points to the door.

FIDO has gotten the message; he drops his head and slowly exits out the front door. The MASTER closes the door behind his dog and exits Stage Left, truly the king in his own castle.

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