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Variety Show Comedy Skits

by ROBERT MAURO

Ten short vaudeville sketches

1. **The Hypnotist**
 2. **The Psychiatrist**
 3. **The Escape Artist**
 4. **The Fast Food Instructor**
 5. **The Subway Werewolf**
 6. **The Lie Detector Operator**
 7. **Talk Radio Jerk**
 8. **The Drill Sergeant**
 9. **Computer Auto Repair Wiz**
 10. **Who's Holmes?**
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Production Notes

These short comedy skits are really old-time burlesque sketches updated and without sexual innuendo. They are meant to be played broadly and with slapstick action where possible.

No sets or expensive props are needed. Improvise props as simply as possible. Cut them out of cardboard — wire together odds and ends! They need only communicate the idea of what they are supposed to be.

The actors can walk on with their props and set them up themselves. Then with only a smile and a bow they can go into action.

These skits can also be used as blackouts between musical numbers, or in front of the curtain while others are setting up the stage for a feature number.

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The Hypnotist

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CAST: HARROLD (a nerd); ZELDA; the HYPNOTIST.

SETTING: HYPNOTIST's office. ZELDA and HARROLD sit in chairs, facing audience. Sign saying: HYPNO, THE GREAT WILL BE BACK IN A MINUTE.

HARROLD: But, Zelda, I don't want to change. I don't want some hypnotist turning me into a hunk, a non-nerd! I like being a nerd. I like computers, wearing these old black horn-rimmed glasses. I like having a plastic pocket protector in my shirt for my pens. I'm sorry, but I just enjoy being a nerd.

ZELDA: Harrold, really. How can you say you like being a nerd? All the cool kids at school make fun of you. They think you're weird, a jerk, a nerd! Don't you want to be like Biff or Brad or Lance?

HARROLD: Those snobs? I'm sorry, Zelda, but no. I prefer being the way I am. I don't like Brad, Biff, or Lance — or those girls they hang out with. All blonde and blue-eyed and those perfect figures! Gee whiz! I much prefer you! And being a nerd!

ZELDA: Thanks, I think. Hey, but what's wrong with my figure?

HARROLD: Oh, nothing! You're . . . you're sort of pretty.

ZELDA: Sort of? Well, I guess I'm no blonde bombshell.

HARROLD: No, Zelda, you're not. You're smart, sensible, down to earth, fun to be with —

ZELDA: And sort of pretty.

HARROLD: Well, sort of. But that's why I like you and why I really prefer being a nerd. *(He gets up to leave.)*

ZELDA: *(Pulling him down)* Hey, where do you think you're going?

HARROLD: I'm going back to school. *(Checks his watch.)* It's time for my computer repair class.

1 **ZELDA:** No way. You're not going to chicken out now. You
2 promised you'd give Hypno, the Great a chance. There's
3 no reason you have to go through life as a nerd. It's not
4 fair to you, and it's not fair to me.

5 **HARROLD:** Zelda, can't you just like me the way I am? I like
6 you the way you are. I don't care that you're not blonde
7 and beautiful and have big . . . er . . . blue eyes. Can't you
8 love me the way I am?

9 **ZELDA:** I've tried, Harrold. And . . . well . . . I do like you a
10 lot. It's just that . . . well, I sort of wish —

11 **HARROLD:** You sort of wish I were a hunk, a non-nerd, a Biff
12 or a Brad. Right?

13 **ZELDA:** Well, what girl wouldn't want a hunk, especially
14 me? All the girls think I'm so homely all I can get is . . . is —

15 **HARROLD:** A nerd like me.

16 **ZELDA:** Right. (*HYPNO enters and puts sign away.*)

17 **HYPNO:** And what have we here? Another nerd conversion?

18 **ZELDA:** Yes, Hypno. I want you to change my boyfriend
19 Harrold into a hunk.

20 **HYPNO:** Yes. You ready, young man?

21 **HARROLD:** Ohhh, well, yes, I guess so. I'll do it for Zelda.

22 **HYPNO:** Excellent. (*Takes out a watch and swings it in front of*
23 *HARROLD's face.*) Just watch my watch and repeat after
24 me, "I am not a nerd. I am a hunk."

25 **HARROLD:** (*As in a trance*) I am not a nerd. I am a hunk.

26 **ZELDA:** Like Biff!

27 **HARROLD:** Like Biff.

28 **HYPNO:** When I snap my fingers, you'll wake up and no
29 longer be a nerd. (*Snaps fingers.*)

30 **ZELDA:** How do you feel, Harrold?

31 **HARROLD:** (*Takes off glasses, takes out pocket protector and tosses*
32 *them aside. He combs his hair more fashionably. Talks like a*
33 *snob to ZELDA.*) Harrold? My name is Biff and . . . (*Frowning*
34 *at ZELDA*) And what are you?

35 **ZELDA:** Huh? I'm you're girlfriend. Zelda!

1 **HARROLD: You? My girl? A homely thing like you? Ha! My**
2 **girlfriend is blonde! And it's time for our tennis match.**
3 **Ciao! (*HARROLD exits as ZELDA cries.*)**
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