Miss Teen Beauty Queen

By Delmar Burkitt

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STORY OF THE PLAY

A dozen young women are gathering to compete in “Miss Hometown America,” a beauty pageant whose contestants must be from small towns. In addition, three other girls are there – at least in spirit! After an untimely end, Heather, Hope and Twyla come back to earth as angels, and are watching the very pageant they had hoped to be in. They must be there for a reason, but why? As the pageant proceeds, we meet other contestants, including Ursula and her posse who are determined to take the winning and follow-up spots, no matter what. Can the angel trio keep the pageant fair *and* stop Ursula from stealing Heather’s boyfriend? Other characters add beautiful humor including an egocentric newsman, enraptured stage mom, fussy director, and dim secretary.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

NEWS TEAM / PAGEANT OFFICIALS
ACE ATTAMIN: Shallow TV newscaster.
JERRY: Cameraman. Enjoys deflating Ace's ego.
ROGER SALLEW: Pageant director, from a small town.
HARVEY VAILE: Assistant, well-liked by the contestants.
ALISE MORGAN: Assistant, domineering.
MISS PLANK: Pageant secretary, vague and near-sighted.
NORM MORELESS: Somewhat misplaced accountant.
JACK BARRETT: Celebrity judge, pseudo-intellectual.
WILL CASSIDY: Celebrity judge, pseudo-movie star.
LANCE JASPER: Celebrity judge, pseudo-makeup artist.
BOB RUSSELL: Emcee.
ANNA REMINGTON: Last year's winner. *(Can double with Alise.)*

ANGELS
HEATHER KIRK: Angel who hears messages.
HOPE ADLER: Angel who can make people think or do things.
TWYLA NASH: Angel who can make objects move.

CONTESTANTS
URSULA YOE: Contestant determined to win at any cost.
AMANDA BLISS: Contestant, follows Ursula's lead.
RULIE LITCHFIELD: Another contestant and follower.
DELANEY MANOR: Contestant.
PHYLLIS WEBB: Contestant.
GINNY CLINTON: Contestant.
SUSAN MIFFLIN: Contestant.
CYNTHIA SCURLOCK: Contestant.
ADDISON HIGBY: Contestant.
SAPPHIRE HIXON: Contestant.
ROSE YOUNG: Contestant.
CARRIE CHINA: Contestant.

OTHERS
DAVE: The janitor.
MR. ALAN KIRK: Heather's father.
AARON SANDS: Heather's boyfriend.
MRS. LUCILLE HIXON: Sapphire's mother.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I
Scene 1: First day, in the hotel lobby.
Scene 2: Several hours later, the first meeting.
Scene 3: That afternoon, the first rehearsal.

ACT II
Scene 1: A day or two later at a rehearsal.
Scene 2: A short time later. The hotel hallway.
Scene 3: Before the pageant.
Scene 4: The pageant.

MUSIC AND DANCE NUMBERS

The dance number for the contestants should start off with an old-fashioned feel with lots of arm fluttering and graceful gliding movement, but it morphs into a current energetic dance number. A choreographer may be helpful.

For the individual talent portions, changes in the script may be made based on the available talent of the actresses portraying the contestants.

COSTUMING

Angels should be wearing light-colored flowing dresses, perhaps even be identical. No wings necessary. Contestants wear casual, modern day clothes and an assortment of evening gowns. Rulie should be dressed in a drum major or cheerleader type costume for her baton routine.

SETTING

With little or no furniture, this show is easy to adapt to most stages. Few props are needed.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: Hotel lobby {or may be performed before curtain}. ACE ATTAMIN, JERRY, and ROGER SALLEW are present. Jerry has his video camera ready for the job.)

ACE: How's the lighting going to be in this spot, Jerry? Will it be okay? It won't make my face look too washed out, will it?

JERRY: *(Loves to torment Ace.)* The lighting is going to be fine, Ace, but if you want to be this city's most beautiful newsman, you better touch up that hair. And, uh, I don't think there is much you can do about your complexion.

ACE: What about my hair? What's wrong?

JERRY: Let's just say that it looks like you have been outside doing a story about wind damage. And the damage was concentrating on your hair.

ACE: *(Takes comb from pocket and carefully "fixes" hair.)* How's that, Jerry?

JERRY: That's the Ace this town loves to look at. Or at least that's what you think this town loves to look at. Wait a minute. Your nose seems to have a little shine to it.

ACE: I can fix that. *(Removes small compact from pocket and powders his nose using the mirror with a great deal of vanity.)* Now, do I look really good? Be honest, Jerry.

JERRY: Hey, you suited me just fine before. You're the one that worries about your adoring fans.

ACE: All right, Mr. Sallew, step in here just a little closer. Are you set, Jerry? His shadow isn't hitting across my face, is it?

JERRY: Unfortunately not. Ready to roll, Ace. Three, two, one, action.

ACE: Good evening, America, this is Ace Attamin coming to you live from the Main Street Hotel. Our town has been selected from the thousands of small cities across the USA to be the site of this year's Miss Hometown America Pageant. I have with me Mr. Roger Sallew, the organizer of this wonderful idea. Mr. Sallew, would you please tell our television audience about the concepts behind this pageant.

ROGER: I'd be happy to Mr. …? What was your name again?
ACE: *(Offended he's not well-known.)* Attamin, Ace Attamin.

(Several CONTESTANTS with suitcases and garment bags may be passing behind them to register at the front desk. MRS. HIXON hovers near the interview, may even wave at the camera, but her daughter SAPPHIRE pulls her away.)

ROGER: Yes, Attamin. Well, anyway, I'd be happy to tell your audience all about it. The big national beauty pageants are losing viewers, but here in small towns, pageants are very important, especially if local groups like the Elks Clubs are sponsoring them. *(Puffing out his chest.)* You see, I'm from a small town myself, and I know that the people who live in small towns are fine people.
ACE: So you came up with a new pageant?
ROGER: I sure did. My belief is that the ladies in small towns in America are just as beautiful and just as talented as the big city girls. Now, um…*(Trying to think of Ace's name.) …*
ACE: Ace! My name is Ace Attamin!
ROGER: Yes, don't get me wrong, Ace. There are beautiful girls all over this country, indeed, all over this world. But I just worry about the people in small towns. Sometimes they just don't have the same opportunities as those who are fortunate enough to live where the action is, so to speak.
ACE: So how do you pick the contestants for this contest?
ROGER: It's a fairly complicated concept, but I'll make it simple for you. We take the census records of every locality in the United States. Then we sort out all towns that have a population of approximately 5,000 people. Then we contact the city leaders –
ACE: *(Interrupting, bored)* Yeah, yeah. That is complicated.
ROGER: Well, anyway, we have been fortunate enough, thanks to people like you, Mr. …um …Attamin, to get the publicity to make this a really successful event.
ACE: *(Preening.)* Well, thanks for your kind words. I'm always out to help my fellow man.
JERRY: *(Prompting in a loud whisper.)* The plane crash.

End of Freeview

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