

The Big Day

A series of sketches by

Pat Cook

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STORY OF THE PLAY

You ever have a “Big Day”? We all have. Not quite like this group, however. Take the case of Butch and Murph, who decide to hold up a bank only to find that Murph is the — Congratulations!—one millionth customer! Or little Phoebe, whose class assignment was to write a 500-word essay on her “Big Day” in which she tells of her birthday party where the dog set the couch on fire. We see the invention of the wheel and what it was REALLY for. And then there’s Lucille, who gets her first driving lesson from her father – the church pie sale being only one of her victims along the way. Or the big graduation from a training school where 2 guys have to fill in for 14. Reality television gets a send-up as do those “man on the street” interviews. These 12 “Big Days,” which showcase a riotous variety of life’s not-so-ordinary situations, may be done with a flexible cast and simple staging. Written by the same author who brought you many other comedies such as “Barbecuing Hamlet” and “Little Town of Christmas.”

***** Congratulations to Playwright Pat Cook *****

The publication of this play marks an incredible milestone for the playwright, Pat Cook. “The Big Day,” is his 100th published play. Pat Cook’s plays have brought enjoyment to hundreds upon thousands of people all across the globe. We salute the genius of this Houston-based playwright and are proud to publish over 40 of his works. For a list of those published by Eldridge and a short biography of Pat, please go to our website at www.histage.com.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Since this is an anthology of scenes, actors and actresses may portray several parts. The following are the characters in each scene. Recommended cast minimum of 6 m, 6 w.)

ACT I

“THE BIG INVENTION”

GUGGA: Wise guy caveman.

HUCKA: Not-to-bright caveman.

PLUNK: Inventor.

PLOO: Wife of Gugga.

“THE BIG SHOW”

HOST: Easy-talking game show host.

LARRY: Naïve contestant.

MADELINE: Sarcastic assistant to host.

SARA: Contestant.

WALLY: Contestant.

“THE BIG TRIP”

RALPH: Very irritated father.

BETTY: Patient and long-suffering mother.

FRANK: The kid next door.

KAITLIN: Whiny daughter.

DARLA: Pushy daughter.

MOTHER: Frank's mother.

“THE BIG SPEECH”

PHOEBE: A 9-year-old girl.

“THE BIG GRADUATION”

TOMKINS: Sneaky he-man type.

WALTERS: Equally sneaky type.

MRS. JEFFORDS: Near-sighted leader.

MISS LYDIA: Jeffords' assistant.

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"THE BIG SEND-OFF"

BISSELL: Lady emcee for the dinner.

THORNDYKE: New woman with the firm.

KLEMMER: Wise guy company man.

BOYD: Man who's had too much to drink.

SHEPHERD HOGUE: Retiring worker.

"THE BIG COMEBACK"

EUDORA: Actress whose been around.

GERTRUDE: Another long-time actress.

STAGE MANAGER: Pushy manager.

LARRY: Contestant. (from "The Big Show").

ACT II

"THE BIG ANNIVERSARY"

WAITER: Gentle and courteous wait-person.

GENTLEMAN: Amiable and nostalgic senior citizen.

LADY: Kind and caring senior citizen.

"THE BIG QUESTION"

INTERVIEWER: Typical "Man on the Street" host.

CLYDE: Wise guy.

MARY LOU: Slightly odd, irritated character.

ARCHIE: Long-suffering husband.

MABEL: Long-talking wife.

BARRY: Young man in love.

BOBBY JO: Young woman in love.

"THE BIG BANK JOB"

MRS. BROWN: Young bank teller.

MR. CARNEY: Older bank manager.

BUTCH: Would-be bank robber.

MURPH: Butch's dim assistant.

SECURITY GUARDS: Two.

"THE BIG LESSON"

FRAN: Nervous mother.

LUCILLE: Very optimistic teenager.

BILL: Shell-shocked father.

"THE BIG DISCOVERY"

REPORTER: On-the-scene, fast-talking type.

PROF. CLATTERBY: Absent-minded archaeologist.

DR. SOAMES: Clatterby's assistant.

LARRY: Beaten contestant (from "The Big Show").

HOST: Talk show host (from "The Big Show").

Not only may an actor or actress play many parts in this show but, in some cases, some parts may be played by either a man or a woman, such as "Prof. Clatterby," "Interviewer," "Reporter" and so on. Also, extras may be used in many sketches.

ACT I
Scene 1
"The Big Invention"

(AT RISE: It is the Dawn of Man! And on this particular dawn, a few CAVEMEN and WOMEN are gathered DS and chatting among themselves. UPS of them is a cave wall on which is drawn many sketches of animals, storms, snowfall, etc. A large rock table sits in front of the wall on which sits something covered in an animal skin. At this moment, GUGGA is telling a joke as the others listen.)

GUGGA: Ugg ag Goo. Goo ag goo. Uh lala ...GOO GOO!

(The OTHERS laugh uproariously at this. All except HUCKA, who looks at the others, blankly. GUGGA stops laughing.)

HUCKA: *(Shaking HIS head.)* Ee dada. Hucka ee dada.
(HE shrugs.)

(GUGGA looks at the OTHERS, makes a circular motion with his finger pointed to his head and nods to HUCKA. They giggle at this. He then turns back to Hucka.)

GUGGA: *(Again.)* Goo ... og ... goo ... Uh ... lala ...GOO GOO!

(HUCKA gets it this time and laughs. The OTHERS point and laugh at Hucka. Hucka stops laughing and raises his club.)

HUCKA: Ooh, doo loo! Smacka smacka! *(HE slaps his open hand with his club.)*

(The OTHERS clam up and back off a bit. One rolls his eyes, another points over his shoulder at HUCKA and shakes his head. At this moment, PLUNK enters SL, waving for everyone to sit.)

End of Freeview

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