

Salute to Laugh-In

MALE CHARACTERS: Requires 4 actors (see note below)

Wolfgang – WWII German character unaware the war is over with thick German accent who constantly appears from behind bushes and potted plants to comment on a previous gag, saying “Verry in-te-res-tink, followed by a comment of some sort.

Tyrone F. Horneigh (pronounced hor-NIGH) because of censors, but we may change that pronunciation. He was a dirty old man who was always after drab spinster Gladys Ormphby, sitting on a park bench

Rabbi Shankar – (a play on Ravi Shankar) Indian guru in Nehru jacket who delivers bad puns while holding up two fingers in a peace sign.

Henry Gibson – (his name is a takeoff on Henrik Ibsen) A Poet carrying an oversized flower who nervously reads offbeat, simplistic poems.

Pyotr Rosmenko – Russian man in an ill-fitting suit commenting with a Russian accent on differences between America and his home country.

Announcer – Introduces characters with a professionally sounding voice

FEMALE CHARACTERS: Requires

Gladys Ormphby – homely young spinster wearing a hairnet and carrying a large purse that she uses to pummel Tyrone as he pursues a relationship with her.

Ernestine – a rather obnoxious telephone operator who dialed up the numbers using her middle finger, often flipping the bird. She usually mispronounces the names of her customers and shows no concern for them. She tended to snort a lot at her own jokes.

Edith Ann – a 5 ½ year old child, sitting in an oversized chair or popping out of a large box with a lid that is covered with childlike coloring on the outside. She ends each monologue with “And that’s the truth,” followed by a raspberry. She always had a smear of red on her mouth as if she did not wipe her face after eating raspberry toast.

Goldie – giggling, dumb blonde who often stumbles over her words and could do a Donald Duck voice at unexpected times.

Jo Anne Worley character had no name but would sing off-the-wall operatic songs in a very loud voice. She would appear after a gag and yell out “BOOOO-ring!” and would comment on her boyfriend lover Boris.

(**Note:** Wolfgang and Henry Gibson will be played by the same actor who needs to be a thin short person who can bend down and easily rise. Also, Rabbi and Pyotr will be played by the same person.)

To represent this early 1970's show, there are small sketches parodying these well-known characters. Actors will be placed on stage in the dark and spotlights will come on to different sections of the stage as sketches progress. Dialogue is newly written and intended to be parodies the original characters. These are scripts that may be modified.

Sketch 1: *Center stage is park bench with potted tree Stage L just above the end of bench. **Wolfgang** is hiding behind. Sitting on the bench seat to the left end is **Gladys** in frumpy clothes, wearing her hairnet, and holding her purse. To SL above bench is **Tyrone** in black overcoat, black bowler hat with his longer white hair sticking out wearing white gloves and glasses, walking with a cane and carrying a bouquet of red tulips for Gladys.*

Tyrone: *(Shuffle dancing above the park bench singing gruffly) Oh, tiptoe through the garden, by the garden of the willow tree, and (Coming around bench to face Gladys) tiptoe through the tulips with me (extends out tulips bouquet to Gladys, taking off hat to bow to her, proud of himself).*

Gladys: *(Startled by the gesture she asks) Me? (and takes the bouquet, admiring it)*

Tyrone: *Oh yes, my little chickadee. (Then he proceeds to scrunch down, tapping his cane moving Gladys so he can sit on bench as Gladys moves to center. He sits with cane between his legs, hands on top.) How about a little kiss from these "two lips" of mine, my sweet girl? (Pursing lips and leaning in toward her.)*

Gladys: *(Hits him in the face with the bouquet, dropping it and saying) You horney old toad! (then sidles to the end of the bench. As he follows using his cane to move her along)*

Tyrone: *(Not to be deterred) Now Miss Hornsby, you know what's better than pansies on top of a piano? Two lips on your neck. (as he purses lips and goes in toward her neck.)*

Gladys: *(Hits him on the head with her purse as she stands up huffing then starts to leave.)*

Tyrone: *(Eyes wide open and body in a dizzy.) Wait! (she turns back to him) Do you think your two lips can kiss my boo-boo? (Takes off his hat)*

Gladys: *(smashes him again on the head and finishes him off with a purse to the body.) Take that and that! (she walks off).*

Tyrone: *(As he falls over onto the bench, he says to the audience) Anyone out there a medic? (Falls to floor)*

Wolfgang: *(Arising from behind tree, peeking out at audience) "Verry in-te-res-tink.....but painful! (Back down to hide.)*

Sketch 2: *Edith Ann is SR inside cardboard box (do not think we can find a huge rocking chair) there is a stool outside the box.*

Edith Ann: *(Rising up part way out of box holding up lid.)* Hi! My name is Edith Ann and I am 5 and a half years old. I live in Buffalo where we have very cold winters. I like to make snow angels lying down like this *(Stands up and exits the box to make a pretend angel then sits on a stool.)* My grammy & poppa live in Arizona in a place called SaddleBrooke. My Momma and Daddy took me there to visit 'cause it's much warmer.

Almost every day we went swimming, but in different pools – so strange cause I don't know why *(Arms out)* you can't just use the same one. But Grammy said not all adults want us there all the time like she does. Guess we make too much splashing because I got hollered at by some old ladies sitting in a circle on their pool noodles. I did not mean to splash them when I went by. *(Leaning out to audience)* You know, they really don't swim in the pool, and they wear all their jewelry on in the pool. Isn't that strange! Momma says no jewelry on for me in the pool. And they wear their makeup, too!

Rules are different like the hot tub is just for adults. Poppa said it is too hot for our skin, but Grammy always says he has thin skin, so maybe he should not go in there either. We could only stay in each pool for a couple hours and then we had to move to another pool. It's a lotta fuss swimming in SaddleBrooke pools, and that's the truth! *(Makes raspberry sound with lips.)*

Sketch 3: *(Ernestine is sitting in her chair SL at the switchboard with her head piece on, looking through a telephone book. She is wearing a blouse that has an open V-neck, skirt, and belted waist with sensible heels. Her hair in a 1940's type upsweep and large clip-on earrings and bracelet).*

Ernestine: *(Dialing number with middle finger, then putting finger at chest of blouse opening.)* One ringy dingy (snort) two ringy dingy...A gracious good morning. This is Miss Tomlin from the telephone company. Hello! Is this the party to whom I am speaking? *(pause)* So Miss Ronstadt, Ma Bell has been trying to connect with you over an outstanding bill of calls to the California Governor's Mansion *(pause)* What? What's that you say? Governor Jerry Brown was supposed to pay that bill? *(snorting)* Really Miss Ronstadt, you expect me to believe that? *(pause)* Miss Ronstadt, having a falling out with that cute governor while on a safari is a bit of a story, I must say. *(pause)* No, Miss Ronstadt, if you do not pay this bill in 10 days, Ma Bell will be disconnecting your phone permanently while you disconnect your life from Jerry. *(pause)* Hello? Hello? *(turning to the audience)* It never pays for music and politics to mix, don't you agree?

The following short lines are quickly done before, between and after the three main scenes above. Order TBD during rehearsals

#1

Announcer: *(At DR microphone)* And now, Ladies and Gentleman, from in front of what used to be behind the Iron Curtain, give a hand to Pyotr Rosmanko, now an immigrant to America.

Pyotr Rosmenko: *(With strong Russian accent)* Tank you, Tank you veddy much! It's a great honor be here. You know in Los Angele where I now live, you can always find a party! Whoot! Whoot! In Moscow where I used to live, *(Looks furtively around)* the Party finds you!

#2

Announcer: Straight to you from India, Ladies and Gentleman, we bring you Rabbi Shanker and his words of wisdom.

Rabbi Shanker: Last week I adopted two dogs, naming them Timex and Rolex; they watch over me now, bringing me peace. *(Raising peace sign with fingers.)* May the mystic mind of our creator watch over all of you.

#3

Announcer: Welcome our Laugh-In poet Laureate, Henry Gibson, for his newest poem about our dreaded southwest scorpions.

Henry Gibson: "The Scorpion" *(bows)* by Henry Gibson

Scorpions! Scorpions! You won't get me.

Scorpions! Scorpions! You're bigger than a flea.

Hard on the outside with a turned-up tail,

I will watch for you, and I will not fail.

Shaking my shoes, looking in my bedding,

I squish one underfoot, as I'm shuddering.

Scorpions! Scorpions! You stay outside.

Scorpions! Scorpions! No more inside.

(Bows)

#4

Joann Worley character: (She will comment on one of the sketches coming in from offstage, yelling in a booming voice.) **BOOOOOOORING!** (Looking out to audience before exiting through) **Where's my Boris when I need him?**

(If you can also have a big booming operatic voice, I will also add another section elsewhere. Bring in a small section of "I'm Shy" from the musical **Once Upon a Mattress** to sing a cappella .)

#5

(Goldie Hawn playing a Dumb Dora like character walks onto the stage where two EMCEES are standing.

Emcee 1: (As Goldie gets close) **Say Goldie, I heard you went to a football game for the first time this season. How did you like it?**

Goldie: (*Excitedly*). **Ooooooh, I really liked it!!!**

Emcee 2: **What did you like?**

Goldie: (Giggling) **All those big muscles and those tight pants, of course!**

Emcee 1: **Did you understand the game?**

Goldie: **Well actually, I just couldn't understand why they were fighting over the football for just 25 cents.**

Emcee 2: **What do you mean?**

Goldie: **They flipped the coin, one team got it, and for the rest of the game all they kept screaming was "Get the quarterback!" And I'm like, Hello? It's only 25 cents.** (*Emcees snicker as she walks off.*)

(Note: There will be a back wall for characters to pop out with funny statements as well, interacting with the EMCEES. Those lines and who is assigned them will be given out after auditions.