

Mary- Dressed as a member of a motorcycle gang
 Connie- Dressed as a construction worker
 Prudence- Dressed as a woman nine months pregnant
 Windjammer- Dressed as a rock star
 Anglion- Dressed as a doctor
 Topknotch- Dressed as a Vietnam Commando
 1st salesman- Attire suitable for a job interview
 2nd salesman- Attire suitable for a job interview

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

BEATEN ZONE

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One Act

Scene:

After hours in the evening in a office building in
New York City.

Time:

Halloween, October 31st 1974 at nine o'clock

At Rise:

A calendar faces the audience at left of center set,
it is dated 31st October 1974. Connie and Mary are
mixing up a punch, there are napkins and dip on the
table with a couple of bags of potatoe chips and
assorted fruit.

Mary

(She is opening up a can of Hawaiian punch)
Lets try and make it a good one this year.

Connie

Well I'll sure do my best, I really need this job.

Mary

(She is pouring the juice into the punch bowl.)

What do you mean?

Connie

I was working at a diner! it was terrible.

Mary

(She is slicing an orange now and putting it in the bowl.)
Just play it cool and get into this party.

Connie

(Walks from right of set to left of set with her helmet in her hand.)

Last year at the Red Wheel my boss gave me 7 uniforms to keep the customers happy, you hear me seven uniforms a size to small.

Mary

The customer thinks he gets what he wants and you end up getting what you want. Whats wrong with that?

Connie

Lets face it nobody can play it safe in this here big apple.

Mary

Unless your one of these new hussling, jiving salesmen.

Connie

(Picks up the bottle of gin)

How much of this should I put in?

Mary

(Puts her hand on her arm.)

Wait for the ice. Here help me cut up these oranges.

Connie

(She picks up a knife and begins to cut up an orange.)

Wait for the ice? You have to be kidding! Ive been waiting for a

drink all day.

Stop it now, just try and relax. Don't read into things. Here help me with this garbage.

Mary

Don't worry about me sister, I've already gotten the feeling, its the hang of it that I'm not looking forward to.

Connie

Full feeling. When I say hang of it.. Well, I don't mean that... I mean the way the old man is, the way he likes things done and people to behave. I guess you had to be here from the beginning to get the

Mary

That's just what I was afraid of, I mean I don't mind going out on the town or going up into the mountains camping with a guy. But getting grabbed and rubbed up against in the hallway well that really isn't my style. I think I've already gotten the hang of it.

Connie

After this year you'll get the hang of it. You'll learn there's a regular rhythm with everything around here. (Checks the time which is located on a desk clock)

Mary

Well Mar this is only my second week with Novelty's Unlimited. (Begins to slice up an apple)

Connie

(She is stirring the punch.) You know the old man like to start off the proceedings.

Mary

Connie

(On the way out)

I hope Angleton and Windjammer show up.

Mary

(They walk out the left of set)

The "Stars"? They wouldn't miss it for the world.

Enter Prudence

Prudence

(She walks over and towards the table and takes
a chip from one of the bags and dips it.)

Ahh..... 00000H..

Re enter Mary and Connie

Mary

Hey whats the story Dumbo?

Connie

Yeah no eating till the boss gets here.

Prudence

(With a chip in her hand)

Hey girls I was wondering where you two went?

Mary

Now Prudence you can wait you know the old man likes to run the

show.

Prudence

Yeah, yeah this happens every year. I'm sick of listening to that

nut!

Connie

What happens every year?

Mary

Nothing Connie, Prudence is just trying to get around for the food.

Connie

Nooo, now tell me what happens.

Prudence

(Walks out towards the audience then turns to her side facing the left of set.)

Every lousy year we go through this crazy halloween party and every year he comes bombed out of his mind, because every year he tries desperately to talk his wife into joining him and every year she comes up with an excuse. Do you know what its like for ten people to stand around drooling and watch a fifty year old man walk in drunk?

Mary

Now he's the boss, and that's the way he likes it played. You people have never been to one of these parties when he came sober.

Prudence

I don't care how the hell he comes in or if he comes for that matter. I just have my doubts about letting his boss syndrome carry over into our personal lives.

Connie

You said before that he's nuts. What do you mean?

Mary

(Connie and Prudence laugh)

Peanut Brittle!

Prudence

What we need is some music, who's handling that this year?

Mary

One of the surfers said they were going to bring in a radio.

Now I see, this is why he gave us today off, so that we could get ready for this party. But why is it being held here?

Connie

The first year I came nobody told me. I had to learn for myself.

Mary

They're men. They can take care of themselves, they'll catch on.

Prudence

this is really important.

Well you should have called them when they were at home or something,

Connie

could catch them in.

Yeah I was going to mention it yesterday at work, but I just never

Mary

come up to standard.

Only he won't use that reason, he will just wait about a week and tell them they're not punctual enough or that they just haven't

Prudence

Exactly!

Mary

You mean he would fire them for not acting out their parts?

Connie

It will be their last party with us.

You know the old man if he doesn't like the way they play it.

Mary

Yeah this is their first party with us.

Prudence

Connie

Why not hold it in a restaurant?

Mary

That's quite obvious isn't it?

Prudence

(Mocking)

He likes to be in control he doesn't like any interferences, anyway that would cost too much money, he's too cheap for that.

Connie

I don't think this lay out is cheap, and how many employers

give the day off on Halloween and then throw a party, how many?

Mary

I'll tell you - None that's just it.

Prudence

Now tell me he isn't a Psycho....

Connie

I think you're the Psycho around here.

Mary

(Gesture with her head to stop Connie from hurting

Prudence.)

Prudence

Oh you do-- you sleazy slanky whore. You and the old banger

make a pretty good team don't you. Don't think I haven't

noticed how you dress and cruise in and out of his office, your

buckling for a transfer to Miami, aren't you?

Connie

What's with this pregnant stuff. I'm sorry if I ruined your

chance with the old man, but maybe if you tried to be desirable,

he'd give you a second look.

Prudence
Maybe he likes conscientious hard working people. Maybe he appreciates a natural looking person who isn't interested in the common games of the street!

Connie

(Grabs her stomach and pulls it)

Don't call me no streetwalker!

Prudence

(Grabs a hold of her belly)

Let go of me your going to ruin my costume!

Mary

(Walks from right of set to left and turns a few

lights off.)

Oh... now that is more like it.

Connie

Streetwalker, by the time he gets here your going to wish you were a woman of desire.

Enter Windjammer and Angleiron

Mary

Come on in men!

Windjammer

Oh Mary, let's have a hot time tonight!

Connie

(Turns around and puts her hands on her hips)

Oh you guys finally decided to tear yourselves away from the women

of the city.

Prudence

(Sits in a chair next to the dip)

Angie Iron

Your outfit, Mary is great;

Mary

(Grabs the bottom of her heather jacket and spins

around.)

Oh thankyou doctor I thought you'd never notice.

Windjammer

(Begins to set up the radio, turns and grabs Connie's

arm.)

Come down to Memphis and let me show you how to move, Come down
to Memphis and let me show you real smooth, Bitch shake my ever
loving pride, shake it and make me feel you rise.

Connie

(Is dancing with Windjammer)

When there are customers around what does the lod man call you?

Windjammer

Oh, Bob.

Connie

You mean he's afraid of what the customers might think?

Windjammer

Well yeah. But it was more or less our idea to be called those

nicknames.

Connie

(Still dancing)

Why on earth did you pick those names?

Windjammer

We've been friends, Angleton and me for a long time, we grew up with these nicknames. It's kinda like a secret organization. Anyway, two Bobs in the office would cause chaos.

(Still dancing) Connie

But those names, their degrading.

Windjammer

Well one year we were crewing on a ship and got roaring drunk and got into a fight. Bob picked up a piece of steel to fight them off. Bob and me thought we'd keep those nicknames cause that day kind of changed our lives.

Mary

(She and Angleton are sitting on the desk top at left of center set) (Clapping their hands to the beat of the dancers.)

That's something Angie Iron, look at them how smart they look dancing together.

Angie Iron

Smart- the music isn't even playing. They must be in love,

(He pulls a joint out from his shirt pocket and

lights it and takes a few drags and passes it to

Mary.)

Mary

(Looks at him)

Whats this for?

Angleton

Its the only way I know that slows time down.

Mary

(Takes it from him and smokes it)

Angle Iron

Better to feel your surroundings before you get buried into

them!

Ooh baby you feel good.

Topknotch enters...

(He has a pumpkin in his left arm and a bag of ice

in his right. He is wearing a pair of binoculars

around his neck. He enters putting the pumpkin at

the rear of the set.)

Angle Iron

(Sees Top enter and flicks the rest of the joint

onto the middle of the floor.)

Top

(He puts the ice in a basin on the table)

(He turns as gives several short blasts with his

whistle.)

Windjammer

(He falls in with Connie.)

I don't get it!

Top

You couldn't wait could you? This party starts when I get here

and not before, your all stoned. If I wanted you to start without

me I would have put it in yesterdays memorandum. You! Lets have

the pot. Let's have it here.

Windjammer

What pot, what are you talking about? We're all standing around

waiting for you to bring the ice.

Prudence

(Grouching)

The ice man cometh!!

Top

The party hasn't started is that so? I notice the gin has been

opened.

Windjammer

Whats the matter old man, afraid of not getting your share?

Top

Windjammer front and center!

Windjammer

(Steps forward)

Top

You boy are in for a small shock! Who am I?

Windjammer

Ah.. You're my boss.

Top

(Circles around him)

Chest out, stomach in! Thats right! And who may I ask are you?

(Standing at attention)
Windjammer

I'm a salesman.

Top

Thats right boy, except you're forgetting one thing. You know

what that is?

Windjammer

No what?

Top

You're here to make this business move. To take wind into your

sails and win this race.

Windjammer

Ah well sir.. I guess.

Top

What do you mean you guess?

Windjammer

I mean I know!

Top

All right, now let's get this party on the move.

(He walks over to the punchbowl and pours some of

the gin into and over the ice.)

Prudence

Ahh... 000h!

Mary

(Begins to pass out drinks to everyone.)

An wisp of smoke and eye of snake, tie the old man over hot burning coals, tie him up with leather thongs, spread him eagle for the

Viet Cong.

Connie

(Takes a cup and begins to drink)

Gorges of hot bubbling steel melting and entwining city's wily

zeal, ravenous men driving bolts drinking beer.

Top

(Takes a gulp)

That's it men do your duty!

(Walks around desk and looks through his binoculars at

the audience.)

~~these~~ advancing! Thousands upon thousands of hungry greedy slimy

men. Hold your ground! Fire batteries one and two! Good! Men

with your fists in the good dark earth hold your ground, it's yours,

your ancestors died to give it to you. They slaved to make it better

for you.

They knew this day was coming, they took care of you men. They dressed you warm in the winter and then fed you in bed when you were sick. They bought you toys at Christmas and took pictures of you for the album. They knew of this land invasion.

Angle Iron

(Comes up beside him)

Can we hold them back sir?

Top

We have to therefore we will.

Angle Iron

Shall I take up a gun and stand beside you?

Top

No Doc, your place is kneeling by the sick and wounded. You must go now and prepare for the sick and dying men from the battlefield. You must be strong, when they reach out for you and touch for strength you must be there to help them, to love them.

Windjammer

A toast to the best year ever!

Mary

The best what this year?

Connie

I'll drink to that!

Mary

To what?

(He drinks)

Windjammer

To record sales!

Prudence

My baby, he waits to be born and to die on the battlefield!

(Fills glasses)
Mary I'll drink to that!

Angle Iron
To a fast and solid victory!

(Everyone holds their glasses in the air)
Mary

To knife fights and fast cycles!
(Toasts and all follow)

Connie

To melting bubbling steel, to high rises.

Top

Fire batteries three and four. Men when you see them come over
the ridge commence firing! Here load this...

(He hands his glass to Mary)

Angle Iron

To penicillin and fast moving ambulances!

Top

Yeah! To foxholes and hand to hand combat!

Prudence

To baby bottles and nixed mothers!

Windjammer

To electric guitars and groupies!

Mary

To pumpkin smashes!

(Everyone begins to turn clockwise)

Prudence

To whirling kids and too lollipop!

(Dialog gets louder and louder)

Angle Iron

To white corpuscles;

Top

Generals and Privates;

Windjammer

To Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin;

Connie

To Cement blocks and rivets;

Mary

To street gangs;

Prudence

To unwed mothers and adopted children;

Angle Iron

To open heart surgery and medicare;

Top

To crippled soldiers and advancing armies;

Windjammer

To guitar lessons and rock stars;

Connie

To welding torches and suspension bridges;

Mary

To wheelies and fat old men;

Prudence

To diapers and baby powder;

Angle Iron

To aspirin and epsom salt;

Where are we? The earth is shaking!

Connie

An electrical storm this time of year that doesn't make sense.

Angle Iron

Oh no whats happening?

Prudence

(The sound of thunder)

OFF.++

OUT TOWARDS THE AUDIENCE. ALL THE LIGHTS GO OUT AND THE RADIO SHUTS
++SUDDENLY A BOLT OF LIGHTNING LIGHTS UP THE STAGE. EVERYONE LOOKS

To short skirts and levis!

Windjammer

Leather jackets and Helmets!

Mary

To Grandstands and people!

Connie

To nurses and lovers!

Angle Iron

To young men and roast beef!

Prudence

Pepsi and pot!

Windjammer

Harley Davidsons!

Mary

To map reading and mine fields!

Top

To bricklayers and Cement trucks!

Connie

Top

The lights are out. We're under attack!

Mary

Can't trust anything these days, you pay too much for electricity and one bolt of lightning and this whole place falls to pieces!

Windjammer

Topknotch, try the light switch again.

Prudence

Oh my God its time. Some one please, someone help me!

Angle Iron

Prudence where are you? Say something.

Connie

(Crawls across the stage)

It feels like the building is uprooted. I can feel the beams

trembling.

Top

That's my leg young girl. ~~down~~ ^{down} I've been in tighter spots than this.

Prudence

Help me, my legs are on fire. Doctor please help me. I'm gonna die! I feel as though the breath of god is breathing down upon me!

Angle Iron

Where are you stay calm, I'll be right there.

+ANOTHER FLASH OF LIGHTNING AND THEN THUNDER FOLLOWS+

(She reaches up) Connie

Topknotch! I'm scared what are we doing here? This building is

collapsing!

Top

Wait listen..... Do you hear anything?

Connie

I don't hear anything except that siren.

Top

Yes, they must be clearing the people to the fall out shelters,

we all have to pull back. Come on! Lets get the hell out of here!

Mary

I'm going to get some food first who knows how long this gang is

going to be on the run.

Windjammer

Listen to me! I can hear the people in the streets running and

screaming, there coming to hear me play.

(He stands up to the punch bowl for a drink.)

Top

Get down son before they cut you down.

(He pulls him down)

Windjammer

Electricity man! That's what its all about, I use to play the

game when I was young.

(He reaches his hand to top)

Top

I'm not kidding son.

Prudence

(Has been screaming and groaning.)

Angle Iron

Allright now try and relax, here bite onto this.

Connie

Oh my God! What is happening over there in that room? That man is kneeling between a woman's legs!

Top

The fear of death drives us to our most wanted hidden desires.

Mary

I'm ready, lets get out of here before the cops are onto us.

We can leave now and get a hundred miles on our bikes before the town knows what hit them.

Windjammer

I'm not leaving till they get what they want.

(He drinks his punch)

Prudence

AH! Yammh! Help me! eehya!

Top

You lousy sniveling cowards. I say regroup and hit them again in the morning, we're not running out of this town. And you, you rotten hippie we're not going to just give ourselves up. Listen to the pain and the anguish of the wounded all around you, listen. Let it give you the courage you need.

Connie

If the electricity is out then the elevators aren't working how do we get the wounded down to safety? Maybe we can call for a crane? Yeah that's it maybe there is a lighttower somewhere in the area. (she goes over and tries to open a window)

Damn thing the only thing that works in this here building is us. Cheap God damn glass, just slapped in with all this plastic, no

wonder we got problems.

(Picks up the telephone receiver)

Damn! The line is dead-

Connie

How could the telephone be affected by the attack?

Top

That's the first thing that usually gets hit is the communications

line.

Connie

What do you mean the first thing? What's going to happen next?

Top

Well what ever they do, we'll be ready for them. Come on lets

harracade the door.

(He begins stacking chairs against the door)

Windjammer

Its a migration like woodstock, the children of America are

coming to hear me play, I hear them singing in the street.

Mary

(Looks out towards the audience)

There's thousands of torches out there, its a crowd of vigilantes

I hear them yelling and screaming.

Connie

What are they saying? What if they decide to set the building

on fire? We'll be trapped in a molten mass of melting plastic and

steel. We'll become fossilized alive!

Angie Iron

be quiet over there its hard enough to operate under these conditions

without your yelling and screaming. Prudence needs our courage and

strength.

Comie
I say we make it down the stairwell, maybe there's another floor
that doesn't have this problem.

Windjammer

I say we all just relax and have a drink we came here to give a
concert there no point in backing out now. All these people out
there came to listen to us we can't disappoint them.

Top

Well the door is secure, I think I could use a drink now.

Come one man lets drink, we must be bold in the face of our

enemies. Anyway we got all the lights off now, it we're quiet they

won't know there's anyone up here.

Comie

That's right the broken elevator works both ways.

Kary

(starts to chant)

Andes layons keepers of the street, doctors policemen carriers of

the seed, let us travel two on a foot, through the snowcovered forests

and frozen where we

+THE STAVE FALLS WITH A BEAM OF LIGHT AND THEN THUNDER CAME

HE HEARD AGAIN

(Everyone freezes after the thunder)

(The lights go on with a fluorescent kind of hue)

(The people are frozen in position)

Two salesmen enter

1st salesmen

I'm tired of job hunting, I just have to get a job.

2nd salesmen

Yeah my savings are running scared and my college payments are
overdue.