

'60s MANIA!

a farce

by Craig Sodaro

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Bank loan officer Norman Hinkle has a serious problem. He thinks his boss, Mr. Crabtree, is about to fire him. This doesn't matter to Norman's two daughters, however. Youngest daughter Alison just found out she's won a date tonight with Beatle Ringo Starr. Older daughter Debbie is about to run off with Starbaby, a true flower child of the '60s. To make matters worse, Aunt Hilda, who lives with the family, has hired a psychiatrist to secretly observe Norman in the hopes of committing him because she thinks he is losing his mind. When Norman's boss invites himself over for dinner to lower the ax, chaos breaks out. Mistaken identities, raucous Beatles fans, a bungling policeman, and characters stuffed in the closet and window box makes for a hilarious mayhem of **'60s Mania!**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7 men, 11 women, doubling possible.)

MAN'S VOICE: On television.

WOMAN'S VOICE: On television.

BARBARA HINKLE: Mid-forties.

AUNT HILDA WINESAP: Her fifty-eight year old aunt.

NORMAN HINKLE: Mid-forties, Barbara's husband.

ALISON HINKLE: Their fifteen year old daughter.

DEBBIE HINKLE: Their eighteen year old daughter.

ROGER: Eighteen.

STARBABY: A twenty-three year old hippy.

MRS. TUCKER: An older lady.

RINGO STARR: The Beatle.

HORACE CRABTREE: Norman's boss, about sixty.

MRS. LAFFERTY: A young woman.

FAN ONE: Of the Beatles Fan Club.

FAN TWO

FAN THREE

FAN FOUR

FAN FIVE

DR. NOSTRADAMUS TARILLIAN: A psychiatrist.

OFFICER PETTYBONE: A policeman.

MRS. CLEARY: Suspicious-looking woman seeking a loan.

MRS. LEARY: Her partner.

Casting Note: The parts of Mrs. Cleary and Mrs. Leary can be doubled with those of Mrs. Tucker and Mrs. Lefferty.

SETTING

The living/dining room of the Hinkle family, a typical suburban home in 1968. Door SL leads to outside. Door immediately UL is the coat closet. Door SR leads to kitchen and other areas of the house. Arch entrance center leads upstairs to the bedrooms. We may or may not see the stairs. Table set with four chairs sits right, while at left we see a sofa with an arm chair arranged around a coffee table. Television sits DL. Along left wall, under a window, is a window box which can open and hold an actor inside. The room is actually furnished more in a fifties style since the Hinkles haven't done any redecorating in a while.

PROPS are listed at the end of the play.

THE SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: The Hinkle house, late afternoon, spring, 1968.

Scene 2: A few minutes later.

ACT II

Scene 1: A few minutes later.

Scene 2: An hour later.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: BARBARA is standing at the dining table preparing and salting a roast. AUNT HILDA lies on the couch in her robe watching a soap opera. She has a box of Kleenex on the couch with her.)

MAN: *(On TV.)* But Diana, why didn't you tell me you have ... oh, I can barely bring myself to say it.

WOMAN: *(On TV.)* Go ahead ... I have to get used to it. I'm going to have to live with the sound of it for the rest of my life ... however short it will be!

(AUNT HILDA, weeping, blows her nose.)

MAN: *(On TV.)* You're too brave for words.

WOMAN: *(On TV.)* Only one word, Roger ... astigmatism!

MAN: *(On TV.)* Your beautiful face ...

WOMAN: *(On TV.)* You'll always remember how it was ... before.

MAN: *(On TV.)* Perhaps you can get contacts.

WOMAN: *(On TV.)* The doctor says it's impossible ... my case is so ... bad. The only thing I can do is wear glasses.

MAN: *(On TV.)* We can live with that.

WOMAN: *(On TV.)* Not here. Not now. I'm leaving Springfield forever.

MAN: *(On TV.)* No!

WOMAN: *(On TV.)* I'm going west ... San Francisco ... Seattle ... Anchorage ... somewhere no one knows me ... where I can start again ... in a library or something.

(AUNT HILDA, weeping loudly, snaps the TV off.)

BARBARA: Aunt Hilda, I was watching that!

AUNT: Too much pain and trouble in the world! You've got enough to worry about being married to that idiot you said, "I do," to.

BARBARA: What has Norman done now?

AUNT: He replaced my cute little flower bathtub stickies with piranha stickies.

BARBARA: The flowers were wearing off. And those aren't piranhas. They're goldfish.

AUNT: I can see their teeth!

BARBARA: Aunt Hilda, you've got to give Norman some credit. After all, you live under our roof. He puts the food on the table.

AUNT: Ha! The last thing he cooked was that London broil and there hasn't been a more charred piece of London since the great fire of 1666.

BARBARA: You know what I mean.

AUNT: I just wish you'd have married that nice young man you introduced me to.

BARBARA: What nice young man?

AUNT: It was at one of your friend's weddings ... and he was very dashing ... very Latin ... and he kissed my hand.

BARBARA: That was Desi Arnaz!

AUNT: Well, you should have married him.

BARBARA: He was already married. To Lucy. You know, "I Love Lucy"?

AUNT: You STILL could have done better than nincompoop!

BARBARA: Aunt Hilda, you've GOT to promise you won't call Norman names any more!

AUNT: All right! I promise!

(NORMAN enters left, out of breath, terrified.)

AUNT: Home early today, aren't you, nincompoop?

NORMAN: *(Admonishingly.)* Barbara?!

BARBARA: Aunt Hilda, isn't there some wash you can fold downstairs in the laundry room?

AUNT: I folded it all this morning.

BARBARA: Go fold it again!

NORMAN: Before I stuff you in the dryer with it!

AUNT: You talk big, but when it comes down to it, you're nothing but a wienie.

(AUNT exits right.)

End of Freeview

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