

Auld Lang Syne

By
Annette Tringham

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DEDICATION

*To my parents who taught me that life is full of change and
To my husband who makes me write about it.*

STORY OF THE PLAY

Myrna, a counselor at the Emotional Helpline in New York City, is manning the phones alone on New Year's Eve. Her plans to spend the evening working on her latest Martha Stewart project and looking up old friends on "MyFace" are interrupted when she is surprised by a visitor from her past. The teacher becomes the student and it's out with the old, in with the new as this lighthearted and touching story reveals that it's never too late for love and change.
Running Time: Approximately 45 minutes.

Meet Myrna and her coworkers in an earlier play by Annette Tringham in *All I Need for Christmas* at www.hiStage.com.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

Auld Lang Syne received its premier performance at Catch a Star Theatrical (CAST) Players in Beaumont, CA with the following cast:

Goldie	Stephanie Parshall
Frank	Debbie Cochran
Myrna	Susan O'Connell
Bernie	Jim Dieli
Beth	Emily Mae Isaak
Greta	Sarah Parshall
Meredith	Tryna Morton
Myrna (age 12)	Camryn Dietrich
Myrna (age 20)	Meghan Duncan
Myrna (middle-aged)	Bobbie Carver

REVIEWS

"...profound in its exploration of personal relationships, joyous remembrances and sad regrets." – The Record Gazette

"Humorous and heartwarming" – The Press-Enterprise

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 m, 6 w, and 1 flexible, 2 girls)

GOLDIE: A sweet young woman (30ish).

***FRANK:** A protective cynic (30ish).

MYRNA: A lovable dingbat (60+).

MAN / BERNIE: A bit of a neurotic, impulsive, (60+) about the same age as Myrna.

Flashback scenes:

MYRNA (Girl): Myrna at age 12.

GRETA: Girl (12 - 15).

MYRNA: Myrna as a young woman.

BETH: Young woman (17 – 20).

MEREDITH: Older woman (50ish).

MYRNA (Middle-aged).

** The role of Frank may be played by a male or female.*

SETTING

New Year's Eve, current day. The ground floor office of the Emotional Helpline, New York City. The office is small and dingy, decorated haphazardly with miscellaneous holiday decorations and garlands. There is a desk with a phone, assorted photographs, pens, paper, etc. A guest chair is at the side. At stage right is a small table and one chair. The space is covered with stacks of paper and books, overstuffed boxes and a filing cabinet at the back. There is a door and a grimy window which overlooks a dark New York street. Upstage are a coat rack and water cooler. On top of the filing cabinet is a feeble-looking artificial tree, about two feet tall.

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Props

3 – 4 packing boxes	Packing tape
Newspaper	Telephone
Notepad	Pens
Large tote bag	Gaudy handmade Valentine item
Box of tea	Laptop computer
2 suitcases	Shoulder strap purse
Tissues	School books
Artist toolbox/canvas	Business card
2 mugs	Tea kettle & hotplate or electric teakettle
Bottle of Champagne	2 champagne flutes
Ski mask	Wallet
Poster of cat	Medical bracelet
Newspaper clipping – obituary	

Costumes

Modern dress appropriate to the characters.

GOLDIE: Tasteful, conservative outfit, coat and scarf/hat.

FRANK: Dark sweatshirt or baggy sweater, jeans, coat and scarf/hat.

MYRNA: Sparkly top, casual pants coat and scarf/hat.

BERNIE: Dark clothing, ski mask, coat and gloves.

MYRNA and GRETA as girls: Matching school uniforms, perhaps jumpers or pleated skirts, dark tights, white blouses. Hair in braids or pigtails.

MYRNA and BETH as young women: Artsy clothing, loose blouses, long skirts, a beret for Myrna.

MYRNA and MEREDITH as middle-aged women: Myrna is dressed all in black and wears a veil that obscures her face. Meredith wears a dark gray dress.

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(AT RISE: LIGHTS UP on a small dingy office. Gathered around a small tree are GOLDIE, FRANK and MYRNA. They are taking decorations off the tree and walls, wrapping them in newspaper and putting it all into boxes.)

ALL: *(Finishing a song in unison.)* ...SHOULD OLD
ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT, AA-AAND DAYS OF –

(SFX: Phone rings. MYRNA runs to answer.)

MYRNA: I'll get it! *(Into the phone.)* Emotional Helpline, this is Myrna. Oh dear, yes, now calm down. When did you see him last...oh, that's not good. Of course I'll help...mm hmmm.... *(SHE writes on a pad and her voice trails lower as she continues to listen to the caller.)*

FRANK: So Goldie, what are your plans for tonight?

GOLDIE: Thomas is taking me to a dinner dance at Marla's uptown. In fact, he's picking me up at 7:00. *(Looks at her watch.)* Oooo, I'm going to have to finish up and get going. I still have to get ready. What do you think, should I wear my hair up? *(SHE sweeps her hair on top of her head.)* Or down? *(SHE lets it fall.)*

FRANK: You're beautiful either way. Seems like you two are getting serious.

GOLDIE: *(Coyly.)* Oh, I don't know.

FRANK: You don't know? You've seen him every day since you met last week.

GOLDIE: I know, I know. But he's going to California on Thursday to see his father. Hey, who knows, maybe he'll meet Pamela Anderson and forget all about me. Anyway, don't worry about *my* love life. What about you? Any plans?

FRANK: It's only been 7 months since the divorce. I'm not climbing back on *that* horse again. I'll probably just settle in with a true crime novel and a bag of McDinner. Both are equally bad for me, but I can't help myself.

GOLDIE: I know what you mean. That's why one of my New Year's resolutions is to eat healthier. I'm going to take a cooking class. You should join me.

FRANK: Yeah, right. I don't know a saucepan from a salad fork. I'd probably put out an eye.

GOLDIE: Aaaaw....you can't just mope around for the rest of your life. It's a new year, time to start fresh. Take the first step by making one little resolution to change something.

FRANK: Please! Why would I want to underscore my failures by making a list of the things I'm going to do, and then at the end of the year realize I haven't accomplished any of them. Haven't you heard the old saying, "Blessed are those who expect nothing, for they shall not be disappointed"?

GOLDIE: Okay, well, there's another saying too, "Out with the old and in with the new."

FRANK: Sounds too trendy.

GOLDIE: Frank, maybe it's time to bury the past, get rid of the old attitudes and set some new goals for yourself. Think of it as a spring cleaning for the soul.

FRANK: You know, you're right. But it's January. Middle of winter. So I'll just wait until May.

GOLDIE: (*Scolding.*) Fraaank.

FRANK: You really make New Year's resolutions?

GOLDIE: I do. This year I made four. Eat right, read more, stop spending frivolously, and be a better listener. (*SHE focuses on something in the newspaper she is using to wrap one of the decorations.*)

FRANK: That's really admirable. Those are good goals.

GOLDIE: (*Distracted.*) I'm sorry, what?

FRANK: (*Laughs.*) Never mind.

GOLDIE: (*Shows FRANK the paper.*) Oooo there's an after Christmas sale at Macy's. Look at these cute boots. I just might need to have those.

FRANK: I think you just blew at least two of your resolutions.

GOLDIE: Well... (*Sheepishly holding up the paper.*) At least I'm reading more!

(*MYRNA has finished her phone call and joins THEM.*)

End of Freeview

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