

NUPTIALKNOTS.COM

By Craig Sodaro

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THE STORY

Rhoda Raines desperately needs money to pay the rent on her beauty parlor, so she decides to check out a computer dating service in hopes of finding a rich man to marry her spoiled daughter Olive. She logs on to www.nuptialknots.com, and no sooner than Rhoda can say, "Wash, rinse, and set," prospective bridegrooms are dropping in all over the place.

One is a British "aristocrat" Giles St. Edmunds who brings his bubbling sister Georgia. Another is Hollywood producer Vinnie Bambino who takes such a shine to Rhoda that she passes herself off as Olive. Then there's Wilbur Sneed, a cop masquerading as a plumber who's on the lookout for a con artist who's been bilking lonely ladies out of their savings. And finally there's Baron Dirk Von Duck, who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt, and Uriah Beaman, a strange old codger who seems more like a retired professor than a prospective suitor.

Mix in Ronnie Harper, the owner of the local Kwiki Mart who really loves Olive, and the farce is ready to go. Mistaken identities abound and fast exits are the rule of the day, but somehow all the "nuptial knots" get straightened out—or tied!—in the end.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7 m, 10 w)

ERNESTINA CLIMPET: 30s, lovelorn
MAMA MAE: 50s, hardened, cynical website operator
RHODA RAINES: 40s, owner of Sleeping Beauty Salon
ETTA GERREL: 30s, a faithful customer
CHARLOTTE O'HARA: 30s, another customer
LOIS LAINE: 30s, another customer
MAISIE: 20s, beautician
PENNY RAINES: 19, Rhoda's niece
OLIVE RAINES: 20, Rhoda's spoiled daughter
MR. QUIRK: 30s, a banker
RONNIE HARPER: 20s, owner of the local Kwiki Mart
GEORGIA ST. EDMUNDS: 20s, alias for Dolly Devaine, a
con artist
GILES ST. EDMUNDS: 20s, her brother, alias for Herman
Devaine, another con artist
VINNIE BAMBINO: 20s, a would-be Hollywood mogul
PROFESSOR URIAH BEAMAN: 50s, from State University
WILBUR SNEED: 20s, a policeman turned plumber
LARRY: 20s, better known as Baron Dirk Von Duck

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1.....Mama Mae's office and Ernestina's home,
one afternoon.
Scene 2.....The Sleeping Beauty Salon, late afternoon.
Scene 3.....The same, several days later.
Scene 4.....The same, later that night.

ACT II

Scene 1.....The same, the following morning.
Scene 2.....The same, late that night.

SETTING

Two computer stations are set up, one left and one right. These can be outside the proscenium, and, if possible, lit separately. The one on the right is Mama Mae's station. When not speaking, she can exit or stay on stage and appear to sleep. The other computer is used for various characters as indicated.

The main action of the play takes place at the Sleeping Beauty Salon in the small town of Jasper Corners. Door up center leads to outside. Windows on either side of the door give us a view of the small town. Counter up right with part of a computer monitor visible. Hair care products neatly lined up on counter. Entrance down right leads to kitchen and back of house. Entrance down left leads to other rooms in the house. Hairdressing stations set up at left and right. A curtain is rigged so all we really see is the chair facing center stage. No shelves, mirror, or sink are visible; they're behind the curtain. Down center are several waiting room style chairs or a couch with a table between or in front, set with magazines. The walls are decorated with beauty posters and perhaps a few plants here and there.

PROPS

Beauty salon supplies (including scissors, combs, hair dryers, curlers, aprons, towels, spray bottles, etc.); broom; magazines; cash register; phone on counter or wall; \$20 bill, case or box of shampoo; travel brochures; cleaning supplies, briefcase, pack of toilet paper; binoculars; opera glasses or telescope(s) (three in any combination); cell phone; papers; oversized plastic hammer; rifle; chopped hair or fur (to toss out during a "haircut"); rope and gag; flashlight; pistol; large plastic piggy bank; movie script; three brightly colored, out-of-style wigs; roll of bills (\$).

NOTE: When Larry slams the butt of the gun on the floor, fire a starter pistol offstage. If possible have some debris from above fall down—maybe even a rubber chicken.

COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

Everyday dress for most characters, though the more outlandish and colorful, the better. Larry needs a safari jacket and either a pith helmet or an Indiana Jones hat. Uriah should wear tweeds and perhaps a derby. For the last scene, Georgia, Maisie, Rhoda, Olive, Etta, Charlotte, and Lois should all wear party dresses or outfits suiting their characters since they have been to the town dance. Ronnie should wear a shirt/smock with "Kwiki-Mart" written on the front and back.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: Mama Mae is asleep on a chair in front of her computer. ERNESTINA enters left, sits at her computer and types.)

ERNESTINA: *(Spelling it out as she types.)*
Nuptialknots.com.

(Bell rings. MAMA wakes up.)

MAMA: Dang! Just when Robert Redford was about to kiss me!

ERNESTINA: *(Wistfully.)* Dear Nuptialknots...

MAMA: Yeah, yeah, yeah...get on with it, Sister.

ERNESTINA: *(Typing all the while.)* My name is Ernestina Climpet, and I am thirty-one years old.

MAMA: Over the hill, Sister!

ERNESTINA: I'm 5 foot 3, have brown hair and hazel eyes.

MAMA: So does everybody.

ERNESTINA: I work at a bank, rent a one-bedroom apartment, and am allergic to pets.

MAMA: And allergic to dates.

ERNESTINA: I work very hard and would make someone a very good wife.

MAMA: A guy wants a hard worker, he'll go to the job center.

ERNESTINA: Can you match me up with somebody?

MAMA: *(Typing.)* Absolutely. You're just what every man dreams about. Type in your credit card number and expiration date and be sure you mark Visa, Mastercard, or Diner's Club. *(ERNESTINA does so.)* Do I love this job or what? Let's see...somebody for Miss Blah. How about Mr. Blah. *(Typing.)* You can contact your dreamboat at www.achybreakyfeet.spit. Best wishes and when those wedding bells chime, be sure to drop me an e-mail.

ERNESTINA: Gosh! In a few weeks, I'll be Mrs. ... Mrs.
...Mrs.....

(LIGHTS down on computers as curtain opens.)

Scene 2

(AT RISE: The Sleeping Beauty Salon. RHODA combs out ETTA'S hair, while MAISIE cuts LOIS'S hair. CHARLOTTE sits in a chair reading a magazine. PENNY sweeps the floor.)

ETTA: I don't care what anybody says, Rhoda, *you* do the best blue do in town!

CHARLOTTE: Amen!

RHODA: Are you referring to Miss Beauty Queen's shop, Etta?

ETTA: Well, it is mighty fancy. She's even got the most beautiful wigs for sale.

RHODA: Sure, to cover up her flops!

LOIS: Cleo Patrine WAS runner up in the Miss Little Rock Beauty Pageant.

MAISIE: She's gotta know somethin' about doin' hair! I mean just look at her.

RHODA: You don't think little Miss Glamorpuss does her own hair, do you?

LOIS: Somebody's gotta do it.

RHODA: I rest my case.

ETTA: Oh, Rhoda, she doesn't come in here, does she?

RHODA: *(Covering.)* Every...week!

PENNY: Aunt Rhoda!

RHODA: *(Angrily.)* You hush up and get back to work, Penny. You missed some hair balls over there.

MAISIE: I sure never see Cleo Patrine in here.

RHODA: You don't think she'll come in during the day, do you? Why, if folks found out that, she'd lose what little business she has.

End of Freeview

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