

Paper Umbrellas

A Play in Two Acts

By
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STORY OF THE PLAY

Members of the Dream Big Society are meeting in Hawaii's Paradise Hotel for the fourth annual convention, where they can find motivation to achieve their personal dreams, no matter how impossible they may seem.

And wild dreams they are: Yvonne wants to be the Queen of England, CJ wants to be a samurai, Dora wants to train dolphins even though she can't swim, and Cory wants to be a rock star, though he can't sing a note or even play the air guitar.

Clare, whose only dream is to have a happy family, discovers and is befriended by the society after being jilted on her honeymoon.

Meanwhile, detectives Jen and Pete are undercover, investigating founder Donny Stripes for fraud. But Jen and Pete may have secrets of their own!

With lots of humor and audience participation, "Paper Umbrellas" tells the story of big -- and little -- dreams coming true.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

"Paper Umbrellas" was originally performed as a dinner theatre but easily adapts for any type of production.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7 m, 9 w)

DONNY STRIPES: Motivational speaker for the Dream Big Society.

LANA: Assistant to Donny Stripes.

CLARE: Jilted by husband on honeymoon.

MISSY GOODBLOOD: Dreams of being a brain surgeon.

CORY: Dreams of being a rock star.

BERNADETTE: Dreams of being a dancer.

HANK: Dreams of being a great chef.

YVONNE: Dreams of being the Queen of England.

CJ: Dreams of being a samurai.

GARRETT: Dreams of being an astronaut.

ELIOT: Dreams of being a pilot.

SHEILA: Dreams of being an opera singer.

DORA: Dreams of being a dolphin trainer.

PETE: A detective.

JEN: A detective.

MRS. CHOO: The owner of the Paradise Hotel.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The entire play takes place in Hawaii at the Paradise Hotel. It is current day.

ACT I

The fourth annual Dream Big Society convention.

Scene 1: Convention ballroom

Scene 2: Private beach

Scene 3: Clare's honeymoon suite

Scene 4: Convention ballroom

ACT II

A year later. The fifth annual convention.

Scene 1: Convention ballroom

Scene 2: Paradise cocktail lounge

Scene 3: Clare's hotel room

Scene 4: Convention ballroom

PROPS

Microphones (2)

Carafe of water and glass

Drinks on table

Handkerchief – Bernadette

Colorful drink – Pete

Beach chair, suntan lotion – Jen

Beach towels (2) - Lana and Dora

Suitcase, wedding veil – Clare

Plate of goo with two forks, napkins – Mrs. Choo

Sign: Fifth Annual Dream Big Convention – Lana

Drinks (2) with paper umbrellas, straws – Garrett and Clare,
Mrs. Choo

Crown – Yvonne

Handcuffs – Pete

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: Inside the Paradise Hotel's convention ballroom, all BIG DREAMERS sit with audience in front row, craning their necks to listen and see, applauding enthusiastically and wildly with nearly ever word uttered by Stripes. LANA lingers near center of theatre holding a microphone. Onstage, BERNADETTE, YVONNE, and HANK sit at a small table near back of the "ballroom." At another table JEN and PETE carefully watch the action and fake enthusiasm to fit in with the other dreamers. DONNY STRIPES enters stage with panache and flare.)

DONNY: What a beautiful afternoon at the Paradise Hotel! *(BIG DREAMERS applaud.)* I see a lot of big dreamers out there. *(Applause.)* Why do I see a lot of big dreamers? It's because you all have made the move, made the plans, had the desire, the will, the can't-say-no attitude. If you didn't, you wouldn't be here. *(Applause.)* I'm glad you made it. You'll be glad you made it. The world will be glad you made it. Welcome, all of you, to the fourth annual Dream Big Convention! *(Crazy applause.)* If this is your first year, then the next several days should be among the most important of your life. I will help you lay the foundation to achieve any dream you can dream up. Hence, Dream Big. *(Applause.)* You can do anything! You can be anything! There's nothing stopping you! Remember, dream big today

BIG DREAMERS and DONNY: *(Shouting with him, like in one of those corny infomercials.)* ... Live large, tomorrow!

DONNY: *(HE gulps from glass of water.)* It's time to hear a few of those big dreams *(LANA, positioned in audience, holds microphone up to ANYONE.)* Sir, what's your big dream? What have you always dreamed of doing? *(RANDOM AUDIENCE MEMBER responds.)* I have six words for you Dream big today ...

BIG DREAMERS: ...Live large tomorrow!

(MISSY and CORY are escorted to the stage by LANA.)

DONNY: Those who bought the videos; read my book, "The Big Dream;" attend the seminars; come every year to our convention, I'd like to give you a round of applause for not giving in, for not listening to those who tell us "You can't." Those who say, "You're not good enough!" You are good enough. Say it with me! *(HE holds microphone out.)*

BIG DREAMERS: We're good enough!

DONNY: So, if someone says you can't, whatta you say?

BIG DREAMERS: We can!

DONNY: You can't!

BIG DREAMERS: We can!

DONNY: You can't!

BIG DREAMERS: We can!

DONNY: *(To MISSY.)* And you are?

MISSY: Missy Goodblood.

DONNY: Missy. Missy. Missy.

MISSY: Uh huh. Missy.

DONNY: And have people told you you'll never do it? Has someone said you'll never make those dreams come true?

(MISSY nods.)

DONNY: *(Continued.)* What's your dream, Missy? What's your big dream? Donny Stripes wants to hear your big dream, the biggest one you got!

MISSY: I wanna be a brain surgeon. Ever since I was a little girl with pigtails. I can't tell you how cool the brain is. I seen one, once. On TV. It looks like a bunch of pink pearls in a drawer.

DONNY: What's stopping you, Missy?

MISSY: Lots a things. But I'm working on the plan ... just like it says to in them videos.

DONNY: She's working on the plan! Everyone! She's working on the plan. Can Missy make her dreams come true? Can she?

BIG DREAMERS: She can!

(MISSY retreats and CORY steps forward.)

End of Freeview

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