

Personals and Proposals

A Comedy in One Act

By
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STORY OF THE PLAY

Four men and four women perform seven hilarious scenes about dating and marriage proposals. Three scenes highlight trying to find someone special through an online dating service called Meet-interesting-people-who-will-like-you.com. As our singles find out, however, the site doesn't live up to its name! The other scenes include some of the worst marriage proposals ever; two coaches trying to lead a couple down the path of wedlock; a Monday Night Football-style coverage of a proposal; and a National Geographic television-type look at a romantic dinner. All together the scenes prove the way to happily-ever-after is filled with heartbreak, humiliation and humor!

SETTING

The play is performed on a bare stage with a park bench center, and two desks with chairs, one upstage right and the other upstage left. On each desk is a bell. A café table with two chairs is upstage center. A newspaper is beneath the bench.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(4 m, 4 w)

CHAD..... *In Scenes 1,5,6,7*
DAVID *In Scenes 1,2,3,5,7*
TYLER *In Scenes 1,2,3,5,7*
TOM* *In Scenes 1,4,5,7*
KATIE..... *In Scenes 1,3,5,7*
KELLY..... *In Scenes 1,2,3,5,7*
LAUREN *In Scenes 1,4,5,6*
SUZANNE..... *In Scenes 1,2,5,7*

**The actor playing Tom must sing a phrase of a country/western song, and a phrase in German from Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony." The music is familiar ("Hymn to Joy") and the German isn't difficult.*

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: The Worst Proposals in the World
Scene 2: Personals - Part 1
Scene 3: Coaches
Scene 4: Personals - Part 2
Scene 5: Sports Event
Scene 6: Personals - Part 3
Scene 7: Not Quite a National Geographic Special

PROPS

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dictionary | Tic-Tacs |
| Newspaper | Fast-food sandwich and drink |
| 2 gift boxes with scarves | 2 small bells |
| 4 cell phones | 2 engagement rings |
| 2 laptops | Sling and head bandage |
| 2 microphones | Towels |
| 2 menus | Wallet for Tom |
| 2 lattes on a tray | |

Scene 1: The Worst Proposals in the World

(AT RISE: CHAD enters and crosses center. He carries a dictionary, which he opens and reads.)

CHAD: *(Clears his throat.)* Proposal: an act of putting forth or stating something for consideration, such as, an offer of marriage. To propose is to put forward a plan of intentions. To set before someone, and especially before oneself, a plan or intent. It doesn't always go as planned.

(SUZANNE and TYLER enter right and left, and sit close together on the bench.)

TYLER: Suzanne, I'm handsome, intelligent and successful. I'm a lot of fun to be around. You really can't do any better than me. I want you to marry me.

(SUZANNE scoots away.)

TYLER: *(Continued. Scoots closer.)* Well?

SUZANNE: Tyler, there's pigeon poo on your shoulder.

TYLER: *(Looks at his shoulder in horror, and jumps to his feet.)*
Why do they allow those stupid birds in this park?

(THEY each exit the same direction they entered. DAVID and KELLY enter right and left, and sit close together on the bench. Kelly scoots closer to David, who makes a sour face and scoots further away.)

KELLY: David, it's time you quit beating around the bush. There's something you've been meaning to ask me. Now, spit it out!

DAVID: Kelly, would you consider ... I mean ... I think you should ... well ... this is really difficult.

KELLY: *(Moving closer.)* Go ahead. Just ask the question.

(DAVID takes a small container from his pocket.)

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KELLY: *(Smiles, closes her eyes and holds out her finger.)* I'm ready.

DAVID: Kelly, you're a really great cook. I just love your Italian dishes. But would you consider ... *(Holds up the container.)* a Tic-Tac? You really reek of garlic.

(Incensed, KELLY puts her hand over her mouth and exits.)

DAVID: *(Continued. Pops a Tic-Tac in his mouth.)* I like garlic as well as the next person, but there IS a limit.

(DAVID exits. KATIE and TOM enter left and right, and sit on the bench. Tom kneels in front of Katie. LAUREN enters right and crosses left and exits.)

TOM: Katie, will you marry me? *(KATIE smiles lovingly. TOM looks to where LAUREN exited.)* And if you say no, can I ask Lauren to marry me?

(Angry, KATIE shoves TOM to the ground and exits.)

TOM: *(Continued.)* What? I was just thinking I might need a backup plan! Katie?

(HE exits, following Katie. LAUREN enters and sits on the bench. CHAD crosses to the bench and sits. He picks up the newspaper and reads. His face is hidden by the newspaper. Lauren doesn't look at Chad as she talks. He slowly lowers the newspaper. A look of shock crosses his face.)

LAUREN: Okay, look buster! We've been going out for five years! I have three sisters, all younger than me, and they're all married! My Aunt Helen even got married! We thought she'd always be an old maid. Well, not anymore. I am the oldest female in my family without a husband! I've invested a lot of time, energy and expense in this relationship. I've gone to your company dinners, I've spend Christmases with your parents, I've cooked meals for you, I've changed the oil in your pickup truck! It's time you brought something to this relationship!

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LAUREN: *(Continued.)* And that something is a ring with a diamond on it and a lifetime commitment to love, honor and cherish! That's not asking too much! So here's the plan, Tom! You're going to put down that newspaper, drop down on your knees and ask me to be your wife! *(Looks at CHAD.)* Who are you?

CHAD: *(Nervously.)* I'm Chad.

LAUREN: Oh. I thought you were Tom. Never mind. *(Exits.)*

CHAD: She changes the oil in his pickup truck? Wow. *(Exits after Lauren.)* Excuse me! Miss? As long as Tom's being such a creep, could I buy you dinner?

End of Scene

Scene 2: Personals - Part 1

(DAVID and TYLER enter. David has a newspaper. Tyler has a sandwich and drink from a fast-food restaurant. They sit on the bench. David reads, Tyler eats.)

DAVID: Meet the love of your life at Meet-interesting-people-who-will-like-you.com. Man, what a bunch of losers. I'd never respond to one of these personal ads.

TYLER: Me, either.

DAVID: Listen to this. "I'm new to the area and want to meet someone special."

TYLER: She's probably lived here all her life and can't find anybody to take her out.

DAVID: "I like soft music, romantic movies, and dinners at quiet little restaurants." *(THEY laugh.)* What a loser!

TYLER: Read some more.

DAVID: "My favorite color is green. And I drive a ..."*(Pauses.)*

TYLER: Drives a what? A 1990 Yugo?

DAVID: "I drive a Porshe 911. I get a new one every year from my daddy. He also pays all my bills, including my trips to Europe and my designer wardrobe."

TYLER / DAVID: *(Thinking.)* Hmm.

End of Freeview

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