

Rise and Shine, Summer Grove!

By Dan D'Amario

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Pat White and Pat Gray have come to the local television set of *Rise and Shine*, a morning news/entertainment show, to tape a public service announcement for their groups' national convention of crocheters, called the Happy Hookers. When an accident knocks the young, ambitious and somewhat egotistical news anchors out of commission just after the show begins, the two elderly Pats are called on as emergency replacements. Laughs abound as they struggle to read the news, discuss their passion for hooking, and deal with the two anchors whose inhibitions have been affected by the accident. And it's all live on *Rise and Shine, Summer Grove!*

CAST OF CHARACTERS

CHUCK CRANDELL: Young, ambitious anchorman for KPUT television's *Rise and Shine* morning program.

NANCY NEELAND: Young, ambitious anchorwoman for KPUT television's *Rise and Shine* morning program.

DICK: Producer/director of the morning show.

CRICKET: Writer/editor/cameraperson for the morning show

PAT WHITE: Older, quiet/dull, female hooker/crocheter, member of the Happy Hookers.

PAT GRAY: Older, quiet/dull, male hooker/crocheter, member of the Happy Hookers.

SETTING

Current day, Monday, 6:30 a.m.

SET

A local television station's simple morning show set with an anchor desk and "blue screen" weather map. There are four chairs at the anchor desk – one for each anchor person and one for each guest. A sign hanging behind the desk set reads "Rise and Shine!" A camera and teleprompters face the desk.

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(AT RISE: DICK and CRICKET are sitting behind the camera reviewing the morning's script. Cricket walks to the side of the stage.)

CRICKET: *(Calling out backstage.)* We're ready to go!

(CRICKET returns to a seat behind the camera. Moments later, CHUCK and NANCY enter, each holding the morning's script.)

CHUCK: Why don't you do the greeting and I'll read the lead-in.

NANCY: No, you do the greeting and I'll do the lead-in.

CHUCK: You did the lead-in three times last week.

NANCY: And you did it three times the week before, but who's counting.

CHUCK: *(Getting assertive.)* Look, I've been here twenty-nine days longer than you and --

DICK: Excuse me! Can we get started?

CHUCK and NANCY: *(Together.)* But the script --

DICK: We'll do the spots as written.

CHUCK and NANCY: *(Snarling at each other.)* Fine!

(CHUCK and NANCY take their seats at the desk -- Nancy stage left, Chuck to the right.)

DICK: Okay. Cricket, what have we got this morning?

CRICKET: We'll rehearse the intro, lead-in and top stories and then we'll tape it for the network.

NANCY: I don't see why we can't do the intro live.

DICK: The network wants it seamless.

CHUCK: That means they don't trust us to say all the words without drooling.

NANCY: Or burping!

CHUCK: Or farting!

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(CHUCK and NANCY are getting in to the sarcasm.)

DICK: People! Can we act like professionals, please?

CHUCK: Dick, you know we are the quintessential professionals.

(CHUCK makes a farting sound and he and NANCY crack up.)

DICK: Very funny.

CRICKET: We will also be taping a PSA for broadcast later today during "Cooking with Bernhard."

NANCY: *(Cracking up.)* Cooking with ... Burn-hard!

(CHUCK and NANCY crack up again.)

DICK: Keep it up and you'll miss your bus, Chuck.

(CHUCK stops laughing. NANCY points and laughs at him.)

CRICKET: Nancy, your Brazilian bikini wax appointment was changed to 8:30.

(NANCY is embarrassed as CHUCK squeals.)

DICK: Now can we get started?

NANCY: What's the public service announcement for this week?

CHUCK: Repaint the lines on Main Street?

(NANCY and CHUCK chuckle again.)

DICK: From the top, please! On my signal ... use the teleprompters.

CHUCK: *(To NANCY.)* How's my hair?

NANCY: Good. Anything in my teeth?

CHUCK: No.

(DICK counts down with his fingers.)

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CHUCK: Rise and shine, Summer Grove! Stay tuned to this station for all the local news that's news to you!

NANCY: The stories we'll be following this morning ... a 250-year-old tree virtually disintegrates and barely misses the Grange Hall; two cows get loose and stampede down Main Street; and, what do you do when your child brings a surprise friend home after school? We'll show you twelve treats you can make with peanut butter!

CHUCK: All that, last night's sports scores and the local *feather* forecast!

DICK: Cut!

NANCY: (*Chuckling.*) You said "feather forecast."

CHUCK: I did not!

CRICKET: You did.

CHUCK: Jiminy Cricket!

DICK: From the top, again. On my signal.

CHUCK: (*To NANCY.*) How's my hair?

NANCY: Good. How's my cleavage?

CHUCK: Great! I mean ... fine.

(*DICK counts down with his fingers.*)

CHUCK: Rise and shine, Summer Grove! Stay tuned to this channel for all the local news that's news to you!

NANCY: The stories we'll be following this morning ... a 250-year-old tree virtually disintegrates and barely

(*NANCY stops as the two PATS enter hesitantly from offstage.*)

CHUCK: Jiminy Cricket!

DICK: Can I help you?

NANCY: Can't you see that we are working? Didn't you read the sign over the door?

PAT GRAY: The sign says "TAPPING."

DICK: They messed up the sign. It's supposed to say "TAPING."

CRICKET: These are the people for the PSA.

DICK: We're not ready for you, yet.

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PAT WHITE: We weren't sure if we should wait out there or –
DICK: That's okay. Why don't you come in and take a seat at the desk until we finish our intro.
CHUCK: At the desk?
DICK: Yes, at the desk. That's where we do the PSAs. It'll give you a chance to get used to the set and the lights.

(The two PATS move cautiously to the desk. PAT GRAY takes a seat stage right of CHUCK and PAT WHITE takes a seat stage left of NANCY.)

DICK: Great! Now, just sit quietly while we finish the intro.
PAT GRAY: Are we going to be on television now?
DICK: No, this is just a taping that the network shows before coming to us live. We'll tape your PSA to be shown later, too. Okay, let's take it from the top. On my signal.
CHUCK: He's not too close to me, is he?
CRICKET: No, he's fine.
CHUCK: *(To NANCY.)* How's my hair?
NANCY: Good. Any eyelashes stuck together?
CHUCK: No.

(DICK counts down again.)

CHUCK: Rise and shine, Summer Grove! Stay tuned to this station for all the local news that's news to you!
NANCY: The stories we'll be following this morning ... a 250-year-old tree virtually disintegrates and barely misses the Grange Hall; two cows get loose and stampede down Main Street; and, what do you do when your child brings a surprise friend home after school? We'll show you twelve treats you can make with peanut butter!
CHUCK: All that, last night's sports scores and the local weather forecast! I'm Chuck Crandell
NANCY: And I'm Nancy Neeland! Fill up that coffee cup and stay with us all morning!

(CHUCK and NANCY stare at the camera with frozen smiles for five seconds.)

End of Freeview

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