# NewsRadia

"Halloween"

#307

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SHOOTING DRAFT/4th Rev. October 14, 1996

BRILSTEN / GRIN COMMUNICATIONS

# "NewsRadio"

"Halloween"

#307

Shooting Draft/4th Rev. - 10/14/96

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1996 Camera/Sound Prep Rehearsal and Camera Block Producer Run-Thru	STAGE 9 10:30A - 11:00A 11:00A - 1:00P 1:00P - 3:00P
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1996 Crew Call Rehearsal and Camera Block Producer Run-Thru Cast Meal Make-up and Hair Crew Meal Reset for show Audience Show Picks Ups	STAGE 9  11:42A - 12:00P  12:00P - 3:00P  3:00P - 4:30P  4:30P - 5:00P  5:00P - 6:45P  5:30P - 6:30P  6:30P - 7:00P  7:00P - 9:30P  9:30P -

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## CAST

DAVE DAVE FOLEY
JIMMY STEPHEN ROOT
MATTHEW ANDY DICK
LISA MAURA TIERNEY
BETH VICKI LEWIS
JOE JOE ROGAN
CATHERINE KHANDI ALEXANDER
and
BILL PHIL HARTMAN
PSYCHIC NANCY FISH
DOROTHY (Older) PATIENCE CLEVELAND
DOROTHY (Younger)
BOUNCER PAUL D'AMBROSIO
MAN WITH SNAKE JAMES HEALY, JR.
JUGGLER TONY DeCARLO
MIME JOE FUREY

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# SETS

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## INTERIORS

BREAKROOM	(D)	
BULLPEN	(D)	(N
DAVE'S OFFICE	(D)	(N
ELEVATOR FOYER	(D)	(N
FOYER OUTSIDE PENTHOUSE BANQUET ROOM	(N)	
PENTHOUSE BANQUET ROOM	(N)	
PENTHOUSE BAR AREA	(N)	

## ACT ONE

## SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. BULLPEN-CONFERENCE TABLE - MORNING (D-1) (Dave, Beth, Jimmy, Matthew, Lisa, Catherine, Joe, Bill, Snake Guy, Juggler, Mime)

The staff meeting is in progress.

DAVE

So the people in payroll say that if you get your timesheets in by Tuesday, then --

Behind Dave, a man carrying a big snake walks up.

SNAKE GUY

Excuse me. I'm looking for Jimmy James?

Dave turns. He's face to face with the snake. A beat.

DAVE

(GESTURING TO HIS OFFICE) He's right in there.

The man with snake exits into Dave's office.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Where was I?

BETH

The people in payroll...

DAVE

Right. The people in payroll said--

A juggler, carrying juggling pins, rings, etc walks up behind Dave.

JUGGLER

Jimmy James?

DAVE

Right in there.

The juggler exits into Dave's office.

DAVE (CONT'D)

So if you get your timesheets in by

Tuesday--

A mime walks up behind Dave. Dave turns and looks at him.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Looking for Jimmy James?

The mime nods.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Right in there.

MIME

Thanks a lot. Is there any coffee around here?

DAVE

Right over there. I thought you guys weren't allowed to talk.

MIME

I'm off the clock right now.

Jimmy enters from Dave's office.

JIMMY

Did anyone see a mime wandering around out here?

DAVE

He's getting a cup of coffee. Can I ask you what you're doing in there?

JIMMY

Just hiring some last minute entertainment for my big Halloween party tonight.

The mime returns, sipping a cup of coffee. Jimmy goes through a series of silent gestures: points to the mime's cup of coffee, rubs his stomach, looks at his watch, listens to his watch, shakes his hand and listens to his watch again--

## MIME

I'm not sure what you're trying to say, but I have a meeting downtown in twenty minutes, so if we could hurry this up...

Jimmy makes a grand "right-this-way" gesture. Jimmy and the mime exit into Dave's office.

DAVE

What Halloween party is he talking about?

MATTHEW

The Jimmy James Incorporated
Halloween party. It's tonight.

DAVE

Oh right, I missed it last year.

Good party?

LISA

Excellent party. Open bar, lavish buffet, live magicians, helicopter rides--

MATTHEW

He even sets it up so you can bob for apples! Can you believe that?

DAVE

I've bobbed for apples before, Matthew.

LISA

Yes, but have you done it with imported Fuji apples floating in a barrel of champagne?

MATTHEW

The bubbles tickled my nose and made me sneeze and then... they wouldn't let me do it anymore.

CATHERINE

They wouldn't let anyone do it anymore.

MATTHEW

Last year, I got third place in the costume contest.

DAVE

What were you?

MATTHEW

A motorcycle enthusiast.

JOE

Gay biker.

MATTHEW

No, the label on the costume clearly said "Motorcycle Enthusiast."

Jimmy enters from Dave's office. The snake guy, the juggler, and the mime enter and cross out of the frame.

JIMMY

Thanks, fellas.

MATTHEW

(TO BETH) Stop tickling me.

BETH

I'm not tickling you.

DAVE

Find everyone you were looking for?

JIMMY

Yeah. Except that mime wouldn't shut up. Is there some kind of mime authorities I can report him to?

MATTHEW

(TO BETH) Stop it!

BETH

Matthew, I am not tickling you.

The snake guy re-enters.

SNAKE GUY

You done with the snake yet?

JIMMY

I thought you took it.

SNAKE GUY

No, I left him with you...

MATTHEW

(GIGGLING) Beth, seriously -- no

more tickling!

Matthew turns and notices that Beth isn't even sitting at the table anymore. Matthew looks puzzled. He pushes his chair back and looks under the table.

CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS

## ACT ONE

## SCENE B

## FADE IN:

INT. BULLPEN-CONFERENCE TABLE/DAVE'S OFFICE/BULLPEN - LATER (D-1)

(Dave, Lisa, Jimmy, Joe, Matthew, Catherine, Bill, Beth, Psychic)

The staff meeting continues, now on the subject of Halloween.

#### DAVE

I haven't seen people this excited about a Halloween party since fourth grade.

LISA

An open bar really re-kindles that child-like enthusiasm.

JOE

And the best part is the costumes.

DAVE

Actually, I find it difficult to picture any of you in costume. (TO MATTHEW) Except you.

MATTHEW

Thanks!

CATHERINE

Joe means that the best part is making fun of the costumes other people wear.

JOE

Yeah, there's nothing like sitting in a dark corner laughing at all the dorks.

Jimmy enters.

BILL

I get a warm feeling just thinking about it. So where is the party this year?

JIMMY

Right upstairs in the penthouse banquet room.

MATTHEW

(TO BILL) Didn't you get your invitation?

BILL

Actually no, I didn't.

JIMMY

Oh, I can explain that. You didn't get an invite because you're not invited. And neither are you, you, you, or you. No one from WNYX is invited this year--

MATTHEW

But--

JIMMY

Except Matthew. Happy Halloween, everybody!

Mr. James heads into Dave's office. The staff is stunned. Long beat.

DAVE

So anyway, the payroll people said... (BEAT) Alright, I'll talk to him.

Dave exits into his office.

RESET TO:

## INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dave enters. As he closes the door, Lisa slips in right behind him. Jimmy is on the phone.

JIMMY

No, a standard chimpanzee will do just fine. Hmm? No, I just want him there so people can pet him and get their picture taken with him and... maybe wrestle a snake. Hello?

Jimmy hangs up.

DAVE/LISA

(IN UNISON) Why aren't you inviting the staff to your Halloween party?

DAVE (CONT'D)

Lisa, I can handle this.

LISA

Those people work very hard for you.

JIMMY

Matthew doesn't work very hard.

LISA

But you invited Matthew.

JIMMY

That's right. Just when you think I'm going to zig, I zag. Then I zig.

DAVE

Alright, when you're done with all this zig-zagging--

JIMMY

That's when I zog.

DAVE/LISA

(IN UNISON) Are you trying to save money?

LISA (CONT'D)

Dave, I can handle this.

JIMMY

Kids, kids. It's not about money.

Every year, I put on a wild

Halloween party, and without fail

the WNYX people damn near ruin it

for me.

DAVE

And how do they do that exactly?

JIMMY

They refuse to get into the

Halloween spirit. They're always too

"hip" to wear costumes, or bob for

apples, or do my special spooky

version of the hokey-pokey.

DAVE

Now I see why you invited Matthew.

JIMMY

You bet. Man, that kid really loves to shake it all about.

LISA

But we wear costumes, Mr. James.

JIMMY

Right. Joe walking around on his tiptoes saying he's "Joe's Taller Brother" doesn't count as a costume.

LISA

It's conceptual.

JIMMY

And what about Bill? He dressed up as "Guy Without Socks."

LISA

I actually thought that was pretty funny. Didn't you?

Jimmy looks at Lisa, expressionless.

JIMMY

The fact is, these kids think they're too cool for school.

LISA

I don't think I'm "too cool for school".

JIMMY

Then how come you never wear a costume?

LISA

Costumes make me look... "chunky."

DAVE

No, they don't.

JIMMY

You could wear a funny hat.

LISA

No, hats of any kind just draw attention to how ill-proportioned my head is to the rest of my body.

DAVE

What?

JIMMY

Okay then -- just put on a mask and wear what you're wearing right now.

LISA

Oh, no way. I hate what I'm wearing right now.

DAVE

You look great.

LISA

This outfit makes my legs look really short and stubby.

JIMMY

She's crazy.

DAVE

I know.

LISA

Look, I may have stubby legs, but I'm not crazy.

A kindly looking, conservatively-dressed woman pokes his head in the door.

DAVE

Can I help you?

PSYCHIC

Yes, I'm the psychic. Mr. James hired me for his Halloween party?

JIMMY

That'd be upstairs on forty-- (BEAT)

No, hold on. I'll think of the

number, and you read my mind.

PSYCHIC

Forty-one?

JIMMY

Nope.

PSYCHTO

Forty-two?

JIMMY

Nore.

PSYCHIC

Forty-three?

JIMMY

Amazing! It's right up on forty-four.

The psychic exits.

RESET TO:

## INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

The psychic enters from Dave's office and starts to cross. Beth stops her.

BETH

Don't I know you?

PSYCHIC

You might.

BETH

You're the psychic with the infomercial on TV!

PSYCHIC

That's right. Have you called my special hotline?

BETH

Oh, millions of times. Until they blocked the nine hundred numbers.

PSYCHIC

Many offices are starting to do that.

BETH

How did you know I was calling from the office? Wow! Can you do a reading for me? Please?

**QUICK RESET TO:** 

JOE

Psychic reading? Come off it. That stuff is such a scam.

CATHERINE

And I suppose the "Authentic Alien Autopsy" tape you have is stone cold reality?

Joe stares at her coldly.

JOE

First of all, the footage has been examined and verified by a panel of experts. And second, the tape is called "Authentic Alien Autopsy Bloopers," so...

Beth and the Psychic move off to Beth's desk and sit down.

BILL

That woman is actually one of the leading authorities in the field of psychic...ism...ology.

CATHERINE

Do you actually believe in fortune-telling?

BILL

Yes, as did Socrates, Julius Caesar, and Napoleon. It's the wisest man who knows that there is much he does not know.

MATTHEW

I know...

JOE

You're kidding, right?

BILL

Not in the slightest. I assume you haven't read the relevant scientific studies.

## CATHERINE

Sorry, I canceled my subscription to the New England Journal of Crazy,

Made-up Stuff.

The psychic is holding Beth's hands at the conference table and concentrating. She speaks.

PSYCHIC

I see your destiny... as one of wealth. I see an astounding rise to fortune that will begin very soon.

BETH

Oh, my God. That is so true!

I was just pre-approved for a new credit card! This is so much fun.

(TO PSYCHIC) Do Matthew.

The psychic wheels around in his swivel chair to face Matthew. She takes Matthew's hands and concentrates.

PSYCHIC

You're a cat person, aren't you?

MATTHEW

Such a cat person.

BILL

You see!

PSYCHIC

You have two cats...

MATTHEW

Yes!

PSYCHIC

And their names are... (THINKS)

Let's see... they're very cute,

silly names...

MATTHEW

(SCOFFING) Wrong! Way off! Their names are Chew-Chew and Mitt-Mitt.
Nice try, though...

Matthew crosses away.

BILL

Matthew, you're just not receptive to this woman's gift.

Bill sits down and gives his hand to the psychic.

BILL (CONT'D)

(TO CATHERINE AND JOE) Observe, skeptics. You just might learn something.

The psychic takes Bill's hands and concentrates.

BILL (CONT'D)

Alright, sweet spirit, what does the future hold for Bill McNeal? And remember -- we're among doubters here, so make it specific.

PSYCHIC

Hmm. (EXAMINES HAND) On March 8th, 2032, at 4:20 pm, you will die.

BILL

(TO THEM) You see?

A beat.

BILL (CONT'D)

Come again?

PSYCHIC

March 8th, 2032. 4:20 pm. That's when you'll die.

BILL

(BRAVE SMILE) I'll dye my hair?

PSYCHIC

No, I mean "die" as in "death." Your body will cease to live. March 8th, 2032, 4:20 pm. Prestry specific, huh?

And he drops Bill's hands and leaves. Stunned, Bill just stands there.

CATHERINE

MOW.

BETH

NOW.

Now.

Sucks for you.

<u>CITTO:</u>

## ACT ONE

## SCENE C

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS (D-1) (Jimmy, Dave, Lisa, Chimpanzee (extra))

The argument continues.

## JIMMY

What this situation calls for is leadership by example. And I'm beginning to think neither of you have it in you.

### DAVE

Well, you can't force people to have fun if they don't want to.

## JIMMY

Exactly. (TO DAVE) And by the way, let me commend you on your "can't do" attitude.

## DAVE

I could do it, if I wanted to, but I'm just not sure how important it is.

LISA

It's very important. So at least let Dave and I give it a shot.

DAVE

I actually have... real work to do today--

Lisa subtly -- but sharply -- elbows Dave.

DAVE (CONT'D)

After we give it a shot.

LISA

Sir, if anyone can turn these people around, Dave and I can.

DAVE

We can?

Lisa subtly -- but even more sharply -- elbows Dave again.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Yeah, we can.

JIMMY

(TO LISA) You can guarantee they'll be in costumes?

LISA

In costumes.

JIMMY

Convivial attitudes?

LISA

Convivial attitudes.

JIMMY

Hokey?

LISA

Hokey.

JIMMY

(TO DAVE) Pokey?

DAVE

Pokey.

JIMMY

Okey-dokey.

Jimmy exits.

LISA

Okay, so he's open to it. Let's go.

DAVE

Can I ask you something? Why do you give a damn whether these people go to the party or not?

LISA

Because, Mr. James doesn't think we can do it.

DAVE

So?

LISA

So, Mr. James doesn't think we can do it.

DAVE

How are we going to get them to do

it?

LISA

I don't know. What do you think?

DAVE

(THINKS) I suppose we could...

LISA

I got it.

Lisa exits. She comes back in and motions for Dave to follow her.

LISA (CONT'D)

Let's do it!

Dave shakes his head and starts to follow. When he gets to the door, a chimpanzee enters.

DAVE

(WITHOUT STOPPING) Penthouse banquet

room -- forty-fourth floor.

The chimpanzee exits.

HARD CUT TO:

## ACT ONE

### SCENE D

INT. BREAKROOM/BULLPEN/ELEVATOR FOYER-A LITTLE LATER (D-1)
(Lisa, Joe, Dave, Matthew, Beth, Catherine, Bill,
Jimmy)

The staff is gathered in the breakroom. Lisa is addressing them. Dave is standing with her, but he's doing some work on a clipboard while she talks.

LISA

Apparently, Jimmy thinks we have bad attitudes. He thinks we're all "too cool for school."

JOE

School sucks.

LISA

Maybe so. Maybe so. Right, Dave? Lisa hits Dave.

DAVE

(NOT LOOKING UP) Maybe so. Maybe so.
(LOOKS UP) But the point is--

LISA

Thanks, Dave. The point is we deserve to go to that stupid party. And if that means we have to wear costumes --

JOE

Come on -- you're missing the whole point of Halloween.

LISA

Which is?

JOE

Sitting in the corner making fun of the dorks who wear costumes.

Assent from the rest of the staff.

LISA

This is just like high school. We all liked sitting at the "cool" table in the cafeteria, didn't we?

Assent from everyone.

MATTHEW

All of you guys got to sit at the cool table? What was it like?

BETH

It was cool.

LISA

It was cool, wasn't it?

DAVE

(PERFUNCTORY, NOT LOOKING UP) Way cool.

LISA

Dave's right. But it's time to move beyond cool.

MATTHEW

I don't know if I'm ready for that.

LISA

Who's the coolest person in this office?

EVERYONE

Beth.

LISA

Beth, you're cool no matter what other people think of you, right?

BETH

Right.

LISA

And isn't coolness something that comes from the inside, regardless of what's on the outside?

BETH

Again, yes.

LISA

So, are you willing to put on an outrageous costume and--

BETH

No.

JOE

Me neither.

CATHERINE

Hold it. I think Lisa's point is actually very eloquent.

LISA

(TO CATHERINE) So, you'd be willing to--

CATHERINE

Don't even think about it.

LISA

Alright. Who's the most uptight person in this office?

EVERYONE

Dave.

DAVE

What?

LISA

That's right -- Dave. But tonight, Mr. Uptight here is going to "out-cool" all of you.

JOE

How?

LISA

Dave here is going to outdo us all with the biggest, most outrageous, "dorkiest" costume of all. Because he's so cool he doesn't care if people think he's a dork.

EVERYONE

Alright, Dave! / Way to go!

LISA

Now, are you going to let King Dork out-cool you?!

EVERYONE

No way./ Never.

MATTHEW

What in the hell are we waiting for, you guys? Let's go get some costumes!

EVERYONE

Yeah! / Alright!

Everyone rushes out -- including Lisa.

DAVE

Lisa? What just happened?

LISA (O.C.)

We did it!

Dave realizes Bill has been sitting there the whole time, doing calculations on a notepad.

DAVE

Bill? Aren't you going to go get a costume?

BILL

Maybe you didn't hear. I'm terminal.

I'm going to die, and that's that.

DAVE

(SHOCKED) I actually hadn't heard about this. What's... what's wrong?

I only have (CONSULTS PAD) -thirty-six years left to live, Dave.
The psychic told me I'm going to die
one week after my eighty-second
birthday.

DAVE

Oh. Well, if there's anything I can do to make your last... thirty-six years more comfortable...

BILL

Thanks. Could you get me a cup of coffee?

DAVE

No, but let me put in a call to the "Make-A-Wish" foundation about that.

Dave exits into the bullpen.

RESET TO.

## INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Dave walks up to Lisa. Joe runs past them towards the elevators.

BETH

(FROM FOYER) Come on, Joe!

JOE

I'm coming!

DAVE

What did you do in there?

LISA

It's called "leadership by example".

DAVE

Yes, but I was the example.

LISA

Exactly. So, you better wear something outrageous, or they're going to feel completely betrayed.

DAVE

How's this for an outrageous

costume? I'll go as "Guy Who Refused

To Get Hoodwinked Into Wearing A

Costume By His Power-Hungry

Girlfriend."

LISA

Good idea. Jimmy simply adores conceptual costumes.

Dave exits to the elevator foyer.

RESET TO:

## INT. ELEVATOR FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Joe, Matthew, and Catherine are on the elevator as Beth rushes on. Jimmy has been talking to them.

BETH

And then Dave and Lisa put it all in perspective for us, sir.

JIMMY

(PLEASED) You don't say!

JOE

We're going to be the coolest dorks ever.

MATTHEW

(TRYING TO START A CHANT) Dorks,

dorks, dorks!

For once, everyone joins in with one of Matthew's chants. As the elevator doors close...

**EVERYONE** 

Dorks! Dorks! Dorks!

The doors close. Jimmy turns to Lisa and Dave.

JIMMY

(RE: STAFF CHANTING) Well, I don't really understand what you did there, but -- good job, Dave.

DAVE

It was mainly Lisa, sir.

JIMMY

Sounds like she did some smooth talking, but when you promised to wear the most outrageous costume in recorded history -- now that's what I call leadership by example!

DAVE

It was... the least I could do.

JIMMY

It is going to be wild, right?

DAVE

The wildest.

JIMMY

Outrageous?

DAVE

Completely outrageous.

JIMMY

What is it?

DAVE

Um... I'd rather surprise you, sir.

JIMMY

This is gonna be great!

Elevator doors open again. Everyone is still chanting "Dorks!" When they notice they're still on the fourteenth floor, the stop chanting, puzzled.

DAVE

I believe you have to push a button to get the elevator to move.

They look at each other. Catherine pushes the button.

MATTHEW

(STARTING CHANT AGAIN) Dorks! Dorks!

Dorks!

The doors close.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

## SCENE E

#### FADE IN:

INT. FOYER OUTSIDE PENTHOUSE BANQUET ROOM/PENTHOUSE BANQUET ROOM - NIGHT (N-1)

(Matthew, Joe, Beth, Lisa, Jimmy, Catherine, Bill, Dave, Bouncer, Dorothy, Mime)

A line of party-goers is waiting to get into the party. The line is full of people in costumes: cowboys, pirates, Indians, what have you. MUSIC PLAYS in the background.

In the middle of the line: Beth is dressed as a ballerina. Lisa is dressed in red, wearing a pair of devil horns, and holding a pitchfork. Joe is wearing a white lab coat and one of those reflective things doctors wear around their head. Catherine is wearing normal clothes, she also has a queen's crown and a scepter. Matthew walks up. He is wearing a Village People-esque construction worker outfit.

#### MATTHEW

Sorry I'm late. The elevators are packed.

JOE

Nice costume, dude.

MATTHEW

Thanks. I'm a construction worker!

JOE

Yeah, that's right -- you're a construction worker.

At the front of the line, Lisa and Beth are talking to the bouncer.

BOUNCER

(CONSULTING CLIPBOARD) I'm sorry, I don't have a Lisa Miller on the list.

BETH

Is there a "Beth" on there?

BOUNCER

Beth what?

BETH

Just Beth.

BOUNCER

(LOOKS) Nope. Sorry, folks. Now, if you could step aside...

LISA

Look, we're from WNYX. We're not on the list because Jimmy thought we were going to be party-poopers, but we're not going to be party-poopers, so we're invited.

BOUNCER

Please step aside, miss.

JOE

(TO BOUNCER) Are you sure that's the tone you want to use with the lady?

LISA

Joe, I can handle this.

Joe is giving the bouncer one of his impendingviolence stares.

BOUNCER

Sorry.

JOE

Sorry what?

BOUNCER

Sorry, sir?

Joe waits.

BOUNCER (CONT'D)

Sorry, doctor?

JOE

That's a good boy. Check under "Joe Garelli".

LISA

Your last name is Garelli?

Jimmy approaches, dressed in a 1930's Yankees uniform, including the "Jumpin' Joe Dugan" from episode 212.

JIMMY

These people are fine, Leroy. You guys

look great. Let me guess... (GOING DOWN

THE LINE) Alien autopsy coroner...

Devil... Pretty ballerina... Queen of

England... Gay construction worker...

MATTHEW

No, actually--

CATHERINE

What are you, Jimmy?

JIMMY

One of those dead guys from "Field of Dreams." (DISAPPOINTED) Hang on. Where's Dave?

CATHERINE

I don't know. I bet he chickened out.

JIMMY

What? Lisa, what happened to that leadership by example we were talking about?

LISA

I'm wearing a costume.

DAVE (O.C.)

So am I. (ENTERING) Here I am.

Everybody have a good laugh.

They turns and notice Dave, who has been standing in the near background the whole time. Our characters -- and our viewers -- haven't noticed him because he is dressed, coifed, and made up, very convincingly, as a woman.

LISA

That's my dress.

DAVE

Yes it is.

CATHERINE

You look fabulous.

DAVE

Thank you.

LISA

You're wearing my dress.

JOE

Dude, If you want to get some work at parties, I know some guys who--

DAVE

I don't. Thanks.

LISA

He's wearing my dress.

JIMMY

Boy, Dave -- I never noticed you had such long, slender legs. Come on in, gang!

Jimmy leads the staff past the bouncer.

RESET TO:

# INT. PENTHOUSE BANQUET ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is full of costumed revelers. Music plays. Jimmy and the gang enter. They disperse. Bill walks up. He's very happy.

BILL

Isn't this a wonderful night?

CATHERINE

I assume you realized that the psychic's death prediction was a load of crap.

BILL

Nope. I've just come to accept my imminent death. And... to be honest... I've met a woman who's really opened my eyes.

CATHERINE

Really?

BILL

Yes. She's wonderful. I just met her an hour ago, but already she's made me see that there's a lot more to life than fear.

BETH

Can we meet her, Bill?

BILL

But of course. Dorothy?

An older woman walks up.

BILL (CONT'D)

Everyone, meet Dorothy.

Bill gives her a big kiss.

BETH

(TO OLD WOMAN) Well, Dorothy...

You've certainly done wonders for
our Bill.

DOROTHY

I just keep telling him: it doesn't matter how old you are, it's how much life you have in you.

BILL

So true! But what are we doing standing around? My lady and I need to dance!

DOROTHY

I don't know, Billy. I've got a rod in my hip that acts up...

BILL

Nonsense, my sweet. (CALLING TOWARDS DJ) Maestro! If you please -"Rumpshaker," or some reasonable facsimile!

SFX: PARTY MUSIC UP

Bill and his lady leave for the dance floor.

ANGLE ON: DAVE AND LISA

LISA

But you're wearing my dress.

DAVE

Yes, I'm wearing your dress. We've established that I'm wearing your dress. What's the problem?

LISA

You're wearing my dress.

Lisa exits. The mime sits next to Dave.

MIME

You know, I saw you sitting here...

<u>CUT TO:</u>

## SCENE H

INT. ELEVATOR FOYER/BULLPEN/DAVE'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER
(N-1)
(Bill, Catherine, Beth, Dave, Lisa)

The elevator doors open. Catherine and Beth are pulling Bill into the bullpen.

BILL

I'm in love. What's wrong with that?

CATHERINE

Bill, she's... how old is she, anyway?

BILL

A gentleman doesn't ask such questions.

CATHERINE

Rough estimate.

BILL

Really, really old. But it doesn't matter how old you are, it's how much life you have in you.

BETH

She's old enough to be your grandmother.

BILL

Don't be ridiculous. My grandmother is dead. Dorothy, on the other hand, is very much alive.

CATHERINE

Yeah -- for like the next ten minutes.

BETH

No offense, but she's running on fumes...

BILL

So am I. So are we all. And that's why tonight... we dance!

Bill crosses back to the elevators, with Beth and Catherine following. As they get on, Lisa gets off, pursued by Dave.

RESET TO:

## INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Lisa quickly walks across the Bullpen to Dave's office.

DAVE

What's the problem? It's only a costume.

LISA

(ANGRY) There's no problem. Go away.

Dave can't keep up with Lisa. He stops to take off his pumps. He sighs deeply, as women often do when they take off tight shoes, then continues to his office.

RESET TO:

## INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lisa sitting in Dave's chair with her head resting on his desk. Dave enters, holding the shoes.

DAVE

Okay, I know what this is about now.

It's about leadership by example,

isn't it?

LISA

No.

DAVE

You made your little power play with Jimmy, but when it came time for the true leadership, I set a <u>real</u> example.

LISA

That's not it at all.

DAVE

Oh, come now, you're upset because you tried to one-up me, but I one-upped you, and--

LISA \*

That's not it.

DAVE \*

Then what is the problem?

LISA \*

The problem is... (BURSTS OUT) You look better in my dress than I do!

DAVE

What?

LISA

I've never been able to wear that dress. But you... you look like a million dollars.

DAVE

No, I look like a man in a dress.

Which is worth no more than a hundred and fifty dollars on Ninth Avenue.

LISA \*

It's just that... it hangs just right off your shoulders... and your head is exactly the right size...

DAVE

Don't hate me because I'm beautiful.

LISA

See, that's just it. You think you're so pretty and all the boys want to talk to you.

DAVE '

What?

LISA

The bouncer was totally flirting with you. And you were flirting right back!

DAVE

That's ridiculous.

LISA

Oh, okay, so you're telling me you were genuinely interested in his workout regimen?

DAVE

Well, he did have some interesting pointers...(DAWNS ON HIM) Oh my God, I was flirting with the bouncer.

LISA

And the Caveman, and the Pirate, and the Werewolf.

DAVE

To be fair, I was decidedly cool to the Pirate.

LISA

How do you think all this makes me feel?

DAVE

How do you think it makes me feel to realize at thirty that I'm much better looking as a girl?

LISA

(BEAT) Come to think of it, you do have a much bigger problem on your hands than I ever did.

DAVE

I've got to get out of these clothes...

LISA

No, no, no -- you can't.

DAVE

Why not?

LISA

Because if you change, then everyone will know I was jealous of how good you look in my dress and they'll all think I'm crazy.

DAVE

But you <u>are</u> crazy.

LISA \*

Yeah, but they don't need to know that. Could you keep the dress on?

Lisa exits, Dave follows, putting his pumps on.

DAVE. \*

Fine by me. Hell, I'm the belle of the ball.

LISA \*

More like party slut.

DAVE \*

Jealous.

DISSOLVE TO:

#### SCENE J

INT. PENTHOUSE BANQUET ROOM - LATER (N-1) (Bill, Jimmy, Dorothy, Psychic)

Bill crosses to the psychic sitting at the bar. She's in the middle of a reading.

BILL

Miss, I want to thank you for changing my life.

PSYCHIC

No problem. But I'm actually in the middle of a reading right now.

BILL

Knowing that my days are numbered has given me a whole new perspective on things.

#### PSYCHIC

That's great. Now please, I'm busy.

BILL.

And I've met a wonderful woman. I've never been happier.

PSYCHIC

Do you mind?

BILL

Of course not! I feel fantastic! Colors seem brighter, now...

PSYCHIC

Hey, you know what? Let me do your reading again. (TAKES BILL'S HAND)

Oops. I made a mistake. You're going to die at 4:20 on March 8th, 2232.

BILL

So I'm going to live to be... two-hundred and eighty-five?

PSYCHIC

Yep. I foresee a cure to all known diseases, maybe a pill you can take, I don't know. Now, if you'll excuse us...

Bill starts to walk away past Dorothy.

DOROTHY

What's the matter, my sweet?

BILL

We need to talk. You know, Dorothy, if you were a young woman, I'd probably lie to you....

DOROTHY

What is it, Bill?

BILL

How can I put this? Our relationship doesn't work for me anymore.

DOROTHY

But Bill -- what about living each day as if it was your last?

BILL

That sounds good to you because you're... Look, I just found out I'm going to live nearly forever. Do you see what I'm getting at? It makes our relationship just a little...

(SEARCHES) Thank you so much for our time together. Goodbye.

Bill walks off. Jimmy approaches Dorothy.

JIMMY

Don't take it personally. He's not himself lately.

DOROTHY

You mean he's not usually a jerk?

JIMMY

Okay, maybe he is himself. Sorry,
honey. He doesn't know what he's
missing. (KISSES HER ON THE CHEEK)
Now... voulez-vous hokey-pokey avec
moi, ce soir?

•

DOROTHY

I'd be delighted.

JIMMY

Bitchin'!

### SCENE K

INT. PENTHOUSE BAR AREA - A LITTLE LATER (N-1) (Dave, Lisa, Jimmy, Bear Suit Guy (extra))

Dave, holding a drink, stands with a guy in a bear suit.

DAVE

I actually think Bob Dole is right about moral bankruptcy in the mass media -- he's just not getting his message across to the voters.

The bear nods. Dave sips his drink. Lisa comes up.

DAVE (CONT'D)

We were just chatting.

LISA

I know, I know.

DAVE

(TO BEAR) Now would you please take your paw off my ass?

The bear takes his paw away.

LISA

(TO DAVE) Have you been to the buffet -- (TO BEAR) Hey, excuse me!

The bear leaves.

DAVE

Feeling better?

LISA

I guess so. I'm sorry.

They kiss. Jimmy walks up.

JIMMY

Whoa, whoa, whoa -- what is this, the Ellen DeGeneres show?

DAVE

No, sir.

JIMMY

Aren't you a little uncomfortable in that?

DAVE

Well, I was, but I went into the men's room and adjusted my hose.

(BEAT) Pantyhose.

JIMMY

Oh, gotcha. Lisa, I want to congratulate you on getting the staff whipped up. If that's not leadership by example, I don't know what is. Dave could learn a thing or two from you.

DAVE

Excuse me? May I direct your attention to what I'm wearing? What is this if not leadership by example?

LISA

Yeah, but it was  $\underline{my}$  leadership that got you in the dress.

DAVE

Maybe, but--

JIMMY

Regardless, there's still one thing left that's going to require some heavy, heavy duty leadership.

DAVE/LISA

(IN UNISON) Shoot. / What is it?

JIMMY

Forget it. It's probably beyond either of you.

LISA/DAVE

Don't be so sure. / Guess again.

JIMMY

I just wish there was some way to get these people hokeying and pokeying...

DAVE

You just need one person to get it started.

LISA

I can do that.

DAVE

Well, it was my idea.

#### SCENE M

INT. PENTHOUSE BANQUET ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER (N-1) (Matthew, Jimmy, Beth, Joe, Catherine)

Jimmy, Joe, Beth, Catherine, and Matthew are seated at the WNYX table, watching something off camera.

## SFX: HOKEY POKEY MUSIC UP

#### MATTHEW

I can't believe Dave and Lisa are doing the hokey-pokey. Can I join them, sir?

### JIMMY

Not yet, son. I like watching the two of them out there alone. (CALLS OUT) Faster and spookier!

#### BETH

You know what? I'm seeing the hokey pokey in a whole new light. And it's ...spooky.

JOE

I can't believe I don't have my video camera.

JIMMY

No need. (GESTURES TOWARDS CEILING)

My security cameras are getting it

all. So... this is what it's like to

sit at the cool table, huh?

BETH

This is it.

JIMMY

I could get used to this. Look at these dorks.

STAFF

Alright, Jimmy./Welcome aboard./
That's our man.

YMMIL

Look at that dork, all dressed up

like a pirate. (TO STAFF) That's not

what I would wear if I was the Mayor

of New York City...

DISSOLVE TO:

#### SCENE P

INT. PENTHOUSE BANQUET ROOM - A LITTLE WHILE LATER (N-1) (Bill, Matthew, Dave, Joe, Older Dorothy, Younger Dorothy, Man in Bear Outfit (extra))

Bill is standing on the stage with a microphone and a handful of envelopes. The party-goers are watching. A man in a bear outfit has just walked off the stage.

#### BILL

Let's give him a big hand. Best
Animal Costume. And now the moment
you've all been waiting for...
Gayest Costume! I'm kidding, that's
not actually a category.

Joe had pushed Matthew up on stage. He gets back down.

BILL (CONT'D)

The category? Best Overall Costume.

The runner-up is... (OPENS ENVELOPE)

WNYX's own Dave Nelson. Dave, come
on up.

Dave comes up on the stage. Bill hands him a gift certificate.

BILL (CONT'D)

Show the people what you really look like, Dave.

Dave takes off his wig and slips out of the padded bra.

BILL (CONT'D)

Exquisite. That was the runner-up, and now? The winner. The prize for best overall costume goes to...

Dorothy Johnson?

Bill is confused. Dorothy, the old woman takes the stage, with some difficulty. She gives Bill a peck on the cheek, which Bill doesn't enjoy.

Then, as Bill watches, she takes off her old lady wig, peels the prosthetic make-up off her face, and steps out of her extremely padded old lady outfit -- revealing herself to be a gorgeous young lady with a remarkable figure.

BILL (CONT'D)

Dorothy... I had no idea.

DOROTHY

Save it, old man.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO