

An Audition

The owner of a Comedy Club is auditioning for a Beginners Night of stand-up with a twist. Jack is one of the novice comedians trying to impress her.

Cast:

Olivia: a formidable middle-aged woman who tells it like it is

Jack: a young man trying to get his first gig in front of an audience

Scene 1 Olivia is sitting in the front row of a small empty theatre facing a tiny stage

Olivia: OK Jack, let's see what you're made off.

Jack: Where do you want me? **He is very nervous**

Olivia: Where do you think? On the stage of course.

Jack: Sorry, yeah. **Sounds embarrassed as he climbs the steps**

Olivia: Have you done any gigs before?

Jack: No...No...But my mates tell me I can be very funny and they've encouraged me to have a go.

Olivia: OK I'll explain what I want. I've decided to go for a free-wheeling type of evening where the performers won't just deliver a standard comedy set. I want them to respond to prompts shouted out from the audience.

Jack: Oh I see....So you don't want to hear the routine I've prepared? **Said very hesitantly.**

Olivia: No I don't but I'll let you kick off with a few of your best jokes before I start throwing some topics at you. So give me a couple of goodies.

Jack: Right...Here we go. There are two supermarket check-out girls chatting. Britney says to Tracey, 'I bet I can tell you if a man's married or not without seeing if he's wearing a ring', Tracey says, 'I bet you can't,' Britney says 'Just watch me Trace.' When a man puts his basket down on her belt Britney scans a can of Coke, a chicken breast, a bread roll and a yoghurt. She says 'You're not married are you?' He says, 'No...How did you know?' Britney says, 'Because you're really ugly!'

Olivia: That's not bad. Carry on.

Jack: OK here's another... very different in tone **Obviously now more confident and trying different accents for the three characters.**

In the Soviet era an Englishman, a Frenchman and a Russian are trying to define 'happiness.' The Englishman says, 'I'll tell you what happiness is. After a successful pheasant shoot when I'm in front of a roaring fire with my faithful gun dog at my feet and a glass of single malt in my hand. That's happiness.' The Frenchman says. 'Non, non pour moi 'appiness is drinking a glass of ze finest champagne just after making love to a beautiful woman.' The Russian is scornful, 'Niet, I tell you what is happiness. There is a knock on your apartment door at midnight. It is the KGB. 'We have come for you Petrov,' they say. You say, 'I'm Pushkin, Petrov lives downstairs,' That is happiness!'

Olivia: Original...Need to work on the accents a bit. One more.

Jack: A young woman is talking to her friend: 'I gave my boyfriend a sex manual. I didn't know he was dyslexic until he spent an hour looking for my vinegar.'

Olivia: That's a really funny Victoria Wood gag and you should to try to come up with a few of your own like that, based on clever word play.

OK Jack that wasn't a bad warm up let's see how you respond spontaneously to a few prompts. I'll start with an easy one, 'marriage.' Got any funny takes on marriage?

Jack: Let's see...Yeah, I've got a few.

What can I say about my lovely wife? I married Miss Right, but didn't know her first name was Always!

My wife told me sex is better on holiday. That wasn't a nice postcard to get.

I'm glad my marriage is not like a deck of cards. At the start, all you need is two hearts and a diamond but by the end you wish you had a club and a spade.

There are three ways to handle my wife but unfortunately I've never found out what they are.

Scientists have discovered a food that reduces a woman's sex drive by 90%. It's called wedding cake!

My friend got a personal trainer six months before her wedding. I thought, 'Bloody hell, how long's the aisle going to be.'

Olivia: I liked some of those, particularly the card one and the personal trainer one but cut the 'Always Right' one and the 'Three ways to handle my wife' as they're really old hat. Let's try another subject. Have a go at 'old age.'

Jack: Funnily enough that was one of the themes I was going to explore and I did come up with a few nice ones I think.

There's this senile old guy who still thinks he's a babe magnet. Every Saturday night he puts on his sharpest suit and heads for his favourite night club. He sits down next to the prettiest girl he can find and says, 'Tell me do I come here often?'

You know you are getting old when getting lucky means finding your car in a multi-storey car park or when the Rolling Stones still look young to you. Or when you need to put in your false teeth and hearing aid before you can ask where you left your glasses. Or when you and your teeth don't sleep together. But worst of all when your friends compliment you on your new crocodile skin shoes when you're not wearing shoes.

I think Maurice Chevalier got it right when he said, 'Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternatives.'

It's really good advice to be kind to your kids. They'll be the ones choosing your nursing home one day.

An eighty year old man has just had a check-up when a couple of days later his doctor sees him with a big grin on his face and a stunning blonde on his arm. The old guy says, 'Look Doc I did what you told me...Get a hot momma and be cheerful.' The doctor said 'No... no, what I said was you've got a heart murmur, be careful!'

Olivia: I liked the riff on old age but it wouldn't resonate with our audience whose average age is around 30. Try to develop the same kind of funny observations of millennials.

Jack: Thanks, I'll work on that and see what I can come up with.

Olivia: Here's another audience lob-in for you to have a crack at, 'drinking.'

Jack: OK...Yeah here's a few.

I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy.

And God said, 'Let there be vodka and he saw it was good, 'Then God said, Let there be light,' and then he said, 'Whoa, too much light.'

Old Blue Eyes, Frank Sinatra got it right when he said, 'I feel sorry for guys who don't drink. That's as good as they're gonna feel all day.'

Olivia: You've done pretty well so far. Have a crack at 'animals'.

Jack: Animals... OK.

There are two polar bears sitting on an ice floe. The cub says, 'Dad are we really polar bears?' The daddy bear says, 'Yes of course we are.'The cub says, 'You're sure we aren't grizzly bears or Koala bears?''No of course not. Look at your and my lovely white fur and all this ice and snow around us...we are definitely polar bears.' The cub says 'You're absolutely sure we are not pandas?' 'Of course I'm sure son. Why do you ask?'The cub says 'Because I'm bloody freezing!'

Here's one that shows how the animal kingdom compares to a company's hierarchy. There is a tree full of monkeys all on different limbs at different levels. The monkeys at the top look down and see a tree full of smiling faces. The monkeys at the bottom look up and see nothing but arseholes.

Olivia: OK. Give me an idea of the kind of funny story you might finish your set with.

Jack: I'd come up with a variant on this kind of kick in the tail story I heard recently.

A burglar breaks into a house at night. He's unplugging the TV from the wall when he hears a small voice saying, 'Jesus knows you are here.' Startled he shone his torch around, didn't see anyone so thought he must have been imagining it. He's just lifting the TV when, clear as a bell he hears, 'Jesus is watching you.' This time when he shines his torch he sees a parrot. 'Did you say that,' he hissed at the parrot.

'Yes,' squawked the parrot, 'I'm just trying to warn you that he's watching you.' The burglar relaxed and said, 'Warn me huh? Who the hell are you?' 'Moses,' replied the bird.

'Moses? What kind of people would call a parrot Moses?'

The parrot says, 'The same kind of people who would name their Pitbull, Jesus.'

Olivia: Not bad at all Jack. I think I you've earned a spot on Saturday's show.

The End