

# DISCORD

A short play by

D. Richard Tucker

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CAST

DORIS        The choir director  
JACKIE       a choir member  
SHERRY      a choir member  
CHUCK       a choir member  
RONNIE      a choir member  
TANYA       a choir member  
KARLA       a choir member

Time: The present

Setting: The choir rehearsal room

*KARLA, CHUCK, and RONNIE are waiting in the choir room.  
SHERRY and JACKIE have just put on their robes and are getting  
ready. DORIS enters.*

DORIS        Okay, people, ten more minutes. Look alive. I want to see lots of smiles. You can't make a joyful noise with a frown on your face. We want to make beautiful music. We want to bring forth soul-stirring emotion, so if you can't feel the joy, then fake it. Karla, what color are those shoes?

KARLA        (looking down at her feet) They're...um .. they're...

DORIS        Better yet, what color are they not?

KARLA        (sheepishly) They're... ..

DORIS        Are they black?

KARLA        No.

DORIS        Are they navy?

KARLA        No.

DORIS        Then what are they?

KARLA        ....Unacceptable?

DORIS        Bingo!

KARLA        But I –

DORIS        Karla!

*KARLA exits reluctantly.*

DORIS        Put away the magazine, Ronnie, you're supposed to be thinking about nothing but music.

*RONNIE hides magazine and DORIS exits.*

CHUCK        What are you reading?

RONNIE        (*showing him the magazine*) It's a catalog.

CHUCK        Of what?

RONNIE        Tupperware.

CHUCK        Really?

*CHUCK and RONNIE pore over catalog. TANYA enters.*

TANYA        Am I late?

SHERRY        Are you ever on time?

TANYA        Don't tell the warden, okay?

SHERRY        She already noticed. You missed warm ups.

TANYA        That's okay. I have a CD in my car – I sing along with that.

SHERRY        You have a CD of today's selections?

TANYA No – ZZ Top. They have just the right range for me.

CHUCK So you have to pick something out from here?

RONNIE Yeah, Marilyn gave me a bunch of Tupper-bucks for my birthday.

CHUCK Tupper-what?

RONNIE They're like gift certificates for Tupperware. See, Marilyn wanted to throw me a birthday party, but it was the same night she was hosting a Tupperware party, so she kind of combined the two. So I get to pick out any item from between page four and page seventeen.

CHUCK Sweet!

RONNIE Yeah.

TANYA Do I look okay?

SHERRY Sure.

TANYA How do you like this blouse?

SHERRY Nice. A little big in the bustline don't you think?

TANYA Sherry, you know I'm sensitive about that.

*TANYA grabs her robe and exits.*

RONNIE So what do you think about this Spaghetti Dispenser?

CHUCK That's pretty cool. "Special insert allows for easy spaghetti pouring and measuring."

RONNIE Holds one point one liters.

CHUCK Yeah. Do you make spaghetti a lot?

RONNIE Never. But I could use it to hold my golf balls.

*JACKIE enters.*

JACKIE Is Tanya here yet?

SHERRY She just came in.

JACKIE        Too bad. I was hoping she wouldn't make it.

SHERRY        Jackie!

JACKIE        Well, she's always off-key. Drives me crazy.

SHERRY        She's not that bad.

JACKIE        Oh, yes she is! Sometimes it hurts so much I can feel the blood vessels popping behind my eyes.

SHERRY        I think you're exaggerating.

JACKIE        No, I'm not – I have perfect pitch. Just ask Chuck. Chuck, doesn't Tanya sing off-key?

CHUCK        (*engrossed in catalogue*) Huh? Umm... yeah, sometimes.

JACKIE        See.

SHERRY        I don't think it's that bad. Ronnie, really, is she that bad?

*TANYA enters, putting on her robe, unseen by the others.*

RONNIE        (*engrossed in catalog*) You mean Tanya? She's just a little flat, that's all.

*TANYA, stunned, looks down at her bustline and then turns and exits. DORIS enters.*

DORIS        Alright everybody, look alive – only a couple more minutes. Smiles. Smiles. Let me see some smiles.

*Everyone smiles at DORIS in unison.*

DORIS        Great. Remember, we want to make people happy. Happy, happy, happy. Show some joy, joy, joy.

CHUCK        Zieg heil, Mein Fuehrer!

*DORIS gives CHUCK a disapproving look as KARLA enters wearing different shoes.*

DORIS        Karla? New shoes?

KARLA        Yes.

DORIS           What color are they?

KARLA           *(sheepishly)* They're... ..

DORIS           Are they black?

KARLA           No.

DORIS           Are they navy?

KARLA           No.

DORIS           Then what are they?

KARLA           ...Unacceptable?

DORIS           Bullseye!

*KARLA exits.*

CHUCK           Hey! Sponge Bob Soup Cups! You gotta get those!

RONNIE          Don't be silly - I can't get Sponge Bob Soup Cups.

CHUCK           Why not?

RONNIE          I don't eat soup.

JACKIE          Doris, do you think Tanya sings off key?

DORIS           Well, yeah, sometimes.

JACKIE          So why don't you do something?

DORIS           Like what, Jackie?

JACKIE          I don't know. Can you tell her not to come any more.

*TANYA enters adjusting her robe, unseen the others.*

DORIS           Look, I can't fire Tanya just because she's a little flat.

*TANYA, stunned, looks down at her bustline and then turns and exits quickly. DORIS exits.*

RONNIE          Now, this is a possibility. The Stow 'N Go sports Bottle.

CHUCK        It's just a water bottle.

RONNIE        But look, you can unscrew the bottom, and there's a special compartment where you can store your keys or money or something.

CHUCK        Hey, that's great!

RONNIE        Yeah.

*KARLA enters.*

KARLA        Does anybody have any shoes I can borrow?

SHERRY        Not me.

JACKIE        Me neither. Check the closet in the vestibule – there may be something in there.

CHUCK        What about this cheese grater? You like cheese.

RONNIE        Yeah. But I don't grate cheese that much.

CHUCK        But if you had this, you would. Look, there's a measuring bin attached to the back so you can measure the cheese as you grate it. No more guess work.

RONNIE        Okay.

CHUCK        And the grater is "stay-sharp stainless steel," no less.

RONNIE        ...Yeah....

CHUCK        And it stands up on the counter to make it "the most stable and fastest grater you've ever used."

RONNIE        I like that bin on the back.

CHUCK        Yeah, when you're grating cheese, the cheese falls lightly into the cup – it's doesn't get all smooshed up.

RONNIE        And I can grate multiple types of cheese and mix them together as I'm grating.

CHUCK        And you can store it in the fridge, too, so you can grate your cheese and then use it later. You know, like when you're watching the game or

something, you can be grating cheese and then store it for a meal later in the week.

RONNIE Good idea.

*DORIS enters.*

DORIS Okay, come one, people, get a move on. Only two minutes! I don't see anybody smiling!

*All smile in unison.*

SHERRY Are you going to give a pep talk?

DORIS Not exactly a pep talk, just a few words of encouragement-

CHUCK Here it comes.

DORIS All right, just so you know – you've worked hard, you put some serious effort into this, and I realize it was a last minute deal –

JACKIE But what about Tanya?

DORIS What about her?

JACKIE She's flat.

DORIS You're just going to have to live with it.

JACKIE Oh, come on, it gives me a migraine just listening to her behind me.

DORIS I'm sorry, Jackie but you'll just have to ignore it.

JACKIE Ignore that? As horrific as it sounds? Guys! Give me some support here. Ron, don't you think that Tanya is flat?

RONNIE I can't really tell.

JACKIE Oh, for crying out loud...what about you, Chuck? Don't you think that Tanya is flat?

*TANYA enters, unseen the others.*

CHUCK Actually, I've always felt that Tanya is sharp.

*TANYA, upon hearing in this, smiles, and smoothes her outfit.*

DORIS Well, like I was saying, our job is to bring forth joy-

*KARLA enters wearing a pair of combat boots.*

DORIS *(noticing the boots)* Karla-

KARLA Are they the wrong color, Doris?

DORIS No, but-

KARLA Then I don't want to hear it.

DORIS *(with a pause)* As I was saying we have to bring the place to life – fill it with sunshine. You may not feel so great yourself, but we owe it to everybody sitting out there to give them the time of their lives. Smiles-everywhere. Look like you're enjoying it. Make a joyful noise...and wear a joyful expression. Now let me see you smile.

*All smile in unison.*

DORIS Okay, get out there and make those people happy. This is going to be the best funeral service they've ever seen.

*All exit.*