

# **The Preview Show**

A ten minute skit for young actors

By Tim A. Pullen

**Chuck Phillips:** Sixteen years old, and hopelessly optimistic.

**Layla Grentage:** Sixteen years old, with a bitter dry wit. You "almost" never see her smile.

**Mike Farmer:** Seventeen year old football player/ track star. Very proud of his physical attributes, probably because he has no others.

**Cheri Putman:** Seventeen year old cheerleader.

**Cheryl Brooks:** Seventeen year old cheerleader that likes to giggle.

(Lights up as a young couple take their seats in a movie theatre, he is carrying a tray with two drinks and a large popcorn. She is finding her seat in the theatre.)

**Chuck:** Nice night for a movie.

**Layla:** Every night is nice inside.

**Chuck:** I mean we picked a good night, there aren't many people here.

**Layla:** Which probably means the show stinks.

**Chuck:** Would you rather do something else? We don't have to see this movie.

**Layla:** No, I'm good -I'd rather look at you in the dark.

**Chuck:** (With a nervous laugh.) Ha- you are so funny.

**Layla:** You're funny. Wait till I tell a joke.

**Chuck:** (More nervous laughing) Popcorn? (He offers her popcorn.)

**Layla:** Yes, it is.

**Chuck:** Would you like some?

**Layla:** No thanks, but I'll take my drink.

**Chuck:** Sure. (He hands her a drink)

**Layla:** Thank you.

**Chuck:** You're welcome. (She slurps) so you're in the A.V. club, you work the video camera right?

**Layla:** Yep.

**Chuck:** Today the morning announcements, tomorrow the next Spielberg?

**Layla:** No- I'm not doing movies.

**Chuck:** Why not?

**Layla:** You have to care about each shot.

**Chuck:** You could do that.

**Layla:** I doubt it, I couldn't care less.

**Chuck:** Really? Have you tried?

**Layla:** No, I don't put much effort into anything.

**Chuck:** Are you hoping to be a video, video, videogra- what do they call it?

**Layla:** A camera woman.

**Chuck:** Do you want to do that?

**Layla:** Yeah, but just for the news or something, you know -where they don't care about artistic framing and all that crap.

**Chuck:** What made you want to be a camera woman?

**Layla:** Are you writing a book?

**Chuck:** Sorry, I was just curious.

**Layla:** I don't want to be a waitress or a truck driver.

**Chuck:** Me either.

**Layla:** I thought you were a waiter.

**Chuck:** Well -yeah- now, but that's my high school job. I just do that for gas money. And taking girls out to movies money.

**Layla:** And out to dinner.

**Chuck:** Yeah- and that.

**Layla:** Why did you want to go out with me so bad?

**Chuck:** I like you, you make me laugh, and I think you're very pretty.

**Layla:** Okay, so you're not blind- but a little stupid. You know I've been mean or completely indifferent to you since we met.

**Chuck:** I could tell.

**Layla:** Then why keep trying?

**Chuck:** It got me a date, didn't it?

**Layla:** It was either give in and go out with you or kill you, and one is illegal in this state.

**Chuck:** Then I'm glad we live in this state.

**Layla:** So what do you want to do?

**Chuck:** You don't want to watch the movie?

**Layla:** I mean your job. What do you hope to be after high school?

**Chuck:** I didn't know you cared.

**Layla:** I don't, but we've got time before the previews start.

**Chuck:** I haven't thought it through seriously. I don't think my mom can afford to send me to college. Maybe I'll join the police academy. Really, I've always wanted to be a superhero.

**Layla:** Don't you need radiation, or some mutation to give you superpowers?

**Chuck:** No, Batman didn't need superpowers.

**Layla:** He's rich. Are you rich?

**Chuck:** Not yet.

**Layla:** You're just going to save your money from waiting tables at the pizza place till you can get the mansion, butler and arsenal of gadgets to fight crime?

**Chuck:** I admitted I haven't thought it through. In eight month I get my license, then they can put me on the company insurance and I can be a delivery man for the pizza place.

**Layla:** There's your handle- Pizza Boy, delivering justice in thirty minutes or less.

**Chuck:** I kinda like that.

**Layla:** You would. (She laughs.)

**Chuck:** You laughed. That's the first time ever that I've seen you laugh.

**Layla:** I was laughing at you.

**Chuck:** Still a laugh, you've got a nice smile, you should share it more often.

**Layla:** I'm not very sharing either. (Her smile fades.) You tell anyone you saw me laugh and I'll break your right arm.

**Chuck:** I won't tell. So you don't care or share?

**Layla:** You know me well.

**Chuck:** See, you're so easy to get to know. (Chuck yawns and begins to swing his arm around Layla.)

**Layla:** Don't try it.

**Chuck:** Try what?

**Layla:** That lame stretch and yawn move. I don't know whether to offer you deodorant or a tic tac.

(Chuck then smells his breath by breathing into his hand and sniffs under the armpit that's not facing Layla.)

**Chuck:** Do you have a tic tac?

**Layla:** You're a tic tac. Can't you tell I'm un-feeling heartless and wicked?

**Chuck:** I think you've had your feelings hurt pretty bad somehow in some way, and you don't want anyone to think they can really touch you.

**Layla:** What if I'm just plain mean?

**Chuck:** You're still pretty, and I'm happy to be sitting next to you. (Mike, Cheryl, and Cheri walk in and head to the seats behind Chuck and Layla. Cheryl is giggling.)

**Layla:** Solid logic.

**Chuck:** I know you'd rather be here with a million guys other than me, but I'm glad you gave me the chance to talk to you -you know, with just us.

**Layla:** I don't like people in general very much so your million figure is off. But, as people go, your company has not been painful. (Cheryl giggles again.)

**Chuck:** Thanks.

**Layla:** (She notices the giggling.) Oh crud, did it just get dumber in here? Or is it just them.

**Chuck:** They don't even know I go to their school.

**Layla:** Don't worry, they know me.

**Chuck:** Let's just look forward and hope the lights go out soon.

**Cheri:** Hey, looky what we have here. It's AV girl.

**Layla:** I'm surprised you spelled that right.

**Cheri:** What'd I spell?

**Mike:** AV.

**Cheryl:** (giggling) That's just two letters.

**Cheri:** She's being smart.

**Layla:** Someone has to.

**Cheri:** Are you accentuating I'm stupid?

**Layla:** No, you're doing fine on your own.

**Cheri:** Thank you. When did you get a little boyfriend?

**Mike:** Hey! That's pizza boy, that's -that's -Chester, Chip -

**Chuck:** Chuck.

**Layla:** He's not my boyfriend.

**Mike:** Chucky! Right, you work down at Bartolo's pizza place right?

**Chuck:** Yep.

**Mike:** You go to our school?

**Chuck:** Yep.

**Mike:** Freshy?

**Chuck:** I'm a Junior, right behind you.

**Mike:** Wow- I ain't seen ya around much.

**Chuck:** I don't hang out in the gym much.

**Mike:** I can tell.

**Cheri:** AV girl got her a man with a job. Somebody has to pay for all her new cameras.

**Chuck:** We just want to watch the movie. Okay?

**Cheri:** That's what we're all here for right? I always thought you were a Lebanese AV girl. (Cheryl giggles)

**Layla:** What?

**Cheri:** You know, that you liked girls.

**Layla:** No, I'm not Lebanese.

**Cheri:** Then how come you never wear any make up or put on a dress?

**Chuck:** She doesn't need any make up.

**Cheri:** So you're accentuating I do?

**Chuck:** No I wasn't accentuating anything.

**Mike:** I don't even think she was talking to you- were you?

**Cheri:** No, I wasn't. We were having an A and B conversation so why don't you B outta it. (Cheryl giggles -and yes she could be laughing at Cheri.)

**Layla:** I'm done with this conversation anyway.

**Cheri:** What's wrong with you? Are you a snob or something?

**Layla:** It was very nice of you to say hi, now goodbye. The movie is going to start soon.

**Cheri:** Look at av girl trying to blow me off.

**Chuck:** (Stands up and puts himself in between the girls.) Can you just leave her alone? Please? We just wanna watch the movie.

**Mike:** Hey! Don't get up in my girls face.

**Chuck:** I don't want anything to do with your girls face.

**Mike:** Are you calling her ugly? (He grabs Chuck by the collar and pulls his arm back to hit.)

**Layla:** Mike! Wait.

**Mike:** (His pose freezes) For what?

**Layla:** I never realized how big your arm was. Can I feel that?

**Mike:** I -well sure. You know I can bench my own wait. (Layla positions herself to feel his muscle.)

**Cheri:** Don't let her go feeling your muscle.

**Mike:** Aw, it's okay -what's it gonna to hurt?

**Layla:** Your nose. (As she says this, Layla pinches his elbow aims his fist at his face then pushes up with her other hand slamming his own fist in his face. He falls unconscious leaving the two cheerleaders to catch him.)

**Cheri:** Girls don't do that! What did you do?

**Layla:** I found your glass jaw Cinderella, now hurry home before your giggling girlfriend turns back into a pumpkin. (The girls haul the unconscious jock off the stage.)

**Chuck:** Whoa. How'd you do that?

**Layla:** I'll show ya, but I doubt any guy is going to fall for that let me see your muscle line from you.

**Chuck:** Good point. Aren't you afraid you're going to get in trouble?

**Layla:** Yeah, I'm sure him and his girlfriend are going to tell anybody about that.

**Chuck:** Thanks. You see, I'm lucky to be sitting next to you.

**Layla:** You were standing up for me.

**Chuck:** I was willing to get beat up for you yes, but you saved me.

**Layla:** You're okay with that?

**Chuck:** With what?

**Layla:** Me saving you.

**Chuck:** I didn't particularly want my face squished.

**Layla:** I might like you more than I thought. (She has a seat next to him as the movie starts and the lights begin to dim. Chuck puts his arm around her shoulder, she looks at him.) I said might.

**Chuck:** Sorry. (As he draws his arm back.)

**Layla:** We'll see. (She takes his hand, and holds it he smiles. Lights out)

(Quiet down in the back row!)

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