

The Great Big Radio Show

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



Cast list	Mona Adams - the diva star of the show Ray Hayden - Announcer Gus Wexler - Actor (Sheriff, Mugsy) Dorothy Renoir - Actor (Dorothy, Lotty, Bugsy, Kid) Oliver Tottleigh-Robbins ¹ - Actor (Mad Dog, Street Vendor) Ruth Reynolds - Actor (Child, Debbie, Red) Cliff Marlowe - Actor (Mr. Grubbs, Deputy, Parson) The Amazing Crisco (Red Chameleon) Abe Mason - (Wilbur) Olaf Olaf - Swedish Tenor (Swede) Betty Galloway - Card Girl Estelle Elliot - Producer Hubie MacGuffin - Soundfx guy
Approximate Running Time	50 minutes
Scene Description	A stage in front of a live audience. The stage is set with 3 or 4 microphones for the radio broadcast plus a soundfx table. The stage is decorated with signage for Lustra-dent toothpaste and "The Great Big Radio Show."
Prop List	Clothes to convey a late-1940s feel. Men should wear white shirts with wide ties (possibly loosened) with natural fiber dress pants (pleated and high-waisted) or suits. Fedoras, suspenders, etc. are a nice touch. Go heavy on the hair gel. Women should wear below-knee-length dresses (possibly with floral prints), suites, or skirts with blouses and sweaters. Soundfx (see script and notes on last page)
Other Production Notes	Actors will stand around microphones on stands, holding their scripts. They should use props (such as hats) and pantomiming actions to add visual interest to the performance. Position Hubie where audience can clearly see him - perhaps downstage right or left or on a raised platform upstage center.

¹ Could be made into a woman's part with the name Olivia

Scene 1: Audience Instructions

Ray, Betty

(Betty's lines needs to be memorized. Ray can have a clipboard or cards that he words from, though they should mainly serve as notes.)

RAY

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I am Ray Hayden. In just a few minutes you will have the rare privilege to be part of a live studio audience for America's favorite variety show - The Great Big Radio Show!

Just a few words of instruction. As you can well imagine, on radio it is vitally important to have the audience all on the same page, so to speak. To help you we have Betty the card girl. Betty Galloway, come on out here. Folks, it's real simple. At various times in tonight's performance Betty will hold up a card with an instruction on it. All you have to do is do what the instruction says. Betty, let's give them a chance to practice.

BETTY

Thanks, Ray. Alright. Ya ready?

(Betty holds up applause sign. Audience should applaud.)

I think they've got it, Ray. Now try this one.

(Betty holds up "Laughter" sign.)

Oh, you can laugh more. Here.

(she makes a funny face at them)

That's betta.

(Soundfx guy makes a funny sound.)

RAY

Yes, and that's Hubie MacGuffin, our soundfx guy. Let's give Hubie a hand.

(Betty holds up applause sign.)

Thanks, Betty. Thanks, Hubie. That's how it works, folks. Just a few other notes. No one should touch our star, Miss Adams. Also, remember this is a live broadcast. So any extraneous noises may be heard by millions of Americans and their children.

BETTY

So watch it.

RAY

Well, that's about it. The show will start in (pulls out a pocket watch) five minutes. So if you have anything necessary to do, do it now. We'll be right back.

(Soundfx guy plays music.)

Scene 2: Opening

Ray, Mona, Cliff, Olaf, Estelle.
Rest of cast are lined up upstage.

(Play opening theme music, first loud and then lower so Ray can talk over it.)

RAY

And now Lustra-dent toothpaste, the toothpaste that makes your teeth lily white and leaves your breath minty fresh, presents The Great Big Radio Show starring Mona Adams!

(Betty holds up applause sign.)

RAY

Tonight's show features our special guest the Swedish tenor - the Viking you'll be liking - Olaf Olaf!

(Betty holds up applause sign.)

RAY

And as always we'll have predictions for the future from the Amazing Crisco and hilarious sketches by our own Jupiter Players!

(Betty holds up applause sign.)

RAY

I'm your announcer, Ray Hayden. And now... welcome America's comedy queen - the biggest thing in The Great Big Radio Show...

MONA

Watch it, bud.

RAY

...the hilarious - the delightful - Mona Adams!

(Music fades out. Betty holds up applause sign very high and gestures with hand for more applause.)

MONA

Thank you, Ray. And thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Say, Ray, since when has our company of actors been known as the Jupiter Players?

RAY

Well, that's new, Mona.

MONA

Where did they get the name?

RAY

You'd have to ask the actors.

MONA

Well, let's get one of them out here. Carl! Carl Marlowe!
Help me welcome him, folks.

(Betty holds up applause sign as Cliff steps
forward.)

CLIFF

It's Cliff, Mona.

MONA

Of course it is. Carl, where did you get the name Jupiter
Players?

CLIFF

Do you like it, Mona? This is the space age, you know -
1949.

MONA

But where did you get the name?

CLIFF

Well, we work for you, Mona. And when we thought of you, we
just naturally thought of heavenly bodies.

MONA

Oh, you stop.

CLIFF

You know Jupiter's the most important planet in the solar
system. Just like you are to us, Mona.

MONA

Oh, you stop.

CLIFF

(delivered like an unscripted ad-lib.)
It's a huge ball of gas.

MONA

(delivered like an unscripted line.)

Seriously, Carl, stop. Don't you have to get ready for the first sketch?

CLIFF

Sure thing, Mona.

(Betty holds up applause sign as Cliff exits.)

MONA

I should introduce the rest of our cast.

(Mona reads these names from the script, since she doesn't do well with names. Betty holds up Applause sign for each actor as he or she is introduced. Actor steps forward and bows or waves to the crowd. Mona ad-libs "uh-huh" and "isn't he great", etc.)

MONA

We have Gus Wexler. Ruth Reynolds. Oliver Tottleigh-Robbins. Dorothy Renoir. And our actor and prognosticator for the future - The Amazing Crisco. Also, joining our cast of players tonight for the very first time - Abe Mason.

(not reading from script)

And let's not forget...

(Hubie stands up thinking she'll introduce him, then sits back down in disappointment)

...our producer. She's the best woman in the biz, folks. Stella! Stella Elliot!

ESTELLE

It's Estelle, Mona.

MONA

Exactly. Oh, Stella, haven't we hired a new band director, yet? Hubie does so well with the gramophone. But after all, this is a top flight show. Top. Flight.

ESTELLE

The new band director will be starting next week. I think you'll like him, Mona. He's Latin.

MONA

Ooh! Musical and Latin! What's his name?

RAY

Juan Anatou (*pronounced ana-two*).

(Soundfx of rim shot.)

MONA

(makes a face to the audience)

Oh, Ray, you're pulling my leg.

RAY

No, believe me, I wouldn't touch it, Mona.

(Soundfx of rim shot.)

RAY

Who writes this stuff?

MONA

Oh, you stop. Well, band leader or no, we have just an excellent singer as our guest tonight, Swedish tenor, Olaf Olaf. I tell you, he's the Viking that I'm liking. (laughs)
Let's make Olaf feel welcome, folks.

(Betty holds up applause sign.)

MONA

Olaf, did you grow up along the fjords?

OLAF

Nah, da fjords are in Norvay. I'm from Sveden.

MONA

Oh, the land of chocolate.

OLAF

Dat's Svitzerland. I'm from Sveden!

MONA

Well, what's in Sveden... I mean Sweden?

OLAF

We make meatballs.

MONA

I thought that was Italy. Anyway, won't you sing for us.

OLAF

Ya. Ya. Dis is a traditional Svedish song. I learned it at my mudder's knee. It's about the beauty you see ven da sun rises over da snow on your Volvo.

(Olaf sings "Oh what a beautiful morning" with lyrics tweaked for Sweden.)

There's a bright, golden haze on the iceberg.
There's a bright, golden haze on the iceberg.
The snow is as high as a caribou's eye
And it looks like it's climbing clear up to the sky.

Oh, vat a beautiful morning
Oh, vat a beautiful day.
I've got a beautiful feelin'
Everyting's going my vay.

All the reindeer are standing like statues
All the reindeer are standing like statues
They don't turn their heads as they see me ride by
But a little brown volverine is vinking her eye

Oh, vat a beautiful morning
Oh, vat a beautiful day.
I've got a beautiful feeling
Everyting's going my vay.

All the sounds of the earth are like music
All the sounds of the earth are like music
The breeze is so busy it don't miss a tree
An' a ol' veeping villow is laughing at me

Oh, vhat a beautiful morning
Oh, vhat a beautiful day.
I've got a beautiful feeling
Everyting's going my vay.
Oh, vat a beautiful day!

(Betty holds applause sign. Bumper music between sketches.)

Scene 3: Wilbur and Lotty's Picnic
Lotty (Ruth), Wilbur (Abe), Street Vendor (Oliver), Kid
(Dorothy), Parson (Cliff)

(Soundfx of singing birds.)

LOTTY

Oh, Wilbur, listen to the birds. This picnic was a great idea.

WILBUR

(sounding flirtatious)

Yes, Lotty, I'll just spread the blanket out here under this tree.

(Soundfx of a blanket whipping open.)

LOTTY

Not that tree, Wilbur.

WILBUR

Eh?

LOTTY

It's too secluded and dark.

WILBUR

That's kind of what I liked about...
(voice trailing off)

LOTTY

No, I like it out here in the sunlight.

WILBUR

Are you sure? I thought we could... uh... talk privately.

LOTTY

Whatcha want to talk about?

WILBUR

Well, sit down here. I'll whisper it in your ear.

STREET VENDOR

Ice cream. Ice cream. Get your tootsy fruitsy ice cream².
Hey, pal...

WILBUR

(annoyed)

What?

STREET VENDOR

How about some ice cream for your girl?

WILBUR

Well... Do you want some ice cream, Lotty?

LOTTY

Oh, I don't think so.

WILBUR

Guess not, bud.

STREET VENDOR

How about some popcorn?

WILBUR

You sell popcorn, too?

STREET VENDOR

You bet. And hotdogs. You want a hotdog?

WILBUR

(curtly)

I think we have all the food we need.

STREET VENDOR

You do, eh? How about after the meal?

LOTTY

What?

STREET VENDOR

I have here a brand new tube of Lustra-dent toothpaste.
It'll make ya teeth lily white.

LOTTY

Oooh. Product placement.

² Homage to the Marx Brothers routine in A Day at the Races.

STREET VENDOR

And it'll give your breath a minty freshness you won't believe.

WILBUR

Look, we'd just like to be alone.

STREET VENDOR

Ooooh. I getcha. Haw haw haw. Hey, buddy, a dozen roses for your girl...

WILBUR

Will you go away if I buy them?

STREET VENDOR

You bet.

WILBUR

Here you go. Now... you go.

STREET VENDOR

(voice fading into the distance)

Ice cream. Ice cream. Get your tootsy fruitsy ice cream.

WILBUR

Look, Lotty, I got you flowers.

LOTTY

Oh, Wilbur, you shouldn't have.

WILBUR

Aw, for you, honey...

LOTTY

(sneezing)

No, you really shouldn't have. I'm allergic.

(sneezes again)

WILBUR

Aw, honey... Look, let me wipe your pretty little nose. Here. Lean over close to me and you can watch those kids playing baseball. Do you see them over there?

(Soundfx of ball being hit then striking a person.)

WILBUR

Oompf! Ow!

KID

Sorry, mister. Can I have my ball back.

WILBUR

(mad)

I'll give your ball back to you, kid. I'll give it right between your...

LOTTY

Oh, Wilbur, isn't he adorable!

WILBUR

Eh? Oh.... Yeah, he's a sweetheart. Here's your ball, little boy.

(under his breath)

Listen, you little crumb. You've got five seconds to beat it. And if I see your grimy little face around here again, I'll ... I'll... Well, just you beat it.

(Kid runs off screaming.)

LOTTY

Wilbur, what did you say to him?

WILBUR

I... a... told him to watch out for communists. Guess he's the sensitive type. Anyway, where were we, sweetheart?

PARSON

Lotty! Wilbur!

LOTTY

Oh, hi, Parson! Lovely day, isn't it.

PARSON

It's a beautiful day. On a day like today I just love to sit right here under this tree and listen to the birds.

(Soundfx of birds.)

WILBUR

This tree?

PARSON

This very one.

WILBUR

For how long?

PARSON

Oh, not very long... unless I have someone like you and Lotty to talk to.

WILBUR

Great. Just great.

(Soundfx of Wah-Wah-Wah. Betty holds up applause sign. Bumper music between sketches.)

Scene 4: Crisco Predicts
Ray, Crisco, Mona

(During this scene, Hubie should be sipping a soda in a glass bottle through a straw to set things up for Scene 6)

RAY

And now, ladies and gentlemen, prepare to hear amazing words about our amazing future from the Amazing Crisco.

(Betty holds up applause sign)

CRISCO

Greetings, my friends. We are all interested in the future, for that is where you and I are going to spend the rest of our lives³.

(rubs temples)

I'm sensing a commercial in your very near future.

MONA

You know, Crisco...

(Betty holds up Applause sign at Mona's entrance. Mona bows.)

MONA

You know, Crisco, what I'm interested in is how you get such bright, white teeth.

CRISCO

Mona, it is all because of Lustra-dent. It whitens my smile and freshens my breath.

MONA

Well, I did notice your breath was better tonight.

(Soundfx of rim shot.)

RAY

Yes, Lustra-dent is the brand recommended by 5 out of 12 dentists as well as several plumbers.

MONA

What makes Lustra-dent work so well, Ray?

³ Homage to and a direct quote from the movie, Plan 9 From Outer Space.

RAY

Well, Mona, you see Lustra-dent is blue. That blue gel oozes through every crevice of your teeth, seeking out stubborn stains and then knocking them out. Lustra-dent - the power of blue. And now... the Amazing Crisco.

(Betty holds up applause sign.)

(During Crisco's foretelling, project black-and-white funny pictures related to what he is describing.⁴)

CRISCO

Friends, let me take you sixty years into the future
(doing an echo)
future...future... future. The year is 2009.

In the year twenty-oh-nine the state of Delaware no longer exists as its entire footprint has been enveloped by the super computer ENIAC 12, which now runs the US government.

Most people carry with them personal communication devices - like telephones but without the wires. These devices are called Telephones Without Wires or TWWs and weigh as little as fifteen pounds including batteries.

Flying cars are a routine sight. Now there are no longer traffic jams as drivers (or pilots as they are now called) can simply shift to a different altitude to avoid congestion. This development has greatly bolstered the profits of the Big Three American automakers: Studebaker, Nash, and Hudson.

Thanks to automation in the year twenty-oh-nine there is now a two-day workweek. Unfortunately it is still a forty hour week. It's just now compressed into two days.

Robots do all housework and have replaced common house pets as non-allergenic companions. Surprisingly this has not reduced carpet stains as oil leaks are becoming an increasing problem.

⁴ Search for public domain image sources, such as:
<http://ftp.arl.mil/ftp/historic-computers>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/index.html?curid=10451848>

Finally, in the year twenty-oh-nine nations are now fielding armies of trained gorillas, inevitably shifting the balance of power to banana producing countries.

And that's how it will be... in the future
(doing an echo)
future...future... future.

(Betty holds up applause sign. Bumper music between sketches.)

Scene 5: The Red Chameleon and Debbie
Ray, Debbie (Ruth), Red Chameleon (Crisco), Bugsy
(Dorothy), Mugsy (Gus), Street Vendor (Oliver)

(Soundfx of police siren.)

RAY

The city is a dark and dangerous place. Criminals lurk in every corner.

(Soundfx of a gunshot, trash can falling over, and a cat's cry.)

RAY

But their nemesis comes from the mists. Always on patrol is... Well, not always. He has a day job. Often on patrol is... The Red Chameleon.

DEBBIE

And Debbie!

RAY

A mysterious stranger with the power to seemingly appear and disappear at will.

(Soundfx of popping finger out of mouth.)

RAY

When not fighting crime he is known as the Amazing Crisco, a stage magician who with his lovely assistant Debbie performs each evening plus a Saturday matinee. But after the show ends...

DEBBIE

Great show, Crisco. You were amazing.

RED CHAMELEON

Yes. But now it's time to shed our alter egos, don masks, and fight crime as the Red Chameleon.

DEBBIE

And Debbie!

RAY

In a nice, quiet neighborhood, on a nice, quiet street
there stands a nice, quiet house.

(Reacts to the poor writing)

Seriously, who writes this stuff? Mother and Father have
turned in for the night. Little do they know that outside
their kitchen window...

BUGSY

Hand me that there crowbar, Mugsy.

MUGSY

This crowbar, Bugsy?

BUGSY

Do you see any other crowbars lying around, Knucklehead.

(Soundfx of crowbar prying at the window.)

Still can't quite get it. Oomph. Get that hammer.

(Soundfx of going through bag of tools.)

MUGSY

Got it.

BUGSY

OK. When I nod my head you hit it.

MUGSY

What?

BUGSY

I said, when I nod my head you hit it.

MUGSY

Uh, are you sure, Bugsy?

BUGSY

It's what I said, ain't it?

MUGSY

When you nod your HEAD...

BUGSY

You hit it!

MUGSY

Yeah, yeah. OK, Bugsy. Whatever you say.

(Soundfx of hitting a head with a tool.)

BUGSY

Ow! What gives?

MUGSY

You said when you nod your head I'm supposed to hit it.

BUGSY

Hit the crowbar, you fat head.

MUGSY

Ha. I think you're the fat head now, Bugsy. Look at that knot.

BUGSY

Why you... I'll flatten your head given half a chance. Look, just help me push up this window.

(Soundfx of window opening.)

BUGSY

All right. Let's crawl inside. Fill up your sack.

MUGSY

Yeah, yeah. This is a ripe plum, Bugsy. A ripe plum.

BUGSY

And who's gonna stop us?

RAY

Who indeed? But at that very moment...

DEBBIE

It seems like a quiet night, Red Chameleon.

RED CHAMELEON

Maybe too quiet. That's why we're patrolling the streets.

DEBBIE

But this is a nice, quiet neighborhood.

RED CHAMELEON

I sense something... Wait! Look there!

DEBBIE

It looks like two criminals crawling out of that kitchen window! They're dashing down that alley!

RED CHAMELEON

After them, Debbie!

STREET VENDOR

Ice cream. Ice cream. Get your tootsy fruitsy ice cream. Hey, pal...

RED CHAMELEON

Yes, good citizen?

STREET VENDOR

Ya want some ice cream for your girlfriend there, fella?

RED CHAMELEON

Well, we're not actually... we're... I'm the Red Chameleon.

DEBBIE

And Debbie!

STREET VENDOR

What kind of melon?

RED CHAMELEON

Cham-a... Chameleon.

STREET VENDOR

Like a lizard?

(Soundfx of popping finger out of mouth.)

STREET VENDOR

Hey! Where'd he go?

DEBBIE

He disappeared into the mists. He's the Red Chameleon. And I'm Debbie.

STREET VENDOR

Well, Toots...

DEBBIE

Watch who you're calling Toots, Bud.

STREET VENDOR

Sorry, Toot... I mean, Debbie. Anyway I have lipstick for sale. Also handbags... And I have a fine selection of sterling silver earrings.

DEBBIE

Oooh. But not now. The Red Chameleon and I are fighting crime.

(Soundfx of Debbie running down the street.)

DEBBIE

(from a distance)

I'm coming, Chameleon.

MUGSY

I think we got away, Mugsy.

BUGSY

I'm Bugsy.

MUGSY

Oh. I mean, I think we got away, Bugsy.

BUGSY

Yeah. Let's split up the loot. OK. Let's see. We got a man's watch. I'll take that. And here's a ladies watch. Here you go. You take that. And we got a silver teapot. That's good. And some bronze candlesticks. And what's this? A picture of President Truman? Why'd you pick that up, Mugsy?

MUGSY

Ooh. I think Truman's swell. Can I have it? Can I have it?

BUGSY

Uh, sure. Wait a minute. Did you hear something, Mugsy?

MUGSY

Yeah, yeah. It sounded like, eh... footsteps. But I don't see nobody.

BUGSY

Must be nothing.

MUGSY

Yeah, yeah. Notin.

(Soundfx of popping finger out of mouth.)

RED CHAMELEON

It is I.

MUGSY

Where'd he come from?

RED CHAMELEON

I come from the mists.

MUGSY

Oh. You're that Red Champ-lion guy.

RED CHAMELEON

That's Chameleon, you illiterate criminal.

MUGSY

Hey! Who's the dame?

DEBBIE

I'm Debbie. And watch your language, you cad.

BUGSY

Run, Mugsy!

RED CHAMELEON

After them, Debbie.

(Soundfx of running and punching with Bugsy making grunting sounds.)

RED CHAMELEON

I've got you, you hooligan.

(Soundfx of punching with Mugsy making grunting sounds.)

BUGSY

Hold it, Shame-Leon. I got your girl Friday.

RED CHAMELEON

Debbie?

DEBBIE

I tripped, Chameleon. Sorry.

BUGSY

Now you just back away nice and easy.

(Soundfx of popping finger out of mouth.)

BUGSY

Hey! Where'd he go? Do you see him, Mugsy?

MUGSY

Yeah, yeah... No. Not... uh... really.

RED CHAMELEON

I'm right here behind you.

(Soundfx of a punch followed by a body dropping to the floor.)

DEBBIE

Thanks, Chameleon. Guess we have these two wrapped up and ready for the police.

RAY

Yes, the city is a dark and dangerous place. Criminals lurk in every corner.

(Soundfx of a gunshot, trash can falling over, and a cat's cry.)

RAY

But their nemesis comes from the mists. Often on patrol is... The Red Chameleon.

DEBBIE

And Debbie!

RAY

(resignedly)

And Debbie.

(Betty holds up applause sign. Bumper music between sketches.)

Scene 6: Station Break

Ray, Estelle, Crisco, Ruth, Dorothy, Gus, Mona, Oliver, Abe

(This scene needs to be memorized.)

RAY

And now we pause for local station identification.

(Betty holds up applause sign. Bumper music between sketches.)

ESTELLE

Alright, people. Three minute break.

(Actors from the last sketch drop into chairs. Other actors wander in. Hubie takes the microphone from his table and walks toward downstage center. He holds the microphone so only the audience can see it, points to it, and then puts a finger to his mouth to indicate it is their secret. He then casually wanders near the other actors, holding the microphone to pick up their conversations. None of the actors pay any notice to him.)

CRISCO

Three years at Juliard - One hundred twenty performances of Lear in the West End, and it comes to this...

RUTH

Oh, here we go again.

CRISCO

...playing a masked hero... a costumed adventurer... a red reptile for crying out loud... a crimson crimefighter.

DOROTHY

Yeah, yeah. Listen, Crisco, do you think I picked the stage name Renoir so I could play somebody named Mugsy? Speaking of which, Gus, you stepped on my line in that last sketch.

GUS

What?

DOROTHY

You're Mugsy. I'm Buggy.

GUS

I thought I was Mugsy.

DOROTHY

That's what I just... Ugh! I can't work with you.

(Mona enters and sits down dramatically. Abe rushes over with a footstool for Mona.)

MONA

Soda! Where's my soda?

(Betty rushes in with a glass soda bottle.)

MONA

Drinking straw!

ESTELLE

I'll get you one, Mona.

(Unnoticed by Mona, Estelle walks to the Soundfx table where an empty bottle with a straw is sitting - preferably, show the Soundfx guy drinking from the straw earlier, but switch straws when no one is looking. She pulls the straw out and then walks to Mona, dropping it into Mona's bottle.)

MONA

Thanks, dear.

(takes a drink)

This is sweet. I'll have to brush my teeth. Which reminds me. Have any of you actually tasted that Lustra-dent stuff?

RAY

Are you kidding? It's like blue lube grease.

OLIVER

Ice cream. Ice cream. Get your tootsy-fruity ice cream!

RUTH

We're on break already, Oliver.

OLIVER

I'm like whatchacall a method actor. I have to stay in character.

RUTH

Well stay in character someplace else.

(Abe moves toward Estelle.)

ABE

Estelle...

ESTELLE

Yeah?

ABE

Estelle... Estelle, I just wanted to thank you for letting me play the part of Wilbur tonight. How'd I do?

ESTELLE

(distracted by other things)

Fine, Abe. Just fine.

ABE

Really?

ESTELLE

Fine. Really.

ABE

It's just that I've just been the script boy for so long. But this is my big break. Now that I'm acting, I know that what I really want to do is direct movies. And, well, Estelle, I owe it all to you.

ESTELLE

Well, sure, Abe. I'm glad to...

ABE

(takes her hand - she tries to pull away)

I always knew there was a spark between us. You've seen something in me that the others missed. And, Estelle, I see something in you.

ESTELLE

You do?

ABE

I do. I do, Estelle. I do. I do.
(pulls her into his arms)
Oh, Estelle, say you do too.

ESTELLE

(pulls away and smooths out her clothes)
I do... have to get back to work. Look, Abe, I just gave you the part because Howard called in sick. Just... uh.. just read your lines, OK?

ABE

Sure thing, Estelle. Say, how about dinner after the show? I found a romantic little Lithuanian restaurant. Can you spot me a few bucks?

ESTELLE

I've actually lost my appetite, Abe.

ABE

Alright. Maybe another time. See you later, Estelle.

MONA

How much more of this do we have, Stella?

ESTELLE

It's Estelle, Mona.

MONA

Of course it is, dear. How much more do we have?

ESTELLE

Just the contest and the western sketch.

MONA

Good. I have dinner reservations. It's a Lithuanian restaurant.

ESTELLE

(Stepping up to one of the stage microphones)
Hubie, are you ready for the western sketch?

(Hubie rushes back to his place. Soundfx of horse galloping. Hubie gives a thumbs up sign)

ESTELLE

Alrighty then. That's right after the contest. Places everybody. Betty, get ready with the applause sign coming back after station break.

(Looks at her watch)

We're on in three - two - one.

(Betty holds up applause sign. Bumper music between sketches.)

Scene 7: The Great Big Contest

Ray, Mona, Betty, Olaf

(Betty and Olaf need their parts memorized. Ray and Mona can read from cards, not scripts, but their interaction must sound natural and may need to be memorized.)

MONA

And now, ladies and gentlemen, it is time for our weekly quiz contest. Who in the audience would like to play for a chance to win valuable prizes? What can they win, Ray?

RAY

Mona, our contestant can win a month's supply of Lustradent! They'll have a month of blue, minty freshness!

MONA

Alrighty. Raise your hand, if you want to play.

(Mona picks someone.)

MONA

What is your name, and where are you from?

(Participant gives name and info.)

MONA

(using a wrong name for contestant)

Great, Don. And, Ray, who is Don playing for at home?

RAY

(uses the right name for contestant)

Well, Mona, _____ is playing for Thelma Cheeswright of West Wooten, Iowa.

MONA

Great, Ray. But Don won't have to come up with the answers all by himself. No. You'll have one of our cast members to help you. Ray, who will be playing with Don tonight?

RAY

Mona, tonight the short straw went to Betty the Card Girl!

(Betty comes out holding up the applause sign.)

BETTY

Hi! But if I'm doin' the contest, who's gonna hold up the applause sign when we get an answer right?

MONA

Hmmm. How about Olaf? Oh, Olaf, would you come out?

(Betty holds up the applause sign.)

OLAF

(entering)

Yah?

MONA

(takes sign from Betty and hands it to Olaf)
Here. Hold this up whenever they get an answer right.

OLAF

What? I don't read da English too gude.

MONA

You'll be fine. Let's get on with it.

RAY

Allright. Mona will be asking five questions. Get three of them right, and you'll win our prize. Question number one.

MONA

Question number one. That's my line, Ray. Question number one. What was the average price of a loaf of bread last year in 1948?

(Olaf holds up the applause sign.)

MONA

Not now, Olaf.

OLAF

Sorry. It's my first time. I'm so nervous.

MONA

What was the average price of a loaf of bread last year in 1948?

BETTY

Gee, I'm not sure? Just say something, ____ (uses the person's right name).

(Contestant answers.)

BETTY

(whether the person guesses above or below
correct answer)

Gee, _____, where do you shop?

MONA

Sorry, Don and Betty, the answer is fourteen cents. The
average price of a loaf of bread was fourteen cents.

(Soundfx: Right answer, such as a bell, or wrong
answer, such as a raspberry or duck call.)

RAY

That's zero right and one wrong. You need to get three
right to win. Question number two.

MONA

(clearing her throat pointedly)

Question number two. We all know that President Truman was
re-elected last year in 1948. Who was his opponent in the
general election?

BETTY

Oh. Oh. Roosevelt!

(Ray rolls his eyes)

BETTY

No? Uh...I mean... Teddy Roosevelt.

MONA

Don? I'll give you a chance. Whom did Truman defeat in the
election?

BETTY

(to contestant)

I think maybe it's not Roosevelt - neither of 'em.

(Contestant answers.)

MONA

(if right) That's correct. Thomas E. Dewey.

(if not right) Sorry, the correct answer is Thomas E.
Dewey.

(Soundfx: Right answer, such as a bell, or wrong answer, such as a raspberry or duck call.)

RAY

That's ___ right and ___ wrong. Question num...

(Mona clear her throat)

MONA

Question number three. What is the current population of the United States?

BETTY

Let's see. I know about a hundred people. I think they're all Americans. And in here...

(starts counting the audience with her finger)

Raise your hand if you're NOT a US citizen.

(Olaf raises his hand.)

MONA

(pulling Olaf's hand down)

Betty. Betty. It's a lot more than that. Don, do you have a guess.

(Contestant answers.)

MONA

Oh, well. Close enough. The exact answer is 149.2 million. But we'll count it.

BETTY

Wow! That's definitely more than I know.

MONA

Oh, there's lot more than what you know, Betty.

(Soundfx: Right answer, such as a bell, or wrong answer, such as a raspberry or duck call.)

(Olaf holds up Applause sign upside down.)

RAY

Olaf, its' upside down.

OLAF

(Looking at it from above)

No, it's not.

RAY

That's ___ right and ___ wrong. Get three right to win the prize. Question...

MONA

Question number four. What clever fastening was invented in 1948?

BETTY

A fastening?

RAY

Something that fastens.

BETTY

Oh. Oh. Oh. Glue... buttons... zippers... nails... thread.... spit? Am I close?

MONA

No. Don?

(Contestant answers.)

MONA

Ooh, the answer is velcro. Velcro.

BETTY

Never heard of it.

OLAF

Ve have lots of ze velcro in Sveden. We use it to strap da sleds to da raindeer.

(Soundfx: Right answer, such as a bell, or wrong answer, such as a raspberry or duck call.)

RAY

That's ___ right and ___ wrong.

MONA

(rushing in)

Question number five! Ha! Where were last year's 1948 Summer Olympics held?

BETTY

Ooh, was it here? No? Poughkeepsie?. Peoria? Pittsburgh?
I'm thinking it's a P place.

RAY

It's not a P place.

MONA

Don?

RAY

(using contestant's real name)

It's _____, Mona.

MONA

Not now, Ray, I'm talking to Don.

(Contestant answers.)

MONA

The correct answer is London. Foggy old Londontown.

(Soundfx: Right answer, such as a bell, or wrong
answer, such as a raspberry or duck call.)

MONA

So how did Don do, Ray?

RAY

(using contestant's real name)

Well, Mona, Betty and _____ got _____ right, which means they
did (or did not) win our prize for _____ (using contestant's
real name) and also for Thelma Cheesewright of West Wooten,
Iowa.

MONA

Thanks for playing. Let's all give Don a big hand.

(Olaf proudly holds applause sign high. Betty
takes it from him. Bumper music between
sketches.)

Scene 8: Robbery at Dry Gulch

Ray, Mr. Grubbs (Cliff), Miss Mona (Mona), Red (Dorothy),
Swede (Olaf), Mad Dog (Oliver), Sheriff (Gus), Child
(Ruth), Deputy (Cliff), Street Vendor (Oliver)

(Soundfx of horse trotting to western-style
guitar or harmonica music)

RAY

Now return with us to thrilling days of the Old West in the
little town of Dry Gulch.

MR. GRUBBS

Mornin', Miss Mona. Welcome to the Dry Gulch Bank.

MONA

Good morning, Mr. Grubbs.

(Betty holds up applause sign for Mona's
entrance. Mona bows.)

MONA

I would like to make another deposit to my account.

MR. GRUBBS

Wow, that yak ranch of yours must certainly be profitable,
Miss Mona.

MONA

Oh, yes! The yak is the perfect ranch animal for our
locale, Mr. Grubbs. They thrive in our fierce winters. They
provide meat, milk, and wool. Have you ever had yak butter,
Mr. Grubbs?

RAY

Then suddenly...

(Red, Swede, and Mad Dog make stomping soundfx.)

RED

Nobody move!

SWEDE

Veech for da sky.

GRUBBS AND MONA IN UNISON

What?

MAD DOG

He said, reach for the sky.

SWEDE

Yah, I did.

RED

Gimme all the money from the vault. And that, too, lady.

MONA

I haven't deposited that yet.

RED

Hand it over.

MONA

That's the income from our entire spring yak shearing.

SWEDE

Vat's a yaak?

EVERYONE BUT SWEDE

What?

RED

Hand it over.

MONA

Here, but you haven't heard the last of this.

MAD DOG

I got the rest of it from the vault, Red... I mean... uh...
I mean Fred.

RED

Idiot... Let's ride.

(Soundfx of men running followed by horses
galloping off.)

RAY

Meanwhile, at the one room schoolhouse at the other end of
town...

SHERIFF

And that, children, is how I caught the Mesa Butte Gang.

(Children applaud and voice their appreciation.)

SHERIFF

Now, let me tell you how we hung 'em.

(Children react with disgust and shock.)

CHILD

Not again. Miss Anna, stop him, please.

DEPUTY

(with an oldtimer's voice)

Sheriff! Sheriff! The bank's been robbed!

SHERIFF

I wonder... That might be the Red Barker Gang. Tell me, was the leader a tall dark-haired fella?

DEPUTY

By cracky, he was!

SHERIFF

That would be Red.

DEPUTY

But if he was dark-haired, how'd he get the name Red?

SHERIFF

His parents were color blind. What about the others?

DEPUTY

One of them whippersnappers talked funny.

SHERIFF

Yeah, that would be the Swede.

DEPUTY

And the third one was a young, scrawny fella.

SHERIFF

Mad Dog Jake.

(Children scream.)

CHILD

Mad Dog Jake?

SHERIFF

Yes, Jim-Jim. Mad Dog Jake - the fastest, meanest, maddest, dangerous-est gun west of the badlands. C'mon, Deputy. We gotta follow them.

(Soundfx of boots on wooden planks.)

DEPUTY

That's why I brought my mule. She's tied up here right beside yours.

SHERIFF

Let's ride while we can still pick up their trail.

STREET VENDOR

Ice cream. Ice cream. Get your toasty fruitsy ice cream.

DEPUTY

Jumpin' Jehosophat. Whar in tarnation did you come from?

STREET VENDOR

Eh, I get around. So, you want some ice cream? Or how about some salve for saddle sores?

SHERIFF

No time, pilgrim, we must apprehend us some desperados.

STREET VENDOR

I have here a brand new tube of Lustra-dent toothpaste. It'll make your teeth lily white.

SHERIFF

My teeth ARE lily white.

STREET VENDOR

I was thinking about this mule here.

DEPUTY

Not Mr. Wiggles! She's got fine teeth. Beautiful teeth. Don't you, Mr. Wiggles?

(Soundfx of hee-haw sound.)

STREET VENDOR

Oi. I need to find another gig.

(snapping fingers)

Or maybe more inventory. Yeah, that's the ticket.

SHERIFF

Ah. It's good to get back in the saddle. Now, Buttercup, ye haw!

(Soundfx of horses cantering)

SHERIFF

Faster, Buttercup, we have to catch those desperados.

(Soundfx guy picks up the pace.)

SHERIFF

Faster, Buttercup. Ride like the wind. Try to keep up, Deputy.

(Soundfx guy rolls his eyes and shoots a look at the Sheriff while starting the gallop.)

DEPUTY

Don't worry about me, Sheriff. Mr. Wiggles and I are doin' just fine. Ain't that right, Mr. Wiggles?

(Soundfx guy makes hee-haw sound.)

DEPUTY

Heh heh. Good mule. Good mule. Keep up sweetheart.

(Soundfx guy stops the gallop and collapses back in his chair.)

RAY

Meanwhile, at the outlaws hideout...

MAD DOG

Whoo wee, Red! Look at all this money! That town shore was loaded.

RED

That's just the beginning, Jake. We're gonna hit the payroll train tomorrow.

MAD DOG

Is that the train with the payroll?

(Soundfx of punching sound, followed by a grunt.)

MAD DOG

Why'd you hit me, Red?

RED

Jake, you illiterate ignoramous! Of course, the payroll train is the train with the... Hence the name. Which, by the way, is why we call YOU the idiot sidekick.

MAD DOG

Oh, yeah. I forgot.

SWEDE

(excitedly)

Red! Red!

RED

What is it, Swede?

(Actor playing Swede starts coughing, holds up a finger to indicate that he needs a moment, then more coughing. Other actors look at each other helplessly. Actor playing Red gestures at actor playing Mad Dog to fill in.)

MAD DOG

(faking Swedish accent)

Yona vona yung avon... Red.

(Actor playing Red throws up hands in dismay. Actor playing Mad Dog shrugs shoulders. Others react with stifled laughter, disgust, or other emotion appropriate to character.)

RED

(shaking head while turning back a page in script)

What's that, Swede? You say... you say the sheriff's coming?

MAD DOG

(faking Swedish accent)

Yah.

RED

Well, he'll have a surprise waiting for him. C'mon, boys.

(Soundfx of galloping horses.)

SHERIFF

Whoa. Whoa, Buttercup.

(Galloping stops.)

SHERIFF

We'll walk from here, Deputy. Tie up Buttercup and... uh... Mr. Wiggles... here in these boulders.

(Soundfx of a gunshot.)

DEPUTY

Hit the ground, Sheriff. They's a shootin' at us.

(Soundfx of multiple gunshots continuing between lines until stampede begins.)

SHERIFF

Looks like we're pinned down.

DEPUTY

Mr. Wiggles, keep your head down!

SHERIFF

Can you see 'em, Deputy?

DEPUTY

I can't see nothin', We're fish in a barrel here, Sheriff. What are we gonna do?

(Soundfx of several animals stampeding)

DEPUTY

Thunderation! What's that? Sounds like a stampede.

MONA

Attack, yaks!

(Betty holds applause sign for Mona's entrance. Mona bows.)

(Soundfx of several animals stampeding, followed by a timpani making a boing sound, followed by the sound of someone screaming as if falling through the air, followed by sound of body hitting the ground)

MAD DOG

Did you see that, Red? That furry cow head-butted the Swede plum near into the next county!

RED

You okay, Swede?

SWEDE

Ooooooh! I tink I broke my svensfagle.

MONA

And the same will happen to you two ruffians. These are attack yaks!

RED

We give up. We give up.

SHERIFF

Thanks, Miss Mona. I thought we were goners. You are wise beyond your years. And that's saying something.

MONA

Oh, you stop. Hey, wait a minute...

RAY

And so the little town of Dry Gulch is safe once more.

SWEDE

Ooooooh!

(Betty holds applause sign. Closing theme music comes in softly.)

RAY

(talking over music)

And that's our show for tonight. Thanks for joining us. And thanks especially to our sponsor - Lustra-dent. Your cast this evening has been: Oliver Tottleigh-Robbins...

OLIVER

(saluting the audience and taking a bow)

Get your tootsy fruitsy ice cream.

RAY

Ruth Reynolds...

RUTH
(stepping forward and taking a bow)
And Debbie!

RAY
Cliff Marlowe...

CLIFF
(waving and taking a bow)
Mr. Wiggles and I are doin' just fine. Ain't that right,
Mr. Wiggles?

RAY
Abe Mason...

ABE
(taking a bow and blowing a kiss to Estelle)
My first time! This was so exciting! Thanks, Estelle! Oooh.

RAY
Gus Wexler...

GUS
(waving and taking a bow)
Yeah. Yeah. I was Buggy.

RAY
Dorothy Renoir...

DOROTHY
(throwing a look at Gus and taking a bow)
I was Buggy, Knucklehead.

RAY
The Amazing Crisco...

CRISCO
(taking an extra flamboyant bow)
And that's how it will be... in the future
(doing an echo)
future...future... future.

RAY
Our special guest, Olaf Olaf...

OLAF

(taking a bow and come up hurting)
Ooooooh! I tink I broke my svensfagle.

RAY

Betty Galloway, our card girl...

(Betty holds applause sign, pointing a thumb at herself.)

RAY

Hubie MacGuffin, our soundfx guy...

(Multiple Soundfx.)

RAY

Estelle Elliot, our producer/director...

(Estelle takes a bow, while Abe reacts in love.)

RAY

I'm Ray Hayden, your announcer. And finally, the star of the Great Big Radio Show... Mona Adams.

MONA

Oh you stop. Goodnight, everybody!

(Betty holds applause sign. Closing theme music.)

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Soundfx

It makes for a better performance to do as many as possible of the soundfx mechanically rather than with electronic files. Here are some ideas.

Rim shot.....	Snare drum
Singing birds	Bird whistle or bird call or multiple actors whistling
Blanket whipping open	Flap a pillow case
Ball being hit.....	Strike two 1x2 or 2x2 boards together
Ball striking a person	Whack pillow with stick
Wah-Wah-Wah.....	Recorded sound or make with voice
Police siren	Siren sound file
Crowbar prying at the window	Nail 2x4s together with several nails and pry with crowbar
Going through bag of tools	Shake tools in a pillow case or bag
Hitting a head with a tool	Smack top of cocoanut half with stick
Window opening.....	Creaky sound file
Debbie running down the street.....	Run ladies shoes on walk-board ⁵ with bricks placed over cloth
Punching	Whack pillow with stick
Body dropping to the floor	Jump on stage floor
Gunshot	Flip a clipboard spring. Place the clipboard on an empty cardboard or wooden box to act as a resonator or strike two tap shoes together
Trash can falling over	Shake a crash box ⁶
Cat's cry	Voice
Right answer sound.....	Bicycle bell
Wrong answer sound	Buzzer from a game board or voice
Horse trotting to western music	Sound file of western music - add cocoanuts for hooves
Horses galloping off.....	Cocoanuts - multiple sets
Boots on wooden planks	Men's shoes on wooden Walk-board.
Hee-haw sound	Voice
Animals stampeding	Drum fingers on a cardboard box partially filled with towels. Throw in a vocal moo
Timpani making a boing sound.....	Cartoonish Sound file
Screaming and falling through air.....	Voice (either Hubie or Olaf)
Music between sketches	Hubie can use a mute record player while an AV guy plays music from a CD or MP3 player. Or rig an MP3 player into a record player case and have Hubie play it.

⁵ A walk-board is 2'x3' piece of doubled 3/4 inch plywood.

⁶ A crash box is a large tin can filled with glass, wood, metal and stones