

The Painter

A Short Audio Comedy

By
Brian Price

Approx: 16 Minutes

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Description

16-17 minutes

A lot can happen at a bus stop when people start seeing things as they could be rather than how they are. I've always liked this play, because it does a fun job at showing the power of audio theater. All the references are visual and the references are all ones that we know. This play can work as a stage piece, but it's better picturing the scene in your imagination. Note: Actors are welcome to play more than one part in this large cast. This script has been translated into Croatian and Chinese, hopefully not by the same group.

Cast

- Ed: The instigator, hoping to impress Kathy
- Kathy: Not impressed, but willing to help out
- Annabel: Middle aged a little frumpy
- Old Man: Old and a little grumpy, but will to pitch in
- Wimpy: Constantly gets in Ed's way when trying to impress Kathy
- Artist: Pretty much have to do a bad French accent for this one
- Kid: The younger the kid the better, because it makes the role sillier. Can be a boy or girl
- Doug: Big guy, low voice
- Creep: An Igor kind of voice, mumbles
- Cop: Bad Irish accent, because where else are you going to go?
- Crowd: Everybody

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By Brian Price
(based on an original concept by Brian Price & Delton T. Horn)

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SFX PASSING TRAFFIC, ETC. IN BACKGROUND

OLD MAN: You know, it's rained every Tuesday for the past two Tuesdays.

ED: No kidding.

OLD MAN: It's a fact.

SFX FAST APPROACHING HIGH HEELS

ED: (UNDER BREATH) Yeah, right. (BRIGHTENS)
Hey, morning, Kath.

KATHY: (OUT OF BREATH) Oh, hi, Ed. Oh, I'm running behind this morning. I think my alarm clock must've gone off on the wrong side of the bed or something.

ED: Gee, that's too bad. Is there anything I can do?

KATHY: Oh, I haven't missed the 7:41, have I?

ED: Naw.

KATHY: Well, when's it going to get here?

ED: Ah, gee, I don't...

OLD MAN: Don't worry, the bus probably won't be here for a while. It's only ten minutes late so far.

KATHY: Well, that's encouraging.

ANNABEL: Well, you know, patience is a virtue.

1 ED: Yeah, right. So, Kath, how you been? I like
2 your hair.
3
4 KATHY: It's a wreck.
5
6 ED: Oh.
7
8 SFX: CRASHING AND CRUNCHING OF ARTIST'S
9 EQUIPMENT APPROACHES
10
11 ANNABEL: Now, what's that man with the beret doing
12 with that easel?
13
14 ED: I don't know but I'm not gonna give up my
15 seat for all that stuff.
16
17 KATHY: Somebody oughta ask him what he's doing.
18
19 ANNABEL: Not me.
20
21 OLD MAN: I don't think it's my place to get involved, you
22 know.
23
24 KATHY: Why don't you ask him, Ed?
25
26 ED: Me? Why me?
27
28 KATHY: I don't know. I just thought maybe you
29 wouldn't mind doing me a little favor. That's
30 all. No big deal.
31
32 WIMPY: I'll be glad to ask for you, ma'am.
33
34 ED: Oh, all right, all right. I'll ask him. Hey, you,
35 with the beret?
36
37 ARTIST: Yes?
38
39 ED: What's with the easel?
40

1 ARTIST: I am Henri Formage. I am a painter.
2
3 ANNABEL: Well, that explains the beret.
4
5 ARTIST: I will paint the scene at this bus stop. I want
6 to capture real life on the canvas.
7
8 OLD MAN: Hey! We're going to get painted.
9
10 KATHY: Wow.
11
12 CROWD: (GENERAL OOHS AND AHHS IN BACKGROUND)
13
14 ANNABEL: I'd better turn around so he'll catch my good
15 side.
16
17 ARTIST: No, no, no. I want to capture real life on the
18 canvas. I want everyone to look natural.
19
20 ANNABEL: Are you implying that my good side doesn't
21 look natural?
22
23 ED: Well, what are we supposed to do?
24
25 KID: Yeah.
26
27 ARTIST: Oh, please, just go about your everyday
28 business. Just pretend that I am not here.
29
30 ANNABEL: Well, what if you don't have any everyday
31 business?
32
33 KID: Yeah.
34
35 ED: (BEAT) Maybe I oughta go over and have a
36 peek just to see how he's doing.
37
38 KATHY: Oh, don't, Ed. Artists are very sensitive. You
39 might ruin his concentration.
40