

PSYCHIC HAIR HOTLINE

TEN MINUTE PLAY

By Janice Fronczak

Copyright © MMVI by Janice Fronczak

All Rights Reserved

Heuer Publishing LLC, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The writing of plays is a means of livelihood. Unlawful use of a playwright's work deprives the creator of his or her rightful income. The playwright is compensated on the full purchase price and the right of performance can only be secured through the purchase of at least six (6) copies of this work. Performance rights are limited to one year at one venue from date of purchase.

The possession of this script without direct purchase from the publisher confers no right or license to produce this work publicly or in private, for gain or charity. On all programs and advertising this notice must appear: "Produced by special arrangement with Heuer Publishing LLC of Cedar Rapids, Iowa."

This dramatic work is fully protected by copyright. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without permission of the publisher. Copying (by any means) or performing a copyrighted work without permission constitutes an infringement of copyright.

The right of performance is not transferable and is strictly forbidden in cases where scripts are borrowed or purchased second hand from a third party. All rights including, but not limited to the professional, motion picture, radio, television, videotape, broadcast, recitation, lecturing, tabloid, publication, and reading are reserved.

COPYING OR REPRODUCING ALL OR ANY PART OF THIS BOOK IN ANY MANNER IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN BY LAW.

PUBLISHED BY

HEUER PUBLISHING LLC

P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406

TOLL FREE (800) 950-7529 • FAX (319) 368-8011

PSYCHIC HAIR HOTLINE
By Janice Fronczak

SYNOPSIS: Jerry needs help with his unmanageable hair, so he calls up a psychic hair hotline. At the other end of the line in a city far, far away is a very psychotic, depressed young woman who is in more need of help than Jerry. His mother gets in on the action, trying to disconnect the two while pushing her Avon products. Just as the two lost souls connect, they are disconnected.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(THREE WOMEN, ONE MAN, ONE EXTRA)

FIRST OPERATOR.....Sexy female voice.

SECOND OPERATOR.....Female psychotic, depressed, needs desperately to find a friend.

JERRYInsecure male, needs help with his hair and his mom.

JERRY'S MOTHER.....Nasal-toned, selfish, pushy woman, needs the phone to sell Avon.

SLEAZY GUY.....Unsteady man with dandruff.

MINIMAL SETTING

Split locations: Hotline headquarters (one chair needed) and Jerry's bedroom (one chair in room).

TIME: Around four o'clock in the afternoon. Present.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The visual of the wig coming off to reveal the Second Operator's baldness and the hat coming off to reveal Jerry's hair sticking straight up is imperative to the humor.

PROPS

Head sets for two operators.

COSTUME NEEDS

Wig

Bald cap

Baseball hat

Hair gel (for Jerry)

SOUND EFFECTS

Phone ring

AT RISE:

FIRST OPERATOR and SECOND OPERATOR both sit far apart from each other to designate two different cities. They wear headphones.

SECOND OPERATOR wears an ill-fitting wig to cover her baldness.

JERRY sits in a chair in his bedroom with a phone to his ear (could be a cellular phone). He wears a hat, covering his hair problem.

FIRST OPERATOR: HellllooOOoo. One-eight-hundred—PSYCHIC HOTLINE. How may we help you?

JERRY: Well . . . I thought you were supposed to know what I need.

FIRST OPERATOR: Ohh . . . well, of course we do. We just need you to give us more energy to connect with your individual energy by validating your concerns. How may we help you?

JERRY: Well, it's about my—

FIRST OPERATOR: Yes! Oh, Yes!! I am feeling something . . . I'm definitely feeling something . . . Oh! It's coming in!

JERRY: It is? It's about my hair. I'm having a great deal of trouble with my hair.

FIRST OPERATOR: Oh. You need our sister affiliation. Psychic Hair Hotline. I'll connect you.

JERRY: Wait! But—what? Uh . . . hello? Hello?

SECOND OPERATOR: Psychic Hair Hotline. Hair is our life. Hair is your life. We validate all hair. Sing with me now. "Hair, hair, beautiful hair, long beautiful hair." (*From "Hair" musical.*)

JERRY: I don't really want to sing right now. I'd like to discuss my hair. You see, I've been under a great deal of pressure lately—

SECOND OPERATOR: I am so sick of hearing people attribute all their problems to stress. There is no such thing as **stress, Stress, STRESS!**

JERRY: I didn't mean to upset you. Are you okay?

SECOND OPERATOR: I mean I have problems, too. I hurt, too. Does anybody ever ask me what's wrong? What traumas have I been through? Hair traumas?

JERRY: Hair traumas? Well, that's why I called you, see—

SECOND OPERATOR: Me, me, me! Is that all you think about? I'm really feeling down right now.

JERRY: Yes. I'm getting that. I'm feeling a lot of anxiety from you right now. I'm sorry you feel bad. Do you want to talk about it? It's no fun to feel bad.

SECOND OPERATOR: You don't know the half of it. How would you like to be paid four-fifty an hour to sit here for eight hours with no break and listen to people's little hair stories? Oh, there's the one with frizzy hair since birth, hair that just won't stay clean and manageable.

JERRY: Please, go on. Perhaps a past life regression could help you. I hate to see someone suffer. Why I myself have gone through—

SECOND OPERATOR: Suffer? Suffer? What do you know about hair cirrhosis? Dandruff? Hair loss at an early age? What?

JERRY'S MOTHER abruptly gets on another extension in the house.

JERRY'S MOTHER: Excuse me! I'm expecting a call. I'm an Avon representative. Do you currently receive an Avon catalogue? I'm expecting a call from a customer. A very loyal Avon customer.

JERRY: Mom, please this is a personal call. Please—

JERRY'S MOTHER: You are not the only one in this house, young man.

SECOND OPERATOR: Excuse me! Excuse me! Did ya'll forget about me? I'm suffering over here.

JERRY'S MOTHER: You know, I am getting very strongly right now that what you need, little lady, is two things. First, a good strong slap in the face. Second. Avon's super-citrus spring bath relaxer with chamomile flowerbuds that float in the bath with you. Eleven ninety-five for a six-ounce bottle. Plastic, of course. It is so refreshing, different, takes you to a new level of being. Are you ready to be transported?

SECOND OPERATOR: Transported? Transported where? I don't even know you and you are trying to rule my life, tell me what to do, take me somewhere?

JERRY: Perhaps a trip would do you good. You know, get away from everything, get away from hair, hair everywhere.

SECOND OPERATOR: Maybe you're right. Maybe I've just not been good to myself. Really loved myself. Do you love yourself? It's good to love yourself. Then we wouldn't think about hair. I'm beginning to feel like Betty.

JERRY: Betty? Who's Betty?

SECOND OPERATOR: What? No one. I meant better.

JERRY: Oh. Something's coming in. Yes . . . something is definitely coming to me.

JERRY'S MOTHER: I need the phone!

SECOND OPERATOR: Don't interrupt, please.

JERRY'S MOTHER: Look, lady, you are obviously messed up: on drugs or deprived of beauty products. But I won't have you talk to me like that. I deserve respect. I am sure I pay more taxes than you do.

JERRY: Mom, please! The phone—

JERRY'S MOTHER: The phone?

JERRY: The phone! Get off!! Now. It's important.

JERRY'S MOTHER: Okay. But I'm setting the timer. You have exactly three more minutes with this wacko.

SECOND OPERATOR: Thank goodness she's gone. She has bad energy.

JERRY: Oh, is that what you call it?

SECOND OPERATOR: Negative energy. Bad vibes. She's not a pleasant person.

JERRY: But she is my mother and does deserve respect. Isn't this what this is all about really? Respect?

SECOND OPERATOR: I don't know anymore. People call up and start screaming at me demanding that I solve all their stupid petty problems. About their insipid ugly hair. What do I care about their hair? What? What?

JERRY: I thought you were really connected to a higher source and you could tune into whatever people's problems were and give them the answers that they needed. That's what I thought.

SECOND OPERATOR: I've got a secret.

JERRY: A secret?

SECOND OPERATOR: Yes.

JERRY: That's nice. Are you going to share it with me?

SECOND OPERATOR: No.

JERRY: Oh.

SECOND OPERATOR: Alright! Stop pestering me. I'll tell you. I . . .
don't . . . have . . . any . . . hair.

JERRY: You're hairless?

SECOND OPERATOR: I'm completely bald. No hair on my legs or
arms either. That's why I took this job. To try and connect with
the giant cosmic force of hair, the very cells, the very vibration of
hair.

JERRY: Is there such thing?

SECOND OPERATOR: My, yes. You have a lot to learn.

JERRY: I'm willing to learn.

SECOND OPERATOR: I believe you are. I believe you are. I could
really go for you.

JERRY: Me? Really? You aren't just saying that, are you? Not just
because of the psychic hair hotline? You think you could like me?
Just the way I am? A human being. An individual. A soul?

SECOND OPERATOR: Just the way you are. Hey, you are . . .
normal, aren't you?

JERRY: Yes! Except . . . for my, well, I hate to bring it up again. I
know how hair upsets you.

SECOND OPERATOR: Tell me.

JERRY: Well, it's back to the reason I called you in the first place. I'll
tell you, but promise me you'll still want me after I tell.

SECOND OPERATOR: I promise.

JERRY'S MOTHER: Three minutes is over!

JERRY: Well, it's just that my hair sticks straight up in the air. All the
time. It's hard to get into cars and to wear hats. Chicks get really
scared when they see me. But now I have you. Someone I can
relate to. You don't know what this means to me. Hey, what is
your name? Hello? Hellooooo?? Anyone there? Figures.

SECOND OPERATOR: No matter what it is, I'll take you in my arms
and treat you with respect. I'll respect your hair, all of you. So go
ahead and tell me what it is. I have waited so long for someone
like you to come along. Oh! Wait. I think we got disconnected.

Hello? Are you there? Gone. (*Answers another call.*) Hello? Is that you? Oh, I mean Psychic Hair Hotline. Hair is our life. Hair is your life. Oh, forget it. Is this who I was just talking to?

SLEAZY GUY: Hey, you sound like one far-out chick. I heard you psychics were giving away double coupons for “Head n’ Shoulders.” I need some. I need some **bad**.

SECOND OPERATOR: I hate my life.

End of scene. BLACKOUT.

THE END

DO NOT COPY