

The beginning of

THE WACKO BROTHERS SHOW (from **RADIO RIDICULOUS**)

a comedy in one act

by Rich Orloff

Note: THE WACKO BROTHERS SHOW is designed to be performed as a theater piece – but in the style of old-time radio plays which were broadcast in front of an audience, preferably with live sound effects and musical accompaniment.

The play has 11 male and 8 female roles and can be performed with a cast of five (3 m., 2 w.) or more. Women can play male roles (and vice versa), as long as the audience can always ascertain the proper gender of the characters.

Scene 1: Opening

ANNOUNCER

Live from Hollywood, Flemner's Fine Foods presents "The Wacko Brothers Show", starring Wally Wacko and Willie Wacko. And now here they are, those two crazy lunatics only a mother could love – if she ever comes out of hiding – Wally and Willie Wacko.

MUSIC: FANFARE

ANNOUNCER

(after a long silence:)

And now here they are: Wally and Willie Wacko.

MUSIC: FANFARE

ANNOUNCER

(after a long silence:)

Anybody see Wally or Willy? What could've happened to them; they never miss a show. It's on payday... I wonder where they are.

MUSIC: BRIDGE

Scene 2: Car problems

WALLY

Well, great. My car has never given me a single problem, and after I lend it to you overnight, it's died on us.

WILLIE

Sorry, Wally. I sure do appreciate you lendin' it to me last night. Give it another try.

WALLY

Okay. I'll turn on the ignition and –

CAR

(sounding like a car engine:)
D-d-d-don't-touch-me, d-d-d-don't-touch-me.

WILLIE

It don't sound good.

WALLY

You know, it was against my better judgment to lend you my car, but when you said you had a hot date and wanted to make an impression –

WILLIE

Thanks, Wally.

WALLY

Did you make an impression?

WILLIE

Oh, yeah. We made an impression on the back seat.

WALLY

Hey, what went on in this car last night?

WILLIE

Nothing. Try it again.

CAR

B-b-b-baloney, b-b-b-baloney.

WALLY

Are you sure nothing happened?

WILLIE

Nothin', and even worse, she said she's never gonna do nothin' with me again.

WALLY

What happened to the car, Willie?

WILLIE

Hey, I treated this car great, and after the date, I filled up the gas tank just like you asked.

WALLY

You did fill the tank with premium, didn't you?

WILLIE

Uhhh, no.

WALLY

You filled the tank with regular?

WILLIE

Uhhh, no.

WALLY

You filled the tank with diesel?

WILLIE

Uhhh, no.

WALLY

What did you fill the tank with?

WILLIE

Cousin Billy's moonshine.

WALLY

(furious)

You-you-you can't fill a luxury automobile's gas tank with moonshine!

WILLIE

(one of his classic responses:)

Nowww you tell me. Hey, why don't you pump the gas pedal a few times and try again?

WALLY

Okay, I'm pumping, and now –

CAR

I wanna d-d-d-die; I wanna d-d-d-die.

WALLY

You've destroyed my car.

WILLIE

I can fix it.

WALLY

And how exactly do you propose to get my car running again?

WILLIE

Give it some coffee.

WALLY

Coffee?

WILLIE

It always gets *me* running after *I* have
cousin Billy's moonshine.

WALLY

Well, it's no good just sitting here. We might
as well try hitchhiking to the show. If we're
lucky, we can catch the second half.

WILLIE

You go ahead. I'm staying here.

WALLY

You're staying here? Why?

WILLIE

Arithmetic.

WALLY

Arithmetic?

WILLIE

If it takes half a show to get there, then
it'll take half a show to get back. Why
spend a half-hour going nowhere?

WALLY

Well, I'm giving to give it a try. And while
I'm at it, why don't you hitchhike to Siberia?

WILLIE

Siberia? It'd take half my life to get there.

WALLY

Exactly.

MUSIC: BRIDGE

Commercial #1: Flemner's Chicken Soup

ANNOUNCER

Willy and Wally will be back in a moment, but now let's listen to our fine friends at Flemner's Foods, where you taste the savings in every spoonful. Let's pay a visit to the Miller home, where Mrs. Miller has just made lunch for her two children.

MOM

Come on, everyone. Lunch time. I've made each of you a bowl of my chicken soup.

CHILD #1

Oh, no!!!

MOM

I think my chicken soup is good.

CHILD #2

Mom, when the chicken found out it was going to be in your soup, it sold all its stock.

MOM

Now really.

CHILD #1

People who say "from soup to nuts" taste your soup and go, "Oh, nuts."

MOM

It's not that bad.

CHILD #2

Not that bad?! The carrot's clinging to the edge of the bowl and trying to climb out.

CHILD #1

I'm going to feed mine to the cat.

KITTY

(angry and defensive)

Rrrrrrrr!!!!!!

ANNOUNCER

Mom, is your chicken soup so bad that your family thinks it should be given free to the Nazis? Then try Flemner's Chicken Soup. It's the soup you'd make if you knew how to cook. Each bowl of Flemner's soup contains over 2% of the recommended daily requirement of vitamins A and C. And it comes in five delicious flavors: chicken noodle, chicken rice, chicken vegetable, cream of chicken, and for dieters, chicken with the cream skimmed off. More people eat Flemner's Chicken Soup every day than die on our nation's highways. So, Mom, save yourself the humiliation of home cooking, and buy Flemner's Chicken Soup! Flemner's, the chicken soup recommended by four out of five vegetarians. And remember:

JINGLE

*Once you've tasted Flemner's,
You can't taste anything else!*

Later in the show...

Scene 5: The Wacko Brothers Mystery

ANNOUNCER

And now "The Wacko Brothers Show" presents "Wally Wacko, Private Investigator".

WALLY

May I investigate your privates?

ANNOUNCER

Detective Wally Wacko fights crime and/or evil with the help of his partner: Willy Wacko, private investigator for hire.

WILLY

Can I investigate your privates a little higher?

ANNOUNCER

Tonight's case: "Murder Most Messy".

MUSIC: MYSTERY SHOW BRIDGE

SFX: PHONE RINGING, PICKED UP

WALLY

Wally Wacko, private investigator.

MRS. KRAMER

I found my husband dead in bed.

WALLY

Well, maybe if you showed him photos of Hedy Lamarr...

MRS. KRAMER

Mister Wacko, I am Mrs. Walter Kramer.

WALLY

Wife of the famous tycoon?

MRS. KRAMER

Now the wife of the famous *dead* tycoon. And I think the murderer is in my home.

WALLY

What makes you say that?

MRS. KRAMER

I'm giving a party at my palatial estate, and none of the guests have left yet. When the party began, my husband was alive.

WALLY

I'll be right over.

MUSIC: BRIDGE

WALLY

Although I was about to make myself a baloney and cheese sandwich, I immediately picked up my partner and rushed to the mansion, where I knew they'd have better food.

SFX: DOORBELL

BUTLER

Yes, may I help you?

WALLY

Where were you on the night of October 13th?

BUTLER

Why, that's not for another week.

WILLY

Aha, no alibi!

WALLY

Here's my card. Announce us to your employer.

BUTLER

(yelling off-mike:)

Some blowhard with social security number
436-dash-51 –

WALLY

Wrong card.

MRS. KRAMER

Oh, Mr. Wacko, thank goodness you're here.

WALLY

I'd like to introduce my partner.

WILLIE

Willie Wacko the 43rd.

MRS. KRAMER

There were 42 Willy Wacko's before you?

WILLIE

No, only five, but my family's bad at math.

MRS. KRAMER

Please, can't you see I'm upset about
my husband? His body is lying upstairs,
with over twenty stab wounds in his back.

WILLIE

Have you ruled out suicide?

WALLY

Did your husband have any enemies?

MRS. KRAMER

Everyone at this party had a reason to kill him.

WALLY

Have you contacted the police?

WILLIE

You think they had a reason to kill him, too?

MRS. KRAMER

I haven't called anyone but you. I want you to mingle and see if you can find the killer. But whatever you do, you must be discreet. Do you know the meaning of the word "decorum"?

WILLIE

Sure, that's what they do to apples.

WALLY

Okay, we'll see what we can learn. But before we start, I'd like to discuss my retainer.

MRS. KRAMER

Your retainer?

WALLY

Yes, will you hold it while I have lunch?

MRS. KRAMER

I don't understand.

WALLY

I'm not working for free.

MRS. KRAMER

If you do the job well, money is no object.

WALLY

Well, I'm not taking the job if you're going to put such restrictions on it!

MRS. KRAMER

I promise to pay you lavishly.

WALLY

Then I'll charge by the hour, and work slowly.

WILLIE

Say, this is a swell joint you've got. You must be loaded.

MRS. KRAMER

My late husband made a great deal of money.

WILLIE

He married *you*? Then *he* must've been loaded.

WALLY

How dare you insult her?

(to Mrs. Kramer:)

You must forgive my assistant. He's a dropout from the Columbia School of Unskilled Labor.

WILLIE

I think I'll start mingling with the guests.

WALLY

Me, too. I'll start at the buffet table. And within one hour, Mrs. Kramer, I shall either reveal the murderer... or have seconds. And now, idiot, let's mingle.

WILLIE

I think I'll start with that gal over there. What a cutie!

WALLY

I'll start over here... Excuse me, sir.

WATTAHAM

Yes.

WALLY

I'm one of Mrs. Kramer's guests, Wallace Wacko, the noted financial genius.

WATTAHAM

Really?

WALLY

Yes, I started as a financial idiot and worked my way up. And who are you?

WATTAHAM

I am Victor Wattaham.

WALLY

Not *the* Victor Wattaham, the famous has-been actor?

WATTAHAM

How dare you?

WALLY

How dare I? I sat through the last play you starred in. All four hours of it.

WATTAHAM

That play was only ninety minutes long.

WALLY

Exactly.

WATTAHAM

Sir, I'm beginning to see red.

WALLY

Oh, yeah? Is there any red in this room?

WATTAHAM

Well, no.

WALLY

Then it's a pigment of your imagination.

WILLIE

Hey dere, cutie. What's your name?

MISS SMITH-JONES

My name is Ethel Smith-Jones.

WILLIE

Can't make up mind about your last name, huh?

MISS SMITH-JONES

No, my last name is Smith-Jones. I'm hyphenated.

WILLIE

My last name's Wacko. I'm vaccinated.

MISS SMITH-JONES

What is your hand doing on my knee?

WILLIE

I'm testing your reflexes.

MISS SMITH-JONES

Get it off.

WILLIE

Good reflexes. So tell me, how are you on dates?
How are you with con men? How do you like
your eggs? If the answer to any of these
questions is "easy", let me know.

MISS SMITH-JONES

Why, I never!

WILLIE

Well, that answers question number one.

MISS SMITH-JONES

I don't trust you. Get away from me.

WILLIE

Well, that answers number two.

MISS SMITH-JONES

I'm leaving!

SFX: FOOTSTEPS

WILLIE

Too bad I never found out about her eggs.

MALE GUEST

...which makes me think that financial concerns in the coming quarter...

WALLY

Excuse me, but I happen to overhear your conversation, and it was sufficiently boring that I thought I'd interrupt.

FEMALE GUEST

My friend was just telling me he's looking for a new accountant.

WALLY

Well, I can highly recommend mine. Frank Wambusu. He's a cannibal, but he's a great accountant.

FEMALE GUEST

Is he?

WALLY

Of course, he charges an arm and a leg. Now let's talk about altering clothes, a fitting topic. Is a male seamstress called a seamster? If Tom Thumb were the son of a king, would that make him a fingerprince?

MALE GUEST

One can never be too sure about these things.

WALLY

That's the dullest remark I ever heard. On your drivers license, does it say you're legally bland?

FEMALE GUEST

I'll have you know this man is a college professor with three degrees.

WALLY

What are you, an academia nut?

MALE GUEST

Well! Goodbye, sir.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS

MRS. KRAMER

Mr. Wacko, you just offended one of my guests.

WILLIE

Hey, boss, you causing problems?

MRS. KRAMER

Frankly, you both are, and I don't think you're any closer to solving the murder.

WALLY

Oh, forget about the murder, and think about happier things, like being a wealthy widow. Mrs. Kramer, you're irresistible. Marry me, and I'll give you everything you don't already have.

MRS. KRAMER

There's nothing I don't have.

WALLY

And that's what I'll give you. Oh, how do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

MRS. KRAMER

But –

WALLY

It won't take but a second.