

the beginning of

THE WEDDING PLANNER (from **ROMANTIC FOOLS**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

(**ROMANTIC FOOLS**, a comic revue for one man and one woman, is published and licensed by Playscripts, Inc. www.playscripts.com)

The woman enters and addresses us:

WOMAN

When a woman and a man become engaged – it's a magical moment, filled with the promise of love, affection and a life overflowing with joy. Then you realize you have to plan a wedding, and that magical moment is history.

For months and months, you and your betrothed have to figure out a thousand details which lead to that special day when you think, "If I can make it through this, marriage will be easy." After all that work, I think the reason the bride and groom get to march down the aisle first is so that nobody can get between them and the champagne. To help reduce the stress of all that a wedding entails, most people turn to a professional with expertise, someone they can trust, a wedding planner.

The WEDDING PLANNER (MAN) enters.

MAN

Did I hear you say you're looking for a wedding planner?

WOMAN

Well –

MAN

Let me present myself.

He hands her a card.

WOMAN

"Charles H. Hungadunga the Third, Wedding and Funeral Planner. All your needs from Married to Buried."

MAN

I'm the only wedding planner who offers a guarantee.

WOMAN

A guarantee?

MAN

If the wedding costs more than you rake in on gifts, your second wedding's free. Now as I see it, you want a simple wedding. Nothing gaudy, just a tasteful affair festive enough to show you're not getting married because you're pregnant.

WOMAN

Of course I'm not pregnant.

MAN

(referring to her belly)

I knew that was just a large lunch.

WOMAN

Why, I never.

MAN

You never? Then you can wear white. Now there are a million and one things to decide when planning a wedding. Of course the first thing you'll have to do is choose the date. Most brides want the groom to be their date, but you seem like a modern gal, invite who you want.

WOMAN

But* –

MAN

Now we'll need a rough head count, and yours fits that category. Will you be inviting your family, or do you want this to be a happy affair?

WOMAN

Why I* –

(**Note:* The woman has many lines like these. In such cases, it's not important what she says as long as the man interrupts her quickly.)

MAN

On certain things it pays to splurge, for example, my fee. But I offer a special deal: Let me plan your first five weddings, and the sixth one's free.

WOMAN

I'm only getting married once.

MAN

Just *once*? Would you want to eat delicious cake just once? Would you want to hear beautiful music just once? Would you want to have great sex just once – preferably next Wednesday at my place?

WOMAN

I'm about to get married.

MAN

Yes, but not before Wednesday.

WOMAN

Now look here –

MAN

Oh, you'll have a beautiful ceremony, where the two of you will promise to love each other forever, which is the first lie you'll make as husband and wife.

WOMAN

Hey!

MAN

At some weddings they hire a deejay, but I think a band's more elegant. For your band I suggest a piano, a trombone, a guitar, a trombone, a bass, a trombone, a triangle, two trombones, a trombone, and if you're pregnant, a tiny bassoon.

WOMAN

A tiny bassoon?

MAN

Yes, a bassoonette. Now for your floral arrangements, I recommend roses, daisies, trombones, carnations, lilies, trombones –

WOMAN

What are trombones doing in my floral arrangements?!

MAN

Trumpets are too expensive. Now as party favors I suggest olives –

WOMAN

Olives?

MAN

So you can have pimentos of the occasion. Now I know what you're thinking: With a wedding this nice, you'll be forever in my debt. And you're right, but I've worked out a simple payment plan where you'll be paid up in only 428 easy installments. Of course if you fall behind in your payments, I'll have to take possession of your sex life. –

WOMAN

Hey!

MAN

Or is that community property? Now about the invitations for the guests –

WOMAN

I want them engraved.

MAN

You want your guests in graves? Then you want the wedding-funeral combo special. Would you prefer a floral bouquet or simple wreath? Dance music or dirge? It's great when the minister says, "Till death do you part; may you rest in peace." The church choir will sing "I'm Getting Buried in the Morning". And then everyone throws rice at you and the deceased –

WOMAN

You're talking like I'm marrying a dead man.

MAN

Of corpse.

WOMAN

I think you misunderstood me.

MAN

Maybe, but I don't remember listening that hard. Now I want to create an affair that when the two of you are bonded in blessed gridlock, er wedlock –

WOMAN

Stop it! I haven't liked a single suggestion you've made.

MAN

Maybe you don't want to get married. Maybe you'd prefer an illicit interlude – with *me*.

WOMAN

Certainly not.

MAN

Has anyone ever told you you're the loveliest creature on earth?

WOMAN

Why, no.

MAN

Has anyone ever told you you're the second loveliest creature on earth?

WOMAN

No.

MAN

Has anyone ever told you you look like a creature?

WOMAN

No!

MAN

I bet we're getting closer. Oh please be mine. It's been so long since I've had sex I get a thrill just wearing double-breasted suits.

WOMAN

Will you stop –

MAN

Oh please be mine, and help me get over my last girlfriend, who had an orgasm when she broke up with me, and I couldn't tell if she was coming or going.

WOMAN

I don't want to hear –

MAN

Oh please be mine, and help me get over my last-last girlfriend, who was so dumb she didn't know the difference between a gay bar and a glee club.

WOMAN

Stop it.

MAN

Oh please be mine, and help me get over my last-last-last girlfriend, a dominatrix who graduated from Texas S & M.

WOMAN

I –

MAN

The school colors were black and blue.

WOMAN

You –

MAN

On Halloween they used to bob for lobsters.

WOMAN

Will you –

MAN

She graduated Phi Beta Strappa.

WOMAN

There's no restraining you!

MAN

That's why she dumped me.