



FRANKIE'S HANKY

by John R Arco

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FRANKIE'S HANKY

A Comedy in One Act

By John R. Arco

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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Dolly	the stubborn opinionated one	late 50's	Female
Marian	the realistic practical one	late 50's	Female
Phyllis	the restless sympathetic one	late 50's	Female
Mimi	the follower; the tardy one	late 50's	Female

PRODUCTION NOTES

The action takes place in the far corner near the doorway of a viewing room in Scalisi's Funeral Home, located somewhere in suburban Westchester County, New York.

The year is 1986.

A few padded seat folding chairs are set facing the audience. Two are side by side and the others are spread out a bit. A tasteful wooden table is also present. On it are a box of tissues and a bowl of individually wrapped mints. A wooden guest book stand with an open guest book, pen and a small stack of memorial photo prayer cards is right inside the "doorway".

ITALIAN-ENGLISH GLOSSARY

Since these four women are Italian-American, it is normal that their conversation is peppered with Italian words or expressions. Here are the English translations of these words and expressions.

ITALIAN	ENGLISH
<i>maron</i>	Italian dialect slang for 'Madonna'. Used as a term of exasperation, shock, surprise, annoyance
<i>sporca puttana</i>	dirty whore, dirty bitch
<i>strunz</i>	Italian for "piece of shit"; a fairly common Italian insult for someone worthless
<i>che gatz</i>	Literally: what balls
<i>chooch</i>	jackass
<i>Gesù Cristo mio</i>	my Jesus Christ

<i>stai zitta</i>	Shut up
<i>stunad</i>	Italian slang for an idiot, a stupid person
<i>Madonna mia</i>	An exclamation of surprise or strong emotion
<i>disgraziat'</i>	a poor wretch; good-for-nothing
<i>prosciutt'</i>	an Italian dry-cured ham
<i>Ma va fa Napola</i>	Literally: Go do it in Naples. Considered an insult.
<i>Dio mio</i>	my God; another exclamation of strong emotion
<i>Zia</i>	Aunt
<i>brasciol'</i>	an Italian meat dish
<i>Che gatza sta fa</i>	What the hell is going on here?
<i>Arrivederci</i>	goodbye

FRANKIE'S HANKY premiered in Shrub Oak, NY, in The Hand-To-Mouth Players 27th Annual Playwright/Director's Workshop, on August 24, 2018, under the direction of Stewart Hanges.

The cast, in order of appearance, was as follows:

DOLLY.....	Janice Fay Hanges
MARIAN.....	Kathleen Muldoon
PHYLLIS.....	Phyllis Kosminsky
MIMI.....	Elizabeth Moritz

We are in a viewing room at Scalisi's Funeral Home in suburban Westchester County, New York. DOLLY and MARIAN sit next to each other on two padded folding chairs. They both are facing front, as if the deceased is laid out in her casket just beyond the last row of the audience. MARIAN sits calmly, comfortable in her surroundings. Her purse rests on her lap. DOLLY is a bit bored and slightly impatient. She checks her watch, looks around the room. PHYLLIS is at the guest book stand located near the "doorway". She does not like funeral homes and has a very hard time sitting still or staying in one place.

DOLLY

(looking out front at the deceased)

Cookie looks pretty good, don't you think? I mean, considering.

MARIAN

Mmmm hmmm.

DOLLY

Junie Scalisi sure did a real nice job. I got to give him credit, he covered up all those nasty ugly blotches on her cheeks and neck. Made her skin all natural and lifelike. I almost didn't recognize her.

MARIAN

Well, he's been doing this his whole life, hasn't he? Remember how he used to practice on his kid sister? I can still see that poor girl tearing down the street screaming, with Junie chasing after her with his makeup brush.

DOLLY

I got to say, all his practice paid off. Now Junie's almost as good as his father.

MARIAN

Almost. Old Mister Scalisi --

(blesses herself, as do the others)

-- may he rest in peace ...

DOLLY & PHYLLIS

Amen.

MARIAN

... was a real artist.

PHYLLIS

(looking through the guest book)

I don't believe it! Dolly! Marian! You'll never guess who came to pay his respects!

DOLLY

The Pope.

PHYLLIS

Now that's just silly. Like the Pope would fly all the way from Rome for Cookie's wake.

MARIAN

Don't start. Please. The both of you.

DOLLY

You never know. Stranger things have happened.

PHYLLIS

Besides, he's Polish.

MARIAN

And they start anyway.

DOLLY

So what if he's Polish?

PHYLLIS

Cookie was Italian.

DOLLY

What difference does that make? She was Catholic, wasn't she?

PHYLLIS

Well, yeah.

DOLLY

Alright, then. Don't matter if she was Italian or Polish or Irish or Jewish. Catholic is Catholic.

PHYLLIS

Jews can't be Catholic.

DOLLY

Sure, they can. If they convert.

MARIAN

Maron, would you two stop? I'm getting a migraine already! Phyllis, please, just tell us who came to pay his respects to Cookie.

PHYLLIS

You won't believe it. None other than Sharky Cappolupica.

DOLLY

Get out!

PHYLLIS

Honest to God.

MARIAN

Who's Sharky Cappolupica?

PHYLLIS

Look for yourself, you don't believe me.

DOLLY joins her at the guest book stand.

DOLLY

Well, I'll be damned.

MARIAN

Who's Sharky Cappolupica?

PHYLLIS

(crosses to her, remains standing)

You remember. He transferred to our school sophomore year. He was a real thug, with a bad reputation. Oh, the nuns couldn't stand him. Not at all.

DOLLY

(moves back to her chair and sits)

Yeah, one time at morning devotions, Sister Don Bosco called Sharky the spawn of Satan. In front of the whole school and everybody. Got her in some pretty big trouble with the Archdiocese.

PHYLLIS

He didn't last very long at school. Got expelled I think maybe a month into the fall term.

MARIAN

Maybe that's why I can't place him.