



ALL IS FAIR IN SHOW BUSINESS

by Barry M Putt Jr

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CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)

DOROTHY - mid-seventies, hip wisecracker, stands up for what is fair and just, has poor eyesight.

SYLVIA - mid-seventies, of high-breeding, feels most people are below her, will do anything for a buck.

ABIGAL - mid-seventies, excited about life, believes in living each day to the fullest and always striving for more.

PAMELA-SUE - mid-seventies, southern belle, with a thick accent and a straight-forward attitude.

DIRECTOR - any age, any gender, demanding, high-strung.

TECHNICAN - any age, any gender, carefree, new to the entertainment business.

SETTING/PLACE:

- U.S.A. Present day

SCENE 1: A local senior center.

SCENE 2: TV commercial set, made to look like the fast-food

Note: Dialogue that appears in dual-columns is intended to be spoken simultaneously.

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SCENE 1

Lights UP in the lounge of a senior citizens' community center.
DOROTHY, in outdated, pointy-rimmed glasses, sits in a plush chair listening to a stereo headset.
SYLVIA sits next to her glancing at a magazine.

Dorothy starts bopping around vigorously in her chair to the music that plays on her headset.
Sylvia flashes a disapproving glance.

ABIGAL runs in.

ABIGAL

Yippee! Yahoo!

Dorothy takes off her headset, as she and Sylvia look over at Abigal in surprise.

SYLVIA

Good God. What's wrong with you? Do you have jumping beans in your pants?

ABIGAL

Naw, after months taking acting class, it finally happened.

SYLVIA

You got kicked out?

ABIGAL

Naw. Girls, yer looking at the newest TV star. I'm gonna be spokeswoman in a "Hildy's House of Hamburgers" commercial.

DOROTHY

Congratulations! I always said it's never too late for a new career. When are you shooting?

ABIGAL

In two days.

DOROTHY

This is the best news I've heard since Sylvia got sacked from etiquette school for being too snooty.

SYLVIA

Clam up, you chatter box. It's only a commercial. Personally, if they asked me to do a plebeian thing like that, I'd tell them where to get off.

ABIGAL

They can let me off at the bank, right after the shoot 'cause I'm set to make a bundle.

SYLVIA

You probably won't see a penny.

ABIGAL

(to Sylvia)

You sure you'd never wanna be in a commercial?

SYLVIA

Of course not. I have no time for such foolishness.

ABIGAL

Good, 'cause they asked me to find two girls to pose as customers in the background. This makes my decision a lot easier.

(to Dorothy)

Dorothy, would you be interested?

DOROTHY

Certainly! How exciting.

SYLVIA

Eeh, it's not such a big deal. They make so many of those things. Most of them probably never even air.

ABIGAL

It's already scheduled to run in twenty-three cities.

SYLVIA

Ones no one ever heard of I bet.

ABIGAL

Naw, big ones, even the state capital.

(to Dorothy)

We're gonna be seen everywhere!

SYLVIA

(annoyed)

So what?

ABIGAL

Is something wrong?

SYLVIA

No.

DOROTHY
I think she might be jealous.

SYLVIA
Nonsense. I have more important things to do, like getting my hair done.

ABIGAL
I thought you just did that.

SYLVIA
Darling, high society people get their hair washed and set all the time. Don't you know anything?

ABIGAL
I know enough not to go where you do. Last time they made your hair look like a pyramid.

SYLVIA
It's the Egyptian look. The latest thing.

DOROTHY
You mean the loudest.

Sylvia rolls her eyes as PAMELA-SUE enters carrying a small basket.

PAMELA-SUE
Howdy ya'll.
(to Sylvia)
How's da gut busta I gave ya workin' Sylvia? Lose any weight yet?

Abigal and Dorothy laugh.

SYLVIA
I have never used one of those contraptions. My measurements haven't changed since I was a girl.

DOROTHY
What were you a girl calf?

Sylvia flashes Dorothy a wry look.

SYLVIA
I have an ideal figure. All the grade "a" people used to shower me with compliments at cotillions and harvest balls. It's too bad there's such little breeding here at the center. It makes a sophisticate like me feel so alone.

PAMELA-SUE
(pulling an egg from her basket)
Here ya go Sylvia.

SYLVIA

An egg?

PAMELA-SUE

Yeah, ya said ya prefer da company of da grade "a." That there's a grade "a" egg. Now ya have a peer.

SYLVIA

You're unreal. Whatever led me to become acquainted with you people is beyond me.

DOROTHY

Must've just been our dumb luck I suppose.

Sylvia walks off in a huff as the
Girls chuckle.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

That woman is unbelievable.

Pamela-Sue and Abigal nod in
agreement.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

Pamela-Sue, have you heard?

ABIGAL

Naw, naw let me tell her.

(to Pamela-Sue)

I'm gonna be in a "Hildy's House of Hamburgers" TV commercial.

PAMELA-SUE

No foolin'?!

Abigal nods.

PAMELA-SUE (CONT'D)

Them hamburgers are da bestest.

ABIGAL

Yes, and they asked me to bring along friends for the background.
What do you say?

PAMELA-SUE

Ye-haw! Me in a television commercial. Can we chow down on
them burgers durin' da shoot?

ABIGAL

We sure can.

PAMELA-SUE

Woo-hoo!