



Christian Kiley

Norman Maine Publishing

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Norman Maine Publishing
P.O. Box 1400
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THE COFFEE BUZZ

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*To my Mom,
and other tough mommas out there,
who chase the alien invaders away.*

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THE COFFEE BUZZ was first produced at Etiwanda High School, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, May 8, 2012: Christian Kiley, director; Zinna Gonzales, assistant director; and Amanda Lucido, script proofreader.

MOMMA: Jasmine Leon

SERENITY: Rebecca Shiles

DOOFUS: Osadonor Adodo

OLD MAN FOSTER: Aaron Gonzales

LAWYER: Hayley Carrillo

TIMMY: Cheyenne Ford

PRESTO PEEP 1: Jessica Nguyen

PRESTO PEEP 2: Farheen Kang

PRESTO PEEP 3: Zinna Gonzales

PRESTO PEEP 4: Brian Benitez

PRESTO PEEP 5: Leeyah Patterson

TOWNSPERSON: Lionel Rock

CEO: Katie Rodriguez

MEEMA: Daniella Briones

NANCY NEEDLES: Dynasty Perry

JUNIE BEESTING: Savannah Borden

TAMMY TANNER: Juanita UrenoArias

ENERGY DRINK REP: Indajae Huff

PRESTO PEEPS: Vanessa Alvarez, Michael Balderrama, Kihana Budano, Genaro Decayanan, Michelle Gaglio, Aimee Livingston, and Braxton Shaw.

THE COFFEE BUZZ

FARCE/SATIRE. When a big city coffee chain arrives bearing free samples of coffee topped with whipped cream and sprinkles, the tranquil citizens of Trepid Town are transformed into crazed coffee drinkers hopelessly strung out on expensive designer coffee drinks like the “James Bond-Airy Free Hand-Shaken Not Stirred Quadruple Soy Latte.” Resolute in her belief that “coffee should be foul-tasting...like life,” Momma summons a ghost with her homemade Ouija board to drive the evil bean dealers out of town and discovers there may be more to these coffee drinks than whipped topping and sprinkles!

Performance Time: Approximately 30 minutes.

CHARACTERS

(1 M, 3 F, 15 flexible, opt. extras)

(With doubling: 1 M, 3 F, 13 flexible)

MOMMA: Wants to rid Tepid Town of Presto Espresso like she did with soft-serve yogurt, smoothies, and the quickie lube.

MEEMA [Pronounced “MEE-maw”]: Momma’s momma, an ancient ghost who is sweet on Old Man Foster.

OLD MAN FOSTER: Grumpy owner of Tepid Town’s general store.

SERENITY: Momma’s daughter who dreams of the big city and is captivated by Presto Espresso.

DOOFUS: Slow, tired, and pathetic donkey that speaks fluent “donkey”; actor walks on two legs and has a tail and donkey ears, which can be as simple as a hair band with paper ears; flexible.

TIMMY/TAMMY: Tepid Town kid who drinks Presto Espresso and thinks he can fly; flexible.

CEO: Arrogant Presto Espresso CEO; slick and slightly futuristic-looking, or a simple corporate can work; flexible.

LAWYER: Presto Espresso’s fast-talking corporate lawyer; slick and slightly futuristic-looking, or a simple corporate can work; flexible.

PRESTO PEEP 1-5: Exuberant employees of Presto Espresso who are in a state of perpetual glee as they chant, sing, and hand out samples of free coffee; flexible.

NED/NANCY NEEDLES: Tepid Townsperson who has a problem with cornstalks and busted-up catalytic converters; flexible.

JUNIE BEESTING: Tepid Townsperson who needs help with quantum physics homework; flexible.

TANK/TAMMY TANNER: Tepid Townsperson who needs help proposing; flexible.

TOWNSPERSON 1, 2: Citizens of Tepid Town; flexible.

ENERGY DRINK REP: Hands out free samples of energy drinks to Townspeople; flexible.

EXTRAS (Opt.): As additional Presto Peeps and Townspeople.

DOUBLING

TOWNSPERSON 2/TIMMY/ENERGY DRINK REP (Flexible role)

COSTUMES

Tepid Townspeople may be simply dressed in denim and flannel to distinguish them from the Presto CEO, Lawyer, and Peeps. Presto Peeps may wear shirts that are the same color and/or you can create a logo or design to create a uniform look.

SETTING

Tepid Town, a place that is neither very warm nor very cold, a place where simple values, lemonade, and sweet tea are the pastimes, and if you fall down face first, you might fall right into a freshly baked berry pie.

SET

The set may be a bare stage or as elaborate as your budget allows. Overall, have fun. Make bold and colorful choices. After all, most of the characters have had way too much Presto Espresso.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: Momma's home

Scene 2: Tepid Town square

Scene 3: Momma's home

Scene 4: Momma's home

Scene 5: Tepid Town square

PROPS

Ragged rope lead, for Doofus	Specialty coffee drinks
Presto Espresso coffee cups with Presto Espresso design and/or color	Serving trays
Chocolate-covered coffee beans (Can substitute chocolate-covered raisins or candies)	Presto Espresso water bottle
Coffee accessories, misc.	Regular coffee mug
	Ouija board (Can be homemade)
	Bandages
	Crutches
	Energy drink can and tray of energy drink samples

NOTE: Props can be mimed entirely or simply use cups, containers, and trays without real food and drink items.

SOUND EFFECTS

Crash

Larger crash

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**"COFFEE IS THE SLUDGE
YOU DRINK BEFORE THE TRUDGE
YOU TAKE TO THE FIELD
OR THE COAL MINE."**

-MOMMA

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: Momma's house. Momma enters, searching for Serenity.)

MOMMA: *(Calls.)* Serenity, honey! Serenity, darling!
Serenity, where are you?

(Serenity enters.)

SERENITY: Here I am, Momma.

MOMMA: I am making my sweetie pie—that's you—a sweetie pie. That's a real pie, but I have plumb run out of flour. Can you go over to Old Man Foster's General Store and get me a bag of flour? And bring Doofus with you.

SERENITY: Oh, Momma, old Doofus can barely walk. I will have to carry him and the flour back.

MOMMA: Now, you hush, girl. Doofus has plowed many a field in his day.

SERENITY: Now all he's good for is making fertilizer, and he doesn't even do that very well.

MOMMA: Well, we'll just see about that. My Meema used to tell me that every living creature has a purpose on this earth. Bless Meema's soul. *(Bows her head and peeks up at Serenity, who quickly bows her head.)* Now, you run along, but I only mean that figuratively. If you really run, old Doofus's heart will explode in his chest like an overinflated party balloon on high for eight minutes in a microwave full of rusty-nail burritos.

(Serenity exits. Blackout.)

SCENE 2

(AT RISE: Tepid Town square. Serenity enters with Doofus. Doofus is slow, tired, and pathetic. Serenity is leading Doofus with a pathetic-looking rope.)

SERENITY: Well, here we are, Doofus...Old Man Foster's General Store, the same way it has been for almost 200 years. I would tie you up, but you're not going anywhere, are you? (Doofus makes a sad mule sound, much like an old nostalgic song.) You're right, Doofus. What is a young girl to do in such a stodgy and boring place?

DOOFUS: Stodgy? (Makes a slightly upbeat mule sound.)

SERENITY: That's right. This place is boring and stinky. I want to go to the big city. Doofus, you have to promise not to tell anyone about my dreams of going to the big city. Promise?

(Doofus makes an affirmative mule sound.)

PRESTO PEEPS: (Offstage, almost singing.)

Presto Espresso, a very tasty treat.

Presto Espresso, our flavor can't be beat.

SERENITY: Doofus, do you hear something? (Doofus pathetically attempts a "yes." Inhales deeply.) And that smell...it is absolutely divine!

PRESTO PEEPS: (Offstage, almost singing.)

When you wake up in the morning,

Or really late at night,

You need a pick-me-up,

Like a caffeinated vampire bite.

(Old Man Foster bursts onto the stage in the only way Old Man Foster can...badly.)

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OLD MAN FOSTER: *(To Presto Peeps.)* Shut up, you darn hippy-freaks with your strange incantations and bizarre smells!

SERENITY: I think the smell is marvelous, Old Man Foster.

OLD MAN FOSTER: Child, that smell is of the debil!

DOOFUS: Debil?

SERENITY: What is this "debil" you speak of?

OLD MAN FOSTER: Debil! *(Makes horns on his forehead with his index fingers and adds the best demonic sounds he can muster. His impression of a devil is done badly.)*

SERENITY: *(Realizes.)* Oh, "devil." Well, that's okay.

OLD MAN FOSTER: Run for your home before it's too late. Go for a slow stroll, sit under a shady tree, and do nothing. Gargle some lemonade and pass out in a haystack.

(Doofus makes a sound that indicates he believes that Old Man Foster is crazy.)

SERENITY: Yes, Doofus. Gargling lemonade is quite ill-advised. The high-sugar content could cause cavities.

PRESTO PEEPS: *(Offstage, almost singing.)*

You need Presto Espresso.

You need Presto Espresso.

OLD MAN FOSTER: *(Stage whisper, urgent.)* They're everywhere! Everywhere! With their samples...free samples! Mountains of whipped cream and sprinkles...rainbow sprinkles! They're like little probes. Once they get into your system— *(Slight pause.)* I've said too much. *(Exits badly.)*

SERENITY: *(Excited.)* Rainbow sprinkles and free samples!

PRESTO PEEPS: *(Offstage, almost singing.)*

Rainbow sprinkles,

And free, free samples.

Drink Presto for a high,

Drink Presto you can fly,

Drink Presto and you'll never die.

(Presto Espresso Lawyer enters.)

LAWYER: *(To audience.)* The state of being high, the ability to fly, and the promise that you or other drinkers of Presto Espresso will never die are merely the rhyme scheme of a jingle and not intended to be a literal promise. Presto Espresso and its affiliates make no literal promises other than the fact that you will get a cup of lukewarm to scolding hot liquid that may or may not be satisfying and pleasing to you. But the cup looks really cool, so carry it around. It will make you look hot, and our sales will go up, up, up, and away.

(Timmy runs onstage.)

TIMMY: That was the best thing I have ever had! It was like puberty without all the painful and awkward parts. It was like a supermodel beverage that punched me ever so softly with supportive and passionate love jabs! I could wrestle a bear! I could fly if I wanted to! Isn't that what the song said? "Drink Presto. You can fly." Yes, yes, I will fly. My name is no longer Timmy...it is Grande Soy Latte! And I can fly. *(Timmy runs offstage.)* Here goes! Ahhhhhhh! This is the greatest moment of my life! I feel tingling and the rainbow sprinkles are exploding inside me...but each explosion is like falling in love for the first time! I am flying! I am flying! I am alive! I am alive! I am...ahhhhhh! *(Terrible crashing sound.)* I'm okay...I'm o-kay. I broke a leg...two, two legs...and most of the bones in my upper body. Something is oozing out of my ear. I hope it's not my brain. But I'm fine.

[END OF FREEVIEW]