Copyright © 2001 by Karen Mueller-Bryson
All rights reserved

CAUTION: Professionals & amateurs are hereby warned that The Doctor Will See You Now is subject to a royalty. This play is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, Canada, the British Commonwealth and all other countries of the Copyright Union.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this play are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion pictures, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS & ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this play are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. If necessary, we will contact the author or the author’s agent. PLEASE NOTE that royalty fees for performing this play can be located online at Brooklyn Publishers, LLC website (http://www.brookpub.com). Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. You will find our contact information on the following page.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author’s billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice:

Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers, LLC (http://www.brookpub.com)

TRADE MARKS, PUBLIC FIGURES, & MUSICAL WORKS: This play may include references to brand names or public figures. All references are intended only as parody or other legal means of expression. This play may contain suggestions for the performance of a musical work (either in part or in whole). Brooklyn Publishers, LLC have not obtained performing rights of these works. The direction of such works is only a playwright’s suggestion, and the play producers should obtain such permissions on their own. The website for the U.S. copyright office is http://www.copyright.gov.

COPYING from the book in any form (in whole or excerpt), whether photocopying, scanning recording, videotaping, storing in a retrieval system, or by any other means, is strictly forbidden without consent of Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

TO PERFORM THIS PLAY

1. Royalty fees must be paid to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC before permission is granted to use and perform the playwright’s work.

2. Royalty of the required amount must be paid each time the play is performed whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

3. When performing one-acts or full-length plays, enough playbooks must be purchased for cast and crew.

4. Copying or duplication of any part of this script is strictly forbidden.

5. Any changes to the script are not allowed without direct authorization by Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

6. Credit to the author and publisher is required on all promotional items associated with this play’s performance(s).

7. Do not break copyright laws with any of our plays. This is a very serious matter and the consequences can be quite expensive. We must protect our playwrights who earn their living through the legal payment of script and performance royalties.

8. If you have questions concerning performance rules, contact us by the various ways listed below:

Toll-free: 888-473-8521
Fax: 319-368-8011
Email: customerservice@brookpub.com

Copying, rather than purchasing cast copies, and/or failure to pay royalties is a federal offense. Cheating us and our wonderful playwrights in this manner will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Please support theatre and follow federal copyright law.
THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW
by
Karen Mueller-Bryson

AT RISE: The RECEPTIONIST is sitting at the front desk of Dr. Van de Veer's office. The PATIENT, a young man, steps up to the RECEPTIONIST's desk.

(Throughout the play, the PATIENT becomes increasingly ill.)

PATIENT: I have an eleven o'clock appointment with Dr. Van de Veer.
RECEPTIONIST: Insurance?
PATIENT: Well…um…let me see…I have my card here somewhere… (The PATIENT fumbles around for his wallet. When HE finally finds it, HE has some difficulty locating his insurance card. The RECEPTIONIST waits impatiently.) Here it is – American Family Medical Plan.
RECEPTIONIST: Is that an HMO, PPO, POC, PCP, LSD, BBC?
PATIENT: I don’t know – I’m not sure.
RECEPTIONIST: You don’t know what kind of a plan you’re on, sir?
PATIENT: No…well…um…I think it’s an HMO.
RECEPTIONIST: I’m sorry, sir – we only see HMO patients on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when they land on an even day of the week, and the third Wednesday of every month that ends in “y.”
PATIENT: But I feel really bad. Is there any way I can see someone?
RECEPTIONIST: Look around you. This is a doctor's office. Everyone here is sick and they all want to “see someone.”
PATIENT: Please -
RECEPTIONIST: We can override the HMO policy but only with proper authorization.
PATIENT: How can I get authorization?
RECEPTIONIST: You’ll need to fill out these forms. (The RECEPTIONIST hands the PATIENT a clipboard with a stack of papers the size of a phone book.) And I’ll need a copy of your driver’s license, your social security card, a birth certificate or passport, documentation of any pre-existing conditions and a major credit card – we don’t accept American Express.

(The PATIENT steps away with the clipboard and papers. HE sits on the waiting room chair and begins to fill out the paperwork. While the PATIENT tries to complete the forms, HE begins to sweat. HE becomes noticeably sicker.)

PATIENT: (walking up to the RECEPTIONIST’s desk) I hate to bother you – but I really feel bad. Is there any way I can see the doctor?
RECEPTIONIST: Not until you’re authorized.
PATIENT: Is there a place where I can lie down for a few minutes?
RECEPTIONIST: I’m sorry, sir, but there is no way I can let you into an examination room prior to your scheduled appointment time. There are no exceptions.
PATIENT: (putting his leg on her desk) I guess I’ll just have to lie down here then.
RECEPTIONIST: There’s no need for such drastic measures, sir. I’ll find the nurse and see about getting you into an examining room.
PATIENT: Thank you.

(The RECEPTIONIST walks off stage and re-enters with the NURSE.)

NURSE: What seems to be the problem, sir?
PATIENT: Is there anyplace I can lie down – I’m not feeling very well.
NURSE: We’re a very busy office. We don’t like to put our patients in the examining rooms until their scheduled appointment times.
PATIENT: (doubles over in pain) Please – I need to lie down.
NURSE: All right – if you insist on lying down.

(The NURSE escorts the PATIENT into the examining room. The PATIENT lies down on the examining table.)

PATIENT: I hope you don’t think that just because I put you in an examining room, the doctor will see you before your scheduled appointment.

(The NURSE exits before the PATIENT can respond.)
(The RECEPTIONIST enters carrying the clipboard and paper work.)

RECEPTIONIST: I hope you don't think the doctor will see you without the proper authorization. (throws the clipboard and paperwork on the edge of the examining table)

(The PATIENT picks up the clipboard and begins filling out the paperwork, HE soon finds HE is becoming too ill to complete it.)

(The NURSE re-enters with a patient chart, a crayon, a toy stethoscope and giant thermometer the size of a pepperoni. [all of these props can be mimed, if necessary] SHE is smiling. SHE speaks to the PATIENT as if SHE has never seen him before.)

NURSE: Hello, I'm Nurse Bunkum. Welcome to Dr. Van de Veer's office. I just need to get some intake information from you. First, let me get your temperature. Open wide and say “Ahhh.” (The PATIENT opens his mouth and says “AHHH.” The NURSE takes the giant thermometer and sticks it in the patient's mouth. After a moment, the NURSE takes the thermometer from the PATIENT’s mouth and reads the temperature.) A hundred and seventy-eight degrees. Does that seem a little high to you? You're really cooking, sir. Oh, well. Let's listen to your heart. (The NURSE tries placing the stethoscope in various places on the PATIENT’s chest but cannot seem to find a heartbeat.) Well, you are alive – so you must have a heartbeat. (The NURSE scribbles in the patient chart with a crayon.) And what brings you here today?

PATIENT: I'm sick.

END OF FREE PREVIEW