

HELP WANTED

Ten Minute Comedic Duet
by
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The actors may be male or female, and the script may be adjusted to fit the needs of the cast

(Setting is a blank stage. 1, wearing nice clothing, sits behind a desk and looks at papers. HE looks up and calls out.)

1: Next?

2: **(enters nervously)** Um, hello.

1: Hello. You're applying for -

2: The job.

1: The job, right.

2: In *The Chronicle*.

1: Of course.

2: You know. Good communication skills. **(presents resumé)** Here you are.

1: What's this?

2: My resumé.

1: Oh, yes.

2: I have a lot of experience.

1: **(looking at the resumé)** Good. Good.

2: And I -

1: Let's cut through all the formalities and just fill out a company application.

2: Oh. Sure.

1: **(looks through files; grabs an application)** Here we are. Let's see. Name, please.

2: Um, Smith.

1: Smith. Is that a first name or a last name?

2: Last name, um...

1: What's your first name?

2: Listen. Is this really necessary?

1: Do you want the job?

2: Yes.

1: Then it's necessary. First name?

2: Jay.

1: Sex?

2: Can't you tell?

1: Well...

2: I'm insulted.

1: It has to be official, you know. I can't -

2: You insult me.

1: Can't you give me a little hint?

2: Guess.

1: Well, men and women dress alike these days.

2: You think a woman **(man)** would wear something like this?

1: She **(he)** might.

2: Oh, come on!

1: A man might, too.

2: I'm a man, okay.

1: Are you sure?

2: What do you think?

1: We'll assume you're telling the truth, because if you're not and we find out later -

2: Can we get on to something else? Take a look at my resumé. I have lots of experience in the personnel field, and I work well with people.

1: Do you mind? We're going to make this official, got it? **(pause)** Let's see. **(reads through questions until HE finds one HE likes)** Ah! Here's a good one. Have you ever been convicted of a felony?

2: No.

1: No murder?

2: No.

1: Bank robbery?
2: No.
1: Arson?
2: No.
1: What about a misdemeanor?
2: That's on there?
1: Yes.
2: Gee, um, I don't know. I've had traffic tickets.
1: **(writes furiously)** Is that so?
2: But, I mean, everybody's had a traffic ticket.
1: You think so, do you?
2: Well, haven't *you*?
1: What makes you think I have?
2: This is silly. May we move on -
1: Seriously, what makes you think I've had a traffic ticket?
2: Well, I -
1: Is it because of the way I dress?
2: No -
1: You certainly shouldn't judge someone by clothing. Look at what you wear.
2: What's wrong with what I wear?
1: Nothing.
2: Okay.
1: If you don't mind that people think you're an arrogant, colorblind, blithering idiot.
2: What the -
1: Next question.
2: Wait just a second! Why would people judge me?
1: You tell me.
2: I'm not going to tell you -
1: Oh, really? Do you have something to hide?
2: What's wrong with you?
1: Nothing. What's wrong with you?
2: **(flabbergasted)** Nothing!
1: Will you swear to that?
2: What?
1: If I put it down on your application and we prove you otherwise -
2: There's nothing wrong with me!
1: No psychological difficulties?
2: No!
1: No physical infirmities?
2: No.
1: Never had a cold?
2: Well, sure.
1: I thought you said there was nothing wrong with you.
2: There isn't.
1: But you've had colds.
2: Yes.
1: Then there was something wrong.
2: At one time -
1: Did I say at one time?
2: You asked if anything was wrong -
1: But I didn't add the words, "at one time."
2: Is there someone else I can talk to?

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