

NO MORE MR. FUNNY GUY

By John C. Havens

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CAST: *one male*

NOTE FOR PERFORMANCE: *This can actually be performed by a female as well. It only requires some slight changes. The point here is that sometimes we fight too hard against what comes most naturally for us in the first place.*

Stop laughing. I'm serious, stop laughing. Just wait a second. Don't say another word. So, yeah, I'm kind of goofy. I've got a face that can contort into a thousand different expressions, each one of them unique, intriguing...mystifying. I'm aware; it's my cross to bear.

And I look at you and you're gorgeous, everybody at this party wants to date you, and for the moment you're willing to talk to me because all I am to you is Mr. Funny Guy. You need someone to pass the time with while the guy you really like is on the other side of the room talking to some other girl. Great. I'm the "you're like a brother to me...make me laugh and some cute boy will sort of get jealous" guy. I'm the one doing all the work to entertain you while that 'N Sync look-a-like just has to cross the room and snap his fingers and you'll swoon like an Elvis fan and be inebriated by the scent of his overapplied Polo cologne.

Well do you think he understands the nuances of comedy? Do you?
(At this point, actor is encouraged to be as physical as possible, demonstrating all of the elements HE is talking about.)

Could hot guy do the 'slipping on a banana gag' and get a belly laugh? I don't think so. He'd probably do this. **(Actor pretends to eat banana and toss peel on the ground. Actor, as 'hot guy,' walks a few paces back and then steps on the spot where the banana peel fell. HE does a poorly executed prat fall, waving his arms wildly.)**

Subtle, huh? Not. He wouldn't understand that you have to move beyond the standard slip on the banana peel gag and do one step better. Now watch this.

(Actor pretends to peel the banana, but instead of 'eating' the banana, HE puts it in his pocket. Next, HE drops the 'peel' on the floor and takes a few paces back. Then HE walks over where the peel has been placed, making a big deal out of the fact that HE'S not going to slip on it. When HE gets a few paces beyond this, that's when he falls. Then HE stands up and realizes HE'S also fallen on the banana in his pocket. HE makes a show out of taking the messy banana out of his pocket. Disgusted, he smells his hand. His face changes, and HE takes a bite of the fake banana.)

See! Can you see all those levels? That's why I'm Mr. Funny Guy. Everyone expects you to slip on the banana peel, so I go one step further and add the element of surprise! I take a normal convention and push the boundaries! And not only that, I still "give the people what they want" by doing a well executed prat fall. Add to that the wonderfully comic moment of eating the squished banana, and you have true panache!

(To girl) Panache. No, it's not a car. It's more like char-isma. Never mind. Why do I even waste my time on you fetching plebians? I suppose it's because I have needs, like any other normal hot-blooded mammal. Perhaps I should just whip off a couple of quips to get you rolling in the aisles and at least I can have the satisfaction of knowing you respond to my intellect. *(Relenting a little)* Okay, here's one for you.

A cop is interviewing a snail after he's fallen off of a turtle's back. The cop asked the snail what happened, and the snail says, "I don't know officer, it all happened so fast."

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