

The World Drama

Characters

- Man
- Narrator
- Shopkeeper (*optional-narrator can double as shopkeeper*)

Setting

Narrator stands at side of stage/at microphone, or, if playing shopkeeper, at shopkeeper's spot. Man at centre stage. Shopkeeper over to the far right of man.

Comments

- All the actions of the man should be very exaggerated and obvious, this is the key to the humor. Narrator by contrast plays it straight.
- Whenever prices are mentioned, say "...and ninety-five cents" on the end. This keeps a pattern going.

Script

Narrator:

(as if telling some children a story) Once, there was a man.

Man stands there with a silly smile on his face

He was a simple man....

Man points finger to the side of his head as a sign of stupidity

...with simple tastes.

Man touches tongue with finger, then holds finger up as though testing the direction of the wind.

(sounding more enthusiastic) One day, the man had an idea.

Man jerks finger up in 'Aha!' mode, as he says 'Bing!'

He decided he would like a radio.

As narrator says 'radio', man outlines square shape of radio with his fingers and mouths the word 'radio'

So, the man went to the shop to buy a radio.

As narrator says the above bit, the man walks exaggeratedly over to the shopkeeper, who is turned facing away from the man. Man stops when he reaches the shopkeeper. Exaggeratedly mimes knocking, while saying "Knock knock knock knock!"

As if by magic, the shopkeeper appeared.

Shopkeeper jumps around to face man

Shopkeeper & Man:

(together) Goo-o-od Morning Sir!

Shopkeeper:

And what can I do for you today sir?

Man:

I'd like to buy a radio.*(makes radio shape with his fingers again (like before) as he says 'radio')*

Shopkeeper:

Ah, a radio. Well, we have (*pointing to imaginary shelves behind him*) long wave, short wave, blow wave, curly wave, tidal wave, microwave (*feel free to add any appropriate waves you can think of!*)

Man:

(*pointing*) I'll have that one.

Shopkeeper:

All right, that'll be \$39.95.

Gives man radio as man gets wallet out, counts out cash and hands it over.

Shopkeeper turns around again as man walks back to centre stage. As he is walking, narrator continues...

Narrator:

So, the man took his radio home (*man should be 'home' by now, stands holding his radio looking pleased and a bit stupid*) and he played with it.

Man starts bouncing around radio as if it were a ball, throwing it, catching it, kicking it etc...

But after a while, the man got tired of his radio...

Man gets less enthusiastic, yawns and tosses radio over his shoulder. Stands there looking bored.

Then, the man had another idea.

Man goes 'Bing!' as before.

He decided he'd like something bigger and better. He decided he'd like to buy a video (*man mimes and mouths 'video' - just a longer box than 'radio'*). So, the man went to the shop to buy a video.

Man again walks over to shopkeeper, same as before, and knocks, the same as before - 'Knock knock knock knock!'

As if by magic, the shopkeeper appeared.

Shopkeeper jumps around with a 'Bing!'

Shopkeeper & Man:

(*together*) Goo-o-d Morning Sir!

Shopkeeper:

And what can I do for you today?

Man:

I'd like to buy a video. (*mimes video*)

Shopkeeper:

A video.... well, we have (*points again to shelves behind him*) VHS, Beta-max, Weeta-bix, Corna-flakes.....

Man:

I'll take (*points to spot on shelf*) that one.

Shopkeeper:

Ah, good choice sir, that one is on special. \$539.95, thank you.

Man:

Do you take MasterCard? (*can substitute any credit card*)

Shopkeeper:

(*gleefully*) Certainly.

Man gives credit card to shopkeeper who runs it through the credit card machine, gives it back, signs etc....thank you and the man walks away with his video

Narrator:

So, the man took his video home and he played with it. He fast forwarded it....
Man places video in front of him and mimes holding the remote control. As the narrator says 'fast forwarded it', he mimes pressing a button on the remote, and as he does this, scuttles a few steps forward.

He re-wound it

Man mimes pressing button and scuttles a few steps backwards.

And sometimes, he even put in a video and watched it.

Man mimes putting in a video and watching it.

But after a while, the man got bored with his video...

Man gets bored, yawns and tosses video over shoulder.

Then, the man had another idea.

Man goes ' Bing! '

He decided he'd like something bigger and better. He decided he'd like to buy a house. (*Man mimes a house about as tall as he is by bringing his arms right to the floor as he does it*) So, the man went to the shop to buy a house.

Man again walks over to shopkeeper, same as before, and knocks, the same as before - 'Knock knock knock knock!'

As if by magic, the shopkeeper appeared.

Shopkeeper jumps around with a ' Bing! '

Shopkeeper & Man:

(together) Goo-o-d Morning Sir!

Shopkeeper:

And what can I do for you today?

Man:

I'd like to buy a house. (*mimes house*)

Shopkeeper turns to a small filing drawer behind him and begins filing through what are obviously(!!!) miniature models of houses

Shopkeeper:

(over his/her shoulder) How many bedrooms would you like?

Man:

483.

Shopkeeper:

Yes and how many bathrooms'?

Man:

Er....Twelve and a half.

Shopkeeper continues rummaging and pulls out a miniature "house", holding it carefully by the top two corners.

Shopkeeper:

How's this one?

Man:

(looking carefully) Where's the swimming pool?

Shopkeeper:

(turns house around) (impatiently) Around the back.

Man:

Hmm, yes, I'll take it.

Shopkeeper:

That'll be one million, two hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars and ninety-five cents.

Man:

Do you take checks?

Shopkeeper:

Certainly, sir.

Man takes out imaginary checkbook, makes out imaginary check with lots of zeros, signs, gives to shopkeeper.

Thank you, sir. *(hands him imaginary keys)* Here are the keys.

Man walks back 'home'.

Narrator:

So, the man went back to his new house.

Man mimes unlocking door, enters looking excited.

He went into all the bedrooms...and tried out all the beds...

Man mimes going into rooms, feeling beds to check the springiness/softness!

But the house was so big he couldn't find the...er....

Man crosses his legs and staggers around frantically, trying to find the bathroom.

Er...anyway, the man soon got tired of his house. He wanted something bigger and better. Then, the man had another idea. *(Man goes Bing!)* This time, he wanted the whole world.*(Man spreads his arms in a circle to mime the whole world)* So, the man went to the shop to buy the world.

Man goes to shop. Knock knock knock. "As if by magic the shopkeeper appeared" Bing! "Goo-od Morning sir!"

Shopkeeper:

And what can I do for you today?

Man:

I'd like to buy the world.

Shopkeeper:

Hmm. Could be a bit tricky. *(confidently)* I'll see what I can do.

Turns and rummages through a drawer. Pulls out a large imaginary map of the world. Carefully unrolls it on the counter.

(points to corner of map) If you'd just sign down there, sir...

Man signs his signature

Will there be anything else, sir?

Man:

(arrogantly pushing shopkeeper aside) No, that'll be all thank you.

Wanders off as shopkeeper turns aside, strolling around as if he owned the planet (which he does!). Muttering to himself lines like - "Mine! All mine! The birds...the flowers...the trees...the little bunny rabbits...all mine!"

Narrator:

That night, the man died.

Man continues to wander round..."The people...the boats...all mine. . . "

(raising his/her voice slightly) I said, that night the man died...

Man ignores narrator and continues wandering "Everything it's all mine!"

(getting angry) I said, that night the man died!

Man looks around, suddenly getting the message. Mimes dying however dramatically you want to do it- and falls to the floor, not surprisingly, dead. (clearly, this is the take home message) What does it profit a man if he should gain the whole world but lose his own life?

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