

SCENE 3 – TALENT SHOWS

2019 That's Entertainment

Mid closed. George & Angel enter DSR. Angel is behind George pushing him along to CS.

George: Would you stop pushing me! I'm not a criminal.

Angel: No, you're just an overly competitive person who upset the entire Game Room Exhibit.

George: There's nothing wrong with being competitive, it drives you to succeed.

Angel: Maybe. But what good is success, if you give up and quit when you fail?

George: First of all, I didn't fail – I had bad luck. Second of all, bankruptcy isn't quitting, it's what you do when you can't pay your bills. Ugh! Why am I telling you this? It's none of your business.

Angel: The big guy made it my business.

George: *(Puts his hand up)* Never mind, I forgot you're just a crazy person.....and I'm crazy for talking to you. *(Starts to walk off SR)*

Angel: *(Yells)* Reinforcements! *(Staff Supervisor immediately enters SR & blocks George)*

Supervisor: Excuse me, George. It is George, isn't it?

George: Yes...but how did you know that?

Supervisor: When you give your people an assignment, don't you tell them who they'll be working with?

George: I don't *have* people anymore. I can't pay them. *(angry)* That's the whole problem!

During following lines Angel & Supervisor each take an arm and escort George to a chair that becomes visible as the mid-curtain opens & reveals 3 displays in exhibit. SR is Dance Marathon couple with basket of props next to them. CS is Bandstand's Dick Clark with podium, SL is Dancing With the Stars winner Donny Osmond and Interviewer. Chair is DSL of Donny)

Angel: George, we need you to relax. You're blood pressure it's sky-high.

Supervisor: Yes, you'll feel much better if you just sit down for a few minutes. We have a nice comfy chair in our Discovery Room.

George: *(Being turned around to go to the SR easy chair)* Where did all this come from. It wasn't here second ago!

Teacher enters with 4 students DSL.

Supervisor : I'm sorry, my next group of students is here. *(Crosses to teacher/students while Angel finishes "assisting" George to easy chair and stands US side of chair to "guard" George)* Welcome to the Entertainment Museum's Discovery Room. Today you are going to discover some interesting things about one type of talent show - dance contests.

Teacher: Children, look at this! My great-grandmother competed in a dance marathon back in the 1930's. Can you believe people would dance continuously for days, weeks, even months!

Justin (Luke) (*whiny*) Ms. Minchion, I believe you made a mistake. People can't stay awake for months. The human body needs sleep to repair and rejuvenate itself. That is a scientific fact.

Teacher: That's true, Justin, which is why most contests allowed the dancers to sleep 10 minutes every hour. Eventually the couples ended up looking like this – with one person holding up the other who was falling asleep.

Supervisor: Judges would look carefully to see if the 2nd person's feet were moving or just being dragged around. Why don't you be the judge? (Hands a "judge" badge to "John" (Noah Q). And you can be the "Helper" who helped dancers stay awake by making noise or wiping their faces with wet towels (hands towel to "Justine" – Teresa S.). And you can be the nurse who would check on the dancers when they collapsed (hands nurse hat to "Jane" – Katie D.).

Justin: Why would anyone want to dance until they collapsed!?

Supervisor: Some people like the challenge of testing the limits of what their body can endure.

Teacher: And you have to remember that there was a depression at that time. Many people were out of work and these contests offered cash prizes AND the contestants got free food.

Justin: But the odds of winning contests are always so small! Why would they risk their personal health? It just wasn't sensible.

Supervisor: Well, some people think Iron Man marathons and extreme sports aren't sensible, but people do them! Now, why don't you be the Emcee and we'll make these dancers go live (*Takes remote out of pocket and clicks it. 30's music starts playing, couple comes alive and starts swaying. Judge bends down to check feet and lifts one dragging foot. It falls back to ground. While judge was checking for "Helper" was waving/clapping and wipes face of sleeping dancer who awakes and gets up on feet again.*)

Justin: (*whiny*) Well, folks, (*clears throat & then announcer voice*) Well folks, it looks like this couple is the last one standing! Let's give a big round of applause for our marathon winners!

(Helper, Judge, Nurse applaud. Couple smiles & tries to wave to crowd but immediately collapse to ground. Nurse, judge, Helper all group around couple to fan, check pulse, tap face)

Justin: (*whiny*) I knew that would happen!

Supervisor: Great job everyone! Now we're going to step over here and see if you can do some of the dance crazes that were made famous on *American Band Stand*. First, we're going to see what the show's host, Mr. Dick Clark, has to say. (*Takes remote out & clicks it*)

Dick Clark: American Bandstand was a live national broadcast five days a week for 11 years and then for another 24 years as a weekly taped show. It was never a dance competition but in 2004 when we tried to revive the show, one segment transformed into, "So You Think You Can Dance" which IS a dance competition show that has aired in 39 countries over the past 16 yrs.

Supervisor: So now, kids, we're going to ask Mr. Clark to play some music so we can do some of the dances that became famous because of American Bandstand. Just follow me!

Dick Clark: Lets listen to some songs that have a good beat and are easy to dance to! *(Music)* First there was "The Twist" (Supervisor demos & students follow), then there was "The Pony" and how about "The Swim" . *(Music out)*

Ms. Minchion: That was just wonderful, students! *(Looks at watch)* I wish we could stay longer, but we need to get downstairs to meet our bus. Can everyone say thank you?

Students: *(in unison...sing,song)* "THANK – YOU!" *(exit DSR with Teacher in lead)*

Supervisor: *(to Angel):* If you can handle things here, I'll go check on the other one.

Angel: We're good, he's finally settled down. (Supervisor nods and exits SR)

George: *(to Angel)* So what does this last Donny Osmond exhibit have to do with dance contests? Shouldn't he have been part of the TV exhibits.

Donny: *(coming to life)* Actually, I'm here because I was the winner of the the 9th Season of Dancing with the Stars!

George: Really? I always knew that show was for losers.

Interviewer: *(coming to life)* Donny Osmond is a survivor – not a loser. He's been a successful performer for 56 years! He started at age 5 with his brothers on the Andy Williams show, he's had 4 top ten songs as a teen idol and then two more in his 30's, he's hosted two TV shows, first, the *Donny and Marie Show* and then an Emmy nominated talk show. He's starred on Broadway AND he's had a successful Las Vegas show with his sister for the last 10 years.

George: OK, I admit that's a pretty impressive resume, but why do you keep working. You've gotta be over 60 now and you certainly don't need the money.

Interviewer: Mr. Osmond, the question is, why do you still perform when you don't need the money.

Donny: Performers love to perform and I learned the hard way that money comes and goes.

George: Oh sure – you've been rich since you were a kid. What do you know about tough times?

Interviewer: Mr. Osmond, the question is, what do you know about tough times?

Donny: Actually when the *Donny and Marie* show was cancelled my family was told to declare bankruptcy but we refused. We sold everything, including our homes, to pay our debts. We all started over taking whatever work we could get. It took ten years for my career to recover...the hardest ten years of my life...but I *(looking directly at George)* didn't give up.

Angel: *(looking directly at George)* I bet you feel a little foolish right now, don't you?
BLACK OUT