More Channel Surfing: 16 New Parody Sketches

By Harry Michael Bagdasian and Lisa Levin Itté

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PRODUCTION NOTES

These comic sketches were first performed at Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School in Silver Spring, Maryland, Steve Bedford, Principal, on Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, 1999. Entitled Clean My Room?! and other teenage nightmares, (a comedy revue), the show was produced and directed by the authors for the school’s Comedy Club. The script would not have been possible without the suggestions of the cast, crew and musicians who performed in the original production, including: **Performers** — Jennie Bagdasian, Harrison Beacher, Stephanie Becker, Rachel Bergstein, Amerantha Birkel, Anton Birkel, Kate Burrows, Andrea Calderon, Betheny Cannon, Rachel E. Cooper, Annie Drury, Liza Drury, Dayton Duncan, Jenny Farrar, Diego Hutchings, Madeline Itté, Marisa Itté, Laurel Johnson, Ashley Kaplan, Derek Majerle, Stephanie Miller, Samantha Newcome, Myloan Nguyen, Asher Novek, Shaumus O’Brien, Frida Oskarsdottir, Aaron Pitts, Owen Praskievicz, Diana Shane, Olesya Skrinskaya, Anitha Vemury, Davina Waller, Mike Willis, Jr. and Salib Yoler; **Musicians** — John McGuire, John Leshchiner and Josh Rosen; **Tech Crew Members** — Kate Bagdasian, Joey Battistelli, Amerantha Birkel, Julian Chung, Jessica Lynema, Jon Mulhern, Jessica Pisani, Edwin Rodriguez and Erin Waller; and **Production Support** — Michele Burrows, Mary Drury, Ellen Kaplan and Robbie McEwen. **Production Credits:** Set design and execution was by Dale Majerle, lighting design was by Lori Willis, musical coordination was by John McGuire, and the production was enhanced by the work of sound consultant John Vengrouskie and his student crew. Costuming was by just about everyone who was in or related to someone in the production, and much help was provided by student assistants to the directors Kate Bagdasian, Jessica Bond, Chris Brooks, Bryan Cannon, Charis Goff, Diego Hutchings and Austen Villemez.
CAST OF CHARACTERS

First Day of School Nightmare
Rachel, Rachel's Mom, and everyone else

Algebra
Aaron, 4 Students, Grandma, Grandpa,
Sister, Brother, Mom, Dad

Discount Phone Service
Announcer, Phone Chick

Psycho Psychic Friends Network
Hostess, Victoria, Sign Lady, Belinda, Izzabellina,
Callers 1, 2 and 3, Whitney, Nikki, Mitch

Home Shopping Network
Hostess, Breakaway Girl, JoJo Franklin,
3 Sales Models — Sonya, Doris and Emily

Judge Trudy Animal Court/Gift Court
Judge Trudy, Announcer, Peaches the Pooch, Ned
Rechinac, Boy Student, Father, Daughter, Mother

Middle School Jeopardy
Announcer, Host, Students 1, 2 and 3, 2 Security Guards

Baitline TV News Magazine — Part 1
Announcer, Ann Plant, Professor Dr. Wall, Rebecca
Brinsley Strange, Daphne Destroyer, TV Honcho,
Henderson, 4 Macho Guys — Butch, Jocko, Buster and Dirk,
Sponsor 1 — a rep from Porter's Trash Compactors, Sponsor
2 — a rep from Punky Bunny Co.
Rage!
Emcee, Thor the Goth, Valerie Manson, Ragina Rotten

Morning Deficit Disorder
Pat, Pat's Mom, Aaron

Trendy Troopers (Power Rangers of Fashion)
Announcer, Bobbi, Marge, Cyndy, Pink, Baby Blue,
Spring Green, Muted Rose, Metaloid

Forgive Me or Get Over It!
Jeb, Mommy Dearest, Belinda, Terri, Charlene, Sandra,
Nick, Gretchen, Kenny, Babe 1, Babe 2

Baitline TV News Magazine — Part 2
Stone Fillup, Rebecca Brinsley Strange, Clyde, Monica

Lawson's Geek
Announcer, Jasmine, Patsy, Candy, Ginger, Zoey,
Sheriff Huckleberry, Lawson, Schmidlap

Mid-Life Crisis My Size Barbie
Salesperson, Workplace Barbie, Stay At Home Barbie

Close Encounters of the Hallway Kind
Announcer, Matt, Jennie, Laurel, Dave
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ACT ONE

First Day of School Nightmare

(Lights come up on a bedroom. RACHEL, a soon-to-be middle [or high] school student sits bolt upright in bed.)

RACHEL: Ahhhh! (In a panic) So there I am. I'm starting sixth grade. It's my first day in middle school and this eighth grader tells me I have to buy an elevator pass or I won't get to my classes on the second floor. I refuse. Then I get my schedule. All of my classes are on the second floor. I can't find the guy anywhere so I can buy an elevator pass. I search. I want to call home for help. But students can only use the pay phones. All the pay phones are broken. I want to sit and think, but no one's allowed to sit on the new benches. I start to cut through the gym, but no one is allowed to enter the new gym floor! I want something to drink, but the sodas machines are off limits! I want to get out of there, but the hallways have new tile and we're not allowed to walk on the new tile! I try to escape through the inner courtyard, but no one is allowed in there. Is that to protect us from falling into the little pond? There are picnic tables in there, but no one's allowed to eat on them! I am trapped. There's no where to go! (Pulls blanket over head.) Ahhhh!

RACHEL'S MOM: (Comes running in, comforts her child.) Honey, honey, are you all right?

RACHEL: I just had the worst nightmare!... My first day at middle school!

RACHEL'S MOM: Oh, thank God none of that's true and it's only a dream.

RACHEL: What if I get there and find out it's all true ... what would you say then? (The entire cast comes running on stage and shouts to the audience.)

EVERYONE: Live from (your school or theater group name here) it's Saturday night! (Lights black out. Music sting.)

Algebra

(Really weird music starts, then plays under as the floor spot opens on AARON, a student in hip attire. He holds an inflated balloon. Behind him stand three STUDENTS as well as a GRANDFATHER, a GRANDMOTHER, a SISTER, a BROTHER, a MOM and a DAD.)
EMILY: Try our birthday selection, complete with a helium tank and balloons, a small card selection, pre-recorded birthday tunes, a dozen goodie bags and cupcakes for twelve! Specify item two seven nine five B.

JOE: Thank you, Emily. We know you've already purchased all the fashionable inflatable furniture you could possibly want or ever use. So now ... Shoetique is premiering the ultimate in inflatable: Inflate-a-shoe! ... Simply slip on the shoe, attach the pump to the heel and go for it! You can adjust Inflate-a-shoe to make your feet any height you need to be for any situation. Think about it.

HOSTESS: Thank you, Joe! Oh, what a wonderful world we live in today! (Lights off, out, Music sting.)

Judge Trudy Animal Court/Gift Court

ANNOUNCER: The Court Call Network is pleased to announce a new Sunday evening separation sensation ... a double trouble courtroom feature ... two exciting new courtroom shows. First there's "Animal Court", starring the wonderfully charming Judge Trudy! (Musical fanfare, cheer ...) Let's watch as she handles the case of Peaches the Dog versus her owner Ned Recnac. (Lights come up on courtroom. A large sign "Animal Court" pasted to the front of Judge Trudy's bench.)

TRUDY: Is the dog represented by counsel?

DOG: I can speak for myself, your honor.

TRUDY: Very well, poochie, speak.

DOG: My master, he ...

TRUDY: Hold it right there! This is the new millennium and we're all equal. There are no masters. You refer to him as your "housemate" none of this master stuff, understand?

DOG: I could get used to that.

TRUDY: Don't get too used to it, buster, until I hear your side of the tale.

DOG: He's a smoker and ...

TRUDY: Second hand smoke! Go no further. OK, nicotine Ned, you a smoker?

NED: Your honor, you see ...
and listen more attentively when I want to talk things over.

EMCEE: So it's true! Your rage stems from nobody listening to you!

VALERIE: Well, sort of. But you know what would be nice? If we
could have a regular monthly meeting. Maybe sit down with the
principal and some teachers and discuss things. Things like,
well, some changes to the seating rules in the cafeteria.

EMCEE: So it is the oppression, the restrictions, the rules the
reputations that have you feeling trapped and totally at the
will of older generations.

LILLY: Well, if you analyze the situation, adults are wiser in many
ways because they’ve had more experiences. It's just that at
times I wish they would trust us.

EMCEE: Come on! Let’s see it! You’re raging mad! You’re on the verge
of anarchy. Let’s see it! Tell us how you handle the rage inside
you! (The EMCEE has gotten so fired up that he keels over, dead.
The three TEEKEES stand, look down at the dead EMCEE, then speak to
the audience.)

THOR: How do we deal with all that rage inside us?

VALERIE: It’s very simple, man.

LILLY: We drive adults nuts.

THOR: Anyone for burgers?

VALERIE: Burger’s good.

LILLY: Let’s hit the drive-through. (The Exit. Lights black out. Music sting.)

ACT TWO

Morning Deficit Disorder

(A spotlight comes up on a bed where a student is sleeping.)

MOM: (Entering) Time to get up, honey.

STUDENT: Get out of my room! (Pulls covers over her head.)

MOM: I mean it. You’ve got to get out of bed, now.

STUDENT: (Screams from under the covers.) I’m not going to.

MOM: Right now, or you’ll be late for school!

STUDENT: (Peeks from under covers.) Get out of my life! (Pulls covers over
head.)

SPOKESMAN: (Enters and tells audience.) Is this scene all too familiar
at your house? If so, your child, like hundreds of thousands of
others, may be morning impaired. Does your child wake up
grumpy and disrespectful? He or she may be suffering from
STONE: Excuse me, Rebecca ...
MONICA: It will cause his hair to fall out, and make his ...
STONE: Rebecca! Kids!!
REBECCA: What?
MONICA: What?!
CLYDE: What?
STONE: I'm going to have to take that away from you.
CLYDE, MONICA and REBECCA: Why?
STONE: You might hurt someone! Let me have it.
REBECCA: No!
STONE: Gimme the gizmo now. (He snatches the gizmo away from REBECCA.) We can't have you muttering people! (Studies the gizmo. Wait a minute. This is just a garage door opener. You were making that all up. It can't do all the things you said it could, now can it?)
REBECCA: But don't you wish it could?
STONE: I'm with you on that, and that's Baitline for this evening. We stay in touch so you can stay in touch ... because some people (Points to REBECCA and students) are more touched than others.
Good night! (Lights black out. Music starts.)

Lawson's Gee!

ANNOUNCER: Our story continues tonight ... in the backwater of Lawson's Creek on the north shore of south Jersey. As you remember from our previous episodes, it is here that the Lawson family has produced generation after generation of handsome young men of below average intelligence. One by one, each of these young men has left for New York City ... and jobs as successful fashion models. This has deeply impacted the girls of Lawson's Creek. (Spotlight up on two girls, JASMINE and PATSY.)
JASMINE: Where oh where are all those hunky young men that used to crowd the halls of Lawson Middle School?!
PATSY: They've all gone to New York City and become high-paid fashion models. There are no boys left in this town!
JASMINE: Didn't the announcer just explain that?
PATSY: It's important that we repeat it in case someone wasn't listening. (Followspot goes out.)
ANNOUNCER: Thank you for that clarification. The teenage girls of