

Up Front and Center Stage

Written by Andrew Williams
Creative Assistant Rob Johnstone

1.0 ACT 1 - The Past

SOUND: *Fanfare and Voice over introduction: Welcome to the '96 Katie Awards. Please give a big round o applause for your host: Johnny Binkerton.*

ACTION: *Tight Spot appears stage left on curtains. Host enters and during his speech he will walk across the stage towards center. The curtain, which is suspended between two stage hands, will move along with him.*

HOST: Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the nineteen ninety-six "Katie" awards, broadcast live this evening, from our wonderfull Burbank studios in Saskatoon Saskatchewan. We have a wonderfull show lined up, and I'm very please to announce that toughts program is being broadcast live throughout the world.

ACTION: *Light two Geezers in their Juliette*

GEEZER1 : What did he say?

GEEZER2 : *(loudly)* Throughout the entire world

GEEZER1 : The entire world?

GEEZER2 : *)to host)* Even Spain?

HOST: Yes.. of course. In fact I have here some members of the accounting fim of Jones, Knockwurst, and Smith to explain.

NUMBER: *Yakko's World Performers enter stage left. Host moves to podium stage right.*

ACTION: *YAKKO's WORLD*

GEEZER2 : Yup .. that's all of them.

GEEZER1 : Even Spain.

GEEZER2 : (*indicating tree in audience*) What's that big tree down there?

GEEZER1 : *It's the audience plant, ignore it.*

ACTION: *Light on Host at podium stage right. Dim lights on Juliette*

HOST: Well, our first award of the evening is for "Most Outstanding Reporting in a Docu Drama". Our Nominees are: "James Burk" in CONNECTIONS. (pause) I believe we have a clip..

ACTION: *Lights should dim, with a spot appearing the character of JB in the back. As he speaks the podium should be struck.*

JB: The dramatic art, as we know it, started some ten thousand years before the birth of Christ. (*walking forward to front stage left*). Sitting huddled around the fire, alone in the dark, they wonder : "Is there Anybody Out There?"

ACTION: *Blackout, Fog.*

SOUND: *Dance Music*

ACTION: *Bring up Rear RED lights, spilling through fog. Gradually bring up more general stage lighting.*

NUMBER: *Modern DANCE*

ACTION: *JB Enters front stage right, and crosses to stage left. Magic Equipment moves on in background.*

JB: This dancing, of course, was very tiring. The people of the village, after all that's what it was a village, got together and elected a single person to dance for the entire community. This wasn't much fun for the poor chap that was elected to be the dancer. Tiring of this he began experimenting with other means of expressing himself, and soon developed ritualistic dances. To the rest of the ignorant community, this was nothing short of magic. (*exit stage left*)

SOUND: *Sound for Magic Act*

NUMBER:*Chris Pilsworth*

ACTION: *JB Enters Rear Theatre (stage right) and walks down aisle and onto stage. Magic Equipment struck, and Cauldron Bubbles equipment is set.*

JB: The role of the magician, although an honoured position within the community, was short lived. With the advancement ~~so~~ the “new way of thinking” ..called “science”, his days were numbered. Magic soon become a black art, and witches and warlocks entered the picture. One of the best examples of the time, comes from the pen, or should I say quill, of William Shakespeare.

ACTION: *Light Geezers*

GEEZER1 : Oh no.. not bloody MacBeth.

GEEZER2 : Hey.. this is a family show, you can't talk like that.

GEEZER1 : You're absolute right... Oh no.. not the bloody Scottish Play.

ACTION: *Kill light from Geezers*

NUMBER:*As the Cauldron Bubbles.*

ACTION: *JB enters front stage right, Cauldron Bubbles is struck while Napoleon is set.*

JB: It was of course at this time when magic, science, and drama split and each went their own path. Before we can continue this tale, however, we must look into the origins of the theatre of the absurd... and that didn't happen here..

(cross out of spot, to front of napoleon)

ACTION: *Spot up on JB and Napoleon*

JB: ... it happened in France. (*exit stage right*)

NUMBER:*Napoleonic Skit*

(*This skit to end with Napoleon holding a Knife*)

ACTION: *JB Enters rear stage left and takes knife. He will cross to front stage left, and then to front stage right.*

Napoleonic set is struck, and Knife Throwing is Set.

JB: Absurd Theatre it was, for the Emperor Napoleon had decreed that no actor would be taller than himself. What were the actors to do? What would you do? (*pause*). In Vaude, a small town in the south of France, a young actor who had been performing in a poorly written tragedy, was so outraged that he threw his props against the wall of a nearby thrashing yard. His prop, (showing knife) a knife, led the way into a whole new art form..

You all know it,.. it's named after the town.. Vaudeville. (*Hand knife to Paul stage right*).

NUMBER: *Knife Throwing Act*

During the Act a knife will make it's way to the OLD Geezer Julitte, this should be lit at that time.

ACTION: *JB Enters front stage left, walks to center. Knife throwing is struck, and Piano is set stage right.*

JB: Vaudeville lasted forever. Some thought that it would never lose its popularity. They were wrong. Over time Vaudville's place within society has decreased to the point where it is now merely a lounge act. The lounge, now void of activity, became the breeding ground for the lounge lizard, and the piano player. (*last line should be delivered as crossing in front of Rob & Piano*).

NUMBER: *Rob Mitchell's Medley*

ACTION: *JB enters rear stage left.*

JB: Although happy with their success, the lounge acts yearned for more attention. Selling what few possessions they owned, they would pack their bags .. (move to front stage left) ..for New York. It is here in a Dim Dark Theatre, that we come full circle to an extremely off Broadway production..

SOUND: *OZ Music*

ACTION: *Amazonian Actresses Make 1st Appearance*

ACTION: *Podium to be replaced front stage right. JB in tight spot.*

JB: *(moving to stage right) ... entitled "Wall Flowers", that an actor stands alone in the dark wondering... (pause just before podium) "Is there anybody out there?"*

ACTION: *Back to Awards Lighting, and Geezers in Juliette*

HOST: Well.. that clip was a bit long.

GEEZER2 : What did he say?

GEEZER1 : He said the clip was a bit long.

GEEZER2 : Well I don't know about that., but that last clip was a bit long.

HOST: Well the producers are asking me to break for a commercial, so we'll be right back after these messages:

ACTION: *Lights out on podium. Up on front stage left.*

NUMBER:*Season's Ticket Commercial*

ACTION: *House lights Up:*

-Intermission-

2.0 ACT 2 - The Present

SOUND: *Fanfare*

ACTION: *Lights Up to Host at Podium*

HOST: Welcome back to the '96 Katie Awards. For those of you joining us late we're reading the nominees for "Most Outstanding Reporting in a Docu Drama". Our Second nominee is Rebecca Mailstrom for her interview with the prime minister. I believe that we also have a clip of that.

ACTION: *Lights down on stage. Moving follow spots (ala 20th century fox)*

SOUND: *Peter Gunn Music*

ACTION: *During Music- Follow Spot locks on PM who is rear house RIGHT.*

ACTION: *PM Pauses. Pulls out a stick of gum, unwraps it and menacingly flicks the wrapper into the Audience*

NOTE: Front Of House.. Verify wrapper is retrieved after show.

PM will then proceed down the stairs, and will be acosted by a "Fan" who he will thrust back into her seat.

Bring Up Stage Lights. PM will climb stairs stage left.

REBECCA: *Good Evening Mr. Prime Minister and Welcome to 24 Hrs.*

JC: Well.. Rebecca I am always 'appy to come 'ere and talk.

REBECCA: Thank you Sir, and if I might say that is a stunning hat that you are wearing. Is that FOX?

JC: Well, yes it is. But.. it was not my idea. No.. it was my wife Ilean who told me to wear this.

REBECCA: Really?

JC: Oh yeah.. you see tree months ago when I was to go to Calgary.. she says to me "Jean .. wear da big Cowboy 'at". So I wears da big ten gallon 'at.

REBECCA: .. and what happened

JC: Well.. they all loved that 'at.. and my popularity.. she goes up see.

REBECCA: Really?

JC: Oh yes.. then I 'as to go out to Halifax, and my wife .. she says to me "Jean.. wear do yellow slick-er". So I wears da yellow slicker.

REBECCA: and?

JC: Well, once again.. dey all like that, and my popularity.. she goes up again.

REBECCA: Fascinating.. and tonight?

JC: Well.. I says to Ilean, that I 'ave to Kanata for der interview. To a place called da Ron Maslin Playhouse.. and she looks at me and says "Wear da Fox 'at?"

ACTION: *Stage lights down, podium lighting up, Geezer lighting up.*

HOST: Well.. eh.. uhm.. at least it was a short clip.

GEEZER2: What did he say?

GEEZER1: He said it was a "Short CLIP"

GEEZER2: Well I don't know about that.. but it was an awfully short clip.

ACTION: *Geezer lights down*

HOST: Our third nominee for "Most Outstanding Reporting in a Docu Drama" is Christianna Fredericks from Rogers Cable 22 with "West Side Stories". Please watch the monitors.

ACTION: *Lights Down on Podium and up on stage left. CF is sitting at a table/desk reading her note. During her intro two sets of actors will enter, one front stage right, and one mid-stage center.*

CHRIS: ..although the Group was very busy with their upcoming production, "The Importance of Being Earnest" some of the members took the time to have a round table discussion with me.

ACTION: *Lights down on Chris, up on Rember it Well Cast.*

NUMBER: *I Remember it well.*

CHRIS: *Unknown Comments relating to Janet & Susan's "Bit"*

NUMBER: *Janet & Susan Maslin*

ACTION: *Lights down on Janet & Susan, Up on Chris*

Strike Janet & Susan set, and set chair ready for J. Chaffey.

CHRIS: I was also given the opportunity to talk to John Chaffey, the groups Membership director, and proud new parent. When asked about his experiences with the group he had the following comments...

ACTION: *Lights down on CHRIS up on John*

NUMBER: *John Chaffey's "Perspective"*

ACTION: *Lights down on John, up on CHRIS.. Set Mike for Heather Walt and Marg Anthony*

CHRIS: There are of course many diverse talents within the group. Acting is but one of them. Although musicals are not part of Kanata Theatre's regular repertoire, some the the membership can be prompted to provide impromptu performances.

ACTION: *Lights down on CHRIS up on Heather and Marg.*

NUMBER: *Singing*

ACTION: *Lights down on Heather and Marg, up on CHRIS. Set Chair and stand for Titles (Center-Mid Stage)*

CHRIS: One of the most interesting members that I talked to, was Anne Holland, who took the time to read to me a short story that she and her husband, who was unavailable for the interview, had written.

ACTION: *Lights down on CHRIS strike her & table during first few lines of Anne's INTRO. Podium ON.*

NUMBER: *Titles*

ACTION: *Lights up on Podium, down on stage.*

HOST: .. and finally, our fourth nominee for this award is Michael Foster, for his work with James Burk, our first nominee, in "CONNECTION-2 the Sequel". Unfortunately we're running a bit long so we don't have time for his clip. So.. once more our nominees are:

- James Burk
- Rebecca Mailstrom
- Christianna Fredericks and
- Michael Foster.

As I open the envelope I know that each of the participants would agree that being nominated is an honour unto itself, and that whatever name is here, that it is well deserved. The winner is... ~~Michael Foster.~~ *SR*

MFB: (In Audience (loudly)) Oh.. **Bugger!!**

HOST: Unfortunately Michael can not be with us this evening, so perhaps his co-star James Burk would be willing to accept this award on his behalf. (*Step back and applaud*)

NUMBER: *Rowan Atkinson Skit*

ACTION: *Black/Spot on back wall*

SOUND: *Static/Tone - Voice Over: "Technical Difficulties is with the broadcaster, please do not adjust your set."*

-Intermission-