

Watchin' Waldo!



John D. Smitherman

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

Copyright © 2006, John D. Smitherman

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Watchin' Waldo is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, and all of the countries covered by the Universal Copyright Convention and countries with which the United States has bilateral copyright relations including Canada, Mexico, Australia, and all nations of the United Kingdom.

Copying or reproducing all or any part of this book in any manner is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this book may be stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means including mechanical, electronic, photocopying, recording, or videotaping without written permission from the publisher.

A royalty is due for every performance of this play whether admission is charged or not. A "performance" is any presentation in which an audience of any size is admitted.

The name of the author must appear on all programs, printing, and advertising for the play. The program must also contain the following notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Big Dog/Norman Maine Publishing LLC, Rapid City, SD."

All rights including professional, amateur, radio broadcasting, television, motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved by Big Dog/Norman Maine Publishing LLC, www.BigDogPlays.com, to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

**Big Dog Publishing
P.O. Box 1401
Rapid City, SD 57709**

Watchin' Waldo was presented at Jazz Central Theatre, New York, by The Salt City Performing Arts Center: John D. Smitherman, director; Harlow Kisselstein, scenery; Jennifer Fricano, director's assistant; and Carol Christiansen, production stage manager.

MR. BRENDLMEYER: Michael McAfoose

MRS. BRENDLMEYER: Susan Blumer

JOHN DOUGLAS: John D. Smitherman

HEATHER: Jennie Russo

HANNAH: Andrea Przybylski

JESSICA: Sarah Stephens

YONRA: Katie Gibson

Watchin' Waldo

FARCE. After 25 years of wedded “bliss,” Mr. Brendlmeyer has decided to take his wife on a trip to Las Vegas to celebrate their anniversary. John, an eager-to-please employee who has recently been promoted to vice president, suddenly finds himself in charge of Mr. Brendlmeyer’s company, his apartment, and his “dog,” Waldo. John tries to abide by Mr. Brendlmeyer’s rule forbidding parties and strange people in the apartment, but John soon finds his world spiraling into chaos when he meets a know-it-all runaway teenager, a tarot-card-reading yoga instructor, and his new foreign “bride.” Hilarity abounds with rapid-fire one-liners, physical comedy, and a host of kooky characters.

Performance Time: Approximately 90-100 minutes.

Characters

(2 M, 5 F)

JOHN DOUGLAS: Eager-to-please employee who has recently been promoted to vice president; wears a business suit; male.

MR. BRENDLMEYER: John's boss; wears a Hawaiian shirt, tan dress pants, and brown shoes; male.

MRS. BRENDLMEYER: Housewife; wears a smart blouse, skirt, and heels; female.

HEATHER: Earthy, hippie, tarot-card-reading yoga instructor; wears a jean jacket, tie-dyed shirt, jeans, and Birkenstocks; female.

HANNAH: Heather's sister, a know-it-all runaway teenager; wears an old shirt and jeans with clunky boots and carries a small shoulder bag; female.

JESSICA: John's girlfriend; wears a smart business outfit and heels; female.

YONRA: Foreign woman who works at Mr. Brendlmeyer's company and knows very little English; wears a blouse and a long skirt with sandals; female.

Setting

Upscale apartment in South Florida. There are two doors and an archway leading to the bedroom and bathroom. One door is the entrance into the apartment. The other door leads into the kitchen. There is a lovely sofa, loveseat, chair, end table, coffee table, shelf with books, bar, and workout set with weights and a bench.

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1: Brendlmeyers' apartment.

Scene 2: Brendlmeyers' apartment, 20 minutes later.

Intermission

ACT II

Scene 1: Brendlmeyers' apartment, a few minutes later.

Props

Telephone	Bottle of perfume
Suitcases	Small paper bag
Makeup case	Ice pack
Briefcase	Tarot cards
Slip, for Mrs. B	Curtain
Chair	Umbrella
Handbag, for Mrs. B	Umbrella stand
Shaving kit	Houseplants
Water glasses	Small watering pot
Bath towels	Cell phone, for John
Keys	Cell phone, for Jessica
Bowl of plastic fruit	Framed photos
Bottles of alcohol, assorted	Candy bar
Cocktail glasses	Couch pillows
Expensive-looking vase	Pan or tray of brownies
Large men's pants	Large elastic workout band
Large men's shirt	Workout bench
Boxer shorts, for John	Weights, assorted
Books	

Sound Effects

Doorbell	Loud thud
Telephone ringing	Crash
Cell phone ringing	Spraying sound

Suggested Music Cues

Beginning of Act I: "How Much is that Doggie in the Window"

Between Scene 1 and Scene 2: "Sex Bomb" **End of Act I:** "Banana Song"

Beginning of Act II: "Who Let the Dogs Out"

End of Show and bows: Start "Aquarius" at refrain then segue to "Let the Sun Shine"

After Bows: "Impossible Dream"

NOTE: Permission to perform copyrighted material must be obtained from the publisher of that work. Royalties paid to perform this play do not include other copyrighted material such as songs that aren't in the public domain.

"I cannot tell a lie, sir...
it was Waldo."

—John

ACT I

Scene 1

(AT RISE: An upscale South Florida apartment. There are two suitcases and a makeup case next to the door. Mrs. Brendlmeyer is entering off and on, placing different suitcases by the door while Mr. Brendlmeyer is on the telephone.)

MR. B: *(Into phone.)* Whoa. Hold the phone. You tell J.P. that if he doesn't like the GM's idea, he can go to J.D. about the DJ...Yes, the VP. I can't be bothered with these things. While you're at it, make sure L.W. is on the up and up with the SM. I don't want J.R. screaming to the ERA or WRA, if you know what I mean...Good...the foreign girl? No I've got Douglas handling that. Douglas...John Douglas...J.D...Yes, the VP. All right. I better get going before the little lady has a fit. You know women: Ya can't live with 'em, ya can't continue populating the world without 'em. Give my best to W.P., M.J., R.K., and J.W.

(Mr. Brendlmeyer hangs up. Mrs. Brendlmeyer is tending to her plant downstage.)

MRS. B: Was that the man coming to deliver the skirt for my new outfit?

MR. B: Did it sound like I was talking to a skirt deliverer?

MRS. B: I never know what you're talking about: W.P., M.J., J.D. Sometimes I think you're just practicing the alphabet.

(Goes to another plant.) I need that dress before we go.

MR. B: You have thousands of skirts and dresses.

MRS. B: But this one I'm having made specifically for our trip to Vegas. *(Tends another plant.)*

MR. B: What about the dress I got you last week?

MRS. B: Oh, that one's too priceless for me to ever wear.

MR. B: I see...

(Mrs. B heads toward the bedroom carrying a plant.)

MRS. B: *(Indicating plant.)* I think Napoleon, here, would do much better in the bedroom, don't you?

MR. B: Yes, dear. *(Sarcastic. Indicating other plants.)* But don't you think Ladybird and Roosevelt, here, would miss him?

MRS. B: *(Serious.)* Don't be silly. They haven't been talking to each other for days.

(Mrs. B exits into the bedroom. Phone rings. Mr. B. answers.)

MR. B: *(Into phone.)* Hello?...Skirt?...Right...I'll let her know...A-OK. *(Hangs up and heads toward the bedroom.)* The dress people just called. They're not going to be able to deliver the skirt until later.

(Mr. B. exits into the bathroom. Mrs. B. enters from the bedroom.)

MRS. B: What was that? *(Doorbell rings.)* That must be my skirt.

(Mrs. B. goes to the front door and opens it. John is standing in the doorway. He's wearing a business suit and carrying a briefcase.)

JOHN: Mrs. Brendlmeyer, I presume?

MRS. B: Yes. You're just in time. Come in, come in. We need to leave in a minute, so we'll have to make this quick.

(John enters.)

[END OF FREEVIEW]