

THE MISS-OUTS

by Joanne Owens



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The Miss-Outs

by JOANNE OWENS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Four females, five males, Narrator — male or female)

WILLIE WORN-OUT

PEGGY PIG-OUT

SAMMY SHIP-OUT

LUCY LOOK-OUT

DAISY DROP-OUT

BENNY BURNED-OUT

CARRIE COP-OUT

CASEY CAMP-OUT

RANDY REACH-OUT

PRODUCTION NOTES

This skit could be performed on any occasion at which it is appropriate to promote and celebrate the Sunday school. It would be suitable for Christian Education Sunday, a churchwide fellowship supper, a Sunday school workers conference, or a Sunday school teachers appreciation banquet. It could be performed by youth or adults.

STAGING: No special costumes are required. There should be nine chairs arranged in a semicircle on the stage. Randy Reach-Out carries a note pad and pencil. The Narrator stands to the side.

1 **NARRATOR:** Once upon a time in a church very much like
2 this one, there was a young preacher name Randy Reach-
3 Out. Randy Reach-Out worried about all the members of
4 his church who were not involved in Sunday school. He
5 knew that they were missing out on a lot of good Christian
6 teaching, caring, and sharing. So Randy made a list,
7 which he called the Miss-Outs list. On the list were the
8 names of all those people who didn't come to Sunday
9 school. Randy decided to call on some of the people on
10 the Miss-Outs list and invite them to join a Sunday school
11 class. The first person Randy went to see was Willie Worn-
12 Out. (*RANDY REACH-OUT enters Stage Left. WILLIE WORN-*
13 *OUT enters Stage Right. When they meet Centerstage, they shake*
14 *hands.*)

15 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Hello Willie, how are you getting
16 along?

17 **WILLIE WORN-OUT:** I'll tell you preacher, I am really tired.
18 It's been an exhausting week.

19 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Sorry to hear that Willie. I know you
20 need your rest, so I'll only keep you a minute. I stopped
21 by to invite you to join a Sunday school class. We have
22 several good adult classes you could attend, and we'd
23 really love for you to come.

24 **WILLIE WORN-OUT:** Oh no, preacher, I couldn't do that. I
25 work all week, and Sunday is the only day I can rest. I'm
26 completely worn out as it is, and if I had to get up and
27 get dressed on Sunday mornings, I'd never make it. I'm
28 so tired I have trouble sleeping, and I'm bushed all the
29 time. I have to rest on Sunday. I'm worn out. Completely
30 worn out! (*WILLIE WORN-OUT exits. RANDY REACH-OUT*
31 *writes on his note pad as if writing down Willie's excuse.*)

32 **NARRATOR:** The next person Randy Reach-Out talked to
33 was Peggy Pig-Out. (*PEGGY PIG-OUT enters.*)

34 **PEGGY PIG-OUT:** Why hi there, Randy. How have you been?

35 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Great Peggy, and how about you?

1 **PEGGY PIG-OUT:** I'm fine thank you, but busy. I've been
 2 cooking all day. I made two cakes, three casseroles, two
 3 pies, a meatloaf, a congealed salad, and a pot of stew.
 4 You know that family of mine. I just can't fill them up. I
 5 must admit, I love to eat too.

6 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** I've heard you're a very good cook.
 7 The reason I wanted to talk to you, Peggy was to see if I
 8 could interest you in one of our Sunday school classes. I
 9 think you'd really get a lot out of Sunday school. We have
 10 some good teachers, and the literature is well written
 11 and interesting. Why don't you come Sunday and see how
 12 you like it?

13 **PEGGY PIG-OUT:** You're sweet to ask, but I'll tell you why I
 14 never go to Sunday school. You see, we have a big Sunday
 15 dinner at our house every week. It's sort of a tradition
 16 with our family. I can't possibly make it to Sunday school
 17 and get dinner ready. You know there are so many things
 18 to do when you cook a big meal, and I *do* cook a big meal
 19 every Sunday. We usually have two kinds of meat, at least
 20 four vegetables, homemade bread, a salad, and of course,
 21 it wouldn't be a meal if we didn't have a couple of
 22 homemade pies and cakes. I suppose I've spoiled my
 23 family, but they expect me to have dinner ready, and if
 24 I went to Sunday school, I just couldn't get it all done.
 25 No, I'm sorry Randy, but there's no way. (*PEGGY PIG-OUT*
 26 *exits. RANDY REACH-OUT shakes his head and again marks*
 27 *his note pad.*)

28 **NARRATOR:** Randy Reach-Out called on his next prospect,
 29 Sammy Ship-out. (*SAMMY SHIP-OUT enters and shakes*
 30 *RANDY'S hand.*)

31 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Hello Sammy. It's good to see you.

32 **SAMMY SHIP-OUT:** Ahoy there, mate. Haven't seen you in
 33 quite some time.

34 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** It has been a while. That's one of the
 35 reasons I'm here, Sammy. I've been thinking that you and

1 your family could really benefit from our Sunday school,
 2 and you have so much to offer us, too. We want you to
 3 come and be a part of one of our classes.

4 **SAMMY SHIP-OUT:** Well thank you Randy. That's mighty
 5 thoughtful of you. Maybe you didn't realize it, but we're
 6 usually not ever in town on Sundays. We have a sailboat,
 7 and when the weekend comes, we ship out and take it to
 8 the lake. I've got so much money tied up in that boat, I
 9 can't afford not to take the thing out every chance I get.
 10 And then too, the boat takes a lot of upkeep — you know,
 11 painting, repairing, maintenance — all that. It's pretty
 12 time consuming. Of course, you know I'd come to Sunday
 13 school if I were in town on Sundays, but I guess I can't
 14 be two places at one time, can I? (*SAMMY SHIP-OUT exits.*
 15 *RANDY REACH-OUT shrugs and makes a notation on his*
 16 *note pad.*)

17 **NARRATOR:** Randy Reach-Out was beginning to get
 18 discouraged, but he didn't give up. He went immediately
 19 to talk to Lucy Look-Out. (*LUCY LOOK-OUT enters and*
 20 *shakes RANDY'S hand.*)

21 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Lucy, it's always nice to see you.

22 **LUCY LOOK-OUT:** Hello Randy, it's good to see you too. I do
 23 appreciate a visit from my pastor.

24 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Lucy, I've come by today to tell you
 25 how much we'd like to have you in our Sunday school.
 26 We have several classes, and you'd be welcomed in any
 27 of them. Sunday school offers a great opportunity for
 28 Christian fellowship and growth in discipleship.
 29 Wouldn't you like to come?

30 **LUCY LOOK-OUT:** How nice of you to think of me. I really
 31 would love to come to Sunday school, but to tell the truth,
 32 I have a conflict on Sunday mornings. Every Sunday I
 33 absolutely *have* to look at my favorite television preacher,
 34 Wiley Handsome. If I couldn't look at him, I don't
 35 believe I could get through the week. He's such a fine

1 speaker, so smooth, inspiring, and convincing. And he's
 2 really good-looking. So tall. Ah, all that wavy hair, and
 3 those even white teeth. He's wonderful to look at. And
 4 he sings too. Did you know that? He has a voice like an
 5 angel. I *must* look at the Wiley Handsome Show on
 6 Sunday mornings, so I can't possibly make it to Sunday
 7 school. (*LUCY LOOK-OUT exits. RANDY REACH-OUT*
 8 *marks his list in disgust and shakes his head.*)

9 **NARRATOR:** Poor Randy was really having problems with
 10 his congregation. Nevertheless, he kept on. He went to
 11 see Benny Burned-Out. (*BENNY BURNED-OUT enters.*)

12 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Hello, Benny. How are you?

13 **BENNY BURNED-OUT:** All right I suppose. And you?

14 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Great. Benny, I want to invite you to
 15 Sunday school. I'm concerned that you and a number of
 16 other members of our congregation do not attend Sunday
 17 school. I'd like to know if there's any particular reason
 18 you're not a class member.

19 **BENNY BURNED-OUT:** Randy, I'm going to be honest with
 20 you. There is a reason. I was in a Sunday school class
 21 several years ago in another church. To tell you the truth,
 22 that was the most boring hour of the week. We had a dull
 23 lecture that didn't mean a thing to me, and after a while,
 24 I quit going to Sunday school. I was burned out with the
 25 whole thing. I've never wanted to go back to Sunday
 26 school since then. I'm burned out with it. All burned out.
 27 (*BENNY BURNED-OUT exits. RANDY REACH-OUT looks*
 28 *even more discouraged and frustrated.*)

29 **NARRATOR:** Another discouraging contact for Randy
 30 Reach-Out. But Randy kept trying. He called on Carrie
 31 Cop-Out. (*CARRIE COP-OUT enters and greets RANDY*
 32 *REACH-OUT.*)

33 **CARRIE COP-OUT:** Well hello there Reverend Reach-Out.
 34 What a nice surprise.

35 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Hello Carrie. It's good to see you.

1 **Carrie** I'm here because I'm concerned about you, and I
 2 think it would be good for you to be in one of our adult
 3 Sunday school classes. I think you'd enjoy getting to
 4 know the people and studying the interesting topics we
 5 deal with in our Sunday school classes. What about it
 6 Carrie? Won't you come to Sunday school?

7 **CARRIE COP-OUT:** You are absolutely right, Reverend
 8 Reach-Out. I should go to Sunday school, and I would
 9 love to — really I would. I wish I could go. But I'll tell
 10 you — confidentially of course — it's my husband that
 11 keeps me away. You see, he doesn't want to go to Sunday
 12 school. It's all I can do to get him to church. We usually
 13 go out for a nice Sunday brunch and then attend church.
 14 If I went to Sunday school, he might not go to church at
 15 all. I'm sorry, but it's not my fault. (*CARRIE COP-OUT*
 16 *exits. RANDY REACH-OUT marks his list again and shakes*
 17 *his head.*)

18 **NARRATOR:** Randy Reach-Out refused to give up. He
 19 continued to call on people on the Miss-Outs list. He
 20 visited Casey Camp-Out. (*CASEY CAMP-OUT enters and*
 21 *shakes hands with RANDY REACH-OUT.*)

22 **CASEY CAMP-OUT:** Well Randy, old friend, it has been a
 23 long time. Sorry I haven't been around the church in a
 24 while, but you know how it is.

25 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Yes, Casey, we've missed you. I wanted
 26 to talk to you today about that very thing. I've come to
 27 invite you to attend Sunday school. You might be
 28 surprised how much you'd enjoy it once you got started.

29 **CASEY CAMP-OUT:** Well, I'll tell you. I don't believe you have
 30 to be in church to worship God, and I don't think you
 31 have to go to Sunday school to learn about God's world.
 32 I go camping nearly every weekend, and I think God is
 33 out in those woods just as much as he is in Sunday school.
 34 If I decided to, I could kneel down by one of those pine
 35 trees and talk to the Lord every bit as well as I could in

1 church. I'm an outdoors man, myself. That's where I like
 2 to spend my Sundays — communing with nature. No
 3 thank you, Randy. I guess I'm just not the Sunday school
 4 type. (*CASEY CAMP-OUT exits. RANDY REACH-OUT,*
 5 *shoulders stooped in discouragement, shakes his head.*)

6 **NARRATOR:** Almost ready to give up, poor Randy Reach-
 7 Out decides to make one more call. He goes to see Daisy
 8 Drop-Out. (*DAISY DROP-OUT enters and greets RANDY*
 9 *REACH-OUT with a casual hug.*)

10 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** How's it going Daisy? It's always good
 11 to see you.

12 **DAISY DROP-OUT:** Fine. So nice to see you today.

13 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Daisy, you've always been a faithful
 14 church member. You attend the worship service every
 15 week, and you're active in the women's organization. But
 16 I've noticed you never come to Sunday school, and I'd
 17 like to encourage you to join one of our classes.

18 **DAISY DROP-OUT:** Sunday school? Why I've always thought
 19 Sunday school was for children. I grew up in a small
 20 church, and we didn't have Sunday school classes for
 21 adults. I haven't gone to Sunday school since I was a child
 22 because I never felt it was for me. I don't even know what
 23 adults do at Sunday school.

24 **RANDY REACH-OUT:** Let me tell you about Sunday school,
 25 Daisy. Some classes have Bible studies. They really dig
 26 into the scriptures and learn what God's word means for
 27 them today. They have a lot of discussion, and they share
 28 thoughts, experiences, and opinions. Other adult classes
 29 deal with social and ethical issues that people face in
 30 today's world. People in those classes are helped to make
 31 decisions about living the Christian life. From time to
 32 time the groups study church history and doctrine or
 33 other topics that are meaningful to the members.

34 **DAISY DROP-OUT:** Sounds interesting. I suppose I shouldn't
 35 have dropped out of Sunday school when I became an adult.

RANDY REACH-OUT: There are other advantages of being in a Sunday school class. In addition to the fine teaching and learning, there's a lot of sharing of ideas and feelings about Christianity. In a Sunday school class you can find a support group of concerned individuals who will care about you and your needs and problems. They will share your joys and be there with you during tough times.

DAISY DROP-OUT: You make Sunday school sound very attractive. I don't know anything about the various classes, but I promise I'll think about joining a Sunday school class. (*DAISY DROP-OUT and RANDY REACH-OUT exit.*)

NARRATOR: Randy Reach-Out was thrilled that someone on the Miss-Outs list agreed to consider Sunday school. He kept working on the problem. He read about a study that showed that people are more likely to join a new class than one already in existence, so he set about investigating the possibilities of organizing a new Sunday school class. Because he didn't *give out* of hope, he *found out* that there were some people who were interested in a new class, so he asked them to form a committee to *work out* the details. The Work-Out committee organized a class, which they called the Try-It-Out class. Committee members *reached out* to the Miss-Outs and told them they were needed. They convinced the Miss-Outs to *throw out* their excuses and *wipe out* their old habits. With patience, persistence, prayer, and genuine love and concern for those involved, the Work-Out committee succeeded in getting everyone on the Miss-Outs list to come to Sunday school. Randy Reach-Out agreed to teach the class until another teacher could be enlisted. Let's look in on the Try-It-Out class now and see what they have to say about Sunday school now that they've been attending for almost a year. (*Entire cast enters, taking seats on stage.*)



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by Joanne Owens.

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