

ARESNIC AND OLD MACE
(and a bunch of other deadly stuff....)

5 women/4 men

SETTING: *Living room of a hippie commune. Couch, several chairs, lava lamp, coffee table with lots of newspapers on it, small table stage left, tall lamp by chair stage right. Stage left is supposed to be the outside entrance; stage right leads further into the house.*

CAST

CARMA: *Loves animals:* 1st act—biker for a motorcycle calendar (*moustache, helmet*)
2nd act—assembly worker at a Tickle Me Elmo plant (*hippie clothes*)

SKY: *Never sure of herself:* 1st act—sailor running a kiddie boat gig at an amusement park
2nd act—chandelier cleaner (*hippie clothes*)

ORION: *Lazy; tends to nod off occasionally:* 1st act—security guard in a ghost town (*cop-like outfit*)
2nd act—light bulb changer in a home for the blind (*hippie clothes/explosion wig*)

ZIGGY: *Tries hard but everything always goes wrong; accident prone:* 1st act—construction worker (*hard hat, tool belt etc.*)
2nd act—manhole cleaner (*hippie clothes covered in bandages*)

DOOBY: *Dim bulb; has munchies a lot:* 1st act—Indian extra in a B movie (*Headdress, etc.*)
2nd act—insurance salesman (*nerd type business clothes*)

FREEDOM: *Nature girl:* 1st act—Cowboy/girl extra in same movie as Dooby (*cowgirl outfit*)
2nd act—worm farmer (*coveralls, dirty, plastic/gummy worms on her*)

GLITZY STARR: *Total narcissist:* 1st act--Actress (*over dressed as actress type*)
2nd act—Same (*robe and sleep mask; then long cocktail dress*)

MELLOW: *Trying to keep "the family" together:* 1st act—commune matriarch (*hippie clothes*)
2nd act—Comedian (*dressed as Phyllis Diller*)

GODFREY: *only has ONE ARM; acts very dedicated to Glitzy but despises her: Glitzy's gofer, chauffeur/man-servant (business attire including a hat which he keeps on until act 3)*

ACT ONE

Opens with Mellow meditating while chanting "all righty then." Carma enters stage left.

Mellow: "Carma is that you? We really need to talk about your facial hair issue. Didn't I buy you one of those little personal groomer things last year for Christmas?"

Carma: "It's not really my moustache. It was for a job interview. (Mellow looks excited) Oh Mellow....I lost my job after only one day!" (takes off moustache and helmet)

Mellow: "Oh no, Carma.....what happened?"

Carma: "Well, I missed the auditions for the female biker calendar because I stopped to protest the building of another cross your heart bra factory. We didn't need them in the seventies and we don't need them now!"

Mellow: "You haven't looked DOWN lately have you? Anyway, what happened then?"

Carma: "I really wanted that job! So, I still had time to get to the male auditions so I stopped and bought this moustache and got in line. Believe it or not, I was chosen as April's Motorcycle Maniac! But after taking pictures of us almost all day, the glue on my moustache let go and they realized I was a female. They fired me for impersonating a Cyclepath."

(turns to audience) "Get it?? Motorcyle MANIAC and then I said Cyclepath instead of psychopath?"

(If there is laughter...) "Hah! Mellow, you owe me \$5; you didn't think they'd get it."
(OR--If no laughter...) "Uh, Mellow this is really going to be a tough audience!"

Mellow: "We need that income! If we don't all bring in some money, our 40 years together in this commune are history! Remember when we all came together from all over and met each other at Woodstock?"

(Carma & Mellow gaze out and together say) "Woodstock..."

Mellow: "And how groovy it was when we decided to start a commune and we found this property and all worked together to turn this old shed into our home? Now with prices rising on everything, we can't even pay the taxes. We'll lose the house, we'll lose the garden, we'll lose the chickens...."*(suddenly breaks into chanting again while throwing a newspaper at Carma)* "Find another JOB!" *(Carma sits and starts looking thru paper).*

Orion enters stage left

Orion: “Well, they don’t know a good employee when they see one! I lost my job after only seven hours!”

Mellow: “Orion, what did they have you doing? I mean, no offense, but you are so lazy that when you said you got a job I assumed it was doing some sleep study at the clinic. But you look like the fuzz. Shame on you....after all we went through back in the day.....”

Orion: “I look better from the front than I do from the back. The guy before me was an extra extra, extra, extra large. *(turns around and all the extra material is held together with big chip clips)* You know I’d **never** work as a cop! I was hired as a security guard in an old ghost town that used to be a big tourist attraction. Some rich dude bought it and wants to build a cactus juice winery or something. Anyway, nobody goes there anymore so I thought it would be perfect for me. Take a nap, eat lunch, take another nap, have a little snack, another little nap. Little did I know what terrible danger I was walking into!”

Mellow and Carma: “What??”

Orion: “Well, first, there’s the buzzards. You gotta move pretty fast to stay ahead of them. I tried napping but woke up with a whole herd creeping in towards me. The company didn’t give me any weapons so I nailed one with my walkie talkie, got another with my banana, knocked another one out with that homemade bread of yours... *(looks at Mellow)*..I won’t ever complain about it being CHEWY again....and scared the rest of them back by singing an old John Denver song really loud *(singing chorus of Thank God I’m a Country Boy with the other two chiming in)*. Anyway, then there were weird noises coming from the buildings. I started hearing moans and screams and gun shots. And I thought I saw Wild West type ghosts out of the corner of my eye and”

Mellow interrupts: “I TOLD you not to pack any of Carma’s brownies in your lunch!”

Orion: “I never even GOT lunch! Some prairie dogs grabbed what was left in the bag and ran off with it. Rotten little thieves. I hope they choke on my vegieburger jerky! Anyway....then this dust storm came up and you know how weak my sinuses are so I got all stuffed up and went to look in an outhouse for something to blow my nose on and I got trapped! The door swung shut behind me and there I was, hours later, when the boss came to find out why I wasn’t answering my walkie talkie. He wasn’t sympathetic at all when I told him a buzzard had it in his possession now. He muttered something about knowing better than hiring an over the hill hippie. If I still didn’t believe in love not war, man, I would’ve been all over him. So I ended up resigning right after he fired me. *(looks at Mellow as she holds out a newspaper)* I know. I know.....we’ll lose the house and the garden.....”

Carma: "And the chickens." (*Orion sits and begins looking through the paper*) "Without the chickens we can't have chicken pot pie and fried chicken and chicken gumbo and chicken with rice and chick on a stick and...(*fades out as Sky enters*)"

Sky enters stage left

Sky: "Well, I think I hit a new employment record....I lasted six hours running the little kiddie boat ride at the carnival."

Mellow: "And then what happened, Sky.....?"

Sky: "I was really trying hard to be the perfect employee. You know, telling each kid to keep their arms and legs inside the vessel at all times and not to stand up or they could fall overboard into the briny deep....."

Orion: (*motioning her to get on with the story*) "Blah, blah, blah....."

Sky: "Well, I found myself watching the little boats go around and around and around...."

Carma: (*following her circles*) "I'm feeling dizzy."

Sky: "Exactly!"

Mellow: "Exactly WHAT?"

Sky: "I got dizzy. That wasn't so bad but then I sort of staggered and fell against the little handle that affects the speed. At least I THINK it affected the speed. It sure didn't slow anything down, that's for sure. At least I THINK that's for sure. Don't I?"

Orion: "I sense problem coming up here."

Sky: "It wasn't' so much of a problem until the lever hit the red zone.....and then went past the red zone....."

All: "Oh oh."

Sky: "Thankfully, most of the kiddies flew out and landed among stuffed animals in the carnival booths. One lucky little fella even won a life size poodle for popping 10 balloons at one time!"

All: "Oh oh."

Sky: "Yea. I got canned. You wouldn't believe how CONVINCINGLY those kids were crying. They had the boss all riled up. And the parents.....oh, my gosh. A bunch of sue happy radicals! At least I THINK they were radicals. But then how would I know if they were radicals? I mean, what exactly does a radical look like? And what if they were radicals in DISGUISE? Then what? Then what would I think?"

Mellow (*stopping her and interrupting*): "So now you are going to what?"

Sky: (*taking a paper off the table and sighing*) "I know.....the chickens."

Carma: "Without the chickens we would have to do without chicken stew and chicken omelets and chicken fricassee and chicken...."

Ziggy enters stage left with a newspaper under his arm

Mellow: "Ziggy, you're already looking for a new job?"

Ziggy: (*looking down at the paper*) "No. When I left this morning we were out of toilet paper. But, now that you mention it, I sort of got laid off today."

Mellow: "Laid off after only one day?"

Ziggy: "Alright, alright.....FIRE. And it wasn't all day. It was only five hours. But it wasn't my fault!"

All (*in resigned tone*): "What happened?"

Ziggy: "Well, they knew I didn't have much experience so they put me with a guy doing a luxury bathroom in a mansion. It was basically bring me this, bring me that. I was doing ok until lunch time."

Sky: "What happened at lunch?"

Ziggy: "More like what happened TO ME at lunch. I ate some leftovers and some really dark coffee from our frig and had to run and shut myself in the bathroom we had been working on. How long has that stuff been in there anyway?"

Mellow: "What looked like really dark coffee was probably my basket weaving dye!"

Carma: "And I hope you didn't eat what was in the aluminum foil! That was a fermenting yeast batter mixed with tofu that I was going to make muffins out of to go with some chicken gravy or chicken dumplings or chicken cacciatore or...."

Ziggy: “Well, your fermenting yeast batter is now fermenting in the city sewer system. I was just happy to get it out of MY system! Anyway, when I went rushing in and dropped my drawers, I forgot how heavy this stupid tool belt is. It slammed on the tile and cracked a circle all around the toilet. Before you know it, the commode AND I went from the fifth floor bathroom down to the fourth floor bathroom! When I pulled my pants back up, the belt came loose and plopped down on the toilet seat and broke that. I’m not even sure how the valve got damaged, but water started spraying out of several places. By the time I got the belt off and swam to safety, I couldn’t get the bathroom door open. The foreman took it off from the other side and the whole fourth floor flooded. Oh, and it sort of went down the staircase for a few more floors too. That’s when he laid me off. *(glare from Mellow)* Fired me.”

Mellow: “Everyone.....deep, cleansing breath.....” *(begins chanting with others)*

Freedom enters stage left

Freedom: “Oh man, so not groovy. I got canned after only 4 hours on the set. This job seemed like a piece of cake. Mill around with the other cowboys and cowgirls and scream and run when the bad man rides into town shooting. How could I possibly mess that up?”

Orion: “Well now, Freedom, how did you manage to mess it up?”

Freedom: “Well I was GREAT at milling. TERRIFIC at screaming. It was the running part that got me. I thought all those piles of horse poo in the street were fake. They weren’t. I stepped on one, slid about ten feet and bumped into the hero. This threw him off balance; he landed in one and got his nice white cowboy outfit dirty. All the commotion scared the horse the bad guy was riding and it dumped him in a horse trough. And through the whole thing all the other extras couldn’t help laughing. The whole scene was wrecked.....the hero stomped off to his trailer and the bad guy sprained his back getting out of the trough and will be off for two weeks. I’m off PERMANENTLY!”

Ziggy: “Have a paper.”

Freedom: “No thanks. I don’t have to go.”

Ziggy: “Save the commune; get a job.”

Dooby enters stage left

Dooby: “Three hours into shooting the movie that could’ve been my big break I find out they stopped filming for the day because some IDIOT hurt the villain, ruined the hero’s outfit, and has the humane society yelling about scaring horses. If that wasn’t bad enough, they decided if it was delayed anyway they might as well wait for the REAL Indians to come back from their casino rally. So they let all of us extras go. If we ever find out who ruined this gig..... (*Freedom is hastily throwing a blanket over all her cowgirl attire to hide it.*) I KNEW I was going to lose this job. I KNEW IT, I KNEW IT, I KNEW IT!!!”

Freedom: “You’re prophetic.”

Dooby: “No, YOU’RE prophetic!”

Mellow: “She means you knew you were going to lose your job.”

Dooby: “Well just because I don’t have a job she doesn’t have to say I’m a loser!”

Freedom: “I didn’t say you were a loser, I said you were prophetic.”

Dooby (*turning to Mellow*): “SEE...she did it again!”

Mellow: “Dooby.....PRO-FE-TIC. Not... PA-THE-T IC.”

Dooby (*light bulb goes on*): “Ohhhhhh. So, anyway, what’s happen’in people?”

Mellow: “We gotta pay the taxes, Dooby (*hands him a paper*). We need seed for the garden, Dooby (*hands a paper*). Chickens need feed, Dooby (*hands a paper*). AND we’re out of toilet paper (*another paper!*)”

Dooby: (*Opens one she handed him. It has flower cut outs all over the page. He rotates it slowly while looking through the holes.*) “Man...I think I picked the wrong day to stop drinking my homemade stress relieving milkshakes. I’m seeing posies...”

Carma: “You’re not hallucinating, Dooby. I made a flower arrangement to cheer us all up! Well, you never share your milkshakes, we’re all out of Mellow’s homemade wine, and Orion took the last of my brownies and gave them to a gopher and, and (*looks around and starts crying*).”

Sky: “Don’t worry. We’ll get thru this just like we got thru all the rest. The wars.....where were we?”

All: “Together!”

Sky: "The natural disasters.....where were we?"

All: "Together!"

Sky: "The stock market crashes.....where were we?"

All: "Together!"

Sky: "The fashion crazes.....where were we?"

All: "Together!"

Sky: "The woes of today.....where were we?"

All: *(talk at the same time with something from their getting fired experience)*

Sky: "My POINT is that we've been together a long time and we WILL find a way to get through this. Won't we? I think we will. At least I THINK I THINK we will." *(stands stage left)*

Dooby: "In a couple of years we'll all be able to retire!" *(stands stage right)*

Carma: "Senior citizens get all kinds of breaks!" *(stands to his right)*

Orion: "It won't be so bad getting older with all those perks!" *(stands to her right)*

Ziggy: "We can kick back and relax!" *(stands next in line to Sky's left)*

Freedom: "Then it will be time for....." *(stands to Sky's right)* *Music for "YMCA" starts with the line of six singing:*

 "Old folks, if you wanna save dough
 Old folks, here's a secret I know
 Old age is when you luck out
 You can sign up for big discounts

(Mellow gets up and joins the group at the end of the line)

 Old folks, you can get cheaper drugs
 Old folks, colored roots and hair plugs
 Senior coffee and meals
 Everywhere you go there's another deal

AARP AARP (*with arm movements*)
For movies and drinks
Don't care what they think
Just show 'em your card
Be old and be proud

AARP AARP (*with arm movements*)
You can live on the cheap
No price is too steep
Just show 'em your card
Be old and be proud

Old folks, if you want cheaper wills
Old folks, senior coffee refills

Mellow: (*interrupting their song*) "Wait a minute.....wait a minute! Discounts are great but what about INCOME?? None of us ever worked long enough to get social security. After Woodstock

All (*look happily off into the distance*): "Woodstock"

Mellow: "We only pattered around here growing things....

All (*look into distance*): "Things"

Mellow: "Listening to music..."

All (*look into distance singing "Age of Aquarius"*)

Mellow: "And tending the chickens..."

Carma : "Ahhh, chickens."

Mellow: "We can't retire from jobs we never had! We can't sit back and relax. We need to figure out how to bring in some money!!"

Everyone goes back to looking at their paper.

Orion: "Umm, just casually glancing at the ads nearest the want ads and I happened to notice a "room for rent" ad with OUR address on it. Does anyone care to explain that? I would hate to think that our tight-knit little family has someone in it that wants to bail out just when the going gets tough!" (*looking around accusingly*)

Mellow: "Don't flip out. That was my way of bringing in a little cash. We've got that extra bedroom we used to keep the goats in. There's no reason we can't rent it out to some nice person that needs a place to stay. In fact, I already got a response and she should be here anytime now."

(Pre-recorded sound of chickens squawking and Glitzy can be heard off stage saying)

Glitzy: "These blasted things.....they're EVERYWHERE. Get AWAY from me you mangy bird or I'll kick the feathers right off your skinny little head! Godfrey.....lay down your coat so I don't step in something! And ring the doorbell if this dump even has one!" *(sound of rusty doorbell)*

Mellow: "That must be her now! Be cool everyone.....this could be a good thing. *(goes to door and lets Glitzy and Godfrey in)* Hello. Welcome to our pad. *(holding out her hand.)*

Glitzy *(looks Mellow up and down disdainfully)*: "My, my. You have more chins than a Chinese phone book. Shake hands with her for me Godfrey *(glides away further into the room)*. THIS is what you advertised as the "Flower Power Palace? What's that awful SMELL? *(sniffs Sky who is nearest)*. It might be YOU.....have you been out to sea a LONG time? Cleaning fish?

Freedom *(steps forward to introduce herself)*

Glitzy: "Oh PLEASE, I hope you haven't been wearing that outfit out in public. There should be laws against things like that."

Ziggy *(goes toward her with a wink to introduce himself)*

Glitzy: "I feel it's safe to assume, based on the appearance of this dump, that you don't REALLY know how to use any of those *(indicates tool belt.)*"

Carma *(steps forward and Glitzy studies her face)*

Glitzy: "Are those treading marks on your face or were you born that way? *(She goes near Orion)*. Well, here we obviously have one of those macho wannabees. I suppose you carry some of those little plastic hand cuffs *(pushes him aside and looks Dooby up and down)*. The only thing I MIGHT like about you is that I could borrow some of this *(uses finger to wipe some red face paint off him)* if I run out of lipstick. *(turns back to Mellow)* You're very, shall I say, COLORFUL. Godfrey, give me my sunglasses. I suppose you're the leader of this band of misfits?"

Mellow: "We prefer to think of ourselves as a family. And, yes, I'm...."

Glitzy: "I REALLY don't care, dear. Godfrey will give you the rent money. We'll be here indefinitely."

Mellow: "There's only one room....."

Glitzy: "Godfrey will be sleeping in the car."

Godfrey: "But madam, the back seat is full of your shoes."

Glitzy: "It has a large trunk!"

Godfrey: "But madam, it's cold out."

Glitzy: "Are you SNIVILING?? Are you? You know I HATE sniveling. You're lucky to have a home. Without me where would you be?"

Godfrey: "Yes madam, thank you madam."

Glitzy: "I'll need quiet in the morning because I sleep in. I'll need quiet in the afternoon because I'll be rehearsing. I'll need quiet in the evening because I'll be reading scripts."

Carma (*in awe*): "You're an actress?"

Glitzy: "Of course I'm an actress you little twit! Who else rehearses and reads scripts? I'm famous. Very, very famous. Everyone wants to be me don't they Godfrey?"

Godfrey: "Yes, madam, of course madam (*while shaking his head no*). You're a legend in your own mind. I mean, a legend in your time."

Glitzy: "I've played many, many rolls in many, many movies for many, many audiences for many, many years."

Sky: "What have you been in?"

Glitzy: "Godfrey.....the list please."

Godfrey (*pulls out a long list that drags on the floor then mutters*) "Oh no, that's your cosmetic shopping list" (*then takes a tiny piece of paper out*). "She played a leading role in Star Wars (*screen shows Jabba the Hut or one of the monsters in the bar scene*). She had major part in the Wizard of Oz (*screen shows legs sticking out from under the house*). Of course, she held a stupendous role in ET (*screen shows person in bio suit*). She is up for a final audition of the remake of the Titanic (*screen shows female body floating face down in the water*)."

Orion: "If you're used to Hollywood, you really don't want to be here.....out in the boonies."
(ALL look hopeful)

Glitzy: "Well, actually I'm between scripts right now and need time to revitalize and get away from the paparazzi." *(ALL look disappointed)*

Godfrey holds up sign that says IRS

Ziggy: "But if you're used to a finer lifestyle, you really should rent someplace more suitable." *(ALL look hopeful)*

Glitzy: "Well, actually finances are a bit tight right now. *(ALL look disappointed)* I'm having trouble with my agent and royalty payments and such."

Godfrey holds up sign saying Debt Collectors

Glitzy: "This will be fine with a few changes. I'm allergic to polyester, dust, mold and poverty. Godfrey....."

Godfrey pulls out a can of air freshener and sprays it. A silk throw and puts it on a chair. Martini glass etc. etc.

Glitzy: " Oh, and that LIVESTOCK outside will have to go."

All: "Livestock?"

Glitzy: "Those beasts."

All: "Beasts?"

Glitzy: "Those savage things with talons and feathers!"

All: "You mean the CHICKENS?"

Glitzy: "Whatever they're called. They smell, and leave doo doo all over the place. Why just LOOK at Godfrey's jacket. It will take him hours to get that off. That is, AFTER he cleans and polishes the bottoms of MY shoes. I may have stepped in some. Anyway, I feel my very well-being is endangered by their presence!"

Carma: "We can't get rid of the chickens.....they're.....they're like FAMILY. We feed them and they feed us. Like chicken stir fry and chicken pizza and chicken lasagna and chicken salad and..."

Glitzy: “Well, obviously your family comes from the lower end of the gene pool!”

Dooby: “Pool? I didn’t know we had a swimming pool.....”

Ziggy: “We don’t. Remember all those protests in the 60’s; she was one of those types of people on the OTHER side.”

Dooby: “Other side of what?”

Sky: “Pick one. Any one. The other side of the bulldozer when we were saving the trees. The other side of the barricade when we were burning the Army Wants You signs. There were lots more. Weren’t there? There must have been. I have vague memories of them. Don’t I?”

Carma: “Well, anyway...I’ll keep the chickens in my room.”

Orion: “You don’t have room! You already have (*sings it like the 12 Days of Christmas*) 4 squawking birds, 3 French hedgehogs, 2 snapping turtles, and a possum in a wire cage in your room.”

Freedom: “They’re God’s creatures! You can’t confine them. They need to be free and roam the earth. “

Glitzy: “Well then, I definitely demand \$25. taken off my rent each month because I will have to have Godfrey clean the sidewalk and make sure it is vacant every time I need to go out.” (*Godfrey starts to protest but is stopped by a look by Glitzy*)

Mellow: “Let me show you your room. You may want to change your mind.”
(*ALL look hopeful*)

Glitzy: “No need. I’ll simply change with one of you if I like your room better. (*ALL look disappointed*) Godfrey, fetch. (*he bows and goes out the door*) It was unfortunate to meet all of you. Please remember to be quiet. All this (*indicates her surroundings and them*) has given me a headache and I need to lay down for awhile. I assume dinner is around nine?”

Dooby: “We usually eat around five or six.....”

Glitzy: “Well then, that obviously will have to change won’t it? Oh, and I do have some dietary restrictions you will have to keep in mind. Only Russian beluga caviar is suitable. Please don’t annoy me by trying to serve any chocolate that is less than 97% cocoa. Seafood and fish must have been caught within 2 hours of serving. Martinis should be shaken, not stirred. Well, ta ta for now.” (*small wave and exits toward bedrooms*)

Freedom: “She has higher expectations than my mother. What a downer thinking of life with HER around. *(Sees everyone looking at her)* Glitzy. Not my mother!” *(ALL agree)*

Dooby: “Man, I think I picked the wrong day to stop eating my homemade harmony granola. I’m bummed about poor Godfrey sleeping in the trunk. It doesn’t show love and harmony.”

Ziggy: “We could clean out the old shed for him to stay in.”

Orion: “We can’t have our pot *(glances at audience)* I mean potS out in the cold!”

Sky: “There’s room in there for him too if we rearrange.”

Carma: “And the grow lights make it nice and toasty!

Orion nudges her and nods toward the audience

Carma: “I mean the LOW lights make it nice and uh ...roasty.”

Mellow: “Well, at least we have some money coming in.”

Freedom: “If we get really good jobs, can we get rid of her?”

Dooby: “Yah man, I’m like freaking out thinking of living with her.”

Ziggy: “I haven’t seen anyone that critical since Rush Limbaugh.”

Orion: “She’s as toxic as Chernobyl.”

Sky: “She’s as kind hearted as Jack the Ripper. It was Jack the Ripper wasn’t it? Or was it Jack and the Beanstalk...no, that was a fairy tale. Or was it a tall tale? Or was it a tell all...”

Carma: “Talk about a downer....our peace and bliss are gone with her around!”.

Mellow starts chanting again.

ALL: join in with Mellow as she hands each one a paper and they exit looking at it.

Mellow *(the last on stage)*: “Well, THIS job looks like I can handle it. All I need to do is make a few changes! All righty then.” *(exits looking confident)*

End of ACT ONE