

NOTES

Sunflower Street: Episode 4 "Erma and Molly Get a Date" is a clever satire, which uses tongue-in-cheek humor to spoof one of the most iconic children's shows of all time. This play should be performed by a female and may be entered in Humorous Interpretation. Only two characters comprise each scene; therefore, two females may choose to perform this selection and enter it in Duo Interpretation or Duet Acting. All of the characters found within this play are puppets, thereby, creating many challenges for the performer(s). The physical and vocal aspects present several major challenges. To what degree should the performer(s) choose to insinuate the physical constraints of portraying multiple puppets? The vocal challenges, however, present a golden opportunity for the performer(s) with unlimited vocal dynamics. Puppets rarely sound entirely human. In fact, sometimes the inflections of puppets almost sound cartoonish. This explosive comedy should provide ample opportunities for creative blocking. *Author's note:* While, at times, the play may appear to be filled with slightly suggestive innuendos, the true subtext of all lines presented is as innocent as those found on the iconic television series it satirizes. This selection is a tour-de-force for the talented performer(s) looking for the ultimate all-girl comedy!

Characters:

PBS Voice
Spanish Voice
Erma (A puppet)
Molly (A puppet)
Chicken
Tina the Toad
Baby Bunny
The Letter O

Scene One: PBS Program Introduction

PBS Voice: The following children's program, *Sunflower Street: Episode 4*...

Spanish Voice: *Episodio cuatro de la calle de los girasoles.*

PBS Voice: ...is brought to you by PBS, the Puppet Broadcasting Service and viewers like you.

Spanish Voice: *Las personas ricas con el dinero a la basura.*

PBS Voice: *Sunflower Street* is filmed before a live studio audience.

Spanish Voice: *Este programa de televisión no bueno.*

Scene Two: Erma and Molly's Apartment

Erma: (*Entering*) Hi, Molly. I'm back.

Molly: Oh, Erma! I'm so happy you're home.

Erma: It was such a sunny day, chasing the clouds away, so I decided to go to Mr. Hooper's Store.

Molly: Did you buy me a present?

Erma: Of course I did, Molly! I was teasing you! Green jelly beans!

Molly: Green is my favorite color.

Erma: Green is the color of money, and money is the most important thing you can have.

Molly: Green! G-R-E-E-N! Green! (*Starts eating jelly beans*) Yum, yum, yum, yum! So you bought the green jelly beans at Mr. Hooper's Store?

Erma: Yes, Mr. Hooper's Store on Sesame Street.

Molly: I hope you told Mr. Hooper that I said, "Hello."

Erma: Mr. Hooper wasn't there, Molly. Mr. Hooper is dead.

Molly: Why is he dead?

Erma: Mr. Hooper was a human, and all humans die.

Molly: We are puppets. Do puppets die, Erma?

Erma: No, puppets don't die, only humans.

Molly: That is sad, Erma. I do not like to be sad.

Erma: Nobody does Molly. But do you know what will make you not so sad?

Molly: What, Erma?

Erma: Mr. Hooper was buried in the ground, and I bet now HE is green!

Molly: I'm going to remember Mr. Hooper just like that.

Both: (*Spelling*) G-R-E-E-N! (*They giggle*)

Molly: Spelling is fun!

Erma: Look on the television, Molly! There is "Breaking News on Sunflower Street"!

Scene Three: A Sunflower Street T.V. News Update

Tina: Tina the Toad here with Chicken.

Chicken: Boo-kok!

Tina: Ribbit...With some breaking news on Sunflower Street. The Sunflower Street Disfigured and Discarded Puppet Home is hosting a Sadie Hawkins Dance tomorrow night. A Sadie Hawkins Dance is a dance where girls invite the boys to go with them.

Chicken: Boo-kok!

Tina: Ribbit...It's a way for girls to feel appreciated and empowered for one, single day a year.

Chicken: Boo-kok!

Tina: Ribbit...And in other news, Sesame Trash Department is being investigated for the mutilation of a monster puppet described as grouchy

and green. (*Spelling*) G-R-E-E-N. The monster was accidentally dumped from a trash can into one of their trash compacting trucks and crushed. The Sesame Trash Department is denying all responsibility asking, "Why was the crazy monster living in a trash can in the first place?"

Chicken: Boo-kok!

Tina: Ribbit.

Scene Four: Erma and Molly's Apartment

Erma: Did you hear that, Molly?

Molly: Yes. The grouchy monster was living in a trash can, and he was green! G-R-E-E-N!

Erma: Not that silly! Didn't you hear? There's going to be a dance where the girls ask the boys to go!

Molly: Boys! Do you know what boys make me think of? A word that starts with the letter "D"!

Erma: Does the word have four letters?

Molly: Of course, you know it does!

Both: Date!

Erma: And I know just which boy I'm going to ask!

Molly: Who?

Erma: I'll give you a hint. He has one, big, black eyebrow!

Molly: Bert! Bert that lives at 123 Sesame!

Erma: Yep! And you can ask his roommate, Ernie!

Molly: That's perfect! They are best friends like us!

Erma: That's right. They live together like us! They even take bubble baths together.

Molly: Not like us. But that's okay. That just means they are super, super best friends!

Erma: They've lived together for over 30 years! Of course they are!

Molly: They will be fun dates. They are always so gay and happy!

Erma: We should go ask them to the dance before some other girls do.

Molly: Great idea! But, we live on Sunflower Street. Can you tell me how you get—how you get to Sesame Street?

Erma: It's in the hood, Molly. We just need to go where all the poor people are! It's that easy!

Molly: All the other girls will be *green* with envy. Get it, green...G-R-E-E-N!

Erma: Molly, you know what they say...It's not easy being green. Just ask the dead Mr. Hooper! (*They both laugh hysterically.*)

Scene Five: A Sunflower Street T.V. News Update

Tina: Tina the Toad here with Chicken.

Chicken: Boo-kok!

Tina: Ribbit...With some breaking news brought to you by the color