

For our March task James challenged us all to write a sketch. As usual our creations were all very different but we thoroughly enjoyed being transported back in time to the 'Morecambe and Wise' and 'Two Ronnie's era' with Carole's two short plays.

SKETCH

Man in a hurry goes in café/restaurant and sits down. Waiter approaches...

Waiter Yes sir?

Man Just a black coffee thanks.

Waiter (scribbling on pad) thank you sir, one black coffee and a tea-cake.

Man No, just a black coffee.

Waiter Yes sir, black coffee and a tea-cake.

Man I don't want a tea-cake.

Waiter The coffee comes with a tea-cake sir. Company policy sir.

Man (*sighs*) Whatever, just bring the coffee.

Waiter Yes sir, will that be a brown tea-cake or a white tea-cake sir?

Man (*loudly*) I don't care.

Waiter Please don't raise your voice sir.

Man (*desperately*) I just want a coffee.

Waiter Yes sir, now please follow me. (*Waiter walks over to restaurant area*).

Man What? (*jumps up to continue conversation with waiter and so follows him*).

Waiter (*at entrance of restaurant area turns to man to explain*).

Food only to be eaten in restaurant area sir, Company policy sir.

Man (*puzzled*). Food? What food?

Waiter Oh sir, you forget the tea-cake.

Man Yes, that's right forget the b%£^^& tea-cake!

Waiter Sir! Language please sir!

Have you booked a table sir?

Man Of course I haven't booked a table.

Waiter Oh dear sir. Would it just be a table for one sir?

Man (*exasperated*) You know it is.

Waiter Smoking or non-smoking sir?

Man (shouting) I don't care. I don't care!

Waiter Please calm down sir. Just wait here sir while I check if there is a table available at the moment sir.

Man (*shouting louder*) There's no-one else here!

Waiter I will need to check sir. Company policy sir. (*Waiter picks up appointment book and hums while he peruses it for a few moments then turns and looks up with a delighted smile....*)

Well sir, this is your lucky day we have one table left, over by the window. Will that be ok for you sir?

Man (sarcastically) Wonderful!

Waiter Follow me sir,

(*waiter stops at the table, turns back to the man*)

Oh dear sir, you're not wearing a tie sir – company rules you see. No sir, don't raise your fists sir. I'm sure I can find a spare tie for you sir.

(*waiter rushes off*).

Man (*slumps defeatedly in chair*). (*waiter returns holding a tie in one hand and several menus in the other*).

Waiter (*watches man settle the tie and then thrusts the menus under his nose*).

That's right Sir. Now what would you like?

Man This is crazy! Crazy crazy!

(*he jumps up, picks up a chair and starts smashing the waiter over the head with it screaming*)

"All I wanted was a coffee."

A nearby cruising police car is called to the incident. The driver tells his partner, "strange it's the third time this week a customer has turned violent at that place."

SKETCH 2

THE SCENE IS A RECEPTION AREA IN A DOCTOR'S SURGERY. THE RECEPTIONIST IS SITTING AT HER DESK MANNING THE TELEPHONE CALLS

RECEPTIONIST Surgery

CALLER Appointment to see the doctor please.

RECEPTIONIST What is the problem?

CALLER I've had a bad cough for several weeks now.

RECEPTIONIST Are you a smoker?

CALLER Yes

RECEPTIONIST Well, there you are, stop smoking immediately. Get yourself some patches to help with the craving. Bye now.

Telephone rings

RECEPTIONIST Surgery

NEW CALLER I need to see the doctor.

RECEPTIONIST What is the problem.

CALLER My skin seems to have turned yellow and my eyes are red.

RECEPTIONIST O.K. madam. Wear long sleeve jumpers and trousers and use a deep colour foundation on your face. It will not be noticeable at all. Oh and I nearly forgot wear sunglasses. Bye.

Telephone rings

RECEPTIONIST Surgery

NEXT CALLER My knee is swollen it's is very sore and aches all the time.

RECEPTIONIST That's arthritis we've all got it. It's our damp climate. Take a nice holiday abroad and soak up some sunshine. Bye.

Telephone rings

RECEPTIONIST Surgery

ANOTHER CALLER Is that appointments?

RECEPTIONIST Yes, but what is the problem?

CALLER I want an appointment to see the doctor.

RECEPTIONIST You need to tell me why you think you need to see the doctor.

CALLER Why?

RECEPTIONIST I need to determine whether or not an appointment with the doctor is warranted.

CALLER Are you even medically qualified?

RECEPTIONIST I have been working here for many years and make no mistake, there is nothing I've not seen or cannot deal with. Now tell me what you think your problem is.

CALLER slams down the 'phone.

RECEPTIONIST *mutters to herself some people just can't be helped.*

Telephone rings

RECEPTIONIST Surgery

NEW CALLER I've had a fall and my leg is too painful to walk on it.

RECEPTIONIST Has the leg changed colour at all?

CALLER It's going black.

RECEPTIONIST That's good it's just the bruising coming out. Take some painkillers and rest with your leg up for a few days. Bye.

Telephone rings

RECEPTIONIST Surgery

CALLER I'd like to see the doctor please.

RECEPTIONIST What is the problem?

CALLER It's this rash I've got over my hands – it's really itchy.

RECEPTIONIST You've got an allergy. Use rubber gloves when you're washing up.

CALLER I always do.

RECEPTIONIST *(Sighs)* Do you put conditioner in your washing machine?

CALLER Yes of course.

RECEPTIONIST That's causing your allergy. Change to a non-fragrant one. Bye.

The receptionist looks at the time on her computer, stands up and stretches her aching back.

The door opens and a second receptionist comes in ready to take over the afternoon shift.

SECOND RECEPTIONIST Hi there, I've parked in the doctors parking space do think that will be ok?

FIRST RECEPTIONIST Yeah, no problem – we haven't seen a doctor here for months and months.

By Carole Turnbull