

BRAVE NEW WORKSHOP THEATRE

DATE: 1.18.01

SHOW: How to Try in Business Without Really Succeeding!

TITLE: "You're Fired!"

DRAFT: FINAL

PREMISE:

In an attempt to prevent a messy lawsuit, a boss goes to ridiculous lengths to fire his employee without actually saying the words "You're fired!"

SETTING:

George Harrison's roomy office with two doors and wood paneling trim.

CHARACTERS:

George Harrison: George's behind is on the line because his team's numbers are down this month. George has been told by "The Powers That Be" to fire Bob, but to do so in a way that saves the company from the nuisance of a lawsuit.

Bob Thomas: Bob has been with the company for two years. Bob just doesn't get that he's incompetent.

(Lights up on GEORGE and BOB in GEORGE's office. They have been here a long time and the feeling in the room is heavy and confused. GEORGE has a puppet on his hand.)

GEORGE

(in puppet voice and tune of "Retail" song) Somebody has to go! And his name is Bob! Somebody has to go!

BOB

(a bit frightened) I'm—I'm sorry, Mr. Harrison. I still don't get it.

GEORGE

(in puppet voice) That's okay, Bob! Maybe I didn't explain it right!

BOB

Yes, maybe that's it.

GEORGE

(pulling puppet off his hand dejectedly) Well, Bob, maybe a story will help to illustrate my point.

BOB

Yes, Mr. Harrison.

GEORGE

Yes, yes, indeed, Bob. A story. *(big sigh)* This is a story about a guy named . . . Gob . . . Yes, Gob. And Gob was an employee at the magical kingdom of . . . 4M! Everyone liked Gob a great deal, but one day it became apparent that Gob's output had decreased by 50 percent. Gob's boss Mr. Harrison --Ford-ibon realized that if Gob didn't go far, far away--and soon--he would lose a lot of money as well as his job and probably his second wife--but no one at the 4M kingdom wanted the lawsuit fairies to come. Oh, God no, Gob! So, bibbidee-bobbidee-boo, Gob lived happily ever after, but he was far, far away. God Bless Us Everyone and The End.

BOB

(confused) I'm sorry. What are you trying to say Mr. Harrison?

GEORGE

Yes, yes, good question, Gob. Let's see here. *(flips off lights and picks up remote)* Here are some pictures that might help you to understand.

BOB

O-O-Okay.

GEORGE

(flipping to PICTURE OF OFFICE BUILDING)
Here's where we work.

BOB

Okay.

GEORGE

(flipping to PICTURE OF DEMOLISHED BUILDING)
And here's what will happen if you continue to work here.

BOB

Is this because I don't turn my computer off at night?

GEORGE

(impatient) Okay, let's try this.

(flipping to PICTURE OF BOB AT DESK)

Here's you at your desk.

(flipping to PICTURE OF BOB'S DESK WITH MELANIE SITTING AT IT WAVING)

Okay—and here's your desk next Monday morning at 8:00 a.m.

BOB

What is Melanie doing at my desk? Are you moving me to another office?

GEORGE

Jesus, Gob! *(slightly hysterical)* This is you!

(flipping to STICK FIGURE OF BOB WITH "BOB" written underneath)

BOB

Okay.

(GEORGE flips to PICTURE OF BOB'S STICK FIGURE IN FLAMES)

BOB

Why am I on fire? Wait—am I fired? Are you firing me?

(GEORGE flips to "YES!!")

GEORGE

(with puppet) Bye-bye, Gob!

(Blackout or transition.)

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