

BRAVE NEW WORKSHOP THEATRE

DATE: 01.19.02

SHOW: We Moved Our Cheese

TITLE: "Cubicle Etiquette"

DRAFT: Final

PREMISE:

Cubicle culture has taken on such a life, it now needs social rules

SETTING: A generic office set of a low-budget, in-house industrial training film

CHARACTERS:

Man and Woman: Cheesy industrial actors with no personalities but great teeth

Various Office Players: Actors not pretty enough to be successful in industrials, but are often called in to play "real people"

(Video clip—swishing noise accompanies swirling graphics and voice over saying, "Cubicle Etiquette and You. It's totally cubular, man." Bad music begins to play. Lights up on stage where video is occurring live. Man and Woman enter. They are in the middle of a fake conversation. They "happen" to see the audience.)

Man

Oh hi, there. So glad you could join us today. I'm Chip.

Woman

And I'm Honey. Welcome to Cubicle Etiquette and You.

Man

It's totally cubular, man.

Woman

In today's business world, the "open-office plan" is becoming more and more popular.

Man

That means cubicles to you and me.

Woman

Exactly, Chip, and in that world there are definite cubicle "do's" and cubicle "don'ts."

Man

For instance, Honey and I are friends, so I feel confident standing this close to her.

Woman

Exactly, Chip. But if I didn't know you well, I might feel that my space has been invaded, which leads us to our first set of guidelines concerning cubicle privacy. Rule number one: Don't be a "space invader".

Man

It's a fun video game, but it can lead to office dysfunction or even litigation.

Woman

Let's check out "The Office," and see if we can find more "do's" and "don'ts."

(They cross to opposite sides of stage, as Corky the Cubicle enters.)

Woman

This is Corky the Cubicle. Corky's going to help us learn our rules of cubicle etiquette.

Man

Rule number two—

Corky

Don't "prairie dog."

Man

Popping your head over the cubicle wall is a very invasive gesture...

(Person in center cubicle is doing a ridiculous interpretation of Prairie Dogging, jumping up and down, popping his or her head over the cubicle wall.)

Man

...and can lead to angry neighbors.

(Woman in cubicle throws grenade over wall, sound of explosion.)

Man

But if he can't just pop his head over the wall, how will he communicate with his co-workers?

Woman

Well, that's Rule Number Three.

Corky

Always ask permission to enter a cubicle.

(Person who has been jumping, walks over to cubicle, still rubbing head, mimes asking to be invited into cubicle. Cubicle dweller nods yes, and person enters, but they stand very close to cubicle dweller, sniffing hair, etc.)

Man

Whoa, Tiger! Once in the cubicle, be aware of blocking the entrance in a threatening manner.

(Upon hearing the Man's warning, guest steps away from the dweller and the entrance. Dweller and Guest look at Man and give the thumbs up sign.)

Woman

Now that we know to ask permission to enter a cubicle, let's talk about when to do it.

Man

Rule Number Four.

Corky

Never interrupt someone who is deep in thought.

(Woman from first cubicle has entered other cubicle without asking. Man who is deep in thought maces her in the face.)

Woman and Man
Uh-oh!

Man
She's in trouble now.

Woman
Remember, a blind office worker is an inefficient office worker.

(Man and Woman laugh as guest staggers around the stage in agony.)

Man
When you have thirty or forty people packed in a fifteen square foot room, it's important to be mindful of noise.

Woman
Because no matter how hard you pretend, fake walls can't keep out sound.

Man
Exactly, Honey, and that brings us to Rule Number Five.

Corky
Avoid Annoying Noises.

(MAN enters with a saw and begins playing it)

WOMAN
Get out of my head!

Man
Finally, let's talk about decor, and Rule Number Six...

Corky
Decorate your Cubicle in a Non-Offensive Manner.

(WOMAN enters with a great big poster of Hitler.)

Woman
Look around. Are you putting up things that might be deemed offensive by a co-worker?

(Person looks at items, realizes they might be offensive, sneaks offstage.)

Man

I think she's got it.

(As Man and Woman cross center stage, they laugh, then stop abruptly. As they speak, others exit.)

Man

But Cubicle etiquette is no laughing matter. Cubicle culture is the wave of the present and the future.

Woman

So get used to it. The old dream of your own space with walls and a window is gone.

Man

And the future is here. The then is now. So hang on and go for the ride of your life.

Woman

And remember, "Cubicle Etiquette and You."

Man

It's totally cubular, man.

(They laugh as lights black out.)

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