

BREAKING NEWS

By Sam Havens

Copyright © 2016 by Sam Havens, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-60003-921-8

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers LLC.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS LLC
P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406
TOLL FREE (888) 473-8521 • FAX (319) 368-8011

BREAKING NEWS

A Ten Minute Comedy Skit

By Sam Havens

SYNOPSIS: The KNUT news team attempts to report the news but tonight the program goes off in unexpected directions. The weather forecaster predicts chickens and the traffic report is customized for Uncle Doodles. Sponsors include Sidney's Suspenders and society news reports that Ralph Looper got drunk and fell into the lake. The news is finally over — until tomorrow night!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3-7 either; gender flexible, doubling possible)

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX (m/f).....Level-headed news veteran but
patience becomes strained.
(56 lines)

JUNIPER (m/f) Easily distracted meteorologist.
(21 lines)

RED (m/f) News and traffic reporter.
(23 lines)

BRETT (m/f)..... News Reporter. *(28 lines)*

K.L. (m/f) Society News Reporter.
(15 lines)

SPARKY (m/f)..... Commercial announcer.
(5 lines)

PAT (m/f)..... Historical news reporter.
(4 lines)

CAST NOTE: Juniper, K.L., Sparky and Pat can be doubled. All roles may be played by males or females. Switch gender references as needed.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Breaking News can be presented in an open space or on a stage with props and full scenery. The only set pieces required are:

- News Desk with microphone
- Floor microphone
- Music stand to hold copy

TIME: Present.

SET: Local TV studio. Desks, Chairs, Table, Microphones.

COSTUMES: Business attire.

PROPS

- ☐ Weather Map
- ☐ Pointer Stick
- ☐ Pack of Suspenders
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Box of Nurkle's Cereal

SOUND EFFECTS

- ☐ Barking
- ☐ Rim Shot

AT RISE: *ALEX at the news desk.*

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: And now the news with KNUT news team.
First our weather forecast with meteorologist, Juniper.

JUNIPER enters with a USA map and a pointer.

JUNIPER: Here's the weather. *(Points to map, exits.)*

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: Wait a minute, Juniper. Can't you give us a few weather details?

JUNIPER: I guess so but I'm a bit grumpy.

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: Grumpy?

JUNIPER: Yesterday I lined up 200 dominoes on my dining room table. When it came time to tip them over, I felt sleepy and took a nap. As I was sleeping, Phoebe had tipped the whole thing over with her nose.

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: Your kitty.

JUNIPER: Yes. When I awoke, my domino trick was over, triple helix and all.

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: That's too bad. But your cat saw the dominoes fall?

JUNIPER: I suppose she did.

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: Maybe Phoebe took a picture with her cell phone.

JUNIPER: Maybe she did. But Phoebe speaks only Spanish.

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: Too bad. Okay, Juniper, the weather...?

JUNIPER: Fine. *(Using the stick as a pointer.)* We have clouds, rain, sunshine and chickens.

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: Chickens?

JUNIPER: Don't scoff. Falling chickens can be dangerous.

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: Hmm.

JUNIPER: Also an occluded front and an occluded back. Chance of thunder and frogs. The humidity will be humid and the rain will be wet.

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: You sure you're a certified meteorologist?

JUNIPER: I'm certifiable, all right.

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: I'll bet.

JUNIPER: Where's the party?

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: What party?

JUNIPER: Isn't there a cast party?

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: Maybe.

JUNIPER: Will there be food and drink?

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: Maybe.

JUNIPER: Will there be dancing gazelles?

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: I think you mean dancing girls.

JUNIPER: I prefer dancing gazelles. I was once married to a gazelle.

She broke my heart.

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: Hmm.

JUNIPER: Good-night, folks. *(Exits.)*

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: And now Breaking News with Red and Brett.

RED and BRETT at a table.

RED: Breaking news!

BRETT: Well? What's the breaking news?

RED: I always start by saying Breaking News.

BRETT: Even if the news isn't breaking?

RED: If it isn't broken, we'll break it.

BRETT: I'll begin. Police report a stolen police car. The department would like to borrow someone's car so they can search for it.

RED: Wait a minute. The police department has one car?

BRETT: Not anymore.

SFX: Rim shot.

RED: Hmm. In neighborhood news, Mrs. Flankmaiden Jones reports unusual noises in her attic.

BRETT: What kind of unusual noises?

RED: She says it sounds like scampering and growling.

BRETT: Oh?

RED: In a related story, Mrs. Jones reports that her dog is missing.

BRETT: Mister Jasper Glass Finkle reports that a fire will probably start soon on his front lawn.

RED: A fire will probably start?

BRETT: Well, Jasper is raking leaves and smoking.

RED: Ah. In other news, City Council voted last night. Here are the results: Yes. No. Yes. Yes. No.

BRETT: Wait a minute. But what do those votes apply to?

RED: Brett, never end a sentence on a preposition.

BRETT: Okay. To what do those votes apply?

RED: Exactly.

BRETT: What?

RED: Who?

BRETT: And now the sports news. Fourteen to eleven. Three to one. Twenty-two to seventeen.

RED: But what are the teams? Did you name the teams?

BRETT: Maybe. In other news...I have no other news.

RED: Me, either. We could make up something.

BRETT: We always make up something.

RED: Let's end Breaking News and go have ice cream.

BRETT: Fine idea.

RED and BRETT: We're a little late, folks. So good-night.

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: And now the Society Report with K.L.

K.L. enters.

K.L.: Hello, everyone. It's been an exciting few days in North Ointment.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Finkston had their annual black and white gala. Guests arrived in stylish fashion attire, all black and white. There was one exception. Old Doctor John Darsnip showed up in an orange jumpsuit. The doctor explained that he had become confused by the color of the stamp on the invitation, which was orange. Doctor Parsnip became embarrassed and violent, requiring several male guests to tie him up and carry him out to the garden. In other social news, Rebecca Snurk and Booky Longtoe got married at the little chapel behind the tree. At the reception Booky became nervous and tried to have the marriage annulled. Rebecca cried, then laughed, and then ran away with Cornelius Bop, the failed chiropractor. Finally, Wesley and Regina Pie announced that they have bought a new home in nearby Peanut Valley. Friends and neighbors are advised to use caution when approaching the house which is protected by an electric fence. Good-night. *(Exits.)*

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: Thank you, K.L.

JUNIPER enters in a frantic state.

JUNIPER: Weather update! Earthquake!

NEWS ANCHOR ALEX: An earthquake? Here?

JUNIPER: No. Japan.

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from BREAKING NEWS by Sam Havens. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:

Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011

www.brookpub.com