

YOUR MOTHER'S AGENDA

By Jerry Rabushka

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CHARACTERS (2F)

PLAYER ONE: RACHEL, CASSANDRA, UNCLE FULLABULL

PLAYER TWO: ATHENA, HERMIA, UNCLE BALDERDASH

These scenes need no break between them, just a small movement to show the audience it's a different time or different characters. Make sure these changes are well rehearsed as they can add humor and interest to the performance. This skit is designed for two characters in forensics competition, however in other settings, a larger cast of up to 4F, 2M may be used to portray the different characters.

RACHEL and ATHENA are five years old, but are meant to be played by older performers. Have fun "acting like a kid" plus using and misusing words and terminology that those children wouldn't understand. The obvious point of this play is that kids are born without prejudices and these girls are resisting the intolerance being taught to them by their families and cultures. On the other side, their families are trying to indoctrinate them while they are too young to realize what's going on.

SCENE 1

As THEY meet on a playground, we can see immediately these two are "best friends."

RACHEL: Hey Athena, do you want to go on the teeter totter?

ATHENA: *(excited)* Sure, Rachel! *(reconsiders)* But I can't.

RACHEL: Why not?

ATHENA: *(sad)* My mother says I can't play with you anymore.

RACHEL: That's mean. Time for a new mom.

ATHENA: She says you're a different *(doesn't know the word "ethnicity")* en-thicity.

RACHEL: What's an en-thicity?

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ATHENA: I'm not sure. She says your en-thicity was mean to my en-thicity about five hundred years ago so we can't play.

RACHEL: Your mom must be really old.

ATHENA: I don't want to get in trouble. But I do want to go on the teeter totter.

RACHEL: It seems to me that if we don't know what an en-thicity is, we shouldn't worry about it.

ATHENA: That's what I said. She said I'd understand later.

RACHEL: I hope not, if it means we can't play together! Let's teeter!

(ATHENA agrees, so THEY run off and run right back on for the next scene.)

SCENE 2

The next day, ATHENA sees RACHEL and approaches her.

ATHENA: Hi Rachel! Do you want to play in the sandbox?

RACHEL: Now *my* mother says I can't play with *you* either.

ATHENA: Is it my en-thicity?

RACHEL: She said you had an *(has no idea what this word means)* agenda.

ATHENA: What's an agenda?

RACHEL: I think it means you have a "to do" list.

ATHENA: Everybody has that.

RACHEL: *(reciting, but not understanding.)* But your list is bad.

ATHENA: All I want to do is play in the sandbox. Is that an agenda?

RACHEL: She said your agenda is world domination and total media control.

ATHENA: What's world domination and total media control?

RACHEL: *(has no idea what this means)* It's when you want to dominate the world and totally control the media.

ATHENA: *(not sure what to make of it)* That doesn't sound bad.

RACHEL: I think your mother and my mother are *both* crazy.

ATHENA: *(has a solution!)* We better build a fort. Let's go.

(THEY run off and run back on.)

SCENE 3

The day after scene 2.

RACHEL: I told my mother you didn't have an agenda, and she said that part of your agenda was to lie to us about it in your quest for world domination and total media control.

ATHENA: My mother said you would play with me and pretend to be my friend, and then you'd steal my homework and poison my milk.

RACHEL: We don't have homework. And milk comes in a carton.

ATHENA: I know. But world domination sounds awesome!

RACHEL: (*pretty much parroting her mother.*) My mother's afraid if I don't internalize your agenda at an early age that when I grow up it will swallow me like an anaconda.

ATHENA: (*coming up with a plan of action!*) Let's ask our mothers why we can't play together. Then report back!

SCENE 4

Later that day, ATHENA now plays RACHEL's mother, CASSANDRA. CASSANDRA can pantomime working in a kitchen, so SHE's otherwise occupied while having this conversation.

RACHEL: Mom, why can't we have Athena's agenda?

CASSANDRA: I don't know what you're talking about.

RACHEL: You said her agenda was total media control and world domination, and our agenda was calling attention to our plight of alienation and victimization.

CASSANDRA: That's right.

RACHEL: It seems to me that their agenda is much more fulfilling and we should work together jointly. (*proud of this word*) Jointly.

CASSANDRA: (*concerned and angry*) What, exactly did you agree on?

RACHEL: That you're crazy, and that *her* mother's crazy too. We don't understand why we can't play together.

CASSANDRA: You'll need to talk to your Uncle Balderdash. He can explain.

RACHEL: Eeewww. He smells like horse.

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CASSANDRA: Then go to your room!

RACHEL: All I want to do is play on the teeter totter. You're creating alienation and victimization within your own en-thicity. *(SHE runs off)*

SCENE 5

ATHENA is at home with her mother HERMIA. HERMIA can be otherwise occupied with a book for example, while ATHENA pantomimes playing with a doll.

ATHENA: Mom, why can't I play with Rachel?

HERMIA: Because she has an agenda.

ATHENA: I thought we had the agenda.

HERMIA: *(as if it's no big deal)* Her agenda is eradication and assimilation.

ATHENA: *(this seems agreeable, as if it settles things)* Okay. *(pause)* Are those really words?

HERMIA: It means she wants to kill you.

ATHENA: She gave me part of her sandwich. Her mom uses different spices.

(HERMIA is concerned.)

Like Mrs. Dash and stuff. You should try it.

HERMIA: How dare you! I've strictly forbidden you from talking to Rachel.

ATHENA: But we sit next to each other! And the teacher wants us to do a paper mache project together.

HERMIA: Then you'll need to do it in silence. I don't want you falling victim to her agenda.

ATHENA: We decided my agenda was better. Her agenda is being the victim of an alien nation and our agenda is a domino nation, so we thought we should all just pool our efforts into an agenda of dominos and...*(SHE gets confused in her own thoughts)* This would make a lot more sense if I knew what anybody was talking about.

HERMIA: You'll need to talk to your uncle Fullabull. He can explain it to you.

ATHENA: Eeewww. No. He smells like a platypus.

HERMIA: Then go to your room!

ATHENA: (*disappointed, but standing her ground.*) Okay. But if everybody's mom is like you two, we'll have a messed up generation. (*SHE runs off*)

SCENE 6

At a school function, HERMIA and CASSANDRA meet to plan an event. THEY can have pens and folders or clip boards to make notes.

HERMIA: So nice to meet you. My name is Hermia. The Parent-Teacher group said you'd be the perfect partner for me to work with as an event mother.

CASSANDRA: And I'm Cassandra. I'm looking forward to planning the class outing with you.

HERMIA: (*not realizing who SHE is talking to*) I'm Athena's mother. I'm sure your daughter knows her.

CASSANDRA: (*scandalized*) And I'm Rachel's mother. I'm sure your daughter knows *her* all too well.

HERMIA: (*accusing*) You're the lady with the agenda!

CASSANDRA: (*suddenly their friendship turns to propaganda*) Me? You have the agenda! Your agenda is always at our expense, culturally and financially.

HERMIA: (*indignant*) You know nothing about my people except the lies you spread.

CASSANDRA: This agenda you say we have is in direct opposition to my people's peaceful nature. I should smack you a good one!

HERMIA: Peaceful! You're inciting the hatred you brought from the old country.

CASSANDRA: You deserve it! I've forbidden Rachel to speak to your daughter.

HERMIA: When Rachel figures out your agenda, they'll stop playing soon enough. (*suddenly turns friendly*) Now, let's plan this field trip! Where are we going to take the kids?

CASSANDRA: The zoo is always good.

HERMIA: I think the science center is a good idea.

CASSANDRA: (*ready for a fight*) I said the zoo!

HERMIA: (*also ready for a fight*) The science center. You're trying to indoctrinate them into animal cruelty!

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CASSANDRA: And you're trying to ruin their minds with un-provable pseudo-scientific malarkey! You need to talk to my uncle! He'll set you right.

HERMIA: *You* need to talk to *my* uncle. He taught me everything I know!

CASSANDRA: Maybe our uncles need to talk to each other.
(*reconsiders, but not quite ready to give in*) Other than this agenda thing, you seem like a nice mom.

HERMIA: You too. How about you drop your quest for media control and world domination, and we'll scrap our plans to wipe you off the face of the earth?

CASSANDRA: Well... for now.

HERMIA: At least until this science center trip is over!

CASSANDRA: Zoo!

HERMIA: Science!

(*THEY pause, stare at each other harshly, at an impasse again.*)

CASSANDRA: (*snippy*) I guess these children are going nowhere.

(*THEY part ways.*)

SCENE 7

UNCLE BALDERDASH and UNCLE FULLABULL are middle aged men who have had, over the course of their lives, too much to eat and too many cigars. Most of their families would consider them blowhards, yet they would be afraid to disagree with them for fear of the backlash. This scene should give the impression THEY're meeting in a corner bar.

BALD: So I understand you plan to throw our children into the gorilla cage and take your quest for world domination into the animal kingdom.

FULL: Balderdash, Uncle Balderdash! No gorilla would eat your children! (*with pride*) Our children are tasty. Yours are bitter and stringy.

BALD: You're crazy, "Uncle Fullabull," as they call you.

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FULL: I understand you want to take our children to the science center to use them for grotesque medical experiments.

BALD: Your children have no brains! There's nothing to experiment on. Our children, they're smart. (*proud*) If we took them apart piece by piece, then we'd have science!

FULL: Well then... (*devises a solution*) let's take *our* children to the zoo, and *your* children to the science lab. (*confesses*) I don't really like children that much anyway.

BALD: (*proud*) My children will grow up to blow your children to smithereens!

FULL: I'd sooner feed my children to the gorillas!

BALD: I don't think gorillas eat children.

FULL: (*right about now, THEY are fighting for its own sake, and not sure exactly what about*) There's something at the zoo that does, and I'll find it! I want to make sure that my children aren't tainted by your agenda, even if it means they become some lion's dinner!

BALD: You're right! It's better to have our children sliced open and eaten than to be squashed in your quest for world domination!

FULL: (*ready to give up the argument*) World domination? All I want is a good piece of fried chicken.

BALD: (*friendly for a moment*) We have a great recipe! But... you can't have it!

FULL: (*ready for a fight*) Because it's made with our children's blood!

BALD: Not really. Children's blood, fried chicken... Not a good mix.

FULL: We were always taught you used our children's blood in your fried chicken.

BALD: You should try a piece. Then, check your kids' bedrooms. If they're still there, you can eat our chicken with confidence.

FULL: (*happy to hear it*) Oh. Who knew?

BALD: How about the zoo *and* the science center! Then we'll see who's smart *and* who's tasty. We should go to the children's zoo.

Apparently there's all types of children in cages.

FULL: What happens when they get too old?

BALD: First it's the science center for experimentation, then it's on to Driver's Ed.

FULL: Ah! That explains a lot!

BALD: (*THEY both agree to be friends*) I'm so glad we could clear up our differences!

SCENE 8

HERMIA: (*shocked*) You made peace?

FULL: We had a piece of chicken. "Peace" was never so delicious.

HERMIA: (*outraged*) Chicken with our children's blood!

FULL: It adds to the flavor, and saves on babysitting.

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