

Roy and Rita's Ridiculous Remodel

A One-Act Play
By Andrew M. Frodahl

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DEDICATION

The play is dedicated to my friend Rich Kimball for his dedication to teaching the dramatic arts to young people. Thank you for showing me how a one-act competition should be conducted and your friendship. Thanks, Rich!

STORY OF THE PLAY

Reality TV stars Roy and Rita Rafferty are full of energy and excitement for their home improvement audience. However, the ratings for "Roy and Rita's Ridiculous Remodel Show!" are looking bleak. After filming only ten episodes, the network has informed them that unless they can boost their ratings – drastically! – this episode will be their last. Roy and Rita consult with their production team and, as a last ditch effort, decide to do a kitchen remodel in 24 hours and film it all live!

But can they pull it off with an oddball construction crew? The electrician is colorblind, the plumber has a severe gag reflex, and the painter has an energy drink addiction and can't control her jitters. And what about the kitchen? Will the hidden issues with the home be too much to fix in such a short amount of time?

To make matters worse, there is a surprise inspection from the county building code inspector, a man whose eyesight is questionable at best. Stay tuned for a wet and wild adventure!

Running time approximately 40 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Cast of 19: 5 m, 6 w, 8 flexible, doubling possible.)

ROY RAFFERTY: Rita's over-the-top husband and co-host of their TV remodel show.

RITA RAFFERTY: Roy's wife and co-host.

CHARLIE: A plumber with a gag reflex and his own set of rules.

MARK HANDY: The general contractor.

TRISHA: Mark's right-hand woman. Attractive and can build as good if not better than a man.

GILLIE: *(Flex.)* The Jamaican electrician who is colorblind. Good friend with Charlie.

SPECS: The county building code inspector. Legally blind. Has the hots for Trisha.

SPACKLE: Specs' sister who used to be a surgeon. She has uncontrollable shakes caused by the large volume of energy drinks she consumes.

BARI: The show's director who would rather be directing something else.

MEL: *(Flex.)* The show's producer who wants it to succeed.

STAGE MANAGER: *(Flex.)* The keeper of the clock and wrangler of the chaos.

MAN: A regular guy just trying to make it.

WOMAN: A woman who dreams of a better life, but trying to deal with reality.

CAMERAMAN: *(Flex.)* It's a job.

WARDROBE GIRL: Still dreaming of being the one preened.

PARAMEDIC #1: *(Flex.)*

PARAMEDIC #2: *(Flex.)*

HAZMAT WORKER #1: *(Flex.)*

HAZMAT WORKER #2: *(Flex.)*

DOUBLING: Man and Woman can double as the Paramedics, Hazmat Workers, or Specs and Spackle. Wardrobe Girl could also double as Spackle.

SET DESCRIPTION

The set is a standard kitchen in Middle America. CS is a small table and two chairs which are very dated, nothing fancy. The homeowners are a young couple trying to get by. Remember everything in the kitchen should be worn, rundown, and downright sad-looking. The CS wall has a sink, lower cabinets, countertop, and upper cabinets. These are all two-dimensional cardboard or lauan cutouts attached to the stage flats. Being two-dimensional not only eases construction needs, but is very funny. At the top of Scene 6 the construction crew can duct tape or Velcro the "cabinets" and "sink" on the wall. The more fake everything looks the funnier the remodel will be. The SL wall has a practical door that swings onstage. The SR wall is plain, nothing on it but worn paint. This is the wall painted by Spackle in Scene 6.

NOTES

If possible the actor playing Spackle could use real paint to paint the stage right wall. Not only will this sell what she is doing, but change the kitchen before our very eyes. Since it is abstract expression, the crazier it looks painted the better. The only thing is before each new show the wall must be painted back to the original color. It is possible to have a piece of cardboard or lauan that could be taped or screwed onto the wall each time. However, for productions where using real paint live on stage is not preferred or possible, just use a cloth or drop that is pre-painted and can be dropped over the wall at the top of Scene 7.

Scene 4 is all about the actors and the sound effects making us believe the room is filling with water running uncontrollably from the sink.

Additional sound effects include: door knock, lightbulb breaking, gas hissing sound, water spraying, toilet flushing, gushing and splashing water, cell phone ring and (optional) wild painting music.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: A kitchen in small town America. It is a very dated house. The cabinets, appliances, and lighting fixtures can be painted cardboard cutouts attached to stage flats or fully realized. A small kitchen table is at center with two chairs. A MAN and a WOMAN are sitting at the table eating breakfast. The Man is eating a kid's cereal and the Woman is eating yogurt.)

WOMAN: Busy day today?

MAN: *(Mouthful.)* Huh?

WOMAN: I'm trying for us to have a normal conversation before work.

MAN: Sorry, I was trying to do the maze on the back of the box. How do they expect kids to do this?

WOMAN: *(Rolls her eyes.)* I wish we could have a getaway.

MAN: *(Mid spoonful.)* A getaway?

WOMAN: You know, a vacation...the beach, the mountains. You and me. We work too much.

MAN: Those cost money. If I took a day off from work, I would have to get another job to pay for the day off.

WOMAN: I think we are growing apart.

(SFX: Knock on the door. The MAN, goes to the door and opens it. ROY, RITA, and a CAMERAMAN push their way into the kitchen.)

MAN: Can I --

ROY: Good morning, Middle America!

WOMAN: Can we help you?

MAN: Um...

RITA: *(Looking around the kitchen.)* Oh, this is much worse than I thought.

MAN: Honey, call the police.

ROY: I think you should have called the cops a long time ago, friend, 'cause the condition of this house is a crime!

RITA: Good one, Roy.

ROY: Ya'll, this is your lucky day.

Roy and Rita's Ridiculous Remodel

- 6 -

MAN: *(Looks at watch.)* I've got to go to work and now I'm running late. Please leave.

RITA: Roy, I don't think they recognize who we are.

ROY: It could be the bad lighting in this room. Hope the sheen in my hair is picking up.

CAMERAMAN: *(Thumbs up.)* All good, Roy.

WOMAN: We don't mean to be rude but what is going on?

RITA: Oh, sweetie pie, we are Roy and Rita Rafferty!

MAN: Who?

ROY: I'm Roy!

RITA: I'm Rita!

ROY and RITA: *(Rehearsed many times.)* And we are the hosts of "Roy and Rita's Ridiculous Remodel Show!"

(Beat. WOMAN and MAN stare, not comprehending.)

ROY: They're speechless. Beyond belief but it's us in the flesh and live!

RITA: *(To CAMERAMAN.)* Make sure you zoom in on the shock on their faces right now. Perfect.

MAN: Wait...live? That camera is filming us? People are watching us?

RITA: Yes, sir! Millions of viewers are watching on the number two home improvement network in the world: "Decaying Homes Renewed."

WOMAN: I love that channel! Well, I did before we couldn't pay our cable bill and it got shut off.

ROY: Poor beautiful girl. Today! Today is the start of a new day. You and your husband, out of thousands of potential applicants, have won a free --

RITA: All expenses paid for by our sponsors...

ROY: Free kitchen makeover!

WOMAN: Are you kidding?! Babe, did you hear that?

MAN: What's the catch?

RITA: No catch. Let me explain it to you and for our first-time viewers.

ROY: Excellent idea, Rita!

RITA: We send you and your wife on an overnight getaway.

WOMAN: *(Starting to get emotional.)* A getaway? Babe, did you hear that?

RITA: You will be pampered, spoiled, doted on, and eat at the finest restaurants. We also include a chance for you to rekindle romance by sending you to a Celtic Woman concert.

MAN: They're hot.

ROY: While you are gone, we will completely gut, tear, peel, and chuck this sad room. And give this kitchen the makeover it's begging for! Trust me, I know. I'm a house whisperer. When you return, this space will be EPIC!

RITA: But you've got to hurry! We have a limo outside waiting for you.

WOMAN: I will go pack us an overnight bag real quick.

RITA: No time! We have a 100-dollar gift card for anything you might need. Leave everything to us.

(RITA starts pushing THEM out the door.)

MAN: But I've got to be to work in five minutes.

ROY: Call out sick, 'cause you got a fantastic fun day planned!

(ROY shoves the couple out the door and slams it shut.)

ROY: *(Cont'd.)* Goodbye, ya'll, and we will see you in 24 hours!

RITA: They're going to be blown away when they come back!

ROY: Rita, it's going to be fierce. *(To the camera.)* Now I know some of our viewers are sitting at home and heard that we said 24 hours.

RITA: You didn't mishear us. It's true. We normally take a few weeks on a remodel, but for this episode we wanted to do something special.

ROY: This is our 11th episode and it needs to be fierce!

RITA: Epic!

ROY: So, we decided to do what our producers and crew said would be impossible.

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