

EXTRA! EXTRA!

**Book, Music, and Lyrics by
STEVE COOPER**

Performance Rights

To copy this text is an infringement of the federal copyright law as is to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co. Inc. Call the publisher for further scripts and licensing information. On all programs and advertising the author's name must appear as well as this notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Co."

PUBLISHED BY
ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
www.histage.com

© 1999 by Steve Cooper

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
<http://www.histage.com/playdetails.asp?PID=1339>

EXTRA! EXTRA!

2

DESCRIPTION

Extra! Extra! Sing all about it in this witty, fast-paced musical revue that examines every human foible, failure, fact, fiction, and fascinations that's fit to print.

The setting is a busy newsstand/coffee shop run by Joey, the old wizedened proprietor. He is assisted by the Kid who is young and idealistic about life. As the two of them purvey papers to their many customers, every section - from the want ads, to the horoscopes, the obits, advice columns, the weather, the crossword puzzle and even the tacky tabloids - are spoofed, spotlighted and celebrated in song.

Your theatre will really make headlines when you present *Extra! Extra!* featuring wonderful ensemble numbers as "It's Only the News," "I Need A Job," "Blame It on El Nino," "Elvis Spoke to Me This Morning," "Dear Aunt Agnes", and many more. One exterior set.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

JOEY: A grouchy, wizened, proprietor of the newsstand. This character is written as a male role but could easily be played as a female (*“Extra! Extra!”*, *“Obits,”* *“El Nino”*).

THE KID: A high-school-aged boy who helps in the shop. He’s young, idealistic, naive (*“Extra!, Extra!”*, *“Obits,”* *“El Nino”*).

A QUARTET: Four customers who are looking for work (*“I Need a Job,”* *“Only the News,”* *“Obits,”* *“Dear Aunt Agnes,”* *“Statistics,”* *“Elvis,”* *“El Nino”*).

THREE PROFESSIONALS: Two women and a man, waiting for a bus (*“Mensa Needs Me,”* *“If I Could Tell Your Future,”* *“Obits”*).

MYSTIC: A female street person who tells fortunes ... very strange fortunes (*“The Mystic of Seventh Avenue”*).

JOGGERS: A group of ten mixed-gender joggers (*“I’m Jogging”*).

AUNT AGNES: An advice columnist who is not the expected wise, gray-haired lady, but rather a beer-guzzling, cigar-chewing, t-shirt-clad, middle-aged guy (*“Dear Aunt Agnes”*).

FOUR LADIES: In need of advice from Aunt Agnes (*“Dear Aunt Agnes”*).

BECKA and SAMMY, JO and LEWIS: Two couples who are looking for love in all the wrong columns (*“The Personals,”* *“If You Still Want Me,”* *“Statistics,”* *“Promise Me”*).

CUSTOMERS: A mixed group of readers and coffee drinkers who drift in and out of the shop for company numbers (*“Obits,”* *“Dear Aunt Agnes,”* *“Statistics,”* *“Elvis,”* *“El Nino”*).

TIME: Present day.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

4

CASTING SUGGESTIONS

While a larger cast is more fun and easier to stage, this musical can be performed with just five men and five women who can double into all the roles. The following chart offers one possible casting formula for solo parts:

5 men - Kid and two other tenors, Joey and one other baritone;

5 women - 2 altos, 3 sopranos.

KID: "Extra! Extra!," Backup on "The Mystic of Seventh Avenue," Tenor 1 in "Only the News," Fan 3 in "Elvis Spoke to Me this Morning."

TENOR 2: Professional 3 in "Mensa Needs Me," Tenor 2 in "Only the News," Duet in "Promise Me."

TENOR 3: Customer 1 in "Extra! Extra!," Baritone 1 in "I Need a Job," Sam in "The Obits," Jogger 3 & 7 in "I'm Jogging," Baritone 1 in "Only the News," Sammy in "The Personals," Duet in "If You Still Want Me," Fan 4 in "Elvis Spoke to Me this Morning."

JOEY: "Extra! Extra!," Sings the line "Robert Edward (etc.);" in "The Obits," Heart attack jogger in "I'm Jogging," "El Nino."

BARITONE 5: Customer 2 in "Extra! Extra!," Baritone 2 in "I Need a Job," Sings the line "Arlen Esterbore (etc.);" in "The Obits," Agnes in "Dear Aunt Agnes," Jogger 4 & 10 in "I'm Jogging," Baritone 2 in "Only the News," Lewis in "The Personals," Dialogue in "Statistics."

ALTO 1: Tenor 1 in "I Need a Job," Backup in "The Mystic of Seventh Avenue," Sings the line "Mamie Josephson (etc.);" in "The Obits," Lady 1 in "Dear Aunt Agnes," Jogger 5 in "I'm Jogging."

ALTO 2: Tenor 2 in "I Need a Job," Backup in "The Mystic of Seventh Avenue," Lady 2 in "Dear Aunt Agnes," Jogger 6 in "I'm Jogging," Jo in "The Personals," Dialogue in "Statistics."

EXTRA! EXTRA!

5

SOPRANO 1: Professional 1 in "Mensa Needs Me," Lady 3 in "Dear Aunt Agnes," Fan 1 in "Elvis Spoke to Me this Morning."

SOPRANO 2: Professional 2 in "Mensa Needs Me," Solo in "If I Could Tell Your Future," Lady 4 (Jogger) in "Dear Aunt Agnes," Jogger 1 and 8 in "I'm Jogging," Duet in "Promise Me."

SOPRANO 3: Jogger after "Extra! Extra!" and "I Need a Job," Mystic in "The Mystic of Seventh Avenue," Jogger 2 & 9 in "I'm Jogging," Becka in "The Personals," Duet in "If You Still Want Me," Fan 2 in "Elvis Spoke to Me this Morning."

All soloists sing as "Company" in "Extra! Extra!," "The Obits," "I'm Jogging," "Statistics," "Elvis Spoke to Me This Morning," and "El Nino."

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

EXTRA! EXTRA!
I NEED A JOB
MENSA NEEDS ME
THE MYSTIC OF SEVENTH AVENUE
IF I COULD TELL YOUR FUTURE
THE OBITS
DEAR AUNT AGNES
I'M JOGGING

ACT II

ENTR'ACTE
ONLY THE NEWS
THE PERSONALS
IF YOU STILL WANT ME
STATISTICS
PROMISE ME
ELVIS SPOKE TO ME THIS MORNING
EL NINO

EXTRA! EXTRA!

6

SETTING

A big-city storefront newsstand/coffee shop, a busy place. There is a counter, which opens directly to the street. It also opens into the store, where customers can buy coffee, candy, cigarettes, books, papers, and magazines. There are a few small tables with chairs in the shop, and outside on the sidewalk are a rack of papers and magazines and a bus-stop bench.

PROPS AND COSTUMES

Coffee cups, candy, cigarettes, books, cash register, newspapers, magazines, tabloids with Elvis on the cover, tray or tub and towel or rag to bus tables (KID), paper money and change, note pad (KID), pens and pencils, rubber stamp (JOEY), cracked crystal ball (MYSTIC), Polaroid camera with film (KID), stationery for letters, beer can and cigar (AUNT AGNES), walkman (JOGGER 4), poster of Elvis (ELVIS FAN 1).

Costumes should be suited to profession. JOEY and the KID wear more relaxed working clothes. The PROFESSIONALS are in formal business dress. AUNT AGNES wears a sloppy t-shirt. The MYSTIC looks like a cross between a gypsy and a bag lady in her faded, printed skirt, scarves and tattered coat. Everyone will need jogging clothes - either revealing shorts and t-shirt or sweatsuit as appropriate.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

7

ACT I

(AT RISE: JOEY is busy with the morning rush, running the register, while his erstwhile employee, the KID, serves coffee and bussing tables. CUSTOMERS are entering, buying papers and coffee, and standing around to read and join in the opening number.)

JOEY: *(To CUSTOMER with paper.)* Buck. *(Receives money.)*
Thanks. *(To another CUSTOMER with paper and coffee.)* One buck plus one-and-a-half for the coffee plus tax makes ten dollars. *(CUSTOMER hands him money, then does a double take.)* Kidding! I'm kidding! It's two seventy. *(Hands CUSTOMER change.)* Just wanted to see if you were awake. *(Turns to street, yells.)* Extra! Extra! Stock market gets down, gets back up again! *(To 3rd CUSTOMER.)* One dollar. Thanks.

CUSTOMER: Hey, Joey! There's no headline about the stock market here.

JOEY: So whadda you care?! You're broke! You don't own any stock! Look in the business section. Bound to be something there about the market. Extra! Extra! Congress impeaches itself!

CUSTOMER 1: Yo, Joey! This isn't even an "extra" edition.

JOEY: Pathetic, ain't it? The way I gotta lie to sell papers. Nobody buys 'em when I yell, "Hey, here's the same old stuff that was in the papers yesterday!"

CUSTOMER 2: *(Timidly.)* But isn't that false advertising ... sort of?

JOEY: So now you're the Ethics Commissioner? Criminy! This is newspapers, not religion! *(Yells.)* Extra! Extra! U.S. threatens to declare war!

CUSTOMER 3: War! Who we going to war with?

JOEY: Who knows? Who cares? We're always threatening to blow up somebody.

CUSTOMER 3: Geez, Joey, you can't just make up anything you

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
<http://www.histage.com/playdetails.asp?PID=1339>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!