

TV Time

a sketch comedy

written by Luis Rivera

Scene: a table set with a glass and a bottle

Announcer enters.

Announcer

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Bring the chillen to the television set for this is the Guzzler's Gin Program. Guzzler's Gin comes in two sizes. The college size and the jumbo elephant size. With Guzzler's Gin there's no bad taste, no after affects, no upsetting the nerves, just a nice smooth drink. (pours some gin in the glass) Pour a little glass and drink it right down, but be sure to ask for Guzzler's Gin, a nice smooth drink. (swallows the gin, begins to cough) Drink some after dinner, drink some before so you won't need dinner. I'll be back in a moment with more from our sponsor. Meanwhile, here's the first half of the program.

Scene: a sittingroom

George enters.

GEORGE: Honey, I'm home.

Betty enters.

BETTY: Hello, darling. How was your day?

GEORGE: It was swell. You know, Mr. Connell says if things keep going the way they are, I might be seeing that promotion sooner than I thought.

BETTY: O darling, that wonderful. I always knew you could do it.

GEORGE: Hey pumpkin, what's that smell. Is that your beefsteak.

BETTY: It might be.

GEORGE: Oh, pumpkin, you sure know the way to this man's heart. Say, where are those kids?

MARY SUE: (enters) Right behind you father.

BUD: (enters) Right behind you father.

MARY SUE: Mother, father. Bud has a little surprise for you.

GEORGE: What is it, Bud?

BUD: (takes out a medal) First place at the science fair. There were lots of swell projects. I guess mine was just the swellest.

BETTY: Bud, that's wonderful but there's no such word as swellest.

BUD: Geewhiz, mom. It wasn't the English fair.

All laugh.

BETTY: What's a mother to do?

GEORGE: Well, you know what they say, "Father knows best".

Scene: a street

Montgomery and Stone enter.

STONE: Man, gimmie my money.

MONTGOMERY: Gib ya what money?

STONE: Da money dat ya owes me.

MONTGOMERY: 'ow come you tink I owes ya money?

STONE: 'ow much money ya got?

MONTGOMERY: I got twenty-eight dollars.

STONE: Well gimmie my part.

MONTGOMERY: What is ya part?

STONE: My part is one seventh of twenty-eight.

MONTGOMERY: What is one seventh of twenty-eight?

STONE: Thirteen dollars.

MONTGOMERY: Ya gotta prove dat to me.

STONE: I'll prove it to ya. (goes to blackboard) Now. Da first ting ya do when ya prove the example is put down the number which is twenty-eight. (puts down a two) Dat's a two. (puts down an eight) Dat's a capital eight. (puts down a seven) Now ya put down da seven. Now, da seven will not go into da two, but it will go into de eight one time if ya shove it in hard. (puts down a one) Dat gibs ya one left over. (puts down twenty-one) Seven goes into twenty-one three times. (puts down a three) Now gimmie my money man. Com'on.

MONTGOMERY: Ya ain't shown me nothing yet, boy.

STONE: Alright, I'll prove da example to ya. (puts down a one) Ya know what dat is.

MONTGOMERY: Yeah, dat's a one.

STONE: No. Dat's half of eleven. (puts down a three) Den ya make a capital three... (puts down a seven) Den ya cross ya seven and ya multiply. (puts down a twenty-one, a seven and a twenty-eight) Seven times three is twenty-one, seven times one is seven, twenty-one plus seven is twenty-eight. Now let me have it, brother.

MONTGOMERY: Ya know what I's gonna do boy?

STONE: Wha'cha gonna do?

MONTGOMERY: I's gonna put thirteen down seven times. I's gonna add'em up. (puts down thirteen seven times) If it come to twenty-eight, I'll gibba ya money.

STONE: Dat won't be.

MONTGOMERY: What?

STONE: Figures on da board.

MONTGOMERY: Three, six, nine, twelve, fifteen, eighteen, twenty-one.

STONE: Twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight. (puts down twenty-eight) Man gimmie my money!

Scene: a table set with a glass and a bottle

Announcer enters, slightly intoxicated.

ANNOUNCER

This is the Guzzler's Gin Program you lookin' at. Guzzler's come in five sizes. Get the college size and you'll be in a class by yourself. No bad taste, no after affects, no upsetting the nerves just a nice smooth drink. Pour a little glass and drink it right down...(looks for the glass) You gotta find the glass first. (find the glass and pours some gin in it) Be sure to ask for Guzzler's Gin, a nice smooth drink. (smells the gin and gags) I should've done the oatmeal program. (pinches his nose and swallows the gin, he begins to cough) And now for the second half of the program.

Scene: a bench in a park

Hobo sitting forlorn on a park bench. Stooge walks by, notices Hobo.

STOOGES: You've got such a sad long face.

HOBO: You've got such a kind face. Would you like to hear my story?

STOOGES: Indeed I would.

HOBO: I was not always a worthless bum. Once, I had a happy life—well-educated, with a good job, a loving wife, and child. Until the fateful day that I befriended a stranger down on his luck, and took him into my home. One day, I came home from work, only to find that the stranger has run away with my wife. I searched the world over, and eventually found my wife and the man in Niagara Falls, where I had my revenge! (As Hobo tells this story, he becomes more excited and shrill) Slowly I turned, step by step, inch by inch, (as he says this, he approaches Stooge, who begins backing away in fear) and I had my revenge! I beat him (hits Stooge with a pillow or slapstick) over and over (repeats) and finally, put my hands around his wretched throat... (begins strangling Stooge, who breaks free)

STOOGES: Stop it! Wait a minute! What's wrong with you?

HOBO: (coming to his senses) Why...you're not him...you're my friend, the stranger with a kind face!

STOOGES: Yes, that's right! What's the matter with you?

HOBO: I'm sorry, friend. You see, whenever I hear Niagara Falls, it takes me back to that horrible moment and I want to kill...Kill...KILL! (starts toward Stooge)

STOOGES: Wait a minute! I didn't say it!

HOBO: Say what?

STOOGES: Niagara Falls!

HOBO: Niagara Falls! (starts moving toward Stooge) Slowly I turned, step by step, inch by inch until I began beating that miserable wretch (again begins beating Stooge with pillow or slapstick, until Stooge takes it away from him)

STOOGES: Now stop that! You can't attack me just because I say Nia...that word!

HOBO: I'm sorry. Please forgive me, friend. Have you ever been there, by any chance?

STOOGES: Oh, yes, I love it at Niagara Falls. Oh! (clamps his hand over his mouth as he realizes that he's said it again)

HOBO: Niagara Falls! Slowly I turned, step by step, inch by inch, and then I...(realizes that he doesn't have the pillow or slapstick, pulls out a bottle of seltzer water instead) grabbed a handful of Niagara Falls and threw it at him!

Squirts the seltzer water at Stooge and chases him off the stage.

Scene: a Circus Ring

Ringmaster Ned enters and blows a whistle.

RINGMASTER: Bozo's Circus is on the air! With Bozo, the world greatest clown! Professor Tweetyfoofer. Charlie the Tramp. And Ringmaster Ned, that's me. And a cast of thousands! How do you feel? You feel fine? I bet you do. We thank you tuning in. We have a real treat for you today. Bozo and Charlie will be doing a very special trick for you. Let's look and see.

Bozo and Charlie enter.

BOZO: (addressing the audience) Ladies and gentlemen, tonight I will re-enact for you a great feat of archery from my youth – shooting an arrow off the top of someone's head!

CHARLIE: That's wonderful, Bozo! I've always wanted to see that!

BOZO: (turns toward Charlie) Don't worry, Charlie – you'll be seeing it up close!

CHARLIE: (reacts) That's great!

BOZO: (putting the apple on the top of Charlie's head) You'll have the best seat in the house.

CHARLIE: Great! (realizing) Why is this apple on my head?

BOZO: You'll get a close-up view! (turns toward the audience) Ladies and gentlemen, I will now shoot that apple off the head of Charlie (brandishes rifle) with this deadly weapon!

While Bozo is addressing the audience, Charlie is visibly showing fear, and then gets an idea – takes the apple, and takes a big bite out of it.

BOZO: (turns around, sees the bite out of the apple) What's going on here?

CHARLIE: The apple ... had a worm. A very, very hungry worm!

BOZO: (turns back to the audience, while Charlie takes another bite) and I'll use this silver bullet! (turns back to Charlie) Another worm?

CHARLIE: (nervous) um ... Yes! Huge! Hungry!

BOZO: (turns back to the audience, as Charlie takes another bite – turns around to catch the son in the act) Aha!

CHARLIE: Uh-huh!

Charlie runs off, with Bozo in hot pursuit.

RINGMASTER: Bozo and Charlie, ladies and gentlemen.

Professor Tweetyfoofer enters.

PROFESSOR: Ringmaster Ned.

RINGMASTER: What is it, Professor Tweetyfoofer?

PROFESSOR: Why did the chicken cross the road.

RINGMASTER: To get to the other side, of course.

PROFESSOR: Why did the chicken want to get to the other side?

RINGMASTER: Maybe it was looking for food or running away from a predator.

PROFESSOR: Well, we'll never know because there is no chicken. It's clearly hypothetical.

RINGMASTER: You're wasting my time. Get outta here!

Professor exits.

RINGMASTER: And now it's time for the Grand Prize Game! We got a volunteer for the audience. Come over here, will you.

Bud enters.

RINGMASTER: What's your name, kid?

BUD: My name is Bud Parker.

RINGMASTER: Well, Bud. You ready to play the Grand Prize Game?

BUD: Yes indeed.

RINGMASTER: Alright then. The rule is, every time you throw a ball into a bucket, you get as prize. if you make it to the sixth bucket, you win the grand prize, and the grand prize is one thousand dollars.

Bozo, Charlie and Professor set up the game while Ringmaster Ned is talking to Bud.

RINGMASTER: (hands Bud a ball) Here's the first ball.

Bud throws the ball into the first bucket.

RINGMASTER: You won a Monopoly board game from Parker Bros. (hands Bud a second ball) Here's the second ball.

Bud throws the ball into the second bucket.

RINGMASTER: You won a Swiss Army Knife. (hands Bud a third ball) Here's the third ball.

Bud throws the ball into the third bucket.

RINGMASTER: You won a Red Rider BB Gun. (hands Bud a fourth ball) Here's the forth ball.

Bud throw the ball at the fourth bucket and misses.

RINGMASTER: Oh! You missed by a hair. No matter, you still got the three other prizes. Use them well and wisely. Have a nice day.

Bud exits.

RINGMASTER: That's it for our show. Do you have anything to say for the kiddies, Bozo?

BOZO: I sure do, Ringmaster Ned. This is your old pal, Bozo the Clown. Hope we'll see you next time. And don't forget what your friendly neighborhood Bozo always says, "Always keep laughing!"

Scene: a table set with a glass and a bottle

Announcer enters, completely intoxicated.

ANNOUNCER

Smooth! Guzzler's Gin comes in twenty-nine sizes. With Guzzler's you don't need a chaser, nothing can cat'cha. Save money, get the jumbo elephant size, only twenty-five cents a quart. Smooth! Pour a little glass and drink it right down. (drink the gin straight from the bottle, begins to cough) Smooth!

Does a pratfall.