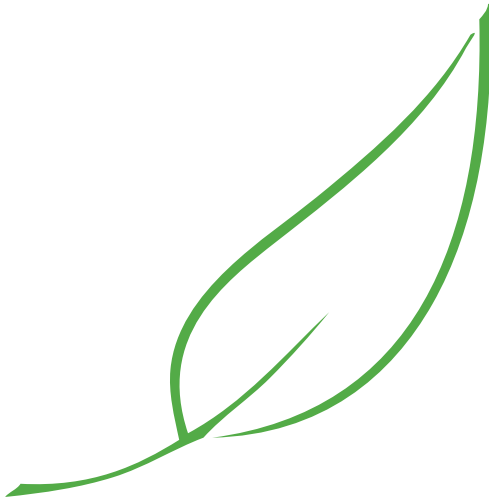


Grey Hair And Zits

By Mark Scharf



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SYNOPSIS: You can't stop time by hiding in your bedroom -- or can you? In this short comedy, a man wrestles with accepting his 50th birthday as guests gather for his birthday party downstairs. *GREY HAIR AND ZITS* is a snapshot of a man railing against the inevitable indignities of aging (both real and imagined) in a funny and losing verbal game of ping-pong with his clear-eyed, dryly observant, and patient-to-a-point wife.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 male, 1 female)

MAN50.

WOMANHis wife late 40's/early 50's

TIME: The present

PRODUCTION NOTES

The set needs only to suggest a bedroom and provide something to sit on, an ironing board and iron. The set can also be as elaborate as budget and artistic choices allow (e.g. more furniture, a mirror, doors).

The MAN's age can be adjusted for casting to any milestone age: 30, 40, 50 or 60 – although 50 is the intended age; a 50th birthday bears a weight that the others do not necessarily carry.

The zit on the man's face should be invisible to the audience and likewise the characters should be portrayed "straight ahead;" you don't need to make it big to work.

PREMIERE

The Laurel Mill Playhouse presented the world premiere production of GREY
HAIR AND ZITS in August 2012 in Laurel, MD.

Producer: Maureen Rogers

Directed by: Mark T. Allen

Technical Director: Diana Simmons

MAN.....Ed Silverstein

WOMAN.....Barbara Turner

AT RISE: *The lights rise on a MAN and WOMAN in a suburban bedroom. HE examines his face in a mirror and wears pants but no shirt while SHE irons his shirt on an ironing board. SHE is dressed for a party.*

MAN: This isn't fair. It's just not fair. When you reach a certain age, you shouldn't have to suffer the... the indignities you had to go through to reach that age. All the tortuous events of puberty should be behind you forever. I mean, look at this. I've got grey hair *and* zits. It should be one or the other – not both.

WOMAN: Quit whining.

MAN: I'm not whining. I'm stating a fact.

WOMAN: You're complaining about it.

MAN: I'm allowed to complain. If something is wrong, if something isn't right, I'm allowed to complain about it. In fact, I have a duty to complain – an obligation. How else would anyone know something is wrong? How would you know what needs fixing if no one complained?

WOMAN: You whine when you complain.

MAN: (*Exasperated whine.*) I do not whine!

WOMAN: Yeah. Right.

MAN: You just don't like it if anyone complains but you. You're the only one who can bitch about anything.

WOMAN: I'm better at it.

MAN: You've certainly had lots of practice.

WOMAN: Be careful – I'm doing you a favor here. (*SHE holds the iron towards him and sprays some water from it.*) And, I'm armed. (*HE looks at himself in the mirror.*) It's not my fault you've got a zit.

MAN: It's not my fault either. I did nothing to deserve this.

WOMAN: If we got what we deserved we'd have a maid and she'd iron your shirt and listen to you whine. Or maybe you'd know how to iron your own damn shirt...

MAN: You know I'd mess it up. I always mess it up. I burned my favorite shirt the last time I tried...

WOMAN: It's not my fault that you're helpless.

MAN: I'm not hapless...

WOMAN: That, too. Helpless and hapless.



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by Mark Scharf.

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