

Family Portraits

By

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This funny play can be used to encourage people to sign up for your church pictorial directory.

Approximate Running Time:

5 minutes

Cast of Characters:

Mom: A mother as she prepares her family for a church pictorial directory family portrait.

Dad: A father as he gets ready for a church pictorial directory family portrait.

Boy: A son who is getting ready for a church pictorial family portrait.

Girl: A daughter who is getting ready for a church pictorial family portrait.

Scene:

The family is at home getting dressed for a church pictorial family portrait. As the play progresses the mother continues to ruffle her hair as she deals with her family. At the end of the play her hair is pretty much a mess.

Mom: [*Dressed and ready for the portrait. Yelling offstage to others.*] Come on. Let's get going. We have about 15 minutes to get ready for the church pictorial directory picture. I want us to look our best. We don't have a lot more time, so let's get going.

[*She busies herself stage left.*]

Dad: [*Entering stage right while reading the paper, dressed in sweats and a t-shirt. Hair is definitely disheveled.*] I don't see why we have to get up so early in the morning to have this picture taken.

Mom: Dear, what are you doing?

Dad: I'm reading the paper.

Mom: I can see that. Didn't you hear me? Aren't you getting ready for the picture? Don't you want the picture to turn out all right?

Dad: Yeah, but don't you think we could have gotten an appointment in the evening or even something a little later in the morning?

Mom: It was the only time slot that was left. No, come on. Go get dressed. [*Looking at her watch.*] We have to leave in about ten minutes.

[*He begins to exit while reading the paper.*]

Mom: [*Ripping paper out of his hands.*] And you can't get dressed while you're reading the paper.

Dad: All right. All right.

[*He exits.*]

Boy: [*Entering playing a game boy. He's got grungy jeans on, a dirty t-shirt, and a baseball cap.*] I'm ready for the picture.

Mom: Oh, no you're not.

Boy: Yes I am.

Mom: No you're not.

Boy: Yes I am.

Mom: No you're not. Just look at yourself.

[*Boy looks at what he is wearing and sees nothing wrong with it.*]

Boy: What's wrong with what I'm wearing?

Mom: You're filthy dirty! You've got dirty jeans on, you've got a dirty T-shirt on, and you're not wearing a hat in our family picture.

Boy: Why not?

Mom: Because everyone in the church is going to see this picture. They're going to take it home with them and they're going to be looking at it all the time. You are not wearing that in our church picture and that's final young man. Now you just march yourself off and get dressed in your Sunday finest.

[He begins to exit while playing his game boy.]

Mom: Oh, no you don't. You can't get dressed while you're playing that game boy.

Boy: Yeah I can.

Mom: No you can't.

Boy: Yeah I can.

Mom: No you can't. *[She takes it.]*

Boy: Aw, mom.

Mom: You can have it back when you're done getting dressed. Now go get dressed.

[She shuffles him offstage. He exits. Girl enters wearing her pajamas and big fluffy slippers. She's listening to her Walkman. The music is audible to the audience.]

Mom: And what do you think you're doing young lady?

[Girl can't hear her because of the Walkman.]

Mom: Excuse me. *[Getting in front of the girl. Girl tries to go around her. She and girl are kind of dancing with each other and girl grabs Mom and swings her around. Mom is not amused. She takes the Walkman.]*

Mom: This is not the time for dancing. We are supposed to be leaving to go to church for our picture for the church pictorial directory in less than ten minutes and you're still in your pajamas.

Girl: I guess you'll just have to cancel the appointment.

Mom: No, this is the third appointment we've had. I'm not canceling it. Now you just go to your room, put something nice on, and brush your hair.

Girl: I don't have enough time to get ready for church.

Mom: You don't have to get ready for church. You just have to look good from the waist up. Now go get ready.

Girl: But mom, every boy in church is going to see this picture. I can't have my picture taken like this and I don't have enough time to get ready.

Mom: You don't have a choice.

Girl: You just have to cancel it.

Mom: I'm not going to cancel it. You go get ready. Just do your best. *[Mom shuffles her offstage, keeping the Walkman.]*

Mom: I can't believe this. *[Yelling.]* We now have just 5 more minutes.

[Dad enters dressed wearing a nice outfit and a hideous tie.]

Dad: Tada!

Mom: You are not wearing that tie.

Dad: What's wrong with my tie?

Mom: Look at it. It's hideous. Go put on the blue one. It'll match my dress.

Dad: I don't like the blue one. Look, this one has blue in it. It matches your dress, doesn't it? Besides we don't have time. I thought you said we just have 5 more minutes?

Mom: *[Shuffling him offstage.]* You can do it.

[Boy enters with a nice outfit on - with his hat still on.]

Boy: Tada!

Mom: I thought I said no hat.

Boy: Aw, ma!

Mom: No hat. *[Taking it off. His hair is all ruffled.]* Well, maybe you can leave it on. *[Giving him his game boy.]* Now you just stand right here and wait for your father and sister to get ready.

[Girl enters with her hair in ponytails and a nice blouse on and her pajama bottoms and slippers.]

Mom: What's with the pajama bottoms and the slippers?

Girl: You said I just had to be dressed from the waist up, right?

Mom: Yes, I did say that, but I didn't mean...

[Dad enters with another hideous tie on.]

Dad: Tada!

Mom: Not that tie.

Dad: What time is it?

Mom: [Looking at her watch.] It's time to go.

Boy: Let's hit the road. [He exits while playing his game boy.]

Mom: But we're not all ready.

Dad: Close enough. Let's go. [He grabs the paper and exits.]


Girl: Yeah, mom. Close enough. [She grabs her Walkman.] Let's rock and roll, mom. [She exits.]

Mom: [Catching her image in a mirror by the door and playing with her hair.] Ugh. I guess it's close enough.

[She exits.]

[As an option, if you have PowerPoint, you could take some funny pictures of the family and display them at the end of the play.]

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