

SLAPSTICK SCIENCE

Much Work with Little Effort Show Preparation

Introduction

Sometimes a word on good manners for guests is appropriate, but normally not necessary. This is also an opportunity for the PTA to let the children know they arranged for this program (i.e. "This program is sponsored by the PTA. If you wondered where the money from the wrapping paper went, now you know."). Dr. Quark will take over after hearing the end of the introduction which is as follows:

"Today we have a guest Chemist. Let's have a warm _____ School welcome for Dr. Quinton Quark."

Show Requirements

1. Parking close to the stage door.
2. Access to performance space 90 min. prior and 60 min. following performance.
3. An outlet somewhere near the stage and an extension cord (20' is long enough).
4. 1 black, metal music stand.
5. Clean & clear performance area.
6. 14 foot ceiling.
7. If show shares the floor with the audience, Dr. Quark will require floor space 16 feet deep.

Show Volunteers

1. Throughout the show many students will be brought on stage. Primary criteria are enthusiasm and size; paying attention also counts.

2. During the show I will ask some teacher sitting near the stage to come forward and hold a kid's hand to steady him/her while he/she walks along a board. I'll then ask for about a dozen kids to come on stage. I'll try to get them from the same class, and I'll also ask their teacher to come on stage to help supervise them since that teacher will know their names.

3. At one point during the program I ask if any of the teachers have changed a flat tire. If you have, simply raise your hand. It's important for the kids to see that many people know how to change a tire, and it makes an awkward moment when the entire faculty looks as if they couldn't change a tire.

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4. At the end I need help from any one of the following during a show with no audience members from 5th grade or older:

- * the principal
- * the phys ed teacher
- * any fit teacher over 150 lbs.
- * any 2 teachers with good arm strength wearing comfortable shoes (preferably sneakers)

Whoever helps for the finale will become a hero! Please note that teacher volunteers will not be embarrassed or asked to do anything that would make them uncomfortable.

Slapstick Science
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Students and teachers with questions, comments, or suggestions for other things you'd like to see can write Dr. Quark at the above address! He loves mail and will try to answer what he gets!