

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Sure FM

by Michael Jeffery

EXTRACT

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SURE FM
BY MICHAEL JEFFERY

[THE LIGHTS ARE DOWN. OVER THE P.A. SYSTEM, WE HEAR THE WORLD WAR II NOVELTY SONG: "PLEASE LEAVE MY BUTTER ALONE." -

*Everybody pinches my butter.
They won't leave my butter alone.
And nothing is better than butter
For keeping the old man at home.*

*Everybody says I'm old fashioned,
To sit on the things that are rationed
So pinch all my ham
And my plumb and apple jam,
But please leave my butter alone.*

*I've got a nice friendly face *
I think you will agree
And folks are always popping in
To have a cup of tea*

*You might think there's a war on
Why, they argue and they shout
But its not wars or politics
That I'm worried about.*

* HALF THE LIGHTS RISE JUST AFTER THE LINE "I'VE GOT A NICE FRIENDLY FACE", TO REVEAL ETHEL EXHIBITING ANYTHING BUT A FRIENDLY FACE!

SHE IS A LADY OF CONSIDERABLE YEARS, AND HAS EVIDENTLY MISPLACED THE COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FOLDER. SHE DASHES ABOUT THE STUDIO. UPON LOCATING THE INFO., SHE MOUTHS 'THANK YOU' TO THE HEAVENS.

ETHEL CHECKS HER WATCH AND SUDDENLY REALISES SHE'S MEANT TO BE ON THE AIR.

AFTER THE LINE; “BUT IT’S NOT WARS OR POLITICS THAT I’M WORRIED ABOUT” ETHEL PRESSES A BUTTON IN THE STUDIO - THE SONG STOPS.

ETHEL:

[INTO THE MICROPHONE:] You’re with the sounds of the bay, right by the surf, 94.4 Shore FM.

[FULL LIGHTS UP. OUR SETTING: A COMMUNITY RADIO STATION: A SOUND BOOTH STAGE RIGHT (ETHEL’S AREA), AND A DESK, CHAIRS AND NOTICE BOARD STAGE LEFT]

Hello everyone and welcome back, I’m Ethel Taylor, and you’re listening to Ethel Taylor’s Community Diary, right here on the great sounds of the south: 94.4 Shore FM and welcome, ah, as I just [PAUSE] said.

I’ve a packed program for you today, my word, so many interesting and wonderful things to tell you about, [TO HERSELF:] it’ll be a real battle to get through it all within the hour, [OUTWARDS AGAIN:] but I’ll do my best.

Let’s start at the beginning, that’s a very good place to start, as they say, and let’s have some community announcements.

[ETHEL PRESSES A BUTTON BUT INSTEAD OF HEARING THE COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS INTRO., WE HEAR THE WEATHER INTRO.]

Oops, I must have loaded the wrong cart., sorry about that, let’s try again.

[ETHEL PRESSES ANOTHER BUTTON. WEATHER INTRO. PLAYS AGAIN, THIS TIME STICKING LIKE A NEEDLE ON AN OLD VINYL RECORD]

Oh.

[PICKS UP A PAPER FROM THE TABLE/DESK; TO CHECK HOW TO PROPERLY LOAD THE CART, BUT KNOCKS SOME OTHER PAPERS OVER]

Oh.