



A 30 Minute Performance  
Package Featuring a Variety  
of Skits About Relationships

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## **RELATIONSHIPS AND SUCH**

### **An Overview**

by Lee Karvonen

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This set of skits involves a wide variety of relationships, including family, friends, and student-teacher. Each one is an amusing look at the dynamics of such relationships. There is even a component of conflict management in these skits, albeit played tongue-in-cheek in each case.

The running time is approximately 30 minutes. The order of skits is up to you, the director. If you have cast people in more than one skit, you simply need to allow for costume changes for those people. Sets are optional. They will complicate and slow down the action, but it is your production, so feel free to produce it to meet your needs.

On the following pages you will find brief capsules of each skit, occasionally with suggestions for how to play them. These are listed in alphabetical order, not necessarily performance order.

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**BASEBALL IS MY GAME** - In this skit, a young baseball player who has a very high opinion of his/her abilities is frustrated by the questions of another young person who seems to have difficulty hearing what the ball player has to say.

**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AS IT SHOULD NOT BE USED,**

**PLUS INTRO** - In this pair of short skits, a completely wrong time and situation for conflict management is used. After the introduction, the first skit shows a sword fight between a very angry person and another who becomes very defensive. Just as it is ending very badly, the loser of the fight suddenly recovers and suggests that the two could have handled the situation much better. It certainly is handled differently, but with an ironic twist.

**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AS IT SHOULD BE USED,**

**PLUS INTRO** - After the brief intro, two friends play a typical situation where conflict develops because of misconception ( the cause of 80% of conflicts). Although it is written correctly, it is more effective if sent up. The name used is androgynous, so the two characters could be male or female. Two boys could play it in drag, for instance. Or two girls could overplay it. It should be played with obvious false sincerity. The crux of the matter is the leaking to the whole school of the tender feelings one of the pair has for another student of the opposite gender and where the blame for that leaking belongs.

**COURT CASE** - Legal action is threatened if a complaint cannot be resolved. A local buzzard is unhappy that the carrion collecting is being put out for bids and is pleading with the lawyer for that position to meet on middle ground.. After all, such a change would mean no food for the local scavengers. The argument escalates through the skit.

**FATHER AND SON** - A fairly strict father is being worked on by his son for permission to not only attend a weekend party at a friend's, but to have the family car to drive there and back. The son takes the long way around to ask and the father lets him do just that before making his son an offer that he will have to consider seriously.

**ONE ON ONE** - A hotshot basketball player is challenged by a local wannabe to a one on one competition. Despite the wannabe's desperate trying, he gets whipped. But in the end he throws down yet another challenge.

**SISTER AND BROTHER** - This is a typical sibling rivalry situation where an unwilling pair of siblings is going to be forced to do a scene together. Such is their lack of commitment to it that it never comes to fruition, thereby creating yet another rift.

**SPORTS ILLUSTRIOUS INTERVIEW** - An over the top sportscaster interviews an NBA rookie, albeit one who has seen little success in the first month of the season. The crux of the interview involves the single basket the rookie has scored to date.

**TEACHER AND STUDENT** - A Grade 8 student and his/her teacher are spending a detention together. The student is trying to get a commutation and tries buttering up the teacher who plays along until the end when the student is put neatly into place.

**UPSIDE DOWN - DOWNSIDE UP** - This involves one student playing a wall and two others, one of whom plays a joke on the other. One student stands on his/her hands for much of the scene, supported by the obliging wall, while trying to convince the other student that he/she is the one who is upside down. A twist ending wraps it up neatly.

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***INTRO TO***  
**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**  
**AS IT SHOULD NOT BE USED**

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**RUNNER 1**

(Runner 1 runs on from LEFT holding book with envelope tucked inside. Runner 1 opens book, removes envelope, and reads quote aloud from the book).

Runner 1: "Conflict Management is the most important skill you can learn in school today."

So says Dr. E. Walter Birnbaum, the noted authority on just about anything.

The following is a demonstration of Conflict Management skills in

action. First we'll show what usually happens. Then we'll show the scene again with Conflict Management skills used - ***skillfully!***

Oh. Here's a note from Dr. Birnbaum. (Opens envelope and reads note aloud). The following shows a situation where Conflict Management Skills should ***NOT*** be used. PG 13 is advised. Oops!

(Runner 1 runs off RIGHT).

## **CONFLICT MANAGEMENT, AS IT SHOULD NOT BE USED**

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### **CAST:**

ONE

TWO

### **THE FIGHT**

(Lights up as TWO enters admiring her/himself in sword blade. ONE rushes in from opposite side and confronts TWO.)

ONE:        You killed my father! Prepare to die!

TWO:        I didn't kill anybody!

ONE:        Yes, you did! You killed my father! Prepare to die!

TWO:        I'll kill you too! Prepare to die!

ONE:        No way!

TWO:        Yes way!    (They struggle together.)

(ONE stabs TWO. TWO collapses. TWO then recovers.)

TWO:        Wait a minute! We can do this better.

***INTRO TO***  
**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**  
**AS IT SHOULD BE USED**

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**RUNNER 2**

(RUNNER 2 Runs on from RIGHT).

Runner 1: Okay, this is the one! This is it! This is how Conflict  
Management ***SHOULD*** be used.

(Gives a thumbs up or "V" for Victory sign, and run off LEFT).

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**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**  
**AS IT SHOULD BE USED**

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ONE: You killed my father! Prepare to die!

TWO: What makes you think I killed your father!

ONE: What!?

TWO: What are your reasons for thinking I killed your father?

ONE: You were standing over his body! You had a knife in your hand! It



was dripping with his blood!

TWO: So you're saying that because I held a bloody knife in my hand and was beside your father's corpse, that I killed him.

ONE: Yes! It had to be you, you murderer!

TWO: When you call me a murderer, it sounds like you're feeling sad and frustrated.

ONE: No duh! I want to kill you, you father stabber!

TWO: When you call me a father stabber, I feel misunderstood and let down. It would be better for me if you simply explained your problem without name-calling.

ONE: My problem! MY PROBLEM!!! You killed my father!

TWO: Well, yes. You're right. But he was my father too.

(Lights down).

**COURT CASE**  
**MAYBE A LAWSUIT**  
**A MEETING OF LEGAL AND NOT-SO LEGAL MINDS**

by Lee Karvonen

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CAST:  
BUZZ ARD  
D. K. INGBODY

BUZZ: (Entering RIGHT and looking up at sign) D. K. Ingbody? D. K. Ingbody! Haha. Decaying body! Attorney at law. So, they hired a gunslinger!

DK: That's such a harsh word, Mr. Ard. May I call you Buzz? Hmm. Buzz Ard.

BUZZ: Something funny about my name DK?

DK: No. No. But I'm really just here to help the situation. Just what is the situation, in your words.

BUZZ: I am a longtime resident of Vulture Valley and I have deep concerns about the number of dead bodies that are being cleaned up and moved away immediately, if not sooner. As a practicing scavenger, I find it harder and harder to find a square meal nowadays.

DK: Buzz, you must put yourself in my client's position. She can't have corpses littering the streets and fields of this fair community indefinitely while you and your colleagues work your way through them on your own sweet time.

BUZZ: It was good enough for my grandfather and good enough for my father, so it should be good enough for me too!

DK: I understand your nostalgia for the good old mold, but my client has a particularly sensitive nose, and a discerning eye for carrion. The mess she has found is disturbing, to say the least.

BUZZ: Look, for longer than I can remember, I and my ilk have been keeping the streets and fields clean and clear of all offending body parts. Admittedly, we do so over time, and we don't vacuum after a clean-up. However, we are thorough, and, given the fullness of time, we do eventually get it all. So I beg of you to have your client re-consider putting out this year's clean-up contract to bids. Please leave this to the non-professionals who, though amateur, are fully capable of doing a good job. And we do not cost the city a cent!

DK: Buzz, Buzz, Buzz! You haven't been hearing a word I've been saying! My client is fed up with your feeding up! She has chewed it over and wants faster, cleaner, more efficient disposal!

BUZZ: DK, you're not hearing me! We have to eat! Tell her to move to a bigger city where there are more people to spend more money to clean up more bodies! And, hey, to sweeten the pot, we'll even help with moving expenses!

DK: Buzz, this is not about money! It's about death-style!

BUZZ: So, you're not prepared to even meet us halfway on this, are you?

DK: I'm afraid not, big birdie.

BUZZ: All right. We are prepared to advise our attorneys to proceed with a wrongful death disposal suit against your client. I am certain neither of us wants to go down that road. So, you will be receiving a proposal from the local Scavengers Society regarding help with moving costs. This is a good faith offer. However, should you reject it, we'll be seeing you in court.

DK: Hardball, eh? On my worst day I could whip your lawyers in court! I'll quash them like bugs! I'll tear them apart! I'll tear them to pieces!

BUZZ: (clapping hands together) Oh, goody! a buffet!

STAGE LIGHTS DOWN

**FATHER AND SON**  
by Lee Karvonen

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**CAST:**

FATHER - FAT

SON - SON

Scene: in the family living room where the son is trying to get the car keys and permission to stay out late at a friend's party from his very strict father

SON: So, Dad, how are you this evening?

FAT: Well, son, I am fine, thank you, just fine.

SON: That's great! So I was wondering how the car is running.

FAT: Fine. The same way it was running when I drove it home from work.

SON: That's great, Dad! I was just wondering.

FAT: Really. Why?

SON: Oh, it's just great to know the family car is running fine, you know, in case someone needed to use it.

FAT: Right. Does someone need to use it?

SON: No. No. No one needs to use it.

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Father and Son  
A Relationships Package Skit

FAT: Well, that's good.

SON: Of course, someone might want to use it.

FAT: That's true, son. That's very true.

SON: So, Dad, I was sorta thinking about something.

FAT: I sorta thought you were.

SON: Well, the thing is ...

FAT: Yes, son, the thing is ...

SON: Well, Dad, the thing is that there might be a really important thing that someone might really want to go to ... because it is really important.

FAT: I can't argue with logic like that.

SON: So, you see, the thing is, I'm that someone.

FAT: That is a shock.

SON: I'm not kidding, Dad.

FAT: I was positive you weren't

SON: And there is this really important thing that I would really like to go to, you know.

FAT: I have to tell you. I don't.

SON: Right. That's because I haven't told you the really important thing that I really want to go to.

FAT: You are absolutely right. And when you're right, I'm not afraid to say so.

SON: Thanks, Dad. So, this really important thing--

FAT: I hate to interrupt, son, but would it spoil the story if you told me what this really important thing actually is?

SON: Well, n-no. I guess not. I mean, I guess not really.

FAT: So, what is this really important thing you really want to go to?

SON: My buddies are having a little get-together over at one of their houses this Friday night.

FAT: And you want to know if you can go.

SON: That's right! I want to know if I can go.

FAT: I don't see why not. You'll leave the phone number here and you'll be home at the usual weekend time.

SON: Yeah, right, Dad, but, um, there's something else.

FAT: Something else? Oh yes, of course. I'll drive you over if it's too far to walk. Then I'll know just where to pick you up.

SON: That's not exactly it, Dad.

FAT: Not exactly it?

SON: No. No exactly it.

FAT: Could you then be more exact, please?

SON: Well, I was sort of thinking that, you know, if the weather was really good that night, and the forecast is for beautiful weather, I checked, no rain or fog or anything, that maybe, you know if nothing else was going on, that possibly I could, maybe, take the car myself.

FAT: You mean, you would drive the car?

SON: Yes.

FAT: Well, that shouldn't be a problem.



SON: Great! I'll get the car keys from you when you get home on Friday.

FAT: Why would you need to get the car keys from me?

SON: So I could take the car.

FAT: I'll just hand them to you when we drive over.

SON: No, Dad. I think you're just a little confused.

FAT: Confused?

SON: Yes. I was thinking that I would drive over, and back, by myself.

FAT: By yourself.

SON: Yeah. That way you wouldn't have to drive all the way over there,  
and back, after you've had a long hard week at work.

FAT: Your concern is moving.

SON: Hey, I've only got one father. I've gotta take care of you, right?

FAT: So it would seem. But getting back to the driving.

SON: Yeah. So, if you're okay with the plan, I'd just take the car for the  
evening.

FAT: You'd take the car for the evening.

SON: Right! And you wouldn't have to do any driving.

FAT: I think you're too nice to me.

SON: No way. No problem. I just want to do the right thing.

FAT: The right thing.

SON: Yeah. The right thing.

FAT: So this little get-together with your buddies, what it is for?

SON: Oh, well, we're all interested in music, so we're going to listen to our favorite CDs.

FAT: Ah! A musical evening!

SON: That's right. And we'll have a few snacks and, just, you know, hang out.

FAT: Hang out. Now there's an all-inclusive term.

SON: It just means we'll be doing things together.

FAT: Listening to music, eating, and drinking.

SON: Yeah! I mean, No! No drinking!

FAT: All those salty snacks are going to make somebody pretty thirsty.

SON: Oh! Well, we'll have pop, of course!

FAT: Of course.

SON: So, what do you say, Dad?

FAT: Well, if you leave us the phone number, and if we can call halfway through to make sure you're okay, and if there is no drinking of alcohol, and if you call us before you head home, and if we are happy with how you sound, then I think you can take the car.

SON: You know, Dad. I've been thinking. Maybe I'll just stay home and watch TV on Friday.

## **ONE ON ONE - A BASKETBALL SKETCH** by Lee Karvonen

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**CAST:**

ACE - Excellent "hoopster"

DEUCE - Wannabe "hoopster"

(Ace enters RIGHT. Deuce joins him from LEFT, bouncing imaginary basketball).

DEUCE: Hey, Ace! Wanna play some ball?

ACE: No way, kid. I'm busy.

DEUCE: Aw, come on, Ace! Just one game!

ACE: You're gonna lose.

DEUCE: Just one game! Please!

ACE: Okay. You asked for it. Give me the ball.

DEUCE: Why should you get the ball?

ACE: So I can get this game over with!

DEUCE: How about the guy who can spin the ball the longest on his finger gets to start?