LADIES ON VACATION

By Carol Woods

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STORY OF THE PLAY

The Ladies go on vacation and rent a condo with only one bathroom. From trying to get all of their luggage into one minivan, deciding who sleeps where and what to eat, to finally selecting the activities, life gets wild and silly, all intensified by lack of sleep. About 20-25 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

Ladies on Vacation was originally performed by the Merry Clements Players and produced by the Clements Community Center.

ORIGINAL CAST:
DEBBIE - Hazel Brandl
KATHERINE - Charlotte Eakins
SARAH - Barbara Farley
GRACE - Nirna Steinberg
LINDA - Fern Wood
SUZIE - Carol Woods

SETTING

Kitchen area of condominium with a table and chairs. Assorted luggage at stage left by cabinet covered with pill bottles.

PROPS

Coffee pot and cups, thirty pill bottles, donuts, and napkins.

ADDITIONAL PLAYS

Add the two plays below for trilogy of one-acts which may be performed together as an evening of entertainment, *Ladies -- A Trio of Six.*

LADIES AT POKER: (1m, 6w) One interior. The Ladies meet at Suzie's home for a game of poker -- which they know little if anything about. Suzie's husband, Willoughby, sticks his two-cents-worth in and the game disintegrates into a sharing of make-up and poker-bridge. As usual, men are a part of the discussion. About 20-25 minutes.

LADIES AT LUNCH: (6w) Six alert and active senior ladies meet for lunch each week. Between their arranging chairs, sharing OTC medications, discussing mammograms and men, they give a waiter and his manager a really bad day. About 20-25 minutes.

Ladies on Vacation

(Scene opens with four women, Debbie, Linda, Sarah, Suzie, all at or near retirement age, sitting around kitchen table in condominium drinking coffee. Assorted luggage on the floor around them.)

DEBBIE: I wonder what Katherine and Grace are doing? We're going to have to get on the road soon to get home at a reasonable hour.

LINDA: Katherine is taking her shower. You know how she has insisted on being the last one all week.

SUZIE: She won't be today because I haven't taken mine yet. Katherine must like cold showers. We haven't had that water stay hot through more than two showers the whole time we've been here.

SARAH: It's a good thing we didn't take this vacation in the middle of winter. We'd all have icicles hanging off our noses.

LINDA: I can't understand why it takes Katherine so long to clean up.

DEBBIE: Because her hair always looks like she just stepped out of the beauty parlor and she applies her make-up with care and diligence. The rest of us just throw it on our face and hope it sticks in the right places - that is, if we wear any at all.

LINDA: I agree with Suzie. I don't think this place would be much fun in the winter.

SARAH: Oh, I couldn't have come if it was in the winter. My arthritis always gets worse in cold weather. You were all so nice to let me take my shower while we had hot water.

DEBBIE: *(Turns to Suzie.)* That was a matter of self-preservation. If she had taken cold showers we would have had to listen to her aches and pains all day.

SUZIE: I thought we did.

DEBBIE: It might have been worse. Though that does seem kind of hard to imagine.

LINDA: If Katherine is in the shower, where is Grace? I worry about her the way she wanders around with her head in the clouds and never seems to have a clue about what's going on.

DEBBIE: She's like a cat with nine lives - only she has nine hundred. You have to admit she provides us with a lot of entertainment. It's like traveling with our own sitcom.

SUZIE: Grace does suffer from a severe case of foot in mouth disease, but she laughs harder than we do every time she acts like a space cadet.

KATHERINE: *(Enters from stage right with small case in her hand.)* Well everyone, I'm all packed and ready to go. What about the rest of you?

CAST: *(Variously.)* I still have to brush my teeth. I have a few things left to poke into my case. We've got plenty of time. I'm all packed. Etc.

SUZIE: I haven't even started packing. I don't know where to begin.

KATHERINE: Suzie, go get it done. We've had to jump start you all week long. *(KATHERINE goes over and pulls SUZIE up out of her chair and pushes her gently toward stage right.)* Go.

CAST: Get along little doggie. Vamoose. Farewell.

KATHERINE: Adios.

SUZIE: Aye, aye, Commander. Your wish is my command. *(SUZIE gives mock salute as she starts to exit right.)*

KATHERINE: *(Turns her head quickly.)* I saw that!

(While this action between Katherine and Suzie takes place the others at table smile, frown, look away, etc.)

GRACE: *(Enters from stage right pulling a big stuffed trash sack behind her.)* What's going on? Why were you pushing Suzie out of the room?

KATHERINE: Because she isn't even packed yet and we have to leave in a little while.

GRACE: Yes, Mother.

DEBBIE: This reminds me of the afternoon we arrived. The management left us that nice-.looking bottle of wine in the ice bucket and Katherine wouldn't let us open it until we did our "chores."

LINDA: Remember, Debbie, how we kept trying to sneak some and Katherine caught us every time.

SUZIE: *(Returns from stage right.)* What are you all talking about?

LINDA: The day we arrived and Katherine wouldn't let us open the bottle of wine until we did our assigned tasks and Debbie and I kept trying to do it anyway.

DEBBIE: And we felt like little kids trying to get into the cookie jar.

KATHERINE: But, if I had let you drink the wine we never would have put away the groceries and unpacked.

SUZIE: Yes, we would have, and it sure would have been a lot more fun - or at least it would have seemed like more fun.

LINDA: As long as we didn't break our necks going up and down those stairs to the loft.

SARAH: Grace, I've been sitting here wondering what do you have in that big plastic sack?

GRACE: Those are all my dirty clothes. I can't pack them in the suitcase with the clean ones.

SUZIE: You mean you have clothes left that are still clean? If we weren't going home today, I'd have to visit the local laundromat, or travel in my last set of clean underwear with nothing else on.

KATHERINE: If you did that, Suzie, I'd make you run along behind the car and we'd all pretend we didn't know you.

DEBBIE: Grace, don't you remember that it took us an hour to get all that luggage into the van? We couldn't even have packed a paper clip in the space we had left.

GRACE: Debbie, you keep mentioning packing paper clips, but why do you need paper clips on a vacation?

SUZIE: He-ll-oo! Grace, were you ever a politician?

GRACE: No, why?

SUZIE: It seems to me sometimes your mind works the same way.

End of Freeview

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