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PREVIEW: THRIVE 98.9

By

Rachel Benjamin

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Cast of Characters

James:	The new intern at THRIVE radio. He is mistaken for the station’s new owner.
Greg Garrison:	Station Manager
Lewis Hudson:	New owner of THRIVE Radio
Tammy:	Receptionist at THRIVE Radio
Kate:	Program director at THRIVE Radio
George:	Account Manager at THRIVE Radio
Danielle Candor:	Bank Manager at Direct Bank
Lily:	Lewis’ fiancé
Kim:	DJ Manager at THRIVE Radio
Ava:	A DJ at Thrive 98.9
Taxi:	A local taxi driver
Mother:	Lewis’ mom (possible offstage voice)
Carol:	Locals who call into THRIVE Radio (possible offstage voices)
Olivia:	Locals who call into THRIVE Radio (possible offstage voices)

Synopsis

Ready for a whimsical and entertaining farce with a positive message? "Thrive 98.9" on Scriptmore is what you’re looking for. This playful one-act features hilarious moments between the characters in a small-town radio station struggling to survive. The cast includes an ambitious station manager, a young intern, and a fashionably late new owner as they navigate a plot thick with mistaken identities, humorous twists, and one very confused fiancé. Written for 14 characters (with some potentially voiced off-stage), "Thrive 98.9" by Rachel Benjamin can be performed and viewed by ages middle school to adult. The script delights in tangling up its characters in a web of comedic moments and misunderstandings as they try to figure out how to save this beloved small-town radio station while also getting to the bottom of exactly who is whom. While providing laughter, "Thrive 98.9" showcases the positive resilience and camaraderie of a team determined to overcome challenges. The playful banter, quirky characters, and clever plot twists will make this 35-minute one-act a fun addition to your script collection. Simple set design includes desks, chairs, and doors in an office setting, along with an “On Air” sign that can be lighted up or turned off as needed.

Set

The stage is split into three different spaces.

When

Present Day in the small town of Cedar Bay

Note

A portion of SR is set as a receptionist / outer office. Far SR there is a door, leading outside of the radio station. DSR, on the other side of the door, there should be a small mailbox. On the inside of the office, close to the door there is a receptionist desk with a dial-up phone sitting on it. The desk should be US of the door and slightly tilted towards SL. US of the desk there is a small filing cabinet. SL of the filing cabinet, there should be one smaller desk. Near the door, there is a sign that reads, “Thrive 98.9, where young musicians come to thrive.”

SL of the receptionist/outer office is set as an executive’s office. There is a doorway separating this office from the outer office. In the middle of the executive’s office, there is large desk that is slightly tilted and facing DSR. There is a large, swivel chair behind the desk. Facing the desk there is one chair, and another chair more USR, closer to the door. This Executive Office takes up the vast majority of the stage.

DSL, far enough away from the other set pieces to appear as if in a different room, there is a small Radio DJ’s desk, scattered with records, CDs, a computer and a large microphone in the center of it. On the front of the desk, there is a sign that reads “On Air,” that can light up.

Props (1)

Briefcases, Desks, Phones, THRIVE Sign, Coffee Mug, Filing Cabinet, Coat Rack, Two Free Standing Doors, Mailbox, Chairs, Swivel Chair, Steering Wheel, DJ Desk, “On Air” Sign, Papers, Glass of Water, DJ Mic, DJ Computer, CDs, Records, Files, Coat Rack, Ice

Act 1

Scene 1

Greg is sitting at the executive's desk. Danielle is sitting in the chair facing the desk. Lily is sitting in the chair USR with an icepack covering her eyes and held on her head by a man's necktie. The office door has been left open and James is hidden from the audience's sight, behind the door.

Lewis enters the receptionist/outer office.

Tammy

Good morning.

Lewis Hudson

Morning. I'm Lewis Hudson, the new owner. Have you rescheduled that meeting yet?

Tammy

Excuse me?

Lewis Hudson

My assistant called to tell you my flight was delayed, but they ended up putting me on different flight. If you haven't rescheduled it I'd still like to meet with the bank—

He starts to head towards the executive office.

Tammy

Sir, you can’t go in there.

Lewis Hudson

And why not?

Tammy

Mr. Hudson is in a very important meeting right now. I’ll be sure to give him a message—

Lewis Hudson

I *AM* Mr. Hudson.

Tammy

Umm, no you’re not.

Lewis Hudson

I am Mr. Lewis Hudson, the new owner of THRIVE radio.

Tammy

No. Mr. Hudson, flew in this morning and was in the office by 9am. He is in a meeting and does not want to be disturbed. I can be sure to give him a message—

Lewis Hudson

My flight was delayed, and my assistant called to have you reschedule that meeting.

Tammy

Then who came in this morning?

Lewis Hudson

Well, it wasn’t me!

Pause.

Lewis Hudson

If I’m not in that meeting then who is?

Pause.

The office door has been left open. Lewis walks directly into the office.

Tammy enters with Lewis and stands DSR.

Lewis slams the door behind him, revealing James who is hiding behind the door.

Lewis Hudson

(To Danielle) Who are you?

Greg quickly turns in his chair to face SL, avoiding eye contact with Lewis.

Danielle, clearly startled at Lewis' entrance, stand and turns to face Lewis.

Danielle Candor

(Clearly frightened) I'm Danielle Candor, Manager of Direct Bank, and this is Mr. Lewis Hudson, Owner of THRIVE Radio. (Over his shoulder to Greg) Do you know this man?

Kate enters, opening the door and once again hiding James.

Kate

Mr. Hudson there's a call from—

Lewis Hudson

Not now!

Kate shuts the door, once again revealing James who is now in a different position.

Danielle Candor

Maybe if we all just calm down—

Kate enters again, opening the door and once again hiding James.

Kate

Mr. Hudson your mother is on the line and—

Lewis Hudson

I said not now! *(Pointing to Greg)* He is not Mr. Hudson.

Danielle Candor

Yes, he is.

Lewis Hudson

I *am* Mr. Lewis Hudson, Owner of THRIVE Radio.

Lily

No.

Lily, with the ice pack still over her eyes, stands and shuts the door.

Lily

(Pointing to James) He’s Mr. Lewis Hudson, Owner of THRIVE Radio.

Lewis Hudson

Lily!

James, Lewis, and Greg all move to CS.

Lily

Wait a minute. Which one of you proposed to me?

Lily takes the ice pack off her eyes, so that she is holding the ice pack in one hand and the tie in the other. She looks at James, Lewis and Greg then gasps.

All actors, besides James, freeze.

Scene 2

James breaks the fourth wall and speaks directly to the audience.

James

There’s a perfectly good explanation for all of this. Honestly, it started off as a pretty normal morning. I had no idea I was going to end up hiding behind a door, after promising my boss’ fiancé live doves at her wedding. It all just happened so fast.

As James addresses the audience, he grabs the tie out of Lily’s hand, puts it on and walks DSC. At the same time the scene slightly changes. The doorway to the executive office moves farther SL along with the entire set of the executive office. The set for the outer office also is slightly moved SL, so that the receptionist/outer office is now taking up the majority of the stage. Actors move to their places in the receptionist/outer office with Tammy at the receptionist desk, and Kate leaning on Tammy’s desk. They remain in a soft freeze.

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James

I’m not Mr. Hudson, I’m just the intern. *(Pointing to Greg)* He’s not Mr. Hudson. (Pointing to Lewis) This is Mr. Lewis Hudson. My taxi driver ripped me off then proceeded to confuse Kate into believing that I was Mr. Hudson, posing as an intern.

Lewis Hudson

What?

George

I knew it.

Kate

Oops.

Greg Garrison

I convinced him to keep up the charade in order to take the meeting with the bank. I wanted to see if we could get a loan and bring the station back to its original purpose.

Danielle Candor

To support and only play local, grassroot, up-and-coming artists. I love this idea, and I’m prepared to grant the station the loan.

All characters stare at Lewis.

Lewis Hudson

Every morning better not be like this.

Slight pause.

Lewis Hudson

Ok. Ok. I'll think about it. Ms. Candor and I have a lot to talk about.

Greg Garrison

Sir, you won't be sorry. *(To radio staff)* Let's get back to work and start making this station thrive once again.

Staff exits into the outer office.

Lily

While you figure this out, I'll call about reserving the doves and give them your credit card number.

Lewis Hudson

Why did you have that ice pack over your face?

She throws the ice pack back on.

Lily

So that I won’t have a black nose for our wedding.

Lewis Hudson

That’s still 6 months away.

Lily

Only 6!

Lily exits, with the ice pack over her face. She stumbles over a few items on her way off stage.

Lewis goes behind the executive desk. He pauses.

Lewis Hudson

(To Danielle) Wait. Did you say live doves?

Lewis follows Lily off. Danielle follows Lewis off.

Scene 12

Lights up on the DJ’s booth.

James

(*As the new DJ)* Welcome back to THRIVE Radio, Cedar Bay's hometown station. I'm James, your new host. There's a lot of new things happening around here. You'll be hearing all the local bands, the yet to be discovered groups—musicians living right here in Cedar Bay. This station is the one that's going to help make it all happen. Now here's a new one from one of Cedar Bay's hottest bands. And when this one hits the top 40 you can say that you heard it here first—at Thrive 98.9.

Lights down.

The End.



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