

Morty – Effervescent older actor who is very impressed with himself

Katherine – Experienced actress who takes her job very seriously

START

KATHERINE. He always wants us to look at the scripts beforehand but he won't give them to us until the last minute. And then we won't know what parts we'll play until just before we're on the air. What good do scripts do us without our assignments?

MORTY. Don't worry, Katherine. Just take the role that nobody else is doing.

KATHERINE. I'm trying to get an answer from someone who takes what we do seriously.

MORTY. (*Turning to JESSICA:*) See what I mean?

KATHERINE. (*Crossing to MORTY:*) About what?

MORTY. I was explaining to the new kid here the difference between actors and entertainers.

KATHERINE. Oh, that malarkey. Well, his little theory about the difference between actors and entertainers is simply a veiled attempt on his part to compensate for a lethargic style that is both shameful and lackadaisical.

MORTY. What?

KATHERINE. You heard me.

MORTY. Laxa...whosical?

KATHERINE. It's true. You are lackadaisical.

MORTY. There's no such word.

KATHERINE. As what?

MORTY. Laxa... Laxa...

KATHERINE. Just because you can't pronounce it doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

MORTY. I can pronounce it.

KATHERINE. Really?

MORTY. *(After a pause:)* Katherine, meet Jessica Cornell. She's starting with us tonight.

LOIS. Jessica worked with Winston Sayles.

KATHERINE. Winston Sayles? I worked with him several years ago. Not altogether professional but he was inordinately attractive.

MORTY. What does that mean?

GRACIE. It means she finds him handsome.

MORTY. Great. I'll bet you find me funny, right.

KATHERINE. I find you...discomposing.

MORTY. Discom...what?

KATHERINE. I don't know why I try to talk to a man who cannot comprehend multi-syllabic words.

(KATHERINE walks over and joins LOIS and GRACIE's conversation.)

MORTY. *(Now for the sake of entertaining JESSICA:)* Multi... Multi what?!

(JESSICA laughs.)

(ALLEN BURNS enters.)

END