

PEABODY'S PICKLES

TREATMENT

Created and Written by Mardi Hardwick

“PEABODY’S PICKLES” to be presented initially as a one-hour, pilot/special, setting the stage for a new television sitcom series. The series to be a weekly one-half hour program, involving the life style of Pastor Percy Peabody.

People love Pastor Peabody. It appears he does everything backwards, but somehow he comes out of the situation smelling like a fragrant rose. The character of Pastor Peabody was envisioned to be played by Don Knotts, or someone of similar great comedic ability. Don would be just perfect for this part - if his age and energy wouldn’t be a factor, and the script could easily be rewritten for an older minister.

Now, Pastor Percy Peabody is a small town minister transplanted to a mid-size, metropolitan city, where he has been promoted - in error- to a large church. Pastor Peabody and his small family are unsuitable to city ways and he has little experience in dealing with so many people and so many modernistic things. This new-fashioned church has hundreds in the congregation compared to the 25 member group he left in the country. He is just beside himself trying to keep things straight.

These programs are NOT religious; however, since the programs deal with church up-front and religious practices, care has been taken not to be sacrilegious or slapstick. The humor is in the circumstances that surround Peabody. He is deeply sincere and is remarkably effective in helping real people with real problems, but he has so many of those people!

The program is a different kind of sitcom dealing with everyday types of situations in the home - church - community. It exposes hypocrisy and bigotry and gives a deep sense of appreciation laced with sympathy, love and understanding.

One episode deals with his passion to “get out in the trenches” and pass out some church literature at the local disco-bar. His wife, Bessie, does not go along with his bright ideas, which is only the beginning of the mess Peabody gets himself into later.

Bessie is furious as she sits on the curb in front of the bar waiting, because Peabody wants to protect her from that “sin” stuff inside the bar. While sitting there, she is befriended by a filthy wino, an old woman who has been living on the streets for years.

Meanwhile, inside the bar, Peabody’s antics and efforts are hilarious as he tries to show how he cares for them. Because of his efforts that night, one of the regular strippers, later changes her life style and shows up at church. She wants to become a member, which causes havoc with all the high-brow church deacons. This woman’s reputation was well known all over the city.

There are many emergency deacon meetings behind closed doors to get rid of this odd preacher; however the audience will love Pastor Peabody because he is so honest, human and ordinary.

Later in the season, a fan club for him could be developed and I have already outlined some ideas in future programs.