

Albert Brooks - Comedy Minus One Script

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I looked over the interwebs and wasn't able to find a good example of the script that was originally included in the LP liner notes of Albert Brooks' comedy album "Comedy Minus One".

I purchased a used CD of the album at Half-Price Books (Greatest. Bookstore. Ever.) and didn't realize that it was missing, so I'm replicating it here.

For those who don't know, Albert Brooks is a highly regarded and respected comedian/actor/director. He had two comedy albums, "Comedy Minus One" and "A Star is Bought". The second is a an album put together based on the premise that he wanted it to have as much exposure as possible, so each track is targeting a different demographic. I first encountered Brooks in SNL re-runs which featured short films he produced, my favorite being "The Famous Comedians School", where he tries to dissect comedy scientifically at the school of the same name. The 7 year old repeating "I don't like it" is classic.

He also directed and acted in several films, my favorites among them being Taxi Driver (Actor), Real Life (Director/Actor/Writer), Lost in America (Director/Actor/Writer), Broadcast News (Actor), Mother (Director/Actor/Writer), and Defending Your Life (Director/Actor/Writer). If you still don't know who he is, you've probably heard his voice in either Finding Nemo (he voices Marlin, Nemo's dad) or the Simpsons, where he's played many characters (not the least of which was Bond Supervillian - Hank Scorpio).

Comedy Minus One By Albert Brooks
(to be read along with the album, final track)

*(L) & (A) denote Laughter & Applause

Albert
Thank you...thank you...and good evening ladies and gentleman. I'm Albert.

You
And I'm You.

Albert
Wait a minute, how could you be me?

You
I didn't say I was you. I said I was me. (L)*

Albert
No you didn't. I said I was Albert and you said you were me.

You
You've got it all wrong. You said "I'm Albert" and I said "I'm You." But I'm not talking about you, I'm talking about me. (L)

Albert
Now I'm confused.

You
Then stop calling yourself Albert. (L)

Albert
I think we should get on with this.

You
I agree. What are we going to do?

Albert
Well, if it's alright with you I thought we would visit, The Auto Mechanic. (A) Thank you very much. Bernie, a little visiting

music please...

(MUSIC)

Albert

Excuse me. I need some work done on my car.

You

Eight-fifty. (L)

Albert

Eight-fifty? What's that?

You

You said "excuse me." I stopped work and looked up. Time is money. So whatever's wrong with your car, including the time you're using up right now, it's gonna cost you at least eight-fifty.

Albert

That's ridiculous!

You

That's nine dollars. (L)

Albert

Okay, okay. I get the point. You don't come cheap. Now can you repair this car or not?

You

Sure I can repair it. What seems to be the trouble?

Albert

There's a knocking in my engine.

You

It's probably a piston. Let him in. (L)

Albert

I'm not getting anywhere with you.

You

And I'm not getting anywhere with you either. Maybe it's our toothpaste! (L)

Albert

Oh brother.

You

Brother? I almost didn't recognize you! How's Mom? (L)

Albert

How's Mom...stop this! Can you please fix my engine?

You

Oh alright. Open the hood, I'll take a look.

Albert

Wonderful. (He opens hood) There...it's open.

You

Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy! (L)

Albert

What does that mean?

You

That means I'm glad I'm fixing this thing instead of paying for it! (L)

Albert
Are you trying to say this is going to cost a lot of money?

You
Let's put it this way
Remember the nine dollars we talked about earlier?

Albert
Yes. So?

You
Well, we still have the nine and the two zeros, but I'm afraid the decimal point just passed away! (L)

Albert
This car has only seventeen thousand miles on it. Nothing could be that serious.

You
If you're so smart why don't you fix it yourself?

Albert
Because I don't know anything about cars.

You
Nothing at all, huh?

Albert
No.

You
Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy! (L)(A)

Albert
Ok, that's it. I'll go else where. YOU Oh, settle down. I'm just pulling your leg. (L)ALBERT If I wanted someone to pull my leg I would have gone to a chiropractor! (L)

(Hint to you: Let Albert have his laugh here)

You
Now look who's doin' the jokes.

Albert
I have to get one laugh don't I? (L)(A)

You
Okay...okay. Now, I'm gonna put this car up on the hoist and check it out thoroughly. If it's something minor, I'll fix it for free.

Albert
Well that sounds honest.

You
Maybe to you. To me it's one of the big lies of the century. (L) Now stand back as I raise it up. There she goes...going up...going up...there! By the way, there is a slight 'using of the hoist' fee. (L)

Albert
Using of the hoist? (L)

You
That's right. Each time I raise and lower a car it wears out my hoist just a little bit. I have to charge the customer accordingly.

Albert
I don't believe it. You mean it actually cost money just to raise this car up?

You

No, it's raised for free. It only cost money if you lower it.(L) It's just ten dollars.(L)

Albert
This is highway robbery!

You
Wrong. This is garage robbery. (L)

Albert
Look, I don't have to stand for this!

You
I agree. You can sit on that hub cap in the corner. (L) Be careful, it's greasy! (L)

Albert
Here is ten dollars. Bring my car down, I'm through with you.

You
(Dramatic) Wait! Don't leave! I need this business, my life is in ruins!

Albert
Ruins? What are you talking about?

You
(Continued dramatic) I'll tell you what I'm talking about
I'm divorced, my son is in jail, my daughter was just kidnapped, I can't pay my bills and my doctor says I may be dying!

Albert
My God! That's unbelievable.

You
You're right. Let me start over. (L) (Continue over this laugh) I may get divorced, my son should be in jail, my daughter wants to be kidnapped, my doctor...

Albert
Alright! Alright! Now stop with these jokes!

You
If I stop with these jokes this bit falls flat on its ass. (L)

("Face" can be used instead of "ass" if so desired)

Albert
Please. Just fix my car. Please!

You
Okay. Let me look under here real quickly. (Looking sounds) Hmmm... Mmmmm... Hmmm... Well I think I found the trouble.

Albert
What is it?

You
It seems that one of your pistons has pounded its way through your muffler. (L) You're gonna need some new pistons and a new muffler for starters. (L)

Albert
Just a minute! That's impossible!

You
I thought you said you didn't know anything about cars?

Albert
I know enough to know that the pistons and the muffler don't even come near each other.

You
That's fair enough. Let's take another look. (L) Well you were right. The muffler does seem okay. Do you know anything about the camshaft?

Albert
No.

You
We just found the trouble! (L)

Albert
You must think I'm a fool.

You
You're getting warmer! (L)

Albert
Well let me tell you a thing or two, it so happens that I don't have to....

Jessel
Excuse me...excuse me...are you the auto mechanic?

Albert
Ladies and gentleman, Mr. Georgie Jessel! (A)

Jessel
Say, where's that applause coming from? I thought we were in a garage. (L) Listen I need some work done on my car.

You
Eight-fifty. (L)

Jessel
Eight-fifty? Oh my God, I didn't realize it was so late! I gotta be somewhere at nine-thirty. Well, I'll see you later. (L)

Albert
No, no Georgie, the mechanic wasn't giving you the time. That's a price.

Jessel
A price? For what?

You
You said "excuse me." I stopped work and looked up. Time is money. So whatever's wrong with your car, including the time you're using up now, it's gonna cost you at least eight-fifty.

Jessel
That's ridiculous!

Albert & You
That's nine dollars! (L)(A)

Jessel
Now look, I don't need this car restored. I just need some repair work. This car belonged to the great Al Jolson!

You
What seems to be the trouble with it?

Jessel
Well every time I stop at a light, it gets down on one tire. (L) Of course I'm just kidding. But actually I don't know what's wrong with it. That's why I came here.

You
Does it make any funny noises?

Jessel
Who are you talking to?

You
I'm talking to you.

Jessel
Oh. I don't know if it makes funny noises. I mean these days, who can tell what's funny anyway! (L) Enough of this talk. Now I'll make you a deal. You fix my car, you charge me almost nothing, and the next time that you're very very sick you call me, and we'll talk about a eulogy for you. (L)

Albert
I don't think you'd want this person to work on your car Georgie. The prices are outrageous and the service stinks.

You
You'll pay for that.

Albert
I have no doubt. (L)

Jessel
Well I don't need this then. I'm very big in many parts of the world and anyway I can go to Earl Scheib and for twenty-nine dollars he'll paint over the whole problem! (L) Thanks very much, and I'll see you later. (A)

Albert
Mr. George Jessel ladies and gentlemen! Mr. George Jessel! He was right in getting out of here and I'm following his example. Now here's your nine dollars for your valuable time. Here's your ten dollar lowering fee. Put my car down, I'm finished with all this!

You
Put your car down, huh?

Albert
Yes, put it down!

You
Okay. Why I've seen better looking cars in a rodeo! (L) Why this car is so slow you could write "Hello from Hollywood" on the roof and mail it to a friend. (This gets very little reaction so you explain further) They do that with turtles! (L)

Albert
You never stop do you?

You
Only when the bit's over.

Albert
Well in that case...good night ladies and gentlemen! (L)(A)

(MUSIC)

You
(To audience) Hey, you're beautiful!

Albert
You're a beautiful audience, thank you!

You
Thank you. (Very sincere) I'd like to take you all home with me!

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