

NOTES

MANcation is a term used to describe a group of men taking a vacation together. This duo should be performed by two mature male performers. Older looking actors should portray the two characters in the script, since Edward and Carl are both young, married men in their mid-twenties. It isn't necessary (since these lines can be cut); however, it would be ideal if the actor playing Carl were of a stockier or heavy-set build. This is a comedy; therefore, both performers should be aware of the difficulties of performing realistic comedy. The timing of the lines, the pacing of the scenes, and the reactions from both actors are all key factors in determining the success of this play. Remember, these two characters are just two, normal, hard-working men, who have never been away from their wives since they each got married. These characters bare very little resemblance to the antics and sophisticated wit shared between Niles and Frasier Crane; however, the relationship between Edward and Carl shares that same cut-from-the-same-cloth feeling. Both actors should really take the time to create two very unique, memorable characters. By the end of the performance, every person in the audience, male or female, should feel like they were the silent, third-wheel on what is sure to go down in history, as one of the funniest MANcations to have ever taken place.

Characters:

Edward, a married man in his twenties

Carl, a married man in his twenties

Time: Present

Place: Ed and Carl's respective homes. The boarding gate at an airport. A hotel room. The hotel lounge.

Scene One: Ed and Carl's respective homes.

Edward has just dialed Carl's number on his cell phone.

Carl: *(Answering his cell phone.)* Hello?

Edward: Hey, Carl. It's Edward. Listen, *guess* what JoAnne and I were just doing.

Carl: I don't think I like where this is going, Edward—

Edward: —We were watching *City Slickers*. You know, the movie with Billy Crystal? And Billy Crystal and his buddies all go to that dude ranch?

Carl: Okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I've seen it...

Edward: Okay. Well, after we watched the movie, JoAnne asks me if *I've* ever wanted to go on a vacation with just the guys, right? And I say that I really hadn't given it any thought. *(Beat.)* And then I *do!* And do you know what I said to JoAnne? *(Long pause.)*

Carl: *(Realizing he has to literally answer.)* No. What did you say, Edward?

Edward: I said, "Yes!" I said, "Yes, JoAnne! I *do* want to go on a vacation with just the guys! And we'll call it...our *MANcation!*" Well, she just laughed and said, "Well, okay! Go! Go arrange it!" And I thought to myself, "I am married to one *very* special lady." And as I realized I was just...standing there...smiling at JoAnne...I realized that she *wasn't* smiling. She said, "Now! I mean it! Get your cell phone and call the guys!" So, that's what I'm doing. I'm calling the guys!

Carl: Well, who else is going?

Edward: Just Joe. I called Joe, and he said, "Sure." Now, I'm calling *you*.

Carl: I see. Is there any reason you called Joe *first*?

Edward: *(Said as if it is the most logical answer in the world.)* Sure. His name's shorter.

Carl: Oh. *(Beat.)* Okay. Well, let me check. *(He lowers/covers his cell phone, as if talking to his wife.)* Sweetheart, Edward's on the phone. He says that some of the guys are going on a MANcation together and—*(As if he is explaining "MANcation" to his wife.)*—you know, like in that movie, *City Slickers*? And that other one we rented last month. What was it called? *(The wife obviously responds quickly.)* Yeah, that's the one! *National Lampoon's Road Trip!* So can I go with the guys? *(Beat. He waits for wife's response.)* Okay. Bev said that it's fine. So, count me in, too! Oh, but Bev said she doesn't want me to ride a *bull*...

Edward: All right, Carl! The *Joe-Meister* and *The Carl-O-Nator* are going on the MANcation!