

SNOOP SPOOF

A delightfully funny
shorter play spoofing
one of our favorite detectives.

Sgt JOE FRIDAY - DRAGNET:

"Beaver Cleaver's Hanratty's Novelty Store Truancy"

CAST: *Sergeant Joe Friday*
Suit, badge, fedora.

Ward Cleaver
50's casual attire: trousers, loafers, button
shirt, sweater.

June Cleaver
Blouse, skirt, earrings, necklace, stockings,
Shoes.

Middle School Girl
Pig-tails, blouse, skirt, book bag.

Beaver Cleaver
Blue jeans, t-shirt
Clown additions: wild hair, red nose

Anncr

DOUBLING:

	<i>School</i>	<i>Cleaver</i>	<i>Limbo</i>	<i>Cleaver</i>	
LOCATION	<u>Hall</u>	<u>L.R.</u>	<u>Door</u>	<u>L.R.</u>	<i>Limbo</i>
MALE #1	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday
FEMALE #1	M.I. Girl		Beaver	Beaver	Beaver
MALE #2	Anncr	Ward	Ward	Ward	Anncr
FEMALE #2		June		June	

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AT RISE/LIGHTS UP

INTRO - THE CITY

(ART: LARGE BADGE READING
"TRUANCY SERGEANT" IS ON
EASEL OR PROJECTED.)

(AUDIO: DRAGNET THEME up
then under.)

ANNCR (V.O.)

Dragnet. Is a documented drama of an actual crime. For the next 10 minutes, in cooperation with a Major Metropolitan Police Department, you will travel step-by-step on the side of the law enforcement through the actual case, transcribed from actual records. From beginning... to end. From crime to punishment. Dragnet is the story of law enforcement at all levels, in action. Ladies and Gentlemen, the story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to protect the innocent.

(AUDIO: DRAGNET THEME up
till out.)

TEASER - MIDDLE-SCHOOL ACTION

FRIDAY (V.O.)

This is the city. A major metropolitan city. I work here. I'm a Sergeant in the Middle School Alcohol-Tobacco-Fire Arms and Truancy Division. (Beat) It was Tuesday, May 4th, 1957. It was a beautiful spring day.

Spotlight up on Friday in
limbo area.

FRIDAY (V.O.)

My name is Friday. Sergeant Joe Friday. A middle school boy has reportedly gone truant as we say in the trade or skipped last period class today to hang out at Hanratty's Gags and Novelty Shop.

(to girl)

You reported this kid missing?

MIDDLE-SCHOOL GIRL with
pigtailed steps into light
next to Friday.

MS GIRL

His name is Beaver.

FRIDAY

What kind of name is Beaver?

MS GIRL
Nick name.

FRIDAY
He have big teeth?

MS GIRL
No... not really. Why do you ask?

FRIDAY
Deductive reasoning, Miss. That's my job.

MS GIRL
(holding up note)
He passed me a note and asked me to cut last period and go to Hanratty's Novelty Shop.

FRIDAY
You have the note?

She hands Friday the note.

MS GIRL
I kinda doodled a heart on it and put my initials and his initials in the center.

FRIDAY
This is evidence. You shouldn't have doodled on evidence. M-L - are those YOUR initials, Miss?

MS GIRL
Uh-huh, M-L -- Mary Lou.

FRIDAY
Is this a "T" crossed out then B-C.?

MS GIRL
His REAL name is THEODORE. That's the "T". But everyone calls him Beaver. "B" for Beaver. "C" for Cleaver. Beaver Cleaver.

FRIDAY
That's NOT what you wrote.

MS GIRL
It's not?

FRIDAY
You wrote - "Beaver CLEVER."

MS GIRL
Sor-ry! He IS clever, you know.

FRIDAY
I deduced that. A good cop pays attention to details.

MS GIRL

Is Beaver in trouble?

FRIDAY

Our great country is ALWAYS in trouble when any one of us breaks the rules. Our Constitution is made up of laws. Laws are made up of rules. It's my sworn job to apprehend the rule breakers -- especially truants and slackers. I'm afraid that in a few years kids won't get their hair cut properly. Military style. Why, you might not be able to tell the boys from the girls.

MS GIRL

Can I leave now?

FRIDAY

Oh, sure. And, Mary Jane, thanks for finking on Beaver.

Mary Lou leaves.

FRIDAY

Geez... what kind of name is Beaver? Cleaver house? I'm on it.

Spotlight down on limbo
set.

Lights up on Cleaver Living
Room set.

SCENE 1 - INTRO - THE CLEAVER'S LIVING ROOM.

THEME MUSIC: "Leave It to
Beaver" up, then under.

(AUDIO: DOORBELL)

WARD CLEAVER is sitting in
an easy chair reading his
newspaper.

WARD

Will you get that June?

JUNE CLEAVER rises from the
sofa and answers the door.

JUNE

Of course, dear.

ENTER JUNE followed by
FRIDAY.

JUNE

Ward, there's someone here to see us.

WARD stands. FRIDAY shows
his badge.

FRIDAY
Evening. Mrs. Cleaver, Mr. Cleaver.

They shake hands. FRIDAY
shows his badge.

FRIDAY
My name is Friday, Sergeant Joe Friday. I'm with the Middle-School
Alcohol-Tobacco-Fire Arms and Truancy Division.

WARD
Middle School? Alcohol-Tobacco-Fire Arms and Truancy? Is Theodore
in trouble?

JUNE
Theodore's not smoking is he?!

FRIDAY
I don't know about the smoking. But it's reported he cut class
early today and went to Hanratty's Gag and Novelty Shop.

JUNE
Cut class?! Novelty shop? Where they sell those whoopie cushions
and magic tricks?

WARD
You're sure it was Beaver? OUR Beaver?

FRIDAY
How many Beavers are there? We have an informant who put the finger
on him.

WARD
An informant in Middle School?

FRIDAY
Mr. and Mrs. Cleaver where have you been? This is 1957. We've
been in a Cold War with the Russians for more than 10 years now!
We have informants EVERYWHERE! I've modelled our Middle School
counter-espionage net after the one the FBI uses to get your
neighbors to inform about the leftist pinko activities at the
Methodist Church.

JUNE
You mean the paper-drives, soup kitchen and food pantry?

FRIDAY
Yes ma'am. That's all Socialistic.
(beat)
Is your son Beaver here?

WARD

I think Theodore went up to his room. I heard the door close earlier.

(grimly)

I'll go up to Theodore's room and ask him to come down here and straighten this out. Excuse me, Sergeant Friday.

WARD exits. June stays and speaks with Friday.

SCENE 2 - JUNE AND FRIDAY IN LIVING ROOM

JUNE

Have you always been a Truancy Sergeant?

FRIDAY

No ma'am.

JUNE

Where were you before?

FRIDAY

Homicide.

JUNE

Isn't truancy a step down from homicide?

FRIDAY

Oh, no, ma'am. Not at all. Deductive reasoning is deductive reasoning.

JUNE

Oh.

FRIDAY

That's how we figure things out. Homicide. Truancy. We deduce.

JUNE

That's how you figured out our Theodore was a suspect?

FRIDAY

Yes ma'am.

JUNE

You deduced it.

FRIDAY

Based on what my informants said.

JUNE

What else have you deduced lately?

FRIDAY

Edward Haskell is not a good influence for you son Wallace. I wouldn't let your sons hang out with him if I were you.

JUNE

Eddie?

FRIDAY

Yes ma'am.

JUNE

Why?

FRIDAY

He lights farts in the locker room.

JUNE

That was deduction?

FRIDAY

Yes ma'am.

JUNE

On what do you base your deduction?

FRIDAY

I smelled sulfur.

JUNE

When was that ?

FRIDAY

When I was hiding in the locker.

JUNE

Will you make a career of truancy?

FRIDAY

No ma'am. FBI.

JUNE

Oh! FBI!

FRIDAY

I'm self-taught on Communists.

JUNE

Are there Communists in our town?

FRIDAY

Let's just say there are Methodists.

Lights down on living room
set.

Lights up on a closed door
in limbo.

SCENE 3 - WARD TO BEAVER'S ROOM

WARD approaches the door
and taps.

WARD
Beaver? I smell sulfur. What are you doing in there?

BEAVER (O.S.)
Nothing.

WARD
Open the door, Beaver and come out here.

BEAVER opens the door steps
out dressed as a CLOWN.

WARD
Beaver! Why are you dressed that way?

BEAVER
I like it.

WARD
Did you cut class and go to Hanratty's Novelty Shop today?

BEAVER
Well...

WARD
Well, you come downstairs with me.

Lights down on Ward and
Beaver.

Lights up on living room
set.

SCENE 4 - WARD AND BEAVER TO LIVING ROOM

ENTER WARD and BEAVER.

JUNE
Oh, Beaver...!

WARD
I found him dressed like THIS!

June sniffs Beaver.

JUNE

Do I smell sulfur? Beaver, why are you dressing like a clown?

BEAVER

I'm sorry Mom, Dad, but, I've got to admit that I've known since I was a little kid that I liked dressing up in this way. It makes me feel, oh, I don't know SPECIAL. The first time I put on the rubber nose, I got excited. A thrill ran through me. Then I bought The Hair. I felt alive and authentic. Let me tell you, for a 10 year old kid, it was kind of overpowering. Hanratty's is a SPECIAL place. I feel different when I'm there. That's why I had to skip last period.

FRIDAY

I'm going to tell you something punk and I want you to remember it. You're a pretty ugly looking clown. Besides being bad at that, you're a liar -- the worst kind of liar. You're a CLOWN-VESTITE! You're NOT a REAL clown deep inside. Not yet, anyways. You're thinking about middle-school hi-jinx... poo-poo cushions and plastic dog turds. You gotta grow up, kid! This is a Major Metropolitan City. There must be 5,000 citizens in this town who feel that being a REAL clown means something to them. Something of honor and integrity. They think the law is here to protect people and tradition. Being a clownvestite may ruin your personal reputation, but you ruin something MORE. You ruined CIRCUS. Yeah, you keep wearing that grin, Beaver. I may only be able to bust you on skipping last period now. But, someday, unless you stop this right now, it will get worse. It starts out innocent enough. But then you cut P.E. Then Boy Scouts. Why, you join DRAMA CLUB! By then, you're a gonner!

JUNE

Oh, he's right, honey! I know it sounds harsh, but you DON'T want to get into acting!

WARD

Can we get him some counseling?

FRIDAY

I'm taking him down to write a report.

FRIDAY leads BEAVER out.

WARD

(opening his paper with a snap)

Gosh. Our little Theodore!

JUNE

I thought he looked cute!

WARD sits with his paper.

JUNE sits on the sofa.

Lights out on living room
set.

SCENE 5 - CLOSE

(ART: LARGE BADGE READING
"TRUANCY SERGEANT" IS ON
EASEL OR PROJECTED.)

(AUDIO: DRAGNET THEME up
then under.)

ANNCR (V.O.)

The story you have just heard is true. The names have been changed
to protect the innocent.

Beaver steps into a spotlight

ANNCR (V.O.)

The alleged victims of Theodore Cleaver's skipping class - the
last period home room teacher, an elderly woman, had dozed off
and couldn't remember if Beaver was there or absent. Theodore
agreed to perform 10 days of community service and magic tricks
at the old folks home. After high school Theodore joined the Los
Angeles police department.

Sergeant Friday steps into
a spotlight.

ANNCR (V.O.)

Sergeant Friday hoped that he would earn advancement to the FBI
as a result of this and similar collars. Shortly after this case,
Friday sent a personal letter to Director J. Edgar Hoover
reporting his apprehension of a young man who enjoyed dressing up
in odd clothes and requested an application to join the Bureau.
He never heard back from Director Hoover or the FBI.

(AUDIO: Dragnet stinger
including sound of chisel
pounding steel.)

CURTAIN/ BLACKOUT: