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Family Plays

Save Our Scoops!

or ...

Ice Cream S.O.S.



Mini-Melodrama
by
Patty Carver

Save Our Scoops!

or ...

Ice Cream S.O.S.

Mini-Melodrama. By Patty Carver. Cast: 6m., 8w., plus extras as desired. Mama and Papa Brickle are the proud proprietors of Scoops, a little family-run ice cream shop. Scoops has been in the Brickle family business for generations, but Mr. I.C. Freeze, the landlord, wants to put Scoops out of business. When I.C. Freeze announces that he will use the building for a new and better business opportunity, the Brickles and the loyal customers of Scoops are determined to stop him. I.C. Freeze, however, can be swayed under one condition only: if he is promised Shirley Bert Brickle's hand in marriage. The Brickles could never agree to their daughter marrying I.C. Freeze, and Scoops seems to be lost. But enter Walter Melon Cream, the ice cream delivery man who vows to help save Scoops and, hopefully, marry Shirley Bert himself. The town is all abuzz as the celebrity news anchor, Carmella Twist, gets word of the story and decides to report on it live. Meet the loyal patrons of Scoops including Anna Split, Nieda O'Politan, Sherry Swirl, Myron Van Illio and more as they unite at the all-important town hall meeting to "Save Our Scoops!" This fast-paced and hilarious mini-melodrama is an ideal performance piece for middle-grade actors. *Flexible set. Optional CD with underscoring available. Study guide available. Approximate running time: 45 minutes. Code: SIM.*

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A mini-melodrama by

PATTY CARVER

Family Plays

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(SAVE OUR SCOOPS! OR ... ICE CREAM S.O.S.)

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Save Our Scoops! or ... Ice Cream S.O.S. was produced by Connecticut Children's Theatre in Patty's Theatre Camp, July of 2009, at the Valley Regional High School Theatre in Deep River, Conn.

CAST

Anna Split.....	Brandi Andrade
Neida O'Politan.....	Grace Burleson
Sherry Swirl.....	Emma Rose Shiring
Carmella Twist.....	Elizabeth Tolls
Mama Brickle.....	Monique Johnson
Papa Brickle.....	Sonny Capaccio
Shirley Bert Brickle.....	Lindsey Becker
Water Melon Cream.....	Casey McKeon
Ivan Clark Freeze.....	Parker Wallis

Save Our Scoops! or ... Ice Cream S.O.S.

CHARACTERS

(The cast is expandable in that there may be extras added to the ice cream shop and the town hall meeting.)

- ANNA SPLIT everybody's friend
and Scoops' best customer.
- NEIDA O'POLITAN the waitress at Scoops,
she runs the place.
- SHERRY SWIRL a loyal Scoops patron
and local lawyer.
- CARMELLA TWIST a newspaper reporter
who is always out to get the "scoop."
- MAMA BRICKLE co-owner of Scoops,
she is a little ditsy.
- PAPA BRICKLE co-owner of Scoops,
he is determined to save his business.
- SHIRLEY BERT BRICKLE a loyal daughter,
the heroine.
- WALTER MELON CREAM..... an ice cream delivery man,
the hero.
- IVAN CLARK (I.C.) FREEZE.....the villain,
he wants to put Scoops out of business.
- BLANCHE ALMANDO a customer.
- MARSHA MELLOW a customer.
- MYRON VAN ILLIO..... a customer.
- CHARLES CHIPMAN..... the first selectman of Essex.
- GARY the camera man.

SETTINGS

The interior of Scoops, the local ice cream shop.

The town hall meeting room.

PRODUCTION NOTES

In tradition of original, turn-of-the-century melodramas, audiences should be encouraged to cheer for the hero, boo or hiss at the villain, and participate (within reason) throughout the show. An introduction before the production begins could explain audience participation, perhaps by the director or one of the cast members. The audience could even be asked to engage in a little rehearsal of boos, cheers and hisses! This encouraged participation adds a layer of fun for both the audience and the cast.

Save Our Scoops! or... Ice Cream S.O.S. is a mini-melodrama written with a hint of the turn-of-the-century genre. All the characters are big, colorful and over the top, giving the cast permission to do a good bit of overacting. The play is a fun opportunity for a cast of middle-school actors and actresses.

The show is written with the intention of being produced easily. There are two simple sets. There are no costume changes. Thus, each character wears one costume. The play may be produced with modest lighting. The easel at far L or R signifies the present scene.

When Carmella is streaming live from the town hall, she should address the camera in addition to the audience, giving the feeling that the entire theatre or auditorium is the town hall meeting.

Shirley Bert's letter may be prerecorded as a sound cue or the letter could be read live on a mike backstage in the wing.

SOUND CUES

If the director chooses to use music, the sound cues are as follows:

Scene 1

1. Opening (Scoops theme music)
2. Shirley Bert's entrance (heroine music)
3. Walter's entrance (hero music)
4. Scene Change (Scoops theme music)

Scene 2

5. Shirley Bert and Walter's entrance (hero music)
6. I.C. Freeze's entrance (villain music)
7. Scene Change (Scoops theme music)

Scene 3

8. Walter's entrance (hero music)
9. I.C. Freeze's entrance (villain music)
10. Shirley Bert's letter underscoring
11. Shirley Bert's entrance (heroine music)
12. Ending/Bows (Scoops theme music)

COSTUME & ACCESSORY SUGGESTIONS

(All characters wear the same costumes throughout the play.)

ANNA SPLIT: Colorful dress, handbag.

NEIDA O’POLITAN: Waitress apron, hair tied back with a headband or pulled up, slacks, blouse or polo, sneakers.

SHERRY SWIRL: Corporate business suit, skirt, blouse, jacket, flats, briefcase.

CARMELLA TWIST: Colorful reporter attire—skirt or slacks and a blouse or a dress with modest heels. She carries her cell phone, handbag, notebook and any other items a reporter may need.

MAMA BRICKLE: Bib apron, mop, cap, long skirt, blouse, flats or modest heels.

PAPA BRICKLE: Flannel shirt and slacks, suspenders, casual dress shoes.

SHIRLEY BERT BRICKLE: Colorful dress, flats.

WALTER MELON CREAM: Clean-cut with a short-sleeved white button-down dress shirt, dark slacks, dress shoes, and a bow tie.

IVAN CLARK (I.C.) FREEZE: Long-sleeved white button-down shirt, regular straight tie, black slacks and a villain’s cape. A thin, villainous mustache may be drawn with a black makeup pencil.

BLANCHE ALMANDO: Colorful skirt, blouse or sweater, flats.

MARSHA MELLOW: Colorful slacks and top, flats.

MYRON VAN ILLIO: Casual clothes, perhaps an “I love Scoops” T-shirt.

CHARLES CHIPMAN: Tan dress slacks, white button-down shirt, blue blazer, red or striped power tie, loafers.

GARY: Jeans, black T-shirt, sneakers.

EXTRAS: Over-the-top characters with colorful, overt-the-top clothing.

PROPERTIES

Easel with sign: One side says “Scoops” and the other, “Town Hall.” This sign is turned at the scene changes, reminiscent of old-fashioned melodrama signs which appeared off to the far side of the stage.

Scoops’ counter: The counter can be a free-standing set piece, or simply a table (4’ x 6’) with a tablecloth. The counter should be capable of storing items behind it, with built-in shelves or a storage area beneath. This will allow Neida to mime much of her “ice cream business” below the counter and out of the audience’s line of sight. The counter should be equipped with various ice cream parlor needs: ice cream scoop, spoons, straws, napkins, dishes, glasses, dishcloths, etc.

Other properties:

2 round café tables with tablecloths

4 chairs (2 at each table)

2 cell phones (for Carmella and Myron)

notebook pencil

newspaper

box of ice cream (delivered by Walter)

camera (for Gary)

protest signs: “Save our Scoops!,” “S.O.S.,” “I Love Scoops!,” “Ice Cream for All!,” ... or any other appropriate slogan.

root beer float mug with a straw and a spoon

letter (from Shirley Bert)

\$3 million dollar bills

lease

patent

Save Our Scoops! or ... Ice Cream S.O.S.

SCENE 1

AT RISE: *Scoops theme music plays. The setting is the interior of Scoops, the local ice cream shop in Essex, Connecticut. NEIDA O’POLITAN is at the counter. MYRON VAN ILLIO is seated at the counter. BLANCHE ALMONDO and MARSHA MELLOW are seated at a table. Scoops theme music fades as ANNA SPLIT rushes in.*

ANNA SPLIT. Hidy ho, everyone!

ALL. Hi Anna!

ANNA SPLIT (*sitting down at the table with MARSHA and BLANCHE*). Well, has anybody heard anything?

NEIDA O’POLITAN. No, Anna. We’ll find out at the town hall meeting tonight.

BLANCHE ALMONDO. Oh, I just can’t believe this is happening.

MARSHA MELLOW. I can’t either!

NEIDA O’POLITAN. Look. I have to believe that everything is going to be fine. Now, how about a banana split for Anna Split?

ANNA SPLIT. No thank you, Neida. I’ll just have a small cup of vanilla today.

NEIDA O’POLITAN. That’s all?

ANNA SPLIT. That’s all.

BLANCHE ALMANDO. Wow! Anna Split, Scoops' best customer, is only ordering a small cup of vanilla?

ANNA SPLIT. That's all I want.

MARSHA MELLOW. Not even any sprinkles?

ANNA SPLIT. Not even any sprinkles, Marsha. Ever since I've been employed at Riggio's Florist here in Essex, I've ended my workday by coming here for a little snack.

NEIDA O'POLITAN. That's right, every day at 4 o'clock it's the same thing ...

ANNA SPLIT. ... A triple scoop, hot fudge banana split sundae. But today, with everything going on, I just can't stomach it.

NEIDA O'POLITAN. That's bad, Anna, really bad.

(NEIDA gets ANNA's order as MAMA and PAPA BRICKLE enter. They are very upset.)

MAMA BRICKLE. Oh, Papa. What are we going to do?

PAPA BRICKLE. I don't know, Mama. It seems our beloved Scoops, the ice cream business owned by six generations of Brickles, is about to ... melt away.

ANNA SPLIT. My worst nightmare is coming true!

NEIDA O'POLITAN *(serving ANNA her ice cream)*. There you go, Anna.

ANNA SPLIT. Thank you, Neida. Oh, now I don't even know if I can eat this. *(She does anyway, talking to PAPA BRICKLE as she eats.)* Mr. Brickle, isn't there anything you can do?

PAPA BRICKLE. I don't think so, Miss Split. It seems that after years and years of Brickle ownership, Scoops Ice Cream Shop is about to go out of business on my watch.

MAMA BRICKLE. What's on your watch papa?

PAPA BRICKLE. Oh, Mama, it's just an expression. What I mean to say is, I'll be the Brickle known for putting our proud family business out of business. I'm so ashamed.

MAMA BRICKLE. Don't be ashamed, dear. It's not your fault.

BLANCHE ALMANDO. Then whose fault is it?

MAMA BRICKLE. That awful Mr. I.C. Freeze.

PAPA BRICKLE. Just hearing Freeze's name makes my blood boil.

MAMA BRICKLE. Oh my!

PAPA BRICKLE. Just an expression, Mama. Mr. Freeze has suddenly decided he will not renew our lease.

NEIDA O'POLITAN. But why, Mr. Brickle?

PAPA BRICKLE. That's exactly what I don't understand, Neida. For six generations the Brickle Family has faithfully paid the rent to the Freeze family.

MAMA BRICKLE. We've kept the place neat and clean and we're always very polite.

PAPA BRICKLE. We've become an establishment! An institution in our community.

MAMA BRICKLE. And we've given back to the community. Last year we sponsored that enjoyable ice cream sundae eat-off where whoever ate the most ice cream in an hour won 10 free ice cream cones and a free month to Snap's Fitness Center.

BLANCHE ALMANDO. I thought I had a chance, but not with Anna Split in the contest ... how much did you eat, Anna?

ANNA SPLIT. 14 gallons in an hour.

MARSHA MELLOW. That's like, inhuman!

ANNA SPLIT. I could have eaten more, but the brain freeze made it difficult.

MAMA BRICKLE. A brain freeze?

PAPA BRICKLE. Just an expression, Mama.

ANNA SPLIT (*amused at MAMA*). Oh, Mrs. Brickle! (*Explaining.*) It's that headache you get when you eat ice cream really fast.

MARSHA MELLOW. How do you get rid of a brain freeze?

ANNA SPLIT. That's easy. If I get a brain freeze, I open my mouth like I'm yawning and push a lot of hot air into my mouth like this. (*She demonstrates.*) It thaws out the roof of my mouth and the brain freeze goes away. Try it.

(BLANCHE and MARSHA try. PAPA is alarmed by their behavior.)

PAPA BRICKLE. Stop it, ladies!

ANNA SPLIT. Mr. Brickle, I was just showing Blanche and Marsha how to cure a brain freeze.

PAPA BRICKLE. Oh, well, I had no idea ... At any rate, in spite of our impeccable business dealings, Ivan Clark Freeze will not renew our lease.

NEIDA O'POLITAN. Sounds like something sneaky and underhanded is going on.

(SHERRY SWIRL enters.)

SHERRY SWIRL. Hello, everyone! It's a beautiful day, isn't it?

ANNA SPLIT. Obviously, you haven't heard.

SHERRY SWIRL. Heard what?

NEIDA O'POLITAN. Sit down, Sherry. What can I get you?

SHERRY SWIRL. Lemon sherbert, please.

NEIDA O'POLITAN. Sure thing, Sherry. (*Gets sherbert.*)

SHERRY SWIRL. Well, what's going on?

ANNA SPLIT. That awful Mr. I.C. Freeze is refusing to renew the Brickle's lease.

BLANCHE ALMANDO. And Scoops is going out of business.

MARSHA MELLOW. Forever.

SHERRY SWIRL. You're kidding!

ANNA SPLIT. Sherry, you're a lawyer. Can Mr. I.C. Freeze refuse to renew Mr. and Mrs. Brickle's lease?

SHERRY SWIRL (*all business, to PAPA*). Mr. Brickle, does Mr. Freeze own the building?

PAPA BRICKLE. Yes, I'm afraid he does.

SHERRY SWIRL. Why didn't you ever try to buy it?

PAPA BRICKLE. Over the years we tried to buy it many times, but the Freeze family would never sell.

SHERRY SWIRL. Then I'm afraid, I'm sorry to say, it's his building and he can do whatever he wants with it ... even though it's unethical, immoral and downright despicable.

MAMA BRICKLE. Not to mention it's not very nice.

SHERRY SWIRL. But it doesn't make sense, does it, for Mr. Freeze to so suddenly do this ...

BLANCHE ALMANDO. It certainly doesn't.

PAPA BRICKLE. Perhaps we can make more sense out of it at the town hall meeting tonight.

MAMA BRICKLE. Oh, I hope something can be worked out.

PAPA BRICKLE. If not, Scoops will be only a memory in the scrapbooks of Essex ... a syrupy puddle of ice cream cones past.

MAMA BRICKLE. Oh my!

ANNA SPLIT. Without Scoops, where will I get my comfort food after work?

NEIDA O'POLITAN. And where will I work?

SHERRY SWIRL. The answer is simple. You'll be unemployed and we'll have to buy our ice cream at ... Stop & Shop.

BLANCHE ALMANDO. Sad times, Sherry Swirl, sad times.

(CARMELLA TWIST enters. She has her notebook and she is talking on her cell phone.)

CARMELLA TWIST. Thanks, Gary. I'll let you know when I find out. Bye.

MARSHA MELLOW. Hey! That's Carmella Twist!

BLANCHE ALMANDO. The reporter?

ANNA SPLIT. Yeah. She writes the "Have you Heard?" column in the *Pictorial Gazette*.

NEIDA O'POLITAN. Don't know how she does it, but she knows everything going on in Essex.

CARMELLA TWIST. And if I don't know something, I investigate. And that's why I'm here—to get the scoop on Scoops. Mr. and Mrs. Brickle?

PAPA BRICKLE. Yes?

CARMELLA TWIST. I'm Carmella Twist. I'd like to ask you a few questions about an article I'm writing. May I ask you a few questions?

PAPA BRICKLE. Of course.

CARMELLA TWIST *(very reporter-like, using her phone or notes to quote)*. Rumor has it that Mr. Ivan Clark Freeze of Freeze Real Estate is planning a brand new business venture. All I could find out was that he was heard saying, and I quote, "It's an all around sweet, sweet deal." Do you, Mr. and Mrs. Brickle, know anything about this all around sweet, sweet deal?

NEIDA O'POLITAN. It must have something to do with the lease.

CARMELLA TWIST. What about the lease?

PAPA BRICKLE. Mr. Freeze won't renew it.

MAMA BRICKLE. And we don't know why.

CARMELLA TWIST. Well, you can be sure the reason is this sweet, sweet deal.

(Heroine music plays as SHIRLEY BERT BRICKLE comes running in, very excited. The music fades into the scene.)

SHIRLEY BERT. Mama! Papa! Hi everyone!

ALL. Hi Shirley!

SHIRLEY BERT. Mama, Papa, I have wonderful news!

PAPA BRICKLE. What is it, Shirley?

SHIRLEY BERT. It's the most amazing news!

MAMA BRICKLE. What is it, Shirley?

SHIRLEY BERT. When you hear, you'll fall over right into a vat of ice cream!

ALL. What is it, Shirley?

SHIRLEY BERT. I have been accepted to Yale!

ALL. Yale?

SHIRLEY BERT. Yale! Mama, Papa, you've always told me to dream big and shoot for the stars. Well, I did and it worked! Oh, I am going to Yale! I'm going to be a Bull-dog and I'm going to live in New Haven!

(Everyone congratulates SHIRLEY. Then PAPA realizes the shop is going out of business.)

PAPA BRICKLE. Wait!

ALL. What?

PAPA BRICKLE. Shirley Bert?

SHIRLEY BERT. What is it, Papa?

PAPA BRICKLE. I'm afraid we can't afford to send you to Yale.

SHIRLEY BERT BRICKLE. But why, Papa?

MAMA BRICKLE. Oh, Shirley, this can't be happening!

PAPA BRICKLE. It is, Mama, and stop calling me Shirley. Sit down, Shirley, and I'll tell you why.

(SHIRLEY sits.)

PAPA BRICKLE *(cont'd)*. Shirley Bert, Mr. I.C. Freeze won't renew our lease.

SHIRLEY BERT. What?

PAPA BRICKLE. Despite our impeccable record as business proprietor and tenant of Scoops, Freeze wants our shop—and we don't know why.

MAMA BRICKLE *(gesturing to CARMELLA)*. Carmella Twist even stopped in to ask us all about it.

SHIRLEY BERT *(starstruck)*. Carmella twist of the Carmella Twist "Have You Heard?" column?

CARMELLA TWIST. That's right, honey.

SHIRLEY BERT. Wow! You came all the way to Scoops to interview Mama and Papa?

CARMELLA TWIST. Right again.

SHIRLEY BERT. I love your column!

CARMELLA TWIST. Thanks, honey, but you won't love this particular story. Sources have revealed to me that Ivan Clark Freeze is working on some sort of sweet business deal. And it seems whatever that deal is, it's going to put Scoops out of business.

SHIRLEY BERT. That's terrible.

PAPA BRICKLE. Hence, we can't afford to send you to Yale.

SHIRLEY BERT. But what about financial aid?

PAPA BRICKLE. Without a job, we can't even get you a loan.

SHIRLEY BERT. Oh, what a cold, cold summer day. My dreams have been dashed upon the rocky, rocky road.

MAMA BRICKLE. Oh, I can't stand it! *(Runs out.)*

PAPA BRICKLE. Mama! *(Runs after MAMA.)*

(NEIDA, CARMELLA, SHIRLEY, MARSHA and MYRON are left.)

ANNA SPLIT. Oh, I wish there was something we could do to help.

SHERRY SWIRL. Are you going to the meeting tonight?

ANNA SPLIT. Of course I am. We all are, right Blanche?

BLANCHE ALMANDO. Yes we are. Even Myron is going.

CARMELLA TWIST. Myron?

BLANCHE ALMANDO. Yes, Myron Van Illio. He's one of Scoops best customers. He's right over there. You'll be at the town hall meeting tonight, right Myron?

MYRON VAN ILLIO *(at the counter, eating ice cream)*. You betcha.

SHERRY SWIRL. And we'll be sure our voices are heard tonight! Let's organize a peaceful protest!

BLANCHE ALMANDO. I'll make signs.

MARSHA MELLOW. And we'll save this little ice cream business!

BLANCHE ALMANDO. Save our Scoops!

SHERRY SWIRL. The collective voice of the people of Essex will echo throughout the town hall!

(Everyone cheers.)

SHERRY SWIRL (*cont'd*). All right, everybody! See you tonight at the meeting! Let's save Scoops! Save our Scoops! ALL. Save our Scoops! Save our Scoops! ...

(*NEIDA, SHERRY, BLANCHE, MARSHA and MYRON exit chanting, "Save our Scoops!" CARMELLA is left with SHIRLEY, who is sitting sadly at a table.*)

CARMELLA TWIST. Will you be at the meeting tonight, Shirley?

SHIRLEY BERT. I suppose.

CARMELLA TWIST. You really should. It's going to be a doozy! (*Leaves while talking on her cell phone.*) Hello, Henry? Carmella here. This story on Scoops is bigger than I thought. Let's get a camera crew over to that meeting tonight ...

(*CARMELLA exits. Hero music plays as WALTER MELON CREAM enters. The music fades into scene.*)

WALTER MELON CREAM. Excuse me, miss?

SHIRLEY BERT. May I help you, sir?

WALTER MELON CREAM. My name is Walter Melon Cream and I am here to deliver the ice cream.

SHIRLEY BERT. Oh! I am Miss Shirley Bert Brickle.

WALTER MELON CREAM. Shirley Bert ... What an unusual name.

SHIRLEY BERT (*rambling on*). It is, isn't it? You see, my parents' plan was that if I was a girl, my name would be Shirley. And if I was a boy, my name would be Bert. So before I was even born they were calling me Shirley Bert ... just to be fair. So when I was actually born, Shirley Bert stuck! So, here I am—Shirley Bert!