

(SUZY and CINDY LOU run to the sides to bring on large extension cords, one end with a big master box.)

BETTY JEAN, CINDY LOU & SUZY
IN THE NEW OLD FASHIONED

(MISSY sings simultaneously with the above:)

MISSY
THAT'S THE JINGLE BELL, THAT'S THE JINGLE BELL

ALL
WAY

(BETTY JEAN plugs the lights into the extension cord.)

Lights!

(The girls pose on the final button as the various Christmas lights in the decorations, garlands, and tree come on.)

SUZY
Oh my golly – it's all so pretty!

BETTY JEAN
The guys in the lumber department helped put this together for us. Doesn't it look great?

MISSY
Thanks a lot you guys.

BETTY JEAN
What's next?

SUZY
Is it time for the elf?

MISSY
No, not the elf.

(Whispering down the line as before)

Introductions.

CINDY LOU

(whispering)

Introductions.

SUZY

(whispering)

Introductions.

BETTY JEAN

Got it. Let's see. I already welcomed you to the annual Harper's Hardware Holiday Happening!

(They all turn and quickly gesture back to the banner with a noise as before.)

ALL

Hhmmm.

SUZY

Or as I like to call it...

(They all join in.)

ALL

"Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho."

SUZY

Hey! That's right!

BETTY JEAN

I'm sure I told most of you about our singing group.

MISSY

(interrupting)

The Winter Wonderettes.

(MISSY, CINDY LOU, and SUZY mime snow and pose.)

MISSY, CINDY LOU & SUZY

(miming)

Snow, snow.

(Posing)

Hhmmm.

BETTY JEAN

Well I've been bugging Mr. Harper every day since we had our reunion concert last spring. He finally agreed to have us appear as tonight's entertainment. This is Missy...

MISSY

(showing off her wedding ring)

Recently happily married!

SUZY

To our high school choir teacher, Mr. Lee! Where is he, Missy?

(MISSY points to a gentleman in the audience, who is now her husband Mr. Lee (Bill) for the rest of the performance.)

MISSY

Right there.

[Add "Right there in the red shirt," etc. if needed to help identify him for the audience.]

BETTY JEAN, CINDY LOU & SUZY

Hi, Mr. Lee!

MISSY

(loudly whispering to BILL)

I love you Bill.

(The girls acknowledge him.)

SUZY

Missy and Bill just got back from their honeymoon trip— around the world!

(SUZY illustrates "around the world" with a large arc of her hand, a gesture she repeats later whenever she repeats the phrase.)

CINDY LOU

I'll bet he sent you around the world...!

MISSY

Oh stop.

(MISSY throws Mr. Lee a kiss, followed by a panther growl.)

Rowr.

SUZY

And Missy made our dresses. Aren't they sparkly?

(They turn and model their dresses.)

MISSY

Butterick's Winter Wear Collection.

SUZY

And in a Christmas coincidence, I'm wearing blue in honor of our friends of the Jewish persuasion.

(She looks proudly to the others.)

Happy Hanukah!

(She mispronounces Hanukah as Hanoookah. The girls correct her.)

BETTY JEAN, CINDY LOU & MISSY

Happy Hanukah!

(They form a living menorah, with arms and hands waving and flickering as lit candles.)

SUZY

They got it. I think they got it.

BETTY JEAN

And this is our Happy Homemaker, Suzy.

CINDY LOU

She's pregnant.

BETTY JEAN

Again!

CINDY LOU

She just had the twins in June.

(SUZY giggles maniacally.)

SUZY

I haven't slept in six months.

CINDY LOU

And the man responsible, Ritchie Stevens, he's running the lights.

SUZY

We're hoping for a little Ritchie Jr. this time. Isn't that right, Ritchie honey?!

(RITCHIE flashes the lights in response.)

He can set up all the lights in here but he can't fix the garbage disposal.

(The lights go out.)

Ritchie!

(The lights come back on.)

RITCHIE

Sorry.

BETTY JEAN

And this is my best friend since junior high, Cindy Lou.

CINDY LOU

Hello, happy hardware people.

BETTY JEAN

Cindy Lou has decided to leave for the big city at the beginning of the year.

CINDY LOU

Well, you know me, can't stay in one place too long.

BETTY JEAN

But if you got a job here at the hardware store, we could spend every day together!

CINDY LOU

Oh, God.

(BETTY JEAN gives her a take.)

I mean, seriously, my skill set is way above this two-bit hardware store.

(Glances out at the audience)

That was truly meant to stay inside my head.

BETTY JEAN

Maybe if we found you a new boyfriend, you'd stick around. How about Mitch from accounting? Or even better, how about one of the guys from Electrical Fixtures?

(BETTY JEAN refers and gestures to the band.)

(The band members all wave to CINDY LOU.)

CINDY LOU

How about all of the guys from Electrical Fixtures?

(The band members stand.)

No, no, no— just kidding. No musicians.

(Moving toward the girls)

That is a...

(MISSY and SUZY agree in unison with the above:)

CINDY LOU, MISSY & SUZY

Wonderette rule.

BETTY JEAN

Well, you know, there's always Bob in plumbing.

CINDY LOU

It's no use, Betty Jean.

BETTY JEAN

Okay, okay. It was worth a shot. But just so you know what you're missing...

(She takes her down to the front edge of the stage, pointing to Bob in the front row.)

That's Bob from plumbing right there.

MISSY & SUZY

(moving forward)

Ooh.

CINDY LOU

Hello, Bob.

SUZY

You're in plumbing— I'll bet you can fix a garbage disposal.

(The lights go out.)

BETTY JEAN, CINDY LOU & MISSY

Ritchie!!

(The lights come back on.)

(SUZY reacts.)

CINDY LOU

And of course everyone here knows Betty Jean. She's in Corporate Sales.

(BETTY JEAN reacts to the crowd.)

And I think you all know her husband, Johnny. He used to work in raw lumber. And where is Johnny tonight?

BETTY JEAN

(privately to Cindy Lou)

Hey, hey, hey! Ixnay on ohnny-J. End of discussion.

MISSY & SUZY

(under their breath)

Hmmmm.

(BETTY JEAN looks at MISSY and SUZY, prompting uncomfortable nervous laughter from them.)

(BETTY JEAN recovers simply.)

BETTY JEAN

I'm sure most of you were at the Springfield High Pigskin Classic Homecoming game last month.

MISSY

Chipmunks 3, Muskrats 0.

SUZY

We clobbered the pants off 'em.

BETTY JEAN

Go Chipmunks!