

“THE FUGITIVE”

A Two Character Comedy

By Ken Levine

THE FUGITIVE is an award-winning ten-minute one act featuring a middle-aged couple watching a vintage television series and re-examining their place in the world. Is 60 the new 40... or 80? Ultimately they learn to appreciate the time they have left and make the most of it. It's a comedy.

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THE FUGITIVE

A One Act Comedy by
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Production requirements are minimal: A couch and remote.

CHARACTERS

TOM – 60s, -- Nostalgic and worried about the future – although he would just say “reflective.”

VALERIE – 60's – Less nostalgic, less worried. More comfortable in her skin.

THE FUGITIVE

INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

PRESENT DAY. TOM and VALERIE (both in their 60's) sit on a couch watching a downstage o.s. TV. Valerie is pecking away on her laptop computer. Tom holds the remote and surfs.

TOM

Holy shit! "The Fugitive" is on.

VALERIE

Boy, that's when you know we have 6,000 channels.

TOM

Okay, it is on channel nine-eighty-two, but that's not the point. I loved "The Fugitive" when I was a kid.

VALERIE

You and my parents.

TOM

Now there was a premise. (in deep surly narration voice)
"Dr. Richard Kimble, falsely accused of murdering his wife, escapes and runs around the country searching for a one-armed man he saw leave the scene. Relentlessly pursued by Lieutenant Gerard. Brought to you by Fritos."

VALERIE

You want to watch a fifty year old program?

TOM

Yeah. It'll be fun.

VALERIE

Keep searching. Maybe you'll find a "Today Show" from 1953.

TOM

Don't worry, you'll still get in your six hours a day of "NCIS."

VALERIE

Watch "The Fugitive."

TOM

The key to enjoying this is just losing yourself. Be transported to another place, another time.

VALERIE

Another dress size.

They watch for several beats, then:

VALERIE
God, we're old.

TOM
We are not old.

VALERIE
This was 50 years ago and we remember it. We're "American Gothic."

TOM
No one remembers the details. Oh wow. Tuesday Weld.

Valerie starts typing on her computer.

TOM
What are you doing?

VALERIE
Checking to see how old she was then.

TOM
No, no. Just immerse yourself.

VALERIE
It'll only take a second.

TOM
She was born in 1943 so (quickly calculating) 22.

VALERIE
Hey, how would you just know that?

TOM
Immerse yourself. You're not immersing.

VALERIE
You still have a thing for Tuesday Weld? What porn do you watch late at night?

TOM
She's a marvelous actress!

VALERIE
(not buying it) Uh huh. What year was Judi Dench born?

TOM
Valerie.

VALERIE
Sorry.

They watch for several beats, then: