

# Adventure Cabaret

## MC Intro

[1:05]

*in the darkness, an object is brought on stage by one of the actors. It is a fishing pole, parts of which are shiny, where the line is fed through the hoops. The sound of the fishing reel being wound in is heard. A flashlight is attached to the end of the fishing line. When the flashlight is reeled in and raised to chest height, a second actor turns it on. Then the flashlight is reeled up above head height and positioned above center stage.*

*Timpani roll. The Mistress of Ceremonies strides on stage and into the spotlight from the flashlight. She is wearing a hat, and holding a cane.*

*Timpani snap. Silence.*

*The MC is holding the cane on the floor in front of her and leaning forward on it, bracing herself with both hands, looking down, so you only see the top of her top hat. She suddenly looks up.*

**Screen:** Lightning strikes

**Audio:** Thunder clap, thunder rolling

*Two "tenders" for the MC appear to the side of her, and slightly back. They are wearing all black, including black caps. They keep their heads down, so that their faces are concealed behind the caps.*

**MC:** Guten Abend, meine Damen und Herren! Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, etc! The year is 1925...

*The MC puts both arms out, one holding the cane, the other the hat. The "tenders" take the cane and hat from her, their heads still down. The MC suddenly rushes to a corner of the room, apparently panicked.*

...and the beginning of Adolph Hitler's reign of terror is a mere *eight* years away!

**Audio:** Marching, and one of Hitler's shrieking speeches.

*The MC shifts to complete calm, and walks stage center. The "tenders" have put the hat on the end of the cane. When she returns the "tender" stage left puts the upside down cane with the hat on it into her left hand.*

**MC:** Or is it 2025, one hundred years later?

*The MC walks stage left, holds the hat aloft on the cane, and draws an enormous arc in the air above her head, walking toward stage right. Just before she begins to draw the arc, the two "tenders" take flashlights out of their pockets to illuminate with their searchlights the hat as it soars in the arc above.*

Where exactly *are* we in the greater arc of human history, and *supposed* societal development?

*The MC is now stage right. She walks backward at a forty-five degree angle during the next line, so that at the end of the line she is fully upstage center.*

*On the "not" of "or not" below, she whacks the curtain hard with her cane.*

Have we actually progressed, or not?

*The MC walks directly forward, straight toward the audience.*

**MC:** So my question to you, dear members of the audience, meine Damen und Herren, is this:

**Screen:** [fade in slowly: Earth in space]

**MC:** Do you feel responsible?

*The "tenders" point their flashlights directly at the audience, scanning the audience as though with police flashlights, searching for a criminal.*

*The MC will have to improv what follows, depending on what the audience does, but it builds up to this:*

**MC:** Just imagine how much better life would be, how much more hope there would be in the world, if we weren't all a bunch of irresponsible, responsibility-denying jerks.

And while we're on the subject, another question, this one more personal:

*The MC moves closer to the audience.*

Why are you *still* abusing your mother? Why?

*The MC points to the Earth on the screen.*

Your mother has given you *everything*...absolutely *everything*. The gift of life, every breath you've ever taken, every piece of food you've ever eaten, every moment you've ever enjoyed nature, or anything else. And yet you go on abusing her, insulting her, damaging her.

Is that right? Is that fair? Is that sensible? Is that even remotely MORAL?

## **Adulterated / Unadulterated**

[1:45]

**Screen:** [Earth fades to a black screen.]

**MC:** Yet responsibility, true responsibility, is a challenging topic, so we'll get back to it later in the show.

*Change of mood to very happy.*

**Lights:** Change to a sunny yellow.

**Screen:** [images of children]

**MC:** Do you remember what it was like when you were a child?

*The MC happily skips all the way out into the lobby and then back to the ramp.*

You were full of curiosity, excitement, fascination. You laughed freely (*the entire cast laughs with childish glee from offstage*), and every day was new, full of wonder, and you exercised your imagination without hesitation or inhibition.

*By the end of the last line, the MC has returned to center stage.*

*Two actors dressed in full body hazmat suits appear on stage, and begin working on some invisible equipment at stage level, crouching in consultation and handing each other invisible wrenches and pieces of equipment.*

**Screen:** [much less happy images of children]

*Transition to downer mood. During the below, the MC goes from supremely happy to depressed, crushed, withered, depleted.*

**Lights:** Gradual change to dull and dark

**MC:** Then gradually life, but most of all other human beings, wore you down. You became disappointed, jaded. Your sense of possibility narrowed. You found less and less to be excited about. Your imagination became less and less active. You were once a wonderful child, full of hope and excitement and wonder and imagination...

*The MC has her arms extended out to the side, one holding the hat, the other the cane. The two "tenders" take the hat and cane from her.*

*The actors dressed in hazmat suits pick the MC up by the arms while she is talking, and move her directly stage left by about four feet, as though she were just an object that must be moved. They set her down just before she says the word "adulterated."*

...but then, in a word, you became...

**Screen:** adulterated

**MC:** ...adulterated.

*The actors in hazmat suits move to where the MC had been standing, and get down on their hands and knees, repairing an invisible object, at ground level. The MC sits on the back of one of them, and sets her cane and hat on the back of the other one, whose butt is facing the audience.*

*The two "tenders" are behind the MC, flanking her, their flashlights used as double backlights to silhouette the MC. The actor holding the fishing pole should back up in order for the MC to be illuminated only by the backlight of the other two flashlights.*

**MC:** Aren't you sick of it? Aren't you just completely fed up with being adulterated? Tell me honestly. Don't you want something much better than being constantly and forever...adulterated?

*The two "tenders" call out "Yes!" enthusiastically, and line up beside the MC, clearly ready for a fun time. The MC picks up her hat and cane from off the back of one of the actors in hazmat suits, and stands. She begins to skip and high step about the stage with great enthusiasm, waving her hat and cane.*

**Lights:** Begin to come up slowly

**MC:** So tonight we are going to make the conscious choice to return to the best of childhood: the boundless curiosity, the excitement, the open mindedness, the enthusiasm. We are going to consider new ideas, new outlooks, deeply exercise our imaginations, and have lots and lots of fun together.

*At this point the MC has returned to the exact position where the two actors in hazmat suits set her down. The actors in hazmat suits pick up the MC by the arms again, and move her back to her original position, so that she is back in her original position exactly when she says "Completely unadulterated."*

For the next hour, we are going to be...

*The actors in hazmat suits swiftly remove their head coverings.*

**Screen:** Completely unadulterated!

**Lights:** Up full

**MC and cast:** Completely unadulterated!

*The MC herself drops her cane and hat with abandon, and begins dancing gleefully.*

**MC:** Who's with me?

**Cast:** We are!

*The two actors in the hazmat suits dance the Linky Pinky together. The actor who had been holding the fishing pole exits, in order to change into the Lola costume.*

*"Tender" 1 moves downstage stage right. He takes off his cap, puts on a pair of glasses, puts on a jacket, and picks up a book.*

*The MC dances the Linky Pinky with "tender" 2. The MC must dance and speak during the lines directly below.*

**MC:** Great! We'll have stories—happy stories, sad stories, scary stories, silly gags, more stories, fun fun fun, and then we'll get serious again.

*"Tender" 1 walks slowly in front of the stage, reading the book. As the MC is picking up her hat and cane, she notices him.*

**MC:** But what have we here?

*The cast stops dancing, and looks with dismay at the actor reading a book.*

Look, it's some silly guy reading a book! How pretentious. What an elitist! He probably goes home and reads the dictionary. Ha!

*The actor reading a book walks off, lost in his book.*

## **Away with words!**

[1:30]

*The actors in hazmat suits exit, having a mimed professional discussion. "Tender" 2 also exits.*

**MC:** Away with words! Away with them, I say! We need some truly mindless physical entertainment, and to give us that mindless entertainment is our own Lola de Campa. Lola, can we get you out here please?

*The extravagant Lola de Campa enters, swishing her long colorful skirt back and forth joyfully. She is wearing a large straw hat with flowers sticking out, and singing to herself a nondescript, happy little tune.*

*The MC bows deeply, and exits backwards while in this bow.*