

OLD ACQUAINTANCE

by SCOTT CRAIN

GENRE: Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: On the eve of the New Year, two sisters reflect on an old acquaintance that was perhaps wrongly forgotten.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Though they needn't have trained voices, the singing at the beginning shouldn't truly be comical, so it might pay to cast actresses who can carry a tune.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2F

THEME: New Year's Eve; Friendship; Forgiveness

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: II Peter 1:12-13, Ephesians 4:32

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: New Year's Eve

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon illustration, Worship service

CHARACTERS:

KRISTA
AUDREY

PROPS: Keyboard (or piano), a high school yearbook

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Wireless mics if desired; SFX piano version of "Auld Lang Syne", if the actress portraying Audrey is unable to play the piano

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A suburban living room

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Lights up; AUDREY sits at a piano, playing “Auld Lang Syne”. KRISTA is sprawled on the floor nearby, flipping through a high school yearbook; they both sing, though KRISTA’s attention is on the pages before her.

BOTH: Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!

This second-to-last note isn’t quite right, and AUDREY frowns, pressing the key repeatedly and singing the lyric, trying to find what’s off.

AUDREY: Lang...lang...laaaaaaaaaaang. That doesn’t sound right.

KRISTA: *(eyes still on the yearbook)* Don’t blame the piano cuz you can’t sing.

AUDREY: It’s a B flat.

KRISTA: Your voice be flat. You’re always singing the pirated version of that song.

AUDREY: The pirated version?

KRISTA: Yeah. Murder on the high C’s.

They both mock laugh at this tired joke, which turns into pirate voices:

BOTH: HAR, HAR HAR ARRRRR!!!!

They cackle, genuinely amused now.

AUDREY: *(tapping the key again)* But seriously, it sounds weird.

KRISTA: The whole song sounds weird. It doesn’t make any sense. Auld Lang Syne? None of those are actually words.

AUDREY: It’s a Scottish expression. It means “old long since”.

KRISTA: *(deadpan)* Oh. Well that’s so much clearer. Old long since you explained it to me.

AUDREY: It’s asking—rhetorically—if we should forget about old acquaintances. *(raising her eyebrows with mock haughtiness)* You do know what a rhetorical question is, don’t you?

KRISTA: Do I know what a rhetorical question is? Please. *(blinks, sarcastically)* Well answer me!