

PERUSAL SCRIPT

Three Moments in Time

By
Jerry Walker



a play for seniors
(and those who love them)



Newport, Maine

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THREE MOMENTS IN TIME

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CAST

Helen - woman 75 to 85

Henry - man 75 to 85

THREE MOMENTS IN TIME by Jerry Walker 1m 1f. (*Perfect for Senior Theatre groups and all others who perform for Senior audiences.*) About 30 minutes. 1 interior. Contemporary costumes. Moments in the life... of an aging couple dealing with the exigencies of life beyond the workplace and the neighborhood. This funny and on-target trio of plays focus on the humorous side of growing older — at least the side that the audience sees — as Helen and Henry make some decisions that cause changes in their life. **ORDER #3038**
[Premiered by the Daytime Players, Portland Maine -- 2017]

Jerry Walker is a retired **Band and Theater** director. He was the director of bands at **Oxford Hills High School** in South Paris and **Stearns High School** in Millinocket. While in Millinocket he was also the theater director and directed the Jazz Ensembles. Since his retirement in 1999 he has acted in and directed plays and musicals at **Schoolhouse**: *“The Hobbit”*, and *“Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep”*, *“The Odd Couple”* and a group of one-act plays; **Lake Region Community Theater**, where he directed: *“The Odd Couple”*, (*female version*), *“Oliver”* and *“You Can’t Take It With You”*; **Oxford Hills Community Theater**, *“Carnival”*; and **Windham Center Stage Theater**: *“You Can’t Take It With You”* and *Once Upon A Mattress*. He Directed *“My Fair Lady”* and *“Hello Dolly”* at **Deertrees**. Jerry is one of the founders of the **Daytime Players** as well as an actor and director in the ensemble. Some of his acting roles include *Tevye* in **“Fiddler”**, *Fagin* in **“Oliver”**, *Scrooge* in the **“A Christmas Carol”**, *Fred* in **“All I Really Needed To Know I Learned Kindergarten”**, *Kris Kringle* in **“Miracle on 34th Street”**, *Bellomy* in **“The Fantastiks”**, *Sextimus* in **“Once Upon A Mattress”**, *Erroneous* in **“A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum”**, *Birdboot* in **“The Real Inspector Hound”**, *Al Lewis* in **“The Sunshine Boys”**, and *Samuel* in **“A Little Something For The Ducks”**. He reworked and directed the present expanded version of *“Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep”* at **Schoolhouse** in 2004 and 2008. He is presently writing *“Two Guys Seating on a Bench Talking About Stuff of No Importance to Anyone.”*

MOMENT ONE – THAT’S NICE

Henry Jones is sitting on a chair in his kitchen. He is looking at his new laptop. Helen Jones is standing by the sink cutting up fruit to put in a Fruit Salad that she is attempting to make for dessert.

HENRY: I got it on.

Helen keeps cutting fruit.

I said I got it on.

HELEN: *(still cutting)* That’s nice.

HENRY: *(not hearing her)* This ain’t like my old computer. I don’t have any things on the screen.

HELEN: I don’t think Bing’s coming over tonight.

HENRY: *(looking at the monitor)* That’s nice.

HELEN: *(looking at Henry)* You like your new laptop.

HENRY: *(looking at Helen)* I don’t think so. It gives me gas.

HELEN: That’s nice.

They both go back to what they were doing, with a puzzled look on their faces.

HENRY: What did you just ask me?

HELEN: Asked if you liked your new laptop.

HENRY: *(chuckling)* I thought you wanted to know if I wanted a Pork Chop... We need to make a plan to deal with this hearing problem you have.

HELEN: What do you mean, my hearing problem? I already said we need to be in the same room and we have to get each other’s attention before we ask a question...

HENRY: That’s right you said that. OK, let’s do that. I’ll be right back, have to go to the little boy’s room...

He picks up his laptop and leaves the room and Helen goes back to the sink.

HENRY: *(yelling off stage)* WHO LEFT THE WATER RUNNING IN THE SINK.

HELEN: *(yelling back)* DON’T USE THE PINK TOWEL THAT’S MINE.

HENRY: *(coming back into the room)* Did you leave the water running in bathroom sink.

HELEN: *(cutting fruit)* I don’t think so. I think you were the last one in there.

HENRY: I was?

HELEN: I don’t remember. Did you shut it off.

HENRY: *(heading back to the bathroom)* Damn!

HELEN: YOU DO THAT A LOT YOU KNOW.

HENRY: I KNOW I DO...

HENRY: *(coming back)* We should make everything automatic. Then it wouldn’t matter if we shut things off or not. Can they do that now?

HELEN: *(leaving the room)* Do what?

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HENRY: Make things that shut off automatically when you leave the room. You would think someone would invent things to shut off when we aren't using them.

HENRY: *(TO HELEN IN OTHER ROOM)* THAT WOULD BE GOOD, DON'T YOU THINK?

HELEN: *(coming back into room)* I don't smell anything.

HENRY: What do you mean I don't smell anything.

HELEN: This is what I was talking about. You need to wear your hearing aids.

HENRY: What about you? You don't wear that hearing aid you bought at Cabella's sport shop. You know the blaze orange one. God, I can't believe you thought you could buy a hearing aid at Cabella's.

HELEN: Well the ones you have are too expensive. Besides you never wear yours.

HENRY: I hate the things.

HELEN: Then why did you buy them.

HENRY: Because I can't hear a lot of stuff.

HELEN: Fine, I am going in the bedroom, don't talk to me.

HENRY: I won't.

HELEN: Good.

She leaves and Henry looks around for his laptop.

HENRY: DID YOU TAKE MY LAPTOP.

HELEN: WHY WOULD I TAKE YOUR LAPTOP.

HENRY: I DON'T KNOW. DO YOU SEE IT ANY WHERE?

HELEN: DID YOU TAKE IT TO THE BATHROOM WITH YOU?

HENRY: OH, YEAH... I should get one of those "put on top of the desk ones." I am always looking for the damn things.

HENRY: CAN YOU CHECK FOR ME?

HELEN: NO! WHY DON'T YOU GET ONE OF THOSE "PUT ON TOP OF THE DESK ONES" THEN YOU WON'T LOSE IT ALL THE TIME.

He mutters something as he goes off stage and comes back with his laptop.

HENRY: *(to audience)* This is how it goes with us. Lot's yelling and giving wrong answers. We try to listen and respond with the right answer but we just can't understand what the other says. I should wear my hearing aids, but I hate them. I really do. I live in a quiet and peaceful place. It is so quiet here and... peaceful. What can I say. I put the things in and I hear cars out on the highway whooshing past and I live a mile from the highway... a mile. And I like to walk around outside and it's quiet and peaceful and it's... perfect... a perfect place to be. But, if I put those damn hearing aids in... you know the ads for hearing aids they say, with quiet music in the background..."With Super Ears you can enjoy the sound of leaves crunching and the beautiful sounds of Nature, birds chirping, the wind in the trees and blah, blah blah "...crunching leaves are annoying and the birds are really noisy and the wind is roaring and my quiet, peaceful, perfect world is loud and irritating. Now Helen and I from Cabella's...

I know I tease her about it, but it serves her purposes and who am I to complain. We just have to be close together when we really want to have a serious conversation. The more serious the closer we get. I know you think she is mad, but... watch this.

HENRY: HHeelllllllen...

HELEN: I AM NOT TALKING TO YOU UNTIL YOU PUT IN YOUR DAMN HEARING AIDS.

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HENRY: *(to Helen)* THAT'S NICE...

(to audience)

Time to have a close conversation... Later.

He zips off stage.

END MOMENT ONE

MOMENT TWO – WHAT NOW

Henry is sitting in a rocking chair on his porch.

HELEN, OFF STAGE: Henry, Henry where are you.

HENRY: What now?

HELEN, OFF STAGE: Are we going to the concert or are you going to sit out there all night.

HENRY: Don't know.

HELEN, OFF STAGE: What do you mean you don't know. It's little Jack's concert. You promised him you would go.

HENRY: I'm too drunk.

HELEN, OFF STAGE: You don't drink.

HENRY: I was thinking about drinking again.

HELEN, OFF STAGE: Well forget it and get in here and get ready. It starts in an hour and it takes thirty minutes to get there.

HENRY: I am all dressed and ready to go.

The Voice enters and becomes Helen.

HELEN: You are in your underwear.

HENRY: *(looking down)* Oh yeah, I forgot. Maybe I should go like this... just imagine all the Great-Grandfathers, grandfathers, and probably even fathers saying, "Ahhh, finally something rememberable."

He gets up and leaves and Helen sits in the rocker and rocks.

HELEN: What happens to men when they get older. I remember when Henry and I first met, he was so with-it, he looked like a million dollars in his suit, with a vest and polished shoes. Clean shaved and smelling of Old Spice... He'd stand there with his smile and then reach out to take my hand and...

HENRY, OFF STAGE: I can't find a clean white shirt.

HELEN: You don't need a white shirt.

HENRY, OFF STAGE: Then I can't go. You can't go to a fancy concert and not wear a white shirt.

HELEN: Jack is in nursery school. I don't think it will be that fancy.

HENRY, OFF STAGE: Nursery school... they don't even know how to sing.

HELEN: Yes they do. Hurry up.

HENRY, OFF STAGE: Dammit!!

Helen continues with her train of thought.

HELEN: Now I have a hard time just to get him to put on pants... he sits around in his jockey shorts and scratches his belly and farts.

HENRY, OFF STAGE: I can't find my pants.

HELEN: They are in your closet.

HENRY, OFF STAGE: They got a spot on them... I guess I can't go.

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HELEN: There is another pair right next to them. They don't have a spot and I just hung them up there...

HENRY, OFF STAGE: Damn!!

HELEN: ... he's stalling. He thinks that I gave him the right time. I lied we got two hours.

HENRY, OFF STAGE: I can't find my shirt, the one with the golf club on it.

HELEN: It's in the third drawer down.

HENRY, OFF STAGE: Which bureau?

HELEN: Your bureau.

HENRY, OFF STAGE: Found it.

HELEN: That's a good boy. Now get dressed and let's get going.

There is no sound from the Voice off Stage.

You would think that after all these years he would know that I will get my way. He will go and he will see little Jack and smile and point and make faces, give a little wave and pretend he knows what is being said, but he can't hear without his hearing aids... **DON'T FORGET YOUR HEARING AIDS.**

HENRY, OFF STAGE: I CAN'T FIND THEM.

HELEN: THEY ARE IN YOUR DRAWER BY THE BED.

HENRY, OFF STAGE: FOUND THEM.

HELEN: YOU BETTER HURRY UP.

HENRY, OFF STAGE: What time is it.

HELEN: 6:31.

HENRY, OFF STAGE: Oh no! I'm sorry it's too late we can't get there in time.

HELEN: It doesn't start until 7:30. We got plenty of time.

Henry comes out with his fly unzipped and no shoes or socks.

HENRY: You lied to me again, didn't you. You always do that and then I end up going to another concert, or play, or ball game or... oh never mind. Do you know how many of these things we have gone to over the years. Let's see we have 4 kids, 8 grandchildren, and 3 Great grandchildren... That's about 2 million things we have gone to. Couldn't we just miss one. I can't understand one word they say even with my hearing aids... hell, I forgot my shoes—do you know where they are.

HELEN: Wear your Crocs. They are right beside you.

HENRY: No socks.

HELEN: Nope. You look fine lets go... and zip your fly.

She exits and Henry slips on his Crocs and zips his fly and follows.

END MOMENT TWO

MOMENT THREE has 3 ½ pages