

REMINISCING AND REALITY

Anon – adapted by Phil Lewis

SHORTENED **SAMPLE** VERSION

For full version please contact:

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Approx: 8 minutes

Cast

ACTOR 1 Middle-aged any sex

ACTOR 2 20+ any sex

Programme Notes

A story of today's values

Production Notes

Open stage.

Two spotlights.

May be edited as required.

REMINISCING AND REALITY

Shortened Sample Version

ACTOR 1: According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 60's, 70's and early 80's probably shouldn't have survived. Because.... our baby cots were covered with brightly coloured lead-based paint which was promptly chewed and licked.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, or latches on doors, or cabinets and it was fine to play with pans.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts, or airbags - riding in the passenger seat was a treat.

We would leave home in the morning and could play all day, as long as we were back before it got dark. No one was able to reach us and no one minded.

We did not have Play Stations or X-Boxes, no video games at all. No 800 channels on TV, no videotape movies, no surround sound, no mobile phones, no personal computers, no DVDs, no Internet chat rooms. We had friends - we went outside and found them.

We played knock-the-door-run-away and were actually afraid of the owners catching us.

We also, believe it or not, WALKED to school; we didn't rely on mummy, or daddy, to drive us to school, which was just round the corner.

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of...they actually sided with the law.

That generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

ACTOR 2: For those of you who aren't old enough, you might like to realise this about us.

The majority of students in universities today were born in 1986.....they are called youth.

For them, there has always been only one Germany and one Vietnam.

AIDS and CD's have existed since they were born.

Michael Jackson has always been white.

To them John Travolta has always been round in shape and they can't imagine how this fat guy could be a god of dance.

They can never imagine life before computers.

They'll never have pretended to be the A-Team, Red Hand Gang, or the Famous Five.

They'll never have applied to be on Jim'll Fix It?

They can't believe a black and white television ever existed. And they will never understand how we could leave the house without a mobile phone.

ACTOR 1: So what's our real, modern world like?

ACTOR 2: Various organisations (especially government ones) feel they have to protect the public to extremes. This protection often costs us money and parts of our freedom.

ACTOR 1: We...

ACTOR 2: On mass.

ACTOR 1: are restricted.....

ACTOR 2: Not allowed.

ACTOR 1: ...to do so many things now – just in case it affects a few others.

ACTOR 2: We are loosing personal liberty. All of us have lost a little liberty in order to protect a few thousand people who are too stupid to protect themselves – or, who are unaware of the everyday dangers that might befall them.

ACTOR 1: For most of the people on the planet life is relatively safe. We are not in danger. We do not need an invisible protector changing the way we behave to protect us.

ACTOR 2: Our natural animal instincts for preservation are reducing. Our hearing and reactions are suffering. Fight, or flight response are diminishing. We're becoming weak and vulnerable, from being over protected.

ACTOR 1: The exceptions are the urban gangster, who live every day on the edge. Protecting themselves and living the human instinct to the fullest. The true humans left, who fight for everything they get and are above the do gooders who have ruined the rest of us.

ACTOR 2: Granted, most of these restrictions on our lives and freedom can save lives. But how few, and at what cost to the rest of us on this planet?

ACTOR 1: When a new life saving drug is invented it takes many years before it's available to all. How many lives are lost in that time – compared to the few that may have been lost during testing? How much more expensive is that drug because of testing restrictions? How many people cannot afford those prices and consequently die, or suffer anyway?

ACTOR 2: No one person will have a lasting impact on this planet. Not even Hitler.

ACTOR 1: Driving has become so easy that drivers give it no thought. Because they give it no thought it has become dangerous. The reason it's easier is because we are over protected. If the roads were more dangerous, people would become more aware and alert when driving, similarly would the pedestrians.