

Sample page #1 of "Season's Beatings: Live From Downtown"

(Wally grimaces slightly, then changes it back into a smile as he looks back at the camera, or the audience.)

**Wally:** "Will, it seems we just had an encounter with one of our city's more colorful characters. But, what's Christmas without a fruitcake? (Another person has come onstage. It is the Old Lady.) Here comes a promising person. Excuse me, Wally W. Wigwhacker of WWWW News. Would you mind sharing your Christmas joy with our viewing audience?"

**Old Lady:** "You want me to have joy? Then gimme some money, mister! I'm trying to live on my sorry social security and my sorry late husband's sorry pension from that sorry job he worked at for 30 sorry years. You know what he did for 30 years, mister TV man?"

(Wally shakes his head.)

**Old Lady:** "He stood around making faces all day."

**Wally:** "Really?"

**Old Lady:** "Yeah, he worked in a clock factory! Now here it is Christmas, I've got 23 greedy grandkids who all want money, and I'm flat busted. In fact, here's all I could buy myself this Christmas. (Takes out an oversized bone from her shopping bag.) Here's my Christmas dinner! Now you want me to talk about joy? Get real, sonny!" (She conks him on the skull with the bone and stalks off.)

**Wally:** (Rubbing his head, he recovers with an attempt to lighten the moment.) "Well, it was nice of her to share her dinner with me. It seems that finding the Christmas spirit may be a little harder than I thought. But, we won't give up! Let's see if we can't snag someone overflowing with the merry mood of Christmas. (The Stressed Man is walking quickly onto the stage and goes to pass Wally, obviously irritated at this guy in his way.) Sir? Would you tell us what makes Christmas such a joy-filled time for you?"

**Stressed Man:** (Further irritated by the interruption.) "Joy? Where? I don't have time for joy, you idiot! (His ranting escalates.) What does Christmas have to do with joy? Don't you get it? I've got brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles and cousins and in-laws and outlaws at my house right now! They all need gifts! They all need food! They all need a bath! The plumbing at the house broke! And I'm trying to get all the stuff I need! But I can't find any of the stuff! The stores are out of stuff! And my therapist is out of his office! And the shoppers are out of control! (screaming) And I'm just about out of my mind!!! (suddenly goes completely calm) I gotta remember the Cheese Whiz..." (walks off preoccupied.)

**Wally:** (rapidly losing his cheer) "Christmas joy. It seems to be a rare commodity here in the big city. But everywhere are blinking lights, a light snow is falling, and the sound of carols being sung is in the air."

(The sound of singing is heard offstage under Wally's delivery. It grows louder as a group of carolers enters the stage area and proceeds to walk behind him, singing "Here We Come A Caroling." They get progressively louder as Wally speaks.)

**Wally: (Continuing, he is cheered some.) "Well, it seems that we have here a true symbol of the season, some Christmas carolers! Indeed, a heart-warming tradition that is seldom seen anymore, especially in the big city! Let's listen for a moment..."**

**(The carolers stop and sing right behind Wally. He falls silent for a moment as he moves to the side and listens, allowing the TV viewers to enjoy their singing.)**

**(The carolers sing a verse and then conclude their chorus, falling silent.)**

**Wally: "Wonderful! Just wonderful. (Steps back in front of them and turns back toward the audience.) In this day and age, it's great to see a group of people set aside their own busy schedule and make time to brighten up the holiday of others..."**

**(But right in the middle of Wally's sentence, the carolers suddenly begin to sing again, this time at the top of their voices, belting out "Joy To The World," drowning out poor Wally!)**

**Wally: (Startled, and trying to speak over their singing.) "Oh! Uh... as I was saying, the sounds of the season are a great backdrop as we try to find the joy of Christmas..."**

**(The carolers are not moving on, but rather hogging the scene and singing louder, mugging for the camera, and each one jostling for a position where they can be seen.)**