

The Antarctic Comedy Club

Cast list

Host: A professional host who has no time for un-funny jokes.

Sandy: A sea lion who isn't very funny.

Flipper: A nervous penguin who loves fashion.

Fisher: A penguin who is best friends with Frosty.

Frosty: Fisher's best friend, who is a little bit silly.



Three penguins (Flipper, Fisher and Frosty) are waiting at the side of the stage in a comedy club, where people go to tell jokes. They are waiting for their turn to perform. Onstage, a sea lion (Sandy) is at the end of his performance. The host is waiting at the side of the stage. There is a large audience watching.

Sandy: So, did you hear that some of my buddies escaped the zoo earlier this week?
(Pauses for effect.) Yeah, they had to re-seal the tank.

There is no laughter from the audience. It is completely silent. Someone coughs awkwardly.


Host: (walking on stage) Alright, that's... great. A round of applause for Sandy Sea Lion! Just... great.

Audience claps politely as Sandy Sea Lion stomps off stage. Flipper adjusts his tie and waddles up to the side of the stage.

Host: Our next guest is a little nervous so please be kind! Straight from the Antarctic, it's Flipper!

Audience claps and Fisher and Frosty cheer as the Host gets off the stage and Flipper steps up to the microphone.

Flipper: Thanks for the warm welcome. Although not too warm, you don't want to melt my ice cap! (Tips the hat on his head.)



Audience laughs. Fisher gives Flipper a thumbs up.

Flipper: Okay, speaking of ice caps, let's talk fashion! I was trying to go to the supermarket the other day, but they wouldn't let me in. You know why? I had snow shoes on. You know, snow shoes? Rhymes with no shoes? No...?

Audience laughs weakly. Flipper nervously shuffles his feet.

Flipper: *(going red)* But, hey, I went home, got something on my feet, came back. They still didn't let me in. Guess they didn't like my slippers! Get it? Ice, slippy, slippers? No?

Audience is silent. The host walks on stage.

Host: Alright, great job, give it up for Flipper and his slippers. *(Flipper waves and leaves the stage.)* Next up, we've got a double act. It's Fisher and Frosty!

Fisher: *(clears his throat)* Good evening everyone. Let's get straight into it. Hey, Frosty, what is black and white and black and white and black and white?

Frosty: *(starts rolling on the floor)* A penguin rolling down a hill!

Audience laughs loudly. Fisher and Frosty smile at each other as Frosty stands up.

Fisher: Okay, so what's black and white and goes round and round?

Fisher: *(starts running round in circles)* A penguin stuck in a revolving door!

Audience laughs even louder. Even the host has tears of laughter in his eyes.

Questions

1. What is the setting in this play?

2. Why is it awkward that someone coughs after Sandy's joke?

3. How did the stage directions let the reader know that Sandy was angry?

4. Where does Flipper come from?

5. What is a 'warm welcome'?

6. Why does Flipper start to go red and shuffle his feet?

7. What does the host mean when he calls Fisher and Frosty a 'double act'?

8. Why do you think the audience finds Fisher and Frosty's jokes so funny?

9. Why are some parts of the script written in brackets () ?

10. What do you think will happen next in the script?

Answers

1. What is the setting in this play?
The comedy club.
2. Why is it awkward that someone coughs after Sandy's joke?
Because it is silent as no one is laughing.
3. How did the stage directions let the reader know that Sandy was angry?
It said that Sandy stomped off the stage.
4. Where does Flipper come from?
The Antarctic.
5. What is a 'warm welcome'?
When the crowd is being kind and nice.
6. Why does Flipper start to go red and shuffle his feet?
He is embarrassed and nervous that they don't find his jokes funny.
7. What does the host mean when he calls Fisher and Frosty a 'double act'?
There are two of them in the act.
8. Why do you think the audience find Fisher and Frosty's jokes so funny?
Because Frosty is being silly and acting out the punchlines of the jokes.
9. Why are some parts of the script written in brackets () ?
To give stage directions to the actors so they know how to act.
10. What do you think will happen next in the script?
Any appropriate answer.