

TUNED OUT

-SEASON 2-

I NEED HELP PRODUCTIONS
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Episode 019
“Mayhem”

Written by
Blair Peyton

CAST:

Blair Peyton
“Lester Higgins”

Christie Quackenbush
“Delores Grace”

Bryan Hancock
“Sammy Willis”

Kristin Gainey
“Lester’s wife (Mrs. Higgins)”

Tim Martin
“Trevor Powers”

GUEST CAST:

Danny Meyers
“Jack Moynihan”

Zack Jackson
“Jerry Johnson”

Frazier Hughes
“Mike Vinyl”

COLD OPEN

INT. STATION LOBBY

DELORES is going through the obituaries in the newspaper for her show. LESTER enters.

LESTER
(Concerned) Morning Delores

DELORES
Hi Lester, what's wrong?

LESTER
My neighbor...

DELORES
The amputee or the blind guy?

LESTER
The blind guy; he's Uncle Buford committed suicide.

DELORES
I saw in the paper; so sad.

LESTER
He said he never saw it coming

DELORES
(Chuckles) Good one.

LESTER
I'm serious.

DELORES
Poor thing, you know he's going to burn. (Glances at the clock) I've got to do my obit show.

LESTER
Delores, please be considerate when you announce his death.

DELORES
Please! Considerate is my middle name.

ONE-ON-ONE

DELORES & LESTER are side-by-side

DELORES

Yep, Delores Considerate Grace; my middle name literally describes me as a person.

LESTER

Me too! Lester Gaye Higgins.

DELORES

that's so true, you always are upbeat and happy!

SAMMY walks by the door in interview room with a shocked look.

CUTS TO:

SAMMY

Did Lester just come out?

INT. STUDIO

DELORES is on the air.

DELORES

Buford Harland Queensberry, the third, 51 of Roanoke, demanded a command meeting with our heavenly father. (*Slight pause*) But was promptly rejected by Saint Peter at the pearly gates and sent straight to hell...

Cuts to a reaction shot of LESTER, who is listening in another room.

CUTS TO OPENING SEQUENCE

SCENE 1

INT. MRS HIGGINS OFFICE

LESTER, DELORES, SAMMY, TREVOR and MIKE VINYL are gathered in MRS HIGGINS office, as she goes over the recent changes to Pop FM. LESTER is obviously perturbed.

MRS HIGGINS

2011 is definitely the year of Pop FM... I officially want to welcome Trevor Powers and Mike Vinyl to our little family!

(Everyone claps)

ONE-ON-ONE

MRS HIGGINS

Okay, so Trevor was hired out of guilt...

(Clip from Episode 17 recalling Trevor being hired)

MRS HIGGINS

And Mike was hired because, well, he does have a good voice... despite being...

Cuts between SAMMY, LESTER & DELORES and then back to MRS HIGGINS

SAMMY

High as (*starts to say "shit"*)

LESTER

...shouldn't be working here! I mean come on; he is a loon... a mother (*starts to say "fucking"*)

DELORES

...for the love of my sweet Willy, if he calls me the wrong name again, I'm going to castrate him... stupid (*starts to say "asshole"*)

MRS HIGGINS

(*Says with air-quotes*) addicted, but his tests came back clean...

MIKE

It was my cat's pee. (*Winks*)

Cuts back to MRS HIGGINS office

MRS HIGGINS

(*To Trevor & Mike*) Guys, would you like to say anything?

TREVOR

Well, I'd just like to thank you for the opportunity...

MIKE

(*Cuts Trevor off*) Well, hell yeah... (*Improvises a rambling about his past in radio*)

ONE-ON-ONE

LESTER

I am not pleased with former betrothed. She is making poor decisions as "our" manager. So I'm shutting her out. She is not worthy of my verbiage of words towards her. Paybacks are a bitch.

Cuts back to MRS HIGGINS office

MRS HIGGINS

Alright, if there's nothing else...

LESTER

I have something else! An injustice has occurred in this building.

DELORES

(*Tugs at Lester*) Lester, its okay... my obit show isn't going anywhere!

LESTER

I'm not talking about your obit show!

ONE-ON-ONE

MRS HIGGINS

Delores is right... her obituary show has actually been doing well in the ratings. People have been telling me it's the funniest radio bit they've heard in years. The Roanoke Comedy Club is a sponsor.

Cuts back to MRS HIGGINS office

LESTER
I am a man!

Cuts to TREVOR leaning/whispering to SAMMY

TREVOR
I had my doubts...

Cuts back to LESTER

LESTER
I'm being treated like a second-class citizen here.

DELORES
You mean like Sammy?

SAMMY
I can't wait to take a dump on your grave.

DELORES
Good luck, I'm being cremated.

LESTER
You guys, this is my moment at the moment.

MRS HIGGINS
Lester, just get on with it!

LESTER
I was the head honcho around here...

MIKE

Hell yeah!

LESTER glares at the camera, then continues

LESTER

And then one by one, I was demoted... but then there was a glimmer of hope when you (*points to Mrs. Higgins*) gave me the morning show...

MRS HIGGINS

Lester! I told you that shift was temporary...

LESTER

Yeah, just like our love.

SAMMY

Oh snap!

MIKE

(*Improvises a rambling about how he invented snapping*)

LESTER

Clearly, my services are no longer needed here. I quit.

LESTER storms out; camera pans to a stunned staff.

SCENE 2

EXT. THE K92 BUILDING

ONE-ON-ONE

LESTER

It's been about two weeks since I worked at Pop FM (*rolls eyes*). But my radio-ism experience is well-known throughout the valley and I now have a more high profile job.

CUT TO INT. K92 STUDIO

JACK & JERRY are on the air and LESTER is on stand-by to join in.

JACK
15 before 7, Jack Moynihan, Jerry Johnson...

JACK/JERRY
(*In unison*) Morning mayhem!

JACK
With our newest addition, Guppy!

LESTER
Hello all... Guppy in the hizzie!

ONE-ON-ONE

LESTER
I am Jack and Jerry's stunt boy "Guppy". I get to do all sorts of wacky stuff...

JERRY opens the studio door.

JERRY
Guppy! Coffee, now!

LESTER
Got to go get wacky...

SCENE 3

INT. POP FM STUDIO

DELORES is signing off from doing the obit show.

DELORES
...funeral services have been postponed. Please call 555-4525 any you have information as to the whereabouts of Mr. Levenstein's body. I'm Delores Grace.

DELORES turns off her mic and sits down her headphones. Over the monitor, you hear a commercial for the obit shows' sponsor.

AUDIO: Today's "Dead Zone" has been brought to you by the Roanoke Comedy Club! *My wife is such a fat slut.* Catch the comedy styling's Rick Richards this Friday...

TREVOR enters the studio practicing pronunciation.

TREVOR

(Over pronouncing) A tutor who tooted the flute; tried to tutor two tooters to toot; said the two to the tutor "Is it tougher to toot or to tutor two tooters to toot?"

TREVOR is going through paperwork, and DELORES keeps sighing, loudly each time, to get TREVOR to ask her what's wrong. On the 3rd big sigh, TREVOR responds:

TREVOR
I don't care.

DELORES
(Acting as if he said "what's wrong") I just miss Lester.

TREVOR
(Slight pause) Okay... are we done?

DELORES
I'm not just speaking as a best friend, but as a woman of faith with superior insight into what's right, you know?

TREVOR
Woman of faith? Didn't you tell a caller to go to Hell?

DELORES
'Cause they are... insight!

SCENE 4

INT. STATION LOBBY

MIKE is improvising a rambling about how he spent time in the "Black Panthers". After a bit, SAMMY replies:

SAMMY

Why are here so early? Your shift doesn't start till 2!

DELORES enters into the lobby from the direction of the studio.

MIKE

(To Delores) Hey there Peggy, you look like you could use a back-rub.

DELORES

Listen Charlie Sheen; unless I'm getting 30-million dollars, we are to never touch!

SAMMY

What's wrong Delores?

DELORES

I just miss Lester. He was the only other sane person here.

SAMMY

(Sarcastically) Oh yeah, who was the other one?

SCENE 5

INT. K92 STUDIO

JACK is broadcasting live in the studio, while through the window you see JERRY & LESTER outside.

JACK

Alright caller, if you get this question incorrect, then Guppy gets dowsed in freezing cold water. FYI, the current temp is 38.

CALLER
Um, I think its vinegar?

JACK
Uh oh!

Camera zooms in on LESTER being dowsed in water.

ONE-ON-ONE

CAMERAMAN
(Off camera to Jack & Jerry) What do you guys think of Lester?

JERRY
Who the fuck is Lester?

CAMERAMAN
Lester...

JACK
Well, we're equal opportunity here... so we're cool with the gay thing...

JERRY
As long as he doesn't pull that shit on me...

Cuts to a eavesdropping shot of Jack, Jerry & Lester conversing.

LESTER
I use to have a morning show on Pop FM, so I have what it takes.

JERRY
How long?

LESTER
Couple of months...

JACK
Guppy, you are our stunt boy... that's it!

LESTER
Could you actually call me Lester?

JERRY
Why? It sounds like a pedophile's name.

JACK
The show is called "Jack & Jerry's Morning Mayhem". Not
Jack, Jerry & Lesley's (*Gets interrupted*)

LESTER
Lester.

JERRY
No.

SCENE 6

INT. MRS HIGGINS OFFICE

DELORES & SAMMY enter.

DELORES
Knock, Knock

MRS HIGGINS
Hi guys, what's up?

SAMMY
We want to talk to you about Lester.

MRS HIGGINS
There's nothing to talk about. He quit, he's out of my
life.

SAMMY
You guys still live together...

DELORES

And frankly idiots when it comes to being separated

MRS HIGGINS
What exactly do you guys want?

DELORES
Give Lester his job back!

MRS HIGGINS
He quit and besides, what make you think he'd even want
come back?

SAMMY
Let him have the morning show back!

TREVOR immediately pops his head in, which startles SAMMY.

TREVOR
Um, I have a problem with that.

SAMMY
(Startled) Geez Casper, knock much?

DELORES
Lester was amazing when he did the morning show!

MRS HIGGINS
Did you even listen?

DELORES
Um...

TREVOR
I'm the morning jock!

DELORES
Still? Jesus! I guess you have one of those grating
personalities that make it seem like forever.

ONE-ON-ONE

DELORES

Typical Mrs. Higgins! She is absolutely worthless. It's like asking a black man to show up on time.

CAMERAMAN

(Off camera) Delores you can't say that.

Cuts through DELORES using other offensive analogies

DELORES

It's like asking an oriental to not do nails when they come to America.

It's like asking a Mexican not to do my lawn.

It's like asking a Mormon not have 8 wives.

It's like asking an Indian... *(Has trouble thinking of an analogy)*

INT. STATION LOBBY

DELORES is still pondering an analogy.

SAMMY

Maybe we could try and get Lester fired and then he'd be forced to come back.

DELORES

Uh huh... hey, I need an analogy for something being pointless... It's like asking an Indian...

SAMMY

To ease up on the curry

DELORES

Meh...

DELORES pages TREVOR.

TREVOR

(On speaker) Yes?

DELORES
We need a pointless analogy...

TREVOR
(Cuts Delores off) It's like you thinking diet soda will
make you thin.

DELORES slams the phone, as in hangs up harshly.

DELORES
I hate that fucker.

MIKE exits the restroom.

MIKE
Woo, who do I call and complain about the weird smell that
came out of me in there?

DELORES
I have an idea.

INT. K92 STUDIO

JACK
(On air) So, is it okay to have sex on the first date? Call
us at 555-WJAM.

JERRY
Um, a guy named "Not Mike" is on line 7.

MIKE
(On the phone/oblivious) Hell yeah, Lester sucks... you
should fire him, hell yeah...

JERRY
Lester?

MIKE
(On the phone/oblivious) Oh, uh Guppy... hell yeah, he
sucks! Send him to Pop FM!

SCENE 7

(A NEW DAY/COSTUME CHANGE)

INT. STATION LOBBY

DELORES is entering the front door.

SAMMY

You heard anything from Lester?

DELORES

Nothing, I guess my plan didn't work... I can't understand why though, it was fool proof.

ONE-ON-ONE

SAMMY

Fool is right! She actually thought having Mike call in and bad mouth Lester would get him fired. Having Mike call is like trying to find a white person with rhythm.

LESTER enters through the front door.

DELORES

Lester!

SAMMY

Hey man, what are you doing here?

LESTER

Oh I'm so embarrassed. Is the Mrs. Around?

DELORES

She's in her office, why?

LESTER

I got fired.

SAMMY
What? Delores' plan actually...

DELORES
(*Cuts Sammy off*) What happened?

LESTER
Apparently, I sexually harassed someone over at Jam FM...

SAMMY
Yeah, I can see that.

DELORES
Lester, I'm sure Mrs. Higgins will hire you back. I'm going to start praying right now. (*Turns to Sammy*) Sammy, hold my hand, let's pray.

INT. MRS HIGGINS' OFFICE

LESTER knocks then enters.

LESTER
Hello?

MRS HIGGINS
Lester? This is a surprise.

LESTER
I've come to grovel.

MRS HIGGINS
(*Sympathetic*) Oh Lester, what happened?

LESTER
I got fired for sexually harassing an employee.

MRS HIGGINS
Really? Who?

LESTER
I don't know, they wouldn't tell me.

MRS HIGGINS
Gosh, everything's gotten out of hand.

LESTER

Yeah.

MRS HIGGINS

Maybe, we could figure something out, job wise.

LESTER

You know, when I was away from the station... and you, I was sad...

MRS HIGGINS

That's really sweet.

LESTER

I can't imagine my life without you.

MRS HIGGINS

Really?

LESTER

Well, I have... and it was great... but when actually faced with it, I was sad...

MRS HIGGINS

Are you asking me what I think you're asking?

LESTER

(Gets on one knee) Tess Eloise Hershelstein Higgins, will you marry me again... with the most elaborate reuniting service ever!

MRS HIGGINS

Yes!

LESTER & MRS HIGGINS engage in an awkward kiss.

TAG SCENE

JERRY

Yeah, Lester sexually harassed me... and I was not cool with it, I have sex with women!