

"THE SHOE STORE"

A Skit by Greg Beastrom

LIGHTS UP:

INT. Shoe store - DAY

A STORE CLERK is straightening up some of the shoe displays. There are shoeboxes and several single shoes displayed on top of the shoeboxes like a typical shoe store.

A CUSTOMER enters.

STORE CLERK

Good morning. Welcome to The Right Foot. May I help you?

CUSTOMER

Yes. Well I'm looking for a pair of shoes.

STORE CLERK

Well you certainly came to the right place. This is a shoe store.

CUSTOMER

(a bit embarrassed)

Right. Okay, well, I'm looking for the perfect shoe.

STORE CLERK

Ahh yes, the perfect shoe. Well please; allow me to show you some samples.

CUSTOMER

That's not necessary. I'll just browse a little.

STORE CLERK

No, I insist. I can find exactly what you're looking for. I guarantee it.

CUSTOMER

(hesitant)

Well --

STORE CLERK

(coaxes him to sit)

Come now, let me just take some measurements here.

He begins to take measurements of the man's foot.

STORE CLERK

I really think you'll be pleased by our selection. We have everything you could possibly want. Sandals. Loafers. Dress shoes. Boots. Tennis shoes -- you name it.

CUSTOMER

I think I'm just looking for a good comfortable pair of shoes.

STORE CLERK

Oh, of course. And I have just what you're looking for. Hold on just one minute.

The clerk disappears into a back room and emerges with FOUR SHOE BOXES.

STORE CLERK

You will love what I've found for you.

CUSTOMER

I can't wait.

The clerk opens the first box. It is a DRESS SHOE.

STORE CLERK

This is a real beauty. We call it the "GQ". It's a very popular seller and it makes you look like a million bucks.

CUSTOMER

Uhh, well it's a little dressier than I was looking for.

The clerk slips it on his foot.

STORE CLERK

It says to everyone, "look at me, I'm successful, I'm famous, I'm rich and YOU aren't". You wear this show and you'll make any company you work for look real good.

The customer stands and is in sudden pain.

CUSTOMER

Owww! What size is this?! This isn't my size!

STORE CLERK

Oh no, one size in this model fits all.

CUSTOMER

It's too small! Take it off!

STORE CLERK

(pauses)

Oh all right. Maybe this is too sophisticated for you. How about this one?

He removes the shoe from the customer and opens another box. He takes out a WORK BOOT.

STORE CLERK

This may be more what you want. It's very comfortable.

CUSTOMER

It's a boot.

STORE CLERK

Not just a boot, we call it the "Workhorse". It's a shoe designed for the working person.

The customer stands.

CUSTOMER

Well it is comfortable, but I'm not sure --

STORE CLERK

Look sir, this is the ultimate in functionality. You may be one of those people who work behind the scenes making others look good. If so, this is the shoe for you. It says, "let me deny all aspects of my hopes and dreams so I can sweep the floors for you". It may not be what you want, but it's what everyone else wants for you.

CUSTOMER

Don't get me wrong, I appreciate the sacrifice that goes into the making of this shoe, but it's not really me.

STORE CLERK

This shoe should be a part of everyone.

CUSTOMER

I already have work shoes. I'm looking for something more. Got it?

The sales clerk is frustrated. He removes the boot and opens another box. It is a SLIPPER.

STORE CLERK

This is the most comfortable model we sell. We call it "The Hef".

CUSTOMER

You've got to be kidding. It's a slipper.

STORE CLERK

And it's very comfortable. It's for people who just want to sit around and receive from everyone else all day long. It's really all we've got left.

CUSTOMER

No, no. That's not what I want either. How about this one over here. This looks like exactly what I'm looking for.

The customer walks over to a display and picks up a nice looking but common shoe.

STORE CLERK

Oh no, just a minute. That's not for you.

CUSTOMER

No, wait a minute, look at this --

He tries it on. It's a perfect fit.

CUSTOMER

You see? It's perfect. I love this shoe.

STORE CLERK

I'm sorry, sir, but this shoe is not for sale. Only professional people are allowed to wear shoes like this.

CUSTOMER

What're you talking about? It's a perfect fit! It says, "hey, I've been created to wear a shoe like this".

The store clerk grabs another box.

STORE CLERK

Okay, okay. I understand. You're looking for something more demonstrative. Well how about this one.

He removes a flamboyant WOMAN'S PUMP.

STORE CLERK

We call it "The Judy Garland"! It's for the person who wants to be up front and make others happy.

CUSTOMER

It's a woman's shoe!

STORE CLERK

Oh no, this is very androgynous.

CUSTOMER

Androgynous?! Maybe in a woman's prison! I like THIS shoe. I WANT this shoe. This shoe is me!

STORE CLERK

Sir, that shoe is just not available. You are too inexperienced to wear this kind of shoe. In fact, we don't even know how a shoe like that can fit into someone's lifestyle. It just doesn't seem to meet anyone's current needs.

CUSTOMER

Oh I know exactly what to do with these shoes and look -- I'm already wearing them. They fit perfectly. It's what I'm happy wearing. Why don't you want to see that?

They pause, staring at each other.

STORE CLERK

I'm sorry. You cannot wear that shoe here. Why don't you take these dress shoes? It's very close to what you want.

CUSTOMER

(sighs)

All right, fine.

He puts them on and pays the store clerk.

STORE CLERK

Really, I think you'll find that these make you very happy. The more you wear them, the more accustomed you'll be.

CUSTOMER

Gee thanks. I think.

The customer staggers out of the store in obvious pain.

The store clerk places the other shoes back on the display and cleans up the area.

STORE CLERK

Another satisfied customer.

Another CUSTOMER ENTERS the store. The store clerk looks up and smiles.

STORE CLERK

Good morning. Welcome to The Right Foot. May I help you?

Lights out

THE END

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