

Script Sample #1 for "New Year's Eve at the Bad Habit Club"

Written by Frederick Passmore

"New Year's Eve at the Bad Habit Club"

(Begin Cut #1 on the Soundtrack: "Skit Open")

The owner of the club, Francine, walks in to stand beside a high table with a phone. She is chewing gum noisily, reading a magazine and looks bored. **As the music is ending**, the phone rings. She picks it up to answer but files her nails as she talks with the phone held between her ear and shoulder. She speaks with a New York accent.

Francine: "Bad Habit Club. Francine speaking, how can I help you? *(pause)* Yes, we are open for New Year's Eve. It's our busiest night of the year! *(pause)* Uh, huh. *(pause)* Well, we're not taking any more reservations, it's too late. What was your name, though? I see. Well, Mr. Procrastination, if anything comes open I'll call you up, but I doubt it will. Bad Habits fill this place up on New Year's Eve. *(pause)* Goodbye.

(To herself) Another Bad Habit looking for a place to go on New Year's Eve. Sad, sad, sad.

(The door opens and a fellow comes in, Mr. Laziness, dragging his feet as if depressed or very tired.)

Francine: Welcome to the Bad Habit club. The New Year's Eve Party begins shortly.

(The character leans over on the counter as if tired.)

Mr. Laziness: *(Sighing, and speaking as if worn out.)* Thanks, I've been here a few times before. Nowhere else to go on New Year's Eve for an old Bad Habit like me.

Francine: What's your name, bud?

Mr. Laziness: I'm Mr. Laziness.

Francine: That's what I figured. Kicked out, huh?

Mr. Laziness: Yep, every New Year's Eve, at the place I stay, Mr. Heart's Boarding House, the manager Mr. Conscience makes up a list of New Year's Resolutions and tells me to hit the road. He's so high and mighty... once a year, that is.

Francine: I've heard a lot about Mr. Conscience. Every New Year he tries to get Mr. Heart to clean house, and turn over a new leaf. Never works for long, though, does it?

Mr. Laziness: Nah, I'd give Mr. Heart about a week, and I'll be right back in there.

Francine: That'll be five bucks.

(He hands her the money with a sigh, and she takes his coat, giving him a ticket in return.)

Francine: Have a seat, the others should be arriving soon.

(Mr. Laziness drags over to the sofa and falls down onto it with a heavy sigh.)

Francine: *(Watching his progress.)* He just made it.

(Another character enters, this time a staggering, hiccuping fellow.)

Francine: Welcome to the Bad Habit club. The New Year's Eve Party begins shortly.

(Mr. Boozing walks unsteadily up to the desk and stands holding on to it as he sways.)

Francine: Oh, hello, Mr. Boozing. Looks like you've already started.

Mr. Boozing: Hey, shweetie cakes. How's tricks? *(He hiccups loudly again.)*

Francine: I'm surprised to see you, Mr. Boozing, you usually don't show up here till the day *after* New Year's.

Mr. Boozing: Well, Mr. Conscience ish on the warpath, sho I figured I'd beat 'em to it and get on over here. Too many drunks out on the road tonight to be out late. *(Laughs in a slurred way.)* Sheee, heee, heee....

Francine: You stay at Mr. Heart's Boarding House, too?

Mr. Boozing: Oh, yeah, I drop in and out, depending on whether or not the Missus is around. She don't like me for shome reason, but when she's away... *(pantomimes lifting a bottle)* glug, glug, glug!

Francine: I still don't get it, you're always the life of the party on New Year's Eve. The Boarding House is on the bandwagon for tonight?

Mr. Boozing: Well, shweetie, I'll let you in on a little shecret... *(He motions for her to lean closer. She does, but then winces at his breath and leans back again.)*

Francine: I can hear you from here. Your breath is making me woozy. No offense.

Mr. Boozing: None taken, I'm feeling a bit woozy myshelf. There's something weird going on tonight at the Boarding House. I think the Missus is making Mr. Heart go shomwhere else tonight. Shomwhere they never been on New Year's Eve.

Francine: You don't think she's taking him to...

Mr. Boozing: *(Holds up his hand.)* Don't even shay it, puddin'! It's too horrible to contemfate... confemflate... flomcemtra...*(hiccups)* Think about.

Francine: Five bucks.

(Mr. Boozing hands her the money, she takes his coat and gives him a ticket.)

(He weaves unsteadily over to the room, looks around. Mr. Laziness lifts a hand lazily to wave, and Mr. Boozing goes over and flops down on the sofa.)

Francine: *(Watching.)* That pair reminds me of my first husband. *(Looks at her watch.)* Better get the party going.

(She acts as if hitting the button on a sound system at her desk.)

(Begin Cut #2 on the Soundtrack: "Background Dance Music," which plays at a low level under the action for as long as needed. Start this track over if needed, if it runs out before you come to the Countdown To New Year's part of the script.)

(A couple enters, laughing and holding each other tightly.)

Francine: Welcome to the Bad Habit club. The New Year's Eve Party is just getting started.

Mr. Looking: *(A smooth, shallow type, he looks her up and down.)* Hey, babe! Looking good!

Francine: *(Coldly.)* The name's Francine.

Mr. Looking: And I'm... Looking. *(Wiggles his eyebrows up and down as he looks her over.)*

Francine: I can see that. If you take a picture it'll last longer. *(script continues....)*