

One Of A Kind Of

by
John Copeland

CAST LIST

CHURCH SHEILA: Innocent. Well meaning

SCHOOL SHEILA: Character actor. Seems slightly younger and cooler than the others.

WORK SHEILA: Character actor. Rigid. Serious.

FAMILY SHEILA: Friendly and caring. Seems slightly older than the others.

SOCIAL SHEILA: Carefree and disengaged.

CASTING AGENT: Voiceover. All business.

Notes

All Sheilas are dressed in the same outfit/costume. They can have defining accessories or even letters on matching shirts or sweaters if needed. SOCIAL SHEILA always has on a long coat.

Other than CHURCH SHEILA, all parts can be cast as male or female.

If main character is male, change character names from SHEILA to DOUG.

SCENE

A waiting room. There are five chairs in the room and a free standing door with frame or a curtain. SOCIAL SHEILA sits slumped in one of the chairs apparently asleep. She/He wears a long coat and is using it as a blanket. There is a coat rack in the corner. CHURCH SHEILA enters. She stands looking around ,not sure what she should be doing.

CASTING AGENT

(voiceover)

Good. You're here.

CHURCH SHEILA

I'm not late am I?

CASTING AGENT

(dismissive)

Impossible.

CHURCH SHEILA

(slightly confused)

Oh, good.

CHURCH SHEILA looks up and around for more instruction but gets none.

CHURCH SHEILA

I'm not exactly sure what I am supposed to be doing.

(she continues to look around)

To be honest...I'm not exactly sure where this is ...or how I got here. Do you know what this is all bout? I think...

CASTING AGENT

(interrupting Church Sheila)

You can take a seat and wait here. The others will be arriving soon. Scenes will be announced. You will know if you are needed.

CHURCH SHEILA

Oh. Ok. Well. Could you just tell me what play...

CASTING AGENT

You will be called if needed.

CHURCH SHEILA takes off her coat and hangs it up. She sits down in one of the chairs farthest from SOCIAL SHEILA and looks around. SCHOOL SHEILA enters through door. She is wearing the same coat as CHURCH SHEILA. SCHOOL SHEILA takes off her coat, revealing the same exact shirt as CHURCH SHEILA. SCHOOL SHEILA hangs her coat on the rack and sits down.

CHURCH SHEILA

(Embarrassed. Trying to break the ice)

Nice Shirt

SCHOOL SHEILA

(Looking confused)

Yes...I know.

CHURCH SHEILA

Sorry.

CHURCH SHEILA is caught off guard and goes back to staring around. FAMILY SHEILA enters, takes off her coat, hangs it on the rack, and sits down. Followed by WORK SHEILA. They are also dressed the same as CHURCH SHEILA. CHURCH SHEILA stares at all of the Sheilas now, waiting for one of them to acknowledge the bizarre scene but they all just politely nod and smile.

CHURCH SHEILA

Um...is this some kind of joke or something?

(looking around for a camera)

Is this being live streamed!?

FAMILY SHEILA

I'm sorry?

CHURCH SHEILA

A joke. Is this some kind of joke?

FAMILY SHEILA

I'm really sorry but I don't know what you mean.

CHURCH SHEILA

You didn't notice that we are all wearing the same outfit?

(everyone seems confused and looks around
at each other's outfit. CHURCH SHEILA
turns to SCHOOL SHEILA)

I even told you, "Nice shirt" , when you came in.

WORK SHEILA

(Speaking to SCHOOL SHEILA)

That is a nice shirt.

SCHOOL SHEILA

Thank you.

WORK SHEILA

Where did you get it?

CHURCH SHEILA

(agitated)

Probably the same place you got yours!

SCHOOL SHEILA

There is no need to get angry.

FAMILY SHEILA

That's right. I am sure she would tell you where you can get one yourself.

CHURCH SHEILA grabs her own shirt as she speaks
next lines

CHURCH SHEILA

I have one. Already. Right here. I have the same shirt!

WORK SHEILA
Calm down.

SCHOOL, WORK, and FAMILY Sheilas all laugh to one another.

FAMILY SHEILA
Yeah, calm down. We're just having a little fun with you. We always give the newbie a hard time.

CHURCH SHEILA
Newbie?

SCHOOL SHEILA
Yes. Newbie.

(Seeing Church Sheila is still confused)
A new Sheila. A Sheila who hasn't been cast before.

CHURCH SHEILA is weirded out by this. She stands defensively.

CHURCH SHEILA
How did you know my name is Sheila?

The other Sheilas all shake their heads as if they have been through this a million times.

WORK SHEILA
Oh, Sweetie, we're all Sheila here.

CHURCH SHEILA
(looking confused and a bit freaked out)
All of you are also named Sheila?

WORK SHEILA
(shaking head)
We aren't named Sheila. We are Sheila

(she point to the door frame)
CHURCH SHEILA
What is that?

SCHOOL SHEILA, FAMILY SHEILA,
WORK SHEILA

Sheila.

CHURCH SHEILA

I think I may be losing my mind.

(she sits)

WORK SHEILA

You're not losing your mind.

(speaking dismissively)

You can't, actually. You don't have one. You're only part of someone else's.

(CHURCH SHEILA looks horrified at this.)

CHURCH SHEILA

What!?

The other Sheilas give WORK SHEILA annoyed looks to get her to stop frightening CHURCH SHEILA. WORK SHEILA realizes she isn't being helpful and tries to comfort CHURCH SHEILA by awkwardly patting her shoulder.

WORK SHEILA

But...we've all been there.

FAMILY SHEILA

It's a lot to take.

SCHOOL SHEILA

Yeah. Give yourself a break. It takes some time get used to the idea.

CHURCH SHEILA

What idea? I am so confused!

FAMILY SHEILA

Of course you are. Listen. It helps if you can remember what you were doing before this. Do you remember anything?

CHURCH SHEILA

(speaking almost in a daze)

Well...I remember I was at church with my friend, Lisa, from work. She invited me, so I went. It was nice. The pastor said, "All are welcome into God's kingdom." He said we are loved by God and asked if anyone wanted to make the decision to accept God's gift of love, Jesus. At that moment, I felt really warm inside and really peaceful ..so I did it. A bunch of people prayed with me. The pastor said some other stuff and then I got up to leave and go home...and when I opened the door of the church, I came in here.

WORK SHEILA

Of course!

The three Sheilas all look at each other knowingly then look to CHURCH SHEILA

SCHOOL SHEILA, FAMILY SHEILA,
WORK SHEILA

Church Sheila!

CHURCH SHEILA

Who?

WORK SHEILA

You. You're Church Sheila. Wow. I can't believe I finally let Lisa talk me in to going to church.

CHURCH SHEILA

Um...Lisa asked me. You didn't go. I did.

WORK SHEILA

No. I went. You came back.

CHURCH SHEILA

(sitting down again)

I am definitely losing my mind.

FAMILY SHEILA

You really aren't. You just don't understand how things work here yet. It all started with Sheila.

(FAMILY SHEILA points to the Sheila door)

CHURCH SHEILA

Of course it did.

FAMILY SHEILA

In the beginning Sheila was only ever around her family. She had a great time and really enjoyed being herself. Then she got old enough to go to school. She started making new friends and before long she realized the person she was at home didn't quite ...um..work in the school scene. She needed more range.

SCHOOL SHEILA

That's when I showed up.

FAMILY SHEILA

You mean WE showed up.

SCHOOL SHEILA

Sorry. WE showed up.

FAMILY SHEILA

I took over her role in family scenes.

SCHOOL SHEILA

And I kept the plot moving at school.

FAMILY SHEILA

Family Sheila (pointing to herself)

SCHOOL SHEILA

And School Sheila (pointing to herself)

FAMILY SHEILA AND SCHOOL
SHEILA

Nice to meet you. (waving at CHURCH SHEILA)

CHURCH SHEILA

Goodness.

WORK SHEILA

Right. Well, you can imagine what happened when Sheila landed her first job.

CHURCH SHEILA
New scene?

WORK SHEILA
New Sheila.

CHURCH SHEILA
Whoa.

WORK SHEILA
Sheila realized that work required more rigid personal boundaries than both home and school. She needed to be more guarded. She was much more comfortable with a background role. You know, blend in and keep the story moving. Get through the day. So...

(WORK SHEILA gestures to herself)
Work Sheila at her service.

CHURCH SHEILA
(still skeptical, she gestures to the sleeping person)
Well..who is that then?

SCHOOL SHEILA
Ugh. That's Social Sheila. For when Sheila really needs to recast herself.

WORK SHEILA
Social Sheila mainly plays concerts, and festivals, and some parties.

SOCIAL SHEILA
(SOCIAL SHEILA lifts head and speaks)
Did someone say party!?

All speak next lines in quick succession. To SOCIAL SHEILA

SCHOOL SHEILA
No, Sheila!

FAMILY SHEILA
Not now, Sheila!

WORK SHEILA

Go back to sleep, Sheila!

SOCIAL SHEILA looks indifferent then slumps back down and nods off.

(after a pause)

FAMILY SHEILA

(to CHURCH SHEILA)

Are you beginning to understand, now?

CHURCH SHEILA

Yes.

(pause)

I understand that... I am Sheila.

WORK SHEILA

Oh my goodness!

SCHOOL SHEILA

You are A Sheila. You are here to play your part and get Sheila through a scene and that's all. Just like us.

CHURCH SHEILA

I don't think that is true.

WORK SHEILA

Of course it's true! You wouldn't even be here if I hadn't let Lisa wear me down at work. She just kept bugging me to go to Church. I can't believe I did that.

CHURCH SHEILA

But you didn't do that. Sheila did. I did.

WORK SHEILA

(clearly annoyed)

You are starting to get on my nerves.

CASTING AGENT

(voiceover)

All appropriate Sheilas, prepare for the next scene.

FAMILY SHEILA

Let's all just take a beat here and try to focus.

CHURCH SHEILA

I am focused. In fact I don't think I have ever been more focused.

FAMILY SHEILA

That's the spirit! Try and focus on your lines and motivation.

CHURCH SHEILA

No. I'm focusing on what else that preacher said.

WORK SHEILA

Oh, here we go.

CHURCH SHEILA

(not deterred)

He said that God made me new. He said everyone who accepts Jesus is made new. Maybe that's why I never showed up in here before.

SCHOOL SHEILA

No offense , but you never showed up here because Sheila didn't need you before.

CHURCH SHEILA

No. I think I never showed up here because I thought I needed you all. I let you in here so I could fit in out there.

(she points to the door)

Now I see that I was created to be set apart not to blend in to any scene. God knew me before I was even born. The preacher said that too. He made me to be one of a kind.

WORK SHEILA

That's Right! We are all one of a kind. The Sheila kind.

FAMILY SHEILA

And we all have different roles to play.

SCHOOL SHEILA

And we have a big scene coming up. So we need to stop arguing and get ready.

CASTING AGENT

(voiceover)

Next Scene will be Act 17 Scene 21-Youth Councils.

WORK SHEILA

Youth Councils? How did that get in the script.

CHURCH SHEILA

Lisa invited me at church. It sounded fun.

WORK SHEILA

Well, you're not in this scene. I am. There are going to be way too many people there trying to get close to Sheila. She will need some rigid boundaries.

FAMILY SHEILA

(to WORK SHEILA)

No, I'm in this scene. My sister and cousin are both gonna be there. They can't run in to you. You'll freak them out.

SCHOOL SHEILA

(to Family Sheila)

Um, I am pretty sure I am in this scene. I know for a fact that four of my fake friends from school will be there so I have to show up to show them how much I don't care about being there.

SOCIAL SHEILA has woken up and moved to the group.

SOCIAL SHEILA

Bruh. I am pretty sure this is a party scene.

The four Sheilas begin to argue with one another taking turns trying to get to the door. CHURCH SHEILA goes around their scrum and approaches the door.

CHURCH SHEILA

We are all going.

(the others look stunned and confused)

But we won't all be coming back. There's only room in here for one of us.

(CHURCH SHEILA opens the door.)

Who's willing to risk it?

One by one the Sheilas exit the stage through the door all looking confident. Finally CHURCH SHEILA exits. She pauses just before closing and looks around.

I'll be back.

CHURCH SHEILA

She closes the door and exists.

CASTING AGENT

End Scenes.

(voiceover)

FADE TO BLACK.