JUST THE TEN OF US

"Indecent Exposure"

written by
James Larry Sanders Jr.

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CAST

GRAHAM LUBBOCKBILL KIRCHENBAUEF
ELIZABETH LUBBOCKDEBORAH HARMON
MARIE LUBBOCKHEATHER LANGENKAME
CINDY LUBBOCKJAMIE LUNEF
WENDY LUBBOCKBROOKE THEISS
CONNIE LUBBOCKJO ANN WILLETTE
J.R. LUBBOCKMATT SHAKMAN
SHERRY LUBBOCKHEIDI ZEIGLEF
GUEST CAST
FATHER HARGISFRANK BONNER
CASSANDRAK.C. WINKLEF
DETECTIVE FOLGERDON ADAMS
VAGRANTCARMEN FILPI
FATHER BUDLOU RICHARDS
DOOSLEREVAN ARNOLI
SISTER ETHET. MAXINE ELLIOTT

COLD OPEN

EXT. DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

CONNIE SITS ON A BENCH IN FRONT OF THE ICE CREAM PARLOR, PEN IN ONE HAND, ICE CREAM CONE IN THE OTHER, ATTEMPTING TO WRITE SOMETHING.

CONNIE (V.O.)

"Ice cream. Tasty treat, or dietetic trap?!"

CONNIE SCRATCHES OUT WHAT SHE WROTE.

CONNIE (V.O.)

God, that's terrible. Uh..."Is that ice cream headache slowly killing you?".

CONNIE SCRATCHES OUT WHAT SHE WROTE, AGAIN.

CONNIE

Ugh!!! I'm turning into Hugh Downs!

THE REST OF THE FAMILY COMES OUT OF THE ICE CREAM SHOP.

GRAHAM

Wow, this is great! It's been forever since we've been able to afford cones!

J.R.

Hey, what's up with Connie? She looks like she's got a brain freeze.

CINDY

Oh no, I heard those things can kill you.

Do you mind? Some of us have a deadline at the end of the week.

SHERRY

Deadline? What deadline?

CONNIE

For the school paper. I haven't submitted a story all month, and if I don't turn one in this week they'll kick me off.

WENDY

So what? Just write something and forget about it.

CONNIE

I don't have anything to write about!

I haven't seen anything interesting
happen around here in ages!

ELIZABETH

Well, what about the church raffle happening Wednesday?

MARIE

They're giving away a set of Pope John Paul beer coozies!

CONNIE

What?!

MARIE

Don't get mad at me, it was Sister Ethel's idea.

CONNIE GETS UP FROM THE BENCH.

CONNIE

I'm sorry, I've got to find a story and I'm not going to find one sitting here.

CONNIE WALKS OFF, THROWS HER ICE CREAM IN THE TRASH, BUT NOT BEFORE CINDY LUNGES TO TRY AND SAVE IT.

CINDY

No! The butter brickle!

CINDY LOOKS IN THE TRASH FORLORN.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

CONNIE WALKS DOWN THE ALLEY THAT IS STREWN WITH BILLS AND POSTERS.

CONNIE

I know I shouldn't be hanging around here, but I'm desperate.

CONNIE RIPS ONE OF THE BILLS OFF THE BRICK WALL AND READS IT.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

"Free deep-tissue massages. Call Jeff at the following landfill." I'll let Forty-Eight Hours handle that one.

CONNIE CONTINUES TO WALK DOWN THE ALLEY. SHE HEARS GIGGLING FROM A STRANGE WOMAN.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

What was that?

CONNIE PEERS FROM AROUND THE CORNER. SHE SEES CASSANDRA, A SEX WORKER, FROM BEHIND; OBSCURING HER CLIENT.

CASSANDRA (O.S.)

No way, I don't do that unless I get paid extra.

CONNIE

(whispering)

Sounds like a big spender.

FATHER HARGIS (O.S.)

No problem, Cassandra, maybe you'll

come around next time I see you.

CONNIE SEES FATHER HARGIS APPEAR FROM BEHIND THE STRANGE WOMAN. CONNIE'S JAW DROPS.

CONNIE

(disbelievingly whispering)

Father Hargis?!

CASSANDRA

I'll see you next week, Robbie.

CONNIE

Robbie?!

CASSANDRA

Do you think you could teach me how to do that praying thing next time?

FATHER HARGIS

Sounds easy enough, you already know

how to get on your knees.

FATHER HARGIS LAUGHS. CONNIE COVERS HER MOUTH IN SURPRISE.

ROLL OPEN

ACT I

INT. LUBBOCK GIRLS' ROOM - NIGHT

CINDY, MARIE, AND WENDY ARE GETTING READY FOR BED WHEN CONNIE COMES RUNNING UP THE STAIRS.

CONNIE

Girls! Girls! You're not gonna believe
this!

WENDY

You finally moved up to an A-cup?

CONNIE

Shut up, Wendy! This is serious, and it could bring St. Augie's to its knees! I just saw Father Hargis downtown, and you won't believe who I saw him with...a lady of the night.

MARIE/WENDY

What?!

MARIE CONFRONTS CONNIE.

MARIE

Connie! Stop! You surely can't be serious!

CONNIE

I am serious...

CINDY (interrupting)

...and don't call her Shirley!

MARIE

For God's sake, Cindy, stop watching movies!

CONNIE

Marie, do you really think I'd make up a story like this?

MARIE

I'm not saying you made it up, but this certainly has to be a case of mistaken identity. You don't really think a man of the cloth would be spending his precious little money on...carnal curiosity?!

CONNIE

I'm just telling you what I saw. I even got her name: Cassandra.

MARIE

Are you planning on telling Mom and Dad?

CONNIE

No, they can read it in the school paper like everyone else.

MARIE

What?! You don't actually plan on having your speculative screed printed for all to see, do you?!

Of course. This is the biggest scoop the St. Augie's Herald-Gazette has ever gotten.

MARIE

Connie, have you learned nothing from your tuition hike "scoop" last year?! Students were leaving, teachers were striking, Father Hargis almost sold our house!

CONNIE

Yeah, so? When this hits the street, the only thing Father Hargis will be selling are his fillings so he can afford bus fare out of town.

MARIE

Why exactly are you so eager to run him out on a rail? What has Father Hargis ever done to you?!

CONNIE

What has Father Hargis done for anybody?

WENDY

Allow me to interject my own thoughts on this conundrum.

MARIE

Oh, sure! Let us hear from the moral compass of Sodom and Gomorrah.

WENDY

Thank you. It appears to me that my dear sister Marie is concerned about the consequences such an expose would wreak on our family. But think for a second, with Father Hargis out of the way, we'll have free reign over the school. I mean, who's going to stop me, Father Bud? Sister Ethel?

MARIE

Doesn't Sister Ethel have a gun?

WENDY

Yeah, a Red Ryder BB gun.

CINDY

Uh oh, those things can take an eye out.

CONNIE AND MARIE GIVE CINDY A DIRTY LOOK.

CINDY (CONT'D)

(defeated)

I'll be quiet.

MARIE

Weakly armed or not, it doesn't change the fact that Connie here doesn't even have proof of this liaison she's talking about.

Proof? Why would I need proof? I saw it with my own eyes.

MARIE

Did you? Did you get a look at that woman he was talking to?

CONNIE

No...

MARIE

So how do you know she is who you say she is?

CONNIE

Because...she was wearing high heels, fishnets, giant earrings.

WENDY

Hey, wait a second...

CONNIE AND MARIE LOOKS TOWARDS WENDY.

WENDY (CONT'D)

What kind of fishnets?

CONNIE AND MARIE IGNORE WENDY.

MARIE

Ugh, Connie! Have you considered that you might be wrong? Then what?

CONNIE PAUSES.

CONNIE

Then, uh...

MARIE

Libel, Connie! Libel!

CONNIE

Fine. You want proof? I'll show you proof.

CONNIE HEADS DOWNSTAIRS.

MARIE

Connie! It's ten o'clock! Where are you going?!

CINDY

Yeah, don't you know all the animals come out at night?!

FADE TO:

INT. ST. AUGIE'S HALLWAY

GRAHAM AND FATHER HARGIS WALK IN AS STUDENTS GO TO THEIR LOCKERS.

FATHER HARGIS

So, how was your weekend?

GRAHAM

Oh, fantastic. I must have had three, four, five desserts.

FATHER HARGIS

Yes, I can tell you're casting a slightly larger shadow than usual.

GRAHAM

How was your weekend?

FATHER HARGIS

Oh, I had something a little better than just dessert, Coach.

GRAHAM

What could that be?

FATHER HARGIS

If I told you, I'd have to kill you.

FATHER HARGIS LAUGHS AND LEADS GRAHAM AWAY. A LOCKER THEN CLOSES REVEALING CONNIE, WHO HAD BEEN EAVESDROPPING.

CONNIE

(to herself)

Got something to hide; do you, Father?

SHE JOTS SOMETHING DOWN ON A PAD OF PAPER, THEN MARIE APPEARS BEHIND HER.

MARIE

Connie!

CONNIE IS STARTLED.

MARIE (CONT'D)

You spend all weekend looking for a reliable source, and you're resorting to eavesdropping?!

CONNIE

Well, I couldn't find anybody to talk to about it.

MARIE

How?! You were out all Saturday night!

CONNIE

Hey, at least I snuck back in the house without Dad noticing.

MARIE

Geez, Connie! You act like you're trying to be like Linda Ellerbee, but the only person I see you taking after is Wendy!

CONNIE

Hey, I've got a chance to break the biggest story this town has seen in years! What has Wendy ever broken?!

MARIE

Take a wild guess.

JUST THEN, A GENTLEMAN WEARING A SHARP SUIT AND A FEDORA WALKS INTO THE HALLWAY WITH A CONFIDENT GAIT. HE APPROACHES CONNIE AND WENDY.

FOLGER

Excuse me, ladies. Do you happen to know a Father Robert Hargis?

CONNIE

Yeah, why?

FOLGER FLASHES HIS BADGE.

FOLGER

Detective Joe Folger, Eureka Police
Department...vice squad. It has come
to my attention that he may have been
engaging in illicit activity.

(MORE)

FOLGER (CONT'D)

Activity of a highly intimate nature, and seeing you're the only women in here not wearing a habit, I figured you might know something.

MARIE PUTS HER HAND ON HER CHEST IN SHOCK.

MARIE

Are you accusing me of what I think you are?

FOLGER POINTS HIS FINGER IN MARIE'S FACE, UNDETERRED.

FOLGER

Where were you on the night of November Tenth?

MARIE

(nervous)

Uh, we were at Homecoming, sir.

FOLGER

Oh, yeah?! With who?!

MARIE

Gavin Doosler, sir.

FOLGER

Doosler?! Ha! Likely story.

MARIE

Please, I haven't talked to Father Hargis in ages.

FOLGER

Well, who else around here would Father Hargis be patronizing?

CINDY AND WENDY WALK IN.

CINDY/WENDY

Hiyee!

FOLGER

I think I found my answer.

FOLGER GETS IN CINDY'S FACE.

FOLGER (CONT'D)

Listen, Red; I want to know what you were doing with Father Hargis and I want to know now!

FOLGER POUNDS ON A LOCKER DOOR.

CINDY

Uh, uh, uh...

FOLGER

Ah, the old stalling technique. You've already dealt with the authorities, haven't you. All this time, you were expecting an interrogation.

CINDY

An interro-game-show???

WENDY

Oh, leave her alone. She doesn't know what you're talking about.

FOLGER

And I suppose you do?

FOLGER GETS RIGHT IN WENDY'S FACE.

FOLGER (CONT'D)

Make it easy on yourself, Blondie, and tell me: have you been intimate for financial considerations?

WENDY

Define "financial".

FOLGER

You're all more clever than you look.

Looks like I'm going to have to get

some backup. You better not leave

town. I've got my eye on all of you.

MARIE

You told the police?!

FOLGER LEAVES. MARIE TURNS TO CONNIE.

CONNIE

What?! No! Why would I give up my scoop?

WENDY

That's the last time I teach you how to sneak out at night.

CONNIE

Hey, the only people I ever told about Father Hargis were you three. How do I know one of you didn't rat him out?

WENDY

Because I never to talk to cops!

CONNIE LOOKS AT WENDY SUSPICIOUSLY.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Well, not when they're on duty.

CONNIE

And what about you Marie?

MARIE

I would never! Unlike you, I'm not always trying to find ways to tear this school apart.

CONNIE

Well, maybe I'm being a bit hasty.

Just keep quiet, and I promise not to publish this story unless I'm one hundred percent sure it's true.

CONNIE LEAVES.

WENDY

Hey, Cindy, how do we know you didn't call the cops?

CINDY

What? Me? I couldn't have called the police. I can never remember their number.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

EXT. DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

CONNIE WALKS DOWN THE STREET.

CONNIE (V.O.)

I've got to find some evidence of what Father Hargis was doing with that woman. I wonder if anybody around here saw anything.

CONNIE SPOTS A VAGRANT SITTING ON THE SIDEWALK.

CONNIE

Excuse me, sir.

VAGRANT

Call me Magnum!

CONNIE

Sure. Have you seen a priest walking around here with a scantily-clad woman named Cassandra?

VAGRANT

Sure!

CONNIE

Oh, tell me more!

VAGRANT

Well, they were looking in each other's eyes like they were drawn to each other cosmically.

(MORE)

VAGRANT (CONT'D)

Then, they lost all control of their inhibitions and simply started making love right there. I didn't see anything, but it was pretty obvious what was going on.

CONNIE

And where did you see this happen?

VAGRANT

The C-B-S Sunday Night Movie!

CONNIE

What?!

VAGRANT

Yeah, it was called Concubine in the Convent. I think it had Shannon Tweed in it.

CONNIE

Never mind.

CONNIE WALKS AWAY. SHE THEN SEES A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE IN A HEAVY COAT. SHE HESITATES UPON SPOTTING SAID FIGURE.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Should I? Can't be any crazier than who I just talked to.

CONNIE TAPS ON THE FIGURES BACK.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Excuse me, can I ask you a few questions?

FATHER BUD

Yes, ma'am.

CONNIE

Father Bud?

FATHER BUD

At your service.

CONNIE

What are you doing out here this time of night?

FATHER BUD

You know, just enjoying the finer things in life. I don't make much, but I do like to splurge sometimes.

CONNIE

Splurge on what?

FATHER BUD

Oh, I have a very important date tonight, she should be here in about...

FATHER BUD LOOKS AT HIS WATCH.

FATHER BUD (CONT'D)

...two minutes.

CONNIE

A date?

FATHER BUD

Oh, yeah. With a very long, cool creature; if you catch my drift.

Have you seen Father Hargis with this
"long, cool creature"?

FATHER BUD

Ha ha, no way. He likes his rides to be a bit more luxurious, if you know what I mean, huh? Wink wink. Nudge nudge.

CONNIE LOOKS BEWILDERED.

A BUS IS HEARD REVVING UP IN THE DISTANCE.

FATHER BUD (CONT'D)

Oh no! Is that her?!

CONNIE

No, it's a bus.

FATHER BUD

That's the ride I've been waiting for! FATHER BUD STARTS RUNNING AWAY.

FATHER BUD (CONT'D)

Come back! I only have one day left on my pass!

CONNIE LOOKS GLUM.

FADE TO:

INT. ST. AUGIE'S HALLWAY

CONNIE SIFTS THROUGH HER LOCKER. DOOSLER THEN APPEARS BEHIND HER.

DOOSLER

Hey, Connie.

Ugggh! What now, Doosler?!

DOOSLER

I was just wondering how your article's coming along.

CONNIE

Oh. My article? Uh...

DOOSLER

You know, your deadline is tomorrow.

CONNIE

I know. I'm just doing my due diligence.

DOOSLER

Connie, are you having cold feet about that little exposé of yours?

CONNIE

Cold feet?

DOOSLER

Come on, Constance. You know every time you write a story, all hell breaks loose. Remember when you blew the whistle on that tuition increase and the entire student body dried up?

CONNIE

But!

DOOSLER

And remember when you wrote that review of the school play and you called my performance "the worst thing to happen to theater since John Wilkes Booth"?

CONNIE

But it was! Nothing I've ever written was untrue.

DOOSLER

Well, forget the truth.

CONNIE

What?!

DOOSLER GRABS A RELUCTANT CONNIE BY HER SHOULDER AND WALKS HER DOWN TO HALLWAY.

DOOSLER

You know, Connie, this reminds me of something my dad told me. He said, "Gavin, truth is just another word for liberal bias."

CONNIE PUSHES DOOSLER AWAY.

CONNIE

Liberal bias?!

DOOSLER

Connie, just forget about that lady you saw the other night. Just write a story about how Father Hargis is really keen-o.

But what good will that do?

DOOSLER

None at all! But it won't make things worse either. Plus, I'm sure you can write a good puff piece by tomorrow.

DOOSLER PATS CONNIE ON THE BACK.

CONNIE

What? No! I'm not going to just go along to get along. I have integrity!

I have a responsibility to abide by my journalistic credo!

DOOSLER

Okay, but don't say I didn't warn you.

Because every time you've followed

your journalistic credo, all you got

was an angry mob; and it's not like

I'll be around to protect you.

DOOSLER WALKS AWAY, BUT THEN DOUBLES BACK.

DOOSLER (CONT'D)

Unless, of course, you still want to get that Whippy Dip.

CONNIE GIVES DOOSLER A DIRTY LOOK.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

CONNIE RELUCTANTLY WALKS INTO THE POLICE STATION.

CONNIE (O.S.)

This is a mistake. But what else can I do short of confronting Father Hargis?

Maybe one of the deputies know something.

CONNIE WALKS UP TO THE FRONT DESK.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

(timid)

Excuse me?

DETECTIVE FOLGER POPS UP FROM UNDER THE DESK.

FOLGER

A-ha!

CONNIE

Eeeeek!

FOLGER

You didn't think I'd remember you, did you? I knew all along you were hiding something, and were just itching to confess!

CONNIE

What are you talking about? I'm from the St. Augie's Herald-Gazette.

FOLGER

Oh, the old "I'm with the press" trick. Well, tough luck, sister; the police does not comment about ongoing investigations.

I just wanted to know more about the allegations.

FOLGER

The allegations?

CONNIE

The ones you made to other day at school about, you know, the john.

FOLGER

You don't say!

CONNIE

Well, you see, I don't know for sure if the person I saw...

FOLGER

The John.

CONNIE

Sure. I'm not completely certain he was doing what I think was doing.

FOLGER

Doing what?

CONNIE

Being a john.

FOLGER

I already know his name.

CONNIE

You do?! How?!

FOLGER

You told me, his name is John.

CONNIE

His name isn't John!

FOLGER

You just said it was!

CONNIE

No, I said he was a john.

FOLGER

Geez, make up your mind! Is he a John or not?!

CONNIE

Ugh! I'm getting nowhere!

CONNIE LEAVES.

FOLGER

Hold it right there! It's a felony to confuse a police officer!

CONNIE (O.S.)

No, it isn't!

FOLGER

Ah! The old "knowing the law" trick! She is good.

FADE TO:

EXT. FATHER HARGIS' HOUSE

CONNIE PULLS A PROTESTING MARIE IN FRONT OF FATHER HARGIS' DOOR.

MARIE

Connie. What are you doing?

Because I don't know what to do about this story, and I don't know who else to turn to.

MARIE

That's all fine and good, but why are we in front of Father Hargis' house?

CONNIE

Well, I've seemingly asked everybody else in town about what I saw, and nobody knows anything. Plus, I can't find that Cassandra lady anywhere. The only thing I know to do is ask Father Hargis himself.

MARIE

You're honestly telling me that you're going to go up to a man of the cloth in his own domicile and accuse him of...solicitation?!

CONNIE

What else am I supposed to do?! I need to at least get his side of the story.

MARIE

Oh sure! It would be so rude of you to assassinate Father Hargis' character without telling him first!

Marie, try to see this from my perspective. For once in my life, I want to do something important and meaningful. This is my opportunity to do that.

MARIE

But why is it every time you want to do something important and meaningful, you have to take somebody down?

CONNIE

Because, Marie, in every moment in life there's a winner and a loser; and this time, I'm going to be the winner.

CONNIE KNOCKS ON THE DOOR.

MARIE

Connie, I know you think you're being all high and mighty, but this may be the most selfish thing you've done yet; and you're only going to suffer for it.

THE DOOR OPENS.

SISTER ETHEL

Go away! We don't want any cookies!

CONNIE

Sister Ethel?!

SISTER ETHEL

That's my name. Don't wear it out.

CONNIE

Where's Father Hargis?

SISTER ETHEL

He's downtown talking to one of his lady friends.

MARIE

Lady friends?!

SISTER ETHEL

Yeah. Cassandra, I think her name is.

MARIE

What?!

CONNIE

(to Marie)

Well, what do you say now?

SISTER ETHEL

Are you two going to leave, or am I going to have to get my gun?

CONNIE

We're leaving. We've got to go downtown.

CONNIE LEADS MARIE AWAY.

SISTER ETHEL

And don't come back until you get me my Tagalongs!

FADE TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

MARIE FOLLOWS CONNIE AS SHE TRIES TO FIND FATHER HARGIS.

MARIE

So what if Sister Ethel says Father
Hargis is meeting some lady? She can't
even see five feet ahead of her.

CONNIE

She also can't make up a story to save her life. I'm about to kick off my journalism career with a bang!

MARIE

The only thing we're going to get kicked off is church property!

FATHER HARGIS IS STANDING AT THE CORNER. CONNIE POINTS HIM OUT.

CONNIE

There he is. Time to blow the whistle.

CONNIE APPROACHES FATHER HARGIS.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Excuse me. Father Hargis?

FATHER HARGIS

Connie? Marie? What are you doing out

here at this hour?

CONNIE

I should be asking you the same question.

FATHER HARGIS

I'm just meeting a friend.

Oh, what's her name?

FATHER HARGIS

Cassandra. What's it to you?

MARIE

Cassandra?!

FATHER HARGIS

Hey, what's going on here?

CONNIE

(confident)

What's going on?! I caught you the other night with this Cassandra character, if that is her real name. And let me put it this way, she certainly didn't look like a nun.

FATHER HARGIS

Of course not, she's a lady of the night.

MARIE

A what?!

CONNIE

So you admit it!

FATHER HARGIS

Admit what?! I'm counseling her.

CONNIE

Counseling?

FATHER HARGIS

Yeah, she wants to get out of her current profession, and I'm helping her seek out a new line of work.

CONNIE

(sheepishly)

A new line of work?

MARIE

See, Connie?! He's just trying to get this woman on the straight and narrow, and look what you were about to do to him!

FATHER HARGIS

About to do what to me?

CONNIE

Uh, I was about to write a story for the school paper about how keen-o you are.

FATHER HARGIS

Oh. Sounds nice. We can talk about it tomorrow. Right now, I need to find Cassandra, she said she'd be here a half hour ago.

FATHER HARGIS LEAVES.

CONNIE

Marie, you were right.

MARIE

I knew I was. I'm just glad you listened to me when I said you needed proof, because it turns out, there was no proof!

CONNIE

I was about to make a complete fool of myself.

MARIE

Well, maybe next time you'll think before you go off on one of your hunches. Then we won't have to keep having these moral lessons like they have at the end of sitcoms.

CONNIE

Thanks, Marie.

MARIE

You're welcome. Now, let's get home before Dad finds out we've been gone.
MARIE LEAVES.

CONNIE

Okay, I'll catch up with you.

A METALLIC BANG IS HEARD COMING FROM A NEARBY DUMPSTER.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

What was that?

CONNIE OPENS HALF OF THE DUMPSTER LID TO REVEAL CASSANDRA HIDING INSIDE. CONNIE GASPS.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

You!

CASSANDRA

Oh, please don't tell the Father where I am. We did a bad thing, tonight.

CONNIE

What do you mean "we"?

CONNIE OPENS THE OTHER HALF OF THE DUMPSTER TO REVEAL DETECTIVE FOLGER.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Detective Folger?! What are you doing

in here, with her?!

FOLGER THINKS FOR A MOMENT.

FOLGER

Would you believe, destitution?

FADE TO BLACK.