

Play: **The Doubt of Karen**
Playwright: **Drama Club, Pentecostal Lam Hon Kwong School**
School: **Pentecostal Lam Hon Kwong School**

Scene 1 (Kindergarten)

1. Children *(sing) Uncle Sunny, Uncle Sunny, where are you? Where are you? We all like you. We all like you. Shine on us. Shine on us.*
(Ming raises his hand.)

2. Ms Chan Yes, Karen.

3. Karen Ms Chan, does the sun have to be an uncle.

4. Ben Of course the sun has to be an uncle.

5. Ms Chan Yes, Annie.

6. Annie Why can't the sun be an Auntie?

7. Ben The sun has just got to be a man.

8. Karen But Ms Chan told us that the sun is not a living thing, how can there be a sex for the sun?

9. Ms Chan Well.....the sun is so strong, so it has to be a man.

10. Jenny Can we have Uncle moon then?

11. Ben Of course not.

12. Karen Why?

13. Ms Chan The moon is so soft. It must be a woman. Anyway, men must be strong, energetic, powerful, but crazy. Women must be soft, weak, crying, but beautiful. You'll learn more about this truth in your primary school. OK, let's sing again!

14. Children *(sing) Uncle Sunny, Uncle Sunny, where are you? Where are you? We all like you. We all like you. Shine on us. Shine on us.*

Scene 2 (Primary School / Ming's Home)

15. Karen Annie, what are you doing?

16. Annie Hi, Karen. I'm just reading. "Father goes out to work, mother does the housework"

17. Karen I wonder why every book says the same thing. Actually, can mother go out to work, father do the housework?

18. Ben Of course not!

19. Karen Ben, many mothers go out to work.

20. Ben Of course mothers can go out to work. But when they come home, they still have to do the housework.

21. Annie It would be very tiring then.
(Ming comes out)

22. Karen Ming, you seem very sad today. What's the matter?

23. Ming My father and mother divorced each other last night! Last night, when my father came home from the hotel he works in.....
(Home of Franky and Alice)

24. Franky Oh! Alice, my darling,.

25. Alice Oh! Franky,

26. Franky I was fired

27. Alice Why?

28. Franky The manager said the hotel doesn't need so many bellboys.

29. Alice You could ask the manager to take you to the cook division. You are a good cook.

30. Franky The manager said the hotel doesn't need so many cooks.

31. Alice It doesn't matter. I am a qualified teacher. I'll work in a school to get money. So, from now on, I go out to work, and you do the housework.

32. Franky Terrible! Horrible! That's impossible!

33. Alice Why? You are good at room service. You are good at cooking. You do this well in the hotel!

34. Franky But I can't do this at home. This is housework. I'm a man!
(Ming goes to his ma.)

35. Ming Yes, ma, the text book says so.

36. Alice Shut up! (Turn to Franky) Franky, you crazy man, I want a divorce!

37. Franky Alice, you mad woman, I want a divorce, too.
(Franky and Alice leave the scene)

38. All Wow! Fantastic!

39. Ben Well, Ming, your parents can hire a Philippino maid. Philippino maids are women, too. They can do the housewrk. Anyway, housework must always be done by women

40. Karen Why does a man need a wife?..... Love may be one reason, if his wife still believes in. Sex must be another reason. But really, he just needs a maid for his housework.

Scene 3 (Primary School)

41. Jenny Policeman, Fireman, Postman, Workman, Foreman...Why are there so many words end with 'man'?Well, have you ever heard of Policewomen, Firewomen, Postwoman, Workwoman, Forewoman?

42. Karen No.

43. Annie It's simple. Because they are all men.

44. Ben Only men are strong enough to do these jobs.

45. Karen Surely not! There are many women that do these jobs.

46. Ben They do it badly.

47. Annie Just let the crazy men deal with those heavy duties, I don't care.
Jenny Yes, I hate these kinds of jobs.

48. Ben Every job that requires strength will be out of the question for a woman.....

49. Karen Men have ruled the world for centuries just because they have more physical strength than women....That's why the role of men diminished after the invention of machines.

50. Ben Karen, do you have any beliefs?

51. Karen Yes, I'm a Catholic.

52. Ben Even you Catholics call God Heavenly Father. See. Heavenly Father is a man. Have you heard of Heavenly mother?

53. Karen Not quite.

54. Ben Well then! All the powerful figures are men. God is man! Man is God!

Scene 4 (Classroom in Primary School)

55. Ms Tang Don't think that all the powerful figures are men! Class, in this Social lesson, I'd like to talk about the three Secretaries of the Hong Kong Government. Does anyone know who is the Chief Secretary?

56. Annie (Raise her hand) Ms Tang!

57. Ms Tang Yes, Annie.

58. Annie Anson Chan, a woman!

59. Ms Tang Right.
(*The girls cheers*)

60. Annie One-nil

61. Ms Tang Who is the secretary of Finance.

62. Ben (Raise his hand) Ms Tang!

63. Ms Tang Yes, Ben.

64. Ben Donald Tsang, a man!

65. Ms Tang Right.
(*The boys cheers*)

66. Ben One all.

67. Ms Tang What about the secretary of the Judiciary Department.

68. Annie (Raise her hand) Ms Tang!

69. Ms Tang Yes, Annie.

70. Annie Elsie Leung, a woman.

71. Ms Tang Right!
(*The girls cheers*)

72. Annie Two - one. Women win.

73. Karen Ms Tang. So there are two women in the top jobs of the government.

74. Ms Tang The 21st Century belongs to women. In the 21st Century, not only are men and women equal, but women are more equal than men. Attention class, the next chief executive will be a woman.
(*Sing*)
Women, nowadays, be entitled more weight.
Not only you men can have the say.
Women of the day, would go on her own way.
All crazy men we will replace.
Man, man, man, go away, stupid, haughty on your face.
Man, man, man, no way, revolution embarks this day
Man, man, man, go astray, lady, goddess you should praise
Man, man, man, all dismay, revolution this day.....

75. Karen I once thought that women just fought for their freedom from being monitored by men, but perhaps I'm wrong. Instead, women want to monitor men.

Scene 5 (School Playground)

76. Ben Look, Jenny. We have two Head Prefects this year. One is 6A Mabel. One is 6B Winne. They are both girls.

77. Jenny Wow, David. You dare to talk about the Prefect. You have nothing right on, aren't you scared?

78. Ben Why should I be? I was a little bit scared of the Headboy Kinson last year. Now? Headgirl, we'll see.
(*Mabel comes up.*)

79. Mabel Hey, you.....(Pointing Ben. Two boys come out at once and pick Ben up.) Why is your hair gelled? Your shirt is so dirty? Your pants are too long. Your socks are patterned. Look, your shoes are not polished. Altogether I'll take down your name five times. You shall be sent to see the disciplinary master Mr Wong.

(*Mabel leaves. The two boys carry away Ben.*)

80. Ben What? You headgirl, so stern.....

81. Jenny Quite often, man is nothing but a ploy of woman. Especially, the pretty woman....like myself.

Scene 6 (Classroom of Secondary School)

82. Mr Lam Welcome to the secondary school Physics class again. Karen, where are Jenny and Ben?

83. Karen They went to the washroom.

84. Mr Lam OK. Class, we have just talked about the Newton's First Law. Now let me draw some conclusions. Now an object has been pushed in free space, it will move straight forever and ever. Do you understand?

85. Class Yes.

86. Mr Lam (Karen raises her hand) Yes, Karen.

87. Karen Mr. Lam, when will you teach Newton's Second Law?

88. Mr Lam That law will be taught next month. Now, I've got some bad news for you. In order to upgrade myself, I have decided to go to England for further studies, so from next month onwards, I cannot teach you anymore.

89. Class Good (*Clapping*)

90. Mr Lam Yes, Annie.

91. Annie Mr. Lam, then who will teach us?

92. Mr Lam Next month, there will be a substitute teacher, Miss Leung, coming to teach you.

93. Ben Miss Leung? That's a woman. Women teaching Physics, is that OK?

94. Jenny I doubt it, too. Can women really teach Physics?

95. Annie Even though I'm a girl, I won't take sides. Look at my Physics, I fail every time.

96. Ben My Physics is bad, too. But that must be because of Mr. Lam. Mr. Lam is not man enough to teach science subjects! Until now, I doubt whether he is a man or a woman!

97. Mr Lam Anyway. I'll give you back your test papers. Ming, 30 marks. Fail. What's the matter with you, how can an excellent teacher like myself have a dumb student like you. It's ridiculous (*Ming cried*)..... Hey, what's the matter with you. Boys don't cry. Be a man, no tears (*continue to cry*).....Stop crying! (*crying stopped*)..... Jenny, not too good this time, 20 marks, but you should be...(Jenny started crying) you should be happy... you have made progress (*crying louder*) Don't cry, I'll give you an extra 30 marks. You pass! You pass!

98. Class Oh! Mr Lam made Jenny cry. Mr Lam bullies girls.

99. Mr Lam O! I made a girl cry....I made a girl cry.....

Scene 7 (Secondary School Campus)

100. Ben Karen.....I met a girl at ICQ called Chris. She is very romantic. She always sends me romantic and encouraging messages.

101. Jenny I met a boy called John at ICQ too. He is very good. He has told me a lot of things about the great Physicist, Mrs Currie.

102. Karen Wow, even a woman can be a great scientist. I'm not worried about Miss Leung teaching us Physics now.

Scene 8 (Staff Room)

103. Mr Lam Miss Lee, big trouble!

104. Miss Lee What's the matter, Mr Lam?

105. Mr Lam You know, I'm always scared of making the girls cry and the students even said I favour the girls.

But this morning, Jenny of 2D cried just because I said a few words about her test not being too good.
(Mr Yau comes up)

106. Mr Yau Big trouble, Mr Lam
 107. Mr Lam What's up, Mr. Yau!
 108. Mr Yau You made Jenny of 2D cry and now the whole school knows about this. The Principal Mr. Ho wants you to see him during recess. You're done for. You made a girl cry.

(Mr. Lam left)

109. Mr Yau By the way, Miss Lee. You know that our Principal, Mr. Ho, is leaving next month. Do you know who will take over his job?

110. Miss Lee Of course, I do. It's the vice principal, Mrs. Tam.

111. Mr Yau Mrs. Tam! A woman. How can a woman be a principal!

(Rhythmic speech)
A woman boss likes talking.
She bothers you with small doings.
And never cares about big things.
Look! Mr. Lam is chatting.
His uncorrected exercise books are up to the ceiling.
Mrs. Tam never says anything.
Last time, my zipper was spreading....
 O, I'm talking about the zipper of my jacket, not trousers she told me off in front of the students.

112. Miss Lee Sometimes, women are really horrible.
 113. Mr Yau Women are really horrible..... But this is not my biggest concern. I'm worried she'll launch some "secret-angel" scheme.
 114. Miss Lee Ay, Mr. Yau, How do you know about this? Mrs. Tam did say she would organize a "secret-angel" scheme and she asked us to write encouraging messages to one another regularly. Mr. Yau, I have got one for you.
 115. Mr Yau Have a look.....
 Wow,
Mr. Yau. How are you now! Do you feel teaching proud? Take heart anyhow. Miss Lee your flower. Flower, flower... Yowl.....help me!" "Secret Angel" What a hell! Only women can bring forth this sort of thing. We men want no share of this.

116. Miss Lee Mr. Yau

Scene 9 (School Computer Room)

117. Ben I was talking with Chris for two romantic hours at ICQ last night... Cyber-romance. We are meeting here with a rose in our hand. Disappear in three minutes, please.
 118. Karen Wow, how exciting.
(Karen left, peeping out to see the to come. Chris came).

119. Ben What, Ming? You are Chris!
 120. Ming Ben, so you are the luxury big spender, Doctoral degree holder Great professional dancer.
 (Dance together.)
 Ben, you're making up things rather big.

121. Ben What about what you said at ICQ? You said you miss me, you want to see me, you want to walk on the beach with me. Are you gay?
 122. Ming What are you mumbling about? Can't two men miss each other? Can't two men want to see each other? Can't two men walk on the beach?

Scene 10 (School Sitting Room)

123. Principal Mr Lam, this is Mrs Chow. She will substitute for you.
 124. Alice Principal Mrs Tam. Please call me Miss Leung, or Alice.
 125. Mr Lam (Knowing that she is pregnant.) Miss Leung?
 126. Alice I divorced my crazy husband a few weeks ago.
 127. Principal Ms Leung, would you please go to the office to finish the paper work.
 (Alice leaves)

128. Mr Lam Principal, why did you hire her. She's pregnant. She'll get 10 weeks' leave for that.
 129. Principal Your wife just gave you a son last month.
 130. Mr Lam She did.
 131. Principal When your wife gave birth to your son, did her boss give her maternity leave?

Scene 11 (In Home-Economics Room)

132. Karen Hey ! Hey, Ming. Come quickly to look at the mango pudding you taught me to make. Is it very good?
 133. Ming And you call this good. So watery. Of course it's not good. Let me show you. Hello everybody, I'm the chairman of the Home Economics Club, just call me Chris.
 134. Karen/Annie/Jenny We are his assistants.

135. Karen Karen
 136. Annie Annie
 137. Jenny Jenny
 138. Chris Today I'll show you how to make mango pudding.
(Mr. Yau comes)

139. Mr Yau Ming, I asked you to join the Basketball team and you won't go, instead you join the Home-Economics Club. Look, they are all girls and you're the only boy, and you're even the chairman. Home cooking is women's work. You have put all the men to shame.
 140. Karen Why are there so many taboos of men? Cooking, baby sitting, ironing, clothes washing.....are all taboos of men. Maybe men just want to use their taboos to cover up their laziness in doing the housework.

Scene 12 (School Car Park)

141. Mr.Yau The time is five o'clock, take my car and leave the job. Ay, why is my car scratched? Miss Lee, Can you come over here a minutes?

142. Miss Lee Hi, Mr Yau. You've cheeky. You're waiting here for me. Am...I'm quite free tonight.
143. Mr Yau Did you take your car out for lunch? Look at my car. Three days, one small scratch; five days, a big scratch. But I should expect this when I park a car next to a woman's.
144. Miss Lee What? What ever do you mean. I have never scratched your dumb car!
145. Mr Yau I wonder why the government gives licenses to the women. If women want to drive, they should do it in Ocean Park and take the bumper cars. Anyway, women are inept drivers.
- Scene 13 (School Library)**
146. Karen *(Reading newspaper)* Wah! There have been lots of traffic accidents. Looks here: in Stanley, a male driver was seriously injured and is in a coma.
147. Annie This one is even more serious. Opposite the Town Hall, four men were seriously injured and the male driver was thrown out of the car and died at the scene.
148. Karen This doesn't make sense. Mr Yau said the male drivers are adept, the woman drivers are inept. Why are all the people dying in accidents men?
149. Annie You're right.
- Scene 14 (School Car Park)**
150. Mr Lam Oh, Mr Yau, I have something to tell you. This lunch time, I took my car out to get something. And I was a little careless and scratched your car. I'm so sorry.
151. Mr Yau What! So it's you who scratched my car! *(To Miss Lee)* I am very sorry.
152. Mr. Lam Mr. Yau, don't make fun of me. Just scold me.
153. Miss Lee Eddie Yau. I'll make you feel sorry for the rest of your life for what you've done today. We are over now! I'll be your girlfriend no more.
- Scene 15**
154. Alice So can women teach Physics?
155. Principal Can men enjoy cooking?
156. Mr Yau Are women stupid drivers?
157. Karen Why do we all have these stereotypes about men and women?
158. Voice Karen
159. Karen Mummy.
160. Voice Hurry up! Help me to get the dinner ready! You should learn to be an expert at housework.
161. All*(Sing)*
(Girls) Crazy boy, crazy boy, like a bull,
 Haughty, lofty, arrogant, but a fool
(Boys) Nosy girl, nosy girl, like a goose,
 Clumsy, stupid, chattering, but a boob
(Karen) Stereotypes, pretending the truth,
 Preconceptions, we have to breakthrough
 Prejudices we should remove
 What have I to pursue
 Bi-li-ba-la, bi-li-ba-la, how come be the rules
 Bi-li-ba-la, bi-li-ba-la, bestow me with the truth
 Bi-li-ba-la, bi-li-ba-la, roles of two sexes reassure *(reassure)*