

STRICTLY COME MOTHERING

By Rod

This sketch was for a Mothering Sunday service. It was designed to illustrate that, actually, mothers are far from perfect. When judged we all do badly. Only God can help us to do well – as mothers and in life in general. The final speech by Floss was picked up by the preacher. The main point could be drawn out – or left to hang in the air.

CAST

<i>Floss Daly</i>	<i>Main female announcer</i>
<i>Bruce Forsyth</i>	<i>The host</i>
<i>Bruno Toenails</i>	<i>Male (Italian) judge</i>
<i>Arlene Over-Sideways</i>	<i>Female judge</i>
<i>Craig Reveal-All</i>	<i>Male judge</i>
<i>Mum A</i>	
<i>Child A</i>	<i>Boy or girl. School age. Younger the better</i>
<i>Mum B</i>	
<i>Child B</i>	<i>Boy or girl (Over 17)</i>
<i>Mum C</i>	
<i>Child C</i>	<i>Youngish. Could be a whole family!</i>

Judges seated at table to one side. Table centre stage.

Floss Daly	Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Grand Final of Strictly Come Mothering. Please give a big hand for your host – Bruce Forsyth. <i>[Enter Bruce. He does his traditional side on chin gesture]</i>
Bruce	Thank you, thank you. Nice to see you <i>(Encouraging audience participation)</i> – to see you, nice. Now, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, have we got a show for you. <i>[Aside to Floss]</i> Have we got a show, Floss?
Floss	Yes, Brucie; don't worry.
Bruce	Oh, good. <i>[To audience]</i> What a name: Floss Daly!! The problem is her father was a dentist. Anyway we do have three wonderful finalists and, of course, we have our distinguished panel of judges. So let's give three jeers – I mean three cheers – for: Bruno Toenails Arlene Over-Sideways And Craig Reveal-All. We'll hear more from them later (worst luck), but now it's time to meet our first set of finalists.
Floss	First to go are <u>MUM A and CHILD A</u> . They will be performing The Lunchbox Tango.

Enter Mum A and Child A from the side as music starts: **“LA CUMPARSITA” BY RODRIGUES.**

They take position either side of table. Child place lunchbox on table. Mum has carrier bag full of food. She takes from bag and place on table. Child takes from table and puts into box.

E.g. Crisps, chocolate and can of Tango.

Child closes box but does not fix it shut. Goes to leave spilling contents on floor. There is then a frantic scrabble on the floor to pick up the bits. Mum is looking at watch to show they are late. She ends up dragging Child out in frantic dash to be on time for school.

- Bruce *[Shepherding Mum and child towards judges]* That was marvellous. But let’s see what the judges thought.
- Bruno I love the tango. *[Produces can of Tango]* I drink it all the time. The problem is; you know when you have been tando’d. And this was one of those occasions.
- Craig I agree. The tango is supposed to be smooth, elegant and dramatic. But this was just dramatic – dramatically awful.
- Arlene It should contain Mordides – that’s sandwiches, wraps and La Salada. But this contained nothing but junk food. What were you thinking? If Jamie Oliver is watching, he must be as twizzled as one of Bernard Matthews’ turkeys.
- Bruce Oh dear. Well, judges, what are your marks out of ten.
- Bruno 3
- Arlene 1
- Craig 2
- Bruce Oh what a shame; that’s a grand total of just 6 out of 30. And I thought they did ever so well. *[To audience]* Didn’t they do well? *[To Mum and child]* Never mind – you are my favourites. *[Guides them off]*
- Floss And now it’s time for our second finalists. *[Enter Mum B and Child C. They need 2 chairs to form front seat of a car. Table should be removed.]* Next to go are MUM B AND CHILD B. They will be performing together The Driving Lesson Waltz.

Mum and Child stand behind chairs side by side. Music starts: **BLUE DANUBE BY J. STRAUSS.**

They move apart – forward – sit down together – all smiles. Child switches on, engages gear, Etc.

*Mum indicates to turn right – Child turns wheel right.
Mum indicates left – Child turns left
Mum indicates right – child turns wheel LEFT.
Mum signals frantically unnerving Child. Child moves wheel backwards and forwards. Mum grabs wheel. They wrestle.
Mum looks forward, as if seeing approaching accident. She mouths “STOP” “BRAKE” “We’re going to die” etc. Eventually she throws herself sideways from the car.
Once she is out of car, Child takes control easily and contentedly. Mum gets up looking frazzled.*

Bruce Oh, that was wonderful. Well done. You have obviously been practising very hard. But let’s see what our panel of judges thought.

Arlene In the waltz the partners should be closely bonded; moving as one. You seemed to be fighting each other for control.

Bruno Yes. It is supposed to mimic riding smoothly on the crest of a wave. This was more like riding down the Cresta run at St Moritz in a bobsleigh driven by Ozzy Osborne.

Craig The waltz is essentially very simple. It involves just 3 steps: turn right, turn left, change gear. But you introduced steps I have never seen before; such as the “Jumping from the car screaming we’re going to die” step.

Bruce Oh dear. So what marks will you give them?

Bruno 2

Arlen 3

Craig 1

Bruce Oh that’s rotten. Just 6 marks out of 30 again. *[To Mum and Child]* But don’t worry – you are my favourites. And the audience loved you. *[To audience]* Didn’t they? *[Exhorts audience to cheer as guides them off stage]*

Floss And now it’s the turn of our last finalists; MUM C AND CHILD C. They will be performing for us The Supermarket Can-Can.

*[Enter Mum and Child C to music: **“THE CAN-CAN” BY OFFENBACH.** They have supermarket trolley and mime filling this from shelves. To start they are together. Mum picks off shelves, Child wheels trolley alongside.*

Gradually they move apart. Child loses concentration. Mum drops food on floor because trolley not there. She gets cross and tries to take over driving trolley. They fight. Trolley falls over spilling all contents, etc]

Bruce That was absolutely fabulous. But let's see what our three wise monkeys – I mean our three wise judges – thought of it.

Craig this wasn't a Can-Can. It was a Can't-Can't.

Arlene I agree. The can-Can is the ultimate show of teamwork and coordination. This started well but by the end of it, MUM C, you were completely off your trolley. All we got was a show of trolley rage.

Bruno The can-Can should be uplifting to observers. But if I was in a supermarket when I saw you lot in action, far from being uplifting, I'd more likely think you were shoplifting.

Bruce Oh dear, and I thought it was so good. So what are your scores?

Bruno 1

Arlene 3

Craig 2

Bruce *[To Mum and Child]* Oh never mind. I'll let you into a secret I've never told anyone before: you are my favourites. And here's a cuddly toy to make you feel better. *[Gets teddy bear. To audience]* Yes, ladies and gentlemen it's A CUDDLY TOY. *[Mum and Child leave]*

So – they scored 6 – and so did both the others. So we have no winners. What happens next Floss?

Floss Well.....