

Characters

- Moira Morris (F)** - Presenter of The Antiquities Roadshow. Personable, professional and positive.
- Barbara Brown (F)** - Householder whose garden is being used for ‘Antiquities Roadshow’.
- Willy Wedgwood (M)** - Valuer for the roadshow.
- Margaret (F)** - Person who has brought along Tupperware for valuation.
- Candice Mason-Cash (F)** - Valuer for roadshow.
- Amanda Potts (F)** - Wife of Garry, and grand-daughter of Granny Spode.
- Gary Potts (M)** - Husband of Amanda & grandson-in-law of Granny Spode.
- Granny Spode (F)** - Granny for valuation.
- Crowd (M/F)** - 2+ observing the valuations and forming audiences around tables where items are being valued. Mill around, ‘ooh’ and ‘aaah’, and react accordingly.

Scene 1 – Stately Garden

(Moira and Barbara are on stage. There is a crowd watching on)

Moira: **(As if to television camera at front)** Hello and welcome from me, Moira Morris, to another episode of The Antiquities Roadshow. Today we're in the interesting grounds of BarbAllen, a 1970's built two bedroomed bungalow on the outskirts of Wister. While the queue sorts itself out on the artificial lawn, I've got Barbara Brown here with me to tell us a little bit about its history. **(Talking to Barbara now)** Barbara, why is your bungalow named BarbAllen? I wouldn't mind betting that your husband's name is Allen, and the joining of your names, is a symbol of your solid and enduring bond?

Barbara: Goodness me no. Allen and I divorced a while back, the skunk. To tell you the truth I hadn't really thought about the old sign! Things lose their original meaning after a while, don't they? A bit like Allen and me. I'll get Graham, that's my partner, to take it down.

Moira: Oh --- and who built BarbAllen – or the ex BarbAllen – Barbara?

Barbara: Oh, a local chap, Jerry somebody. He used tradespeople on piecework; you know so much per socket and skirting board. The property had its 25-year NHBC certificate, but after 30 years we began to sink. Instead of making a solid foundation, they'd tipped in all the rubbish - gravel, a plastic bucket, a bit of cement, everything but the kitchen sink. In fact, when the floor had to be dug up, there *was* a kitchen sink. It's in the garden now; a sort of conversation piece.

(Crowd drift away gradually to inspect the sink, with more joining them.)

Moira: How interesting. I believe a sunken floor is a distinctive feature of 1970's properties. I can see visitors milling around the sink now; it's a long time since I saw a really good pot sink on the Antiquities Roadshow. I'm sure one of our experts will value it for you later.

Barbara: I believe this one's called a butler's sink, from the days when houses had butlers. We never had a butler here, otherwise we wouldn't have buried his sink, even though it was cracked. Anyway, we do have a lovely cleaner who comes and does for us every Wednesday.

Moira: I'd love to stay and chat with you about the sectional garage and double glazing, but I can see that the queue has sorted itself now. **(To television camera)** I'll pass viewers onto our first expert, Willy Wedgwood who is going to value our first items.

(Crowd move to table in anticipation. Moira & Barbara exit in character. Willy enters. Margaret enters with items of Tupperware, and places them on table)

Willy: **(To Margaret)** Ah, I can see that you've brought me some pieces of Tupperware er – **(Smiles inviting her name)**

Margaret: Margaret.

Willy: Well Margaret, these bring back happy memories! Vintage Tupperware is very collectible. A set of 1946 Wonderlier bowls would cost you around £40 in today's money; and a 1960's sculptural salt and pepper shaker set, in new condition, would set you back hundreds of pounds. **(Picks up items and talks about them)** What we have

here, are mini containers in custard yellow and avocado; one I notice has a lid missing, and there's quite a lot of scuffing inside. What can you tell me about them Margaret?

Margaret: I inherited them from my mother. I think she got them at a Tupperware party in the 1970's.

Willy: Ah yes, Tupperware parties were quite the thing in the 1970's.

Margaret: She would have had the full set in the kitchen at one time. They've been well used and loved. I remember, taking one to a Beatles concert with me when I was in my teens. Mum had filled it with raisins to keep me going. They gave me good energy for screaming.

Willy: A very interesting provenance, and it's possible isn't it, that John, or Ringo, Paul, or George might have heard your screams, and actually looked down on your Tupperware pot? I don't suppose you've kept that concert ticket?

Margaret: I lost it in the excitement.

Willy: - Pity, that ticket might have been worth rather more than the Tupperware – particularly if The Beatles had initialled it. - Well, the mini containers are nice little items, and it's a lovely story, that I think means more to you, than its monetary value, which is nevertheless around 50

(Crowd gasps with anticipation from crowd milling round)

Willy: to 75 pence.

(Crowd groans. Margaret looks disappointed)

© Scripts for Stage

This script must not be copied, printed or performed without the permission of Scripts for Stage. Copying and performance licences can be obtained from www.scriptsforstage.co.uk/wp/product/roadshow-performance/

Willy: I should write your story down, and put them back in the cupboard for your children to inherit.

Margaret: **(Dismissively)** Oh, they've told me they don't want my old tat. **(Exits promptly)**

Willy: **(Calls)** Margaret – Margaret - you've left your Tupperware behind – Margaret –

Moira: **(Enters. Says informally to Willy)** Don't worry Willy; security will get her on the way out. They're searching everyone to make sure they don't leave anything behind.

(Willy smiles. Exits)

Moira: **(Smiles at camera)** And now we go to our valuer Dan Delft who has made an exciting discovery.

(Crowd dash offstage, as if making for the table with the exciting discovery. SFX. A loud crash like breaking pottery. Barbara hurries on and whispers in Moira's ear.)

Barbara: **(Hurries off saying)** ---- glue.

Moira: **(Slightly thrown, but smiles professionally at camera)** Um, hopefully we'll be able to take you to that er priceless Ming vase later. While we're waiting for the glue to dry,

we'll go to our valuer Candice Mason-Cash. She's going to be joined by Amanda and Gary Potts, who've brought along a very unusual item to be valued.

(Crowd dash back, and stand around valuation table. Moira exits. Candice enters & stands at table smiling expectantly. Gary enters holding briefcase. Amanda enters holding large bag. Granny Spode enters)

- Candice:** Hello, and what have you brought for valuation today? You've got a very large bag with you Amanda. **(Takes hold of bag)** I can't wait to see what's inside!
- Amanda:** **(Pulls bag away)** They're our sandwiches! **(Steers Granny forwards.)** We've brought Granny for a valuation.
- Candice:** **(A little taken aback but soon recovers her professionalism)** Oh - how exciting! We don't see many of these on the road show.
- Amanda:** Do you want her on the table?
- Candice:** I'm not sure that would be a good idea.
- Gary:** I expect you're insured?
- Candice:** Not for grannies.
- Gary:** I meant for tables. **(Gives table a tentative push)** It's not very substantial.
- Candice:** **(Indicates chair to Granny)** Why don't you take a chair.
- Granny:** That's a nice chair. Thank you. **(Picks chair up and inspects it carefully).** Hm, not bad. **(Puts it down and sits in it.)**
- Candice:** **(Studying Granny and smiling).** Granny looks in very good condition. How long have you had her?
- Amanda:** Oh, Granny Spode has been in the family for several generations.
- Granny:** At least.
- Amanda:** I'd always admired her, and one day my mother just said, I could have her. **(Indicating Granny)** We're Spodes my side. **(Points to Garry)** Gary's a Potts. I'm a Potts now by marriage.
- Gary:** **(Proudly)** Nothing wrong with a good pot!
- Candice:** Spode – an English brand of pottery and homewares produced by the company of the same name, based in Stoke-on-Trent. Founded in 1777 by Josiah Wedgwood. I expect Granny would come under 'homewares'. Have you noticed any markings on Granny?
- Granny:** I've got a tattoo on my bottom.
- Candice:** - - And er how long have you had Granny Spode?
- Amanda:** Oh, we've had her about eight years.
- Garry:** **(Reminds Amanda)** There was that time Amanda, when she took off to India to study yoga - remember? She was gone for a year or two.
- Amanda:** **(Remembers)** Oh yes, I'd forgotten that. I don't think much harm was done.

Candice: (**Inspects Granny**) Mm, just a bit of sun damage and fading, but in line with age. How old is Granny?

Granny: (**Firmly**) I'm an antique.

Candice: (**Still studying Granny but replying to Amanda**) I'd say that Granny Spode falls a bit short of being a real antique, which is a minimum of 100 years.

Granny: (**Indignantly**) Are you saying I'm not an antique?

Candice: (**To Amanda**) Granny looks post war to me; I'd date her at no later than 1945.

Granny: (**Stroking her face**) I always moisturise. And I found those collagen drinks in the cupboard.

Amanda: I wondered where they'd gone to!

Candice: - I have to say that pre-war Granny's do fetch more at auction, but Grannies from the 1940's are steadily growing in popularity; the roaring 40's and all that. Do you have provenance for Granny?

Gary: (**Rummaging in his brief case and fishing out bits of paper all over the table**) I've got a few bits here - Brownie badge, driving licence, National Trust membership card, retirement card, a thank you notelet from Phyllis Pike for her birthday present, receipt for a thermal vest, prescription for spectacles, an appointment card for the chiroprapist, receipt for a glitter hula hoop, instructions for juggling balls.

Candice: That's good. What about personal provenance? Those special things, with a bit of a story, that would appeal to buyers?

Granny: Mind your own business!

Amanda: (**Rummages getting out more papers and piling on table**) Er marriage certificate and wedding photo - black and white of course. A pile of Valentine cards from Sam, and a few that aren't from Sam.

Granny: (**Suspiciously**) Where did you find those?

Amanda: (**Holds up an indistinct photo**) - Oh, and a signed photograph of Des O'Connor that says, 'With best wishes to Sarah'.

Granny: Lovely man.

Candice: Hm, anything else?

Gary: (**Recalling**) She saw Eric Morecombe getting on the bus once.

Candice: What number?

Amanda: You've got me there.

Granny: (**Pipes up**) Thirty-nine.

Candice: And where is Granny Spode normally kept? Somewhere nice and dry and warm I'll be bound. Damp doesn't do Granny's any good at all. (**Studying Granny's face**) There are age related wrinkles and a bit of sagging - but overall, in very nice condition.

Granny: Thank you. I do a good workout at the gym once a week.

Amanda: We keep her in the inglenook at home, she looks lovely there.

Gary: Apart from when she goes out to belly dancing class.

Amanda: Oh yes. To be honest, we hardly notice she's there half the time.

Granny: I don't like to be a bother.

Candice: I know you wouldn't sell your Granny, as I'm sure she's important to your family.

Amanda: **(Firmly)** She's got to go.

Candice: **(Taken aback)** Oh – well, if Granny Spode were to go to a specialist auction, I'd put a conservative estimate of **(thinks hard)** fifty to one hundred – **(interrupted)**

Granny: Thousand? Fifty to one hundred thousand pounds?

(Crowd gasps.)

Candice: Pounds. Fifty to one hundred pounds.

© Scripts for Stage

This script must not be copied, printed or performed without the permission of Scripts for Stage. Copying and performance licences can be obtained from www.scriptsforstage.co.uk/wp/product/roadshow-performance/

Gary: **(Disappointed)** Is that all?

Amanda: That's a shame!

(Crowd make sympathetic noise. Granny looks disgruntled)

Candice: **(Curiously)** If you did go ahead and sell – **(interrupted)**

Gary: **(Adamant)** She has to be sold.

Candice: - what would you do with the money?

Amanda: Granny's got her heart set on this field trip with the U3A, to stay with the Kalahari Tribespeople. **(Determined)** She's got to go! She needs the cash for her bed and board you see.

Candice: **(Puzzled)** But, how can Granny be sold, and still get her trip?

Amanda: **(Proudly)** Granny's got it all worked out. She's been sitting in her little inglenook, night after night, with a pen and paper.

Granny: It's simple. I go to a pawnbroker, and he puts my photo in his shop as security; then when I get back home, I redeem myself!

Garry: Granny needs to know how much she'll fetch, so she gets a fair offer.

Granny: I don't want to get diddled.

Candice: **(Flummoxed)** But, but, when Granny gets back from the trip, she won't have the money to redeem herself!

Granny: I'll go to another pawnbroker, and so on, until I can pay myself off. There's plenty of pawnbrokers out there!

Candice: **(Admiringly)** How ingenious!

Granny: **(Ironically)** We Grannies weren't born yesterday!

Candice: **(Ending valuation)** Well, thank you for bringing Granny in, it's - it's been fascinating. I hope the trip to the Kalahari tribespeople comes off.

Granny: **(Loudly to Angela and Garry)** Come on, let's go, I've had enough of this.

Angela: Don't you want to look at the butlers sink?

Candice: (Smiles at group professionally. Exits slightly puzzled.)

Granny: **(Disgruntled)** I'm not bothered about it. I want another valuation. Bring the chair, she told me to take it. I'll sell it on eBay.

(Garry picks up the chair and carries it with them)

Granny: **(Grumbling)** I'm worth more than she says. She doesn't know what she's talking about!

Garry: How about trying The Bidding Room for a second opinion?

Angela: Or Flog it?

Granny: Cash in the Attic?

Garry: Bargain Hunt?

Granny: The Real Deal?

(Angela, Garry and Granny speaking as they exit. Garry carrying chair.)

Angela: Don't worry Granny, we'll get you on that field trip, even if we have to flog ourselves as well.

Garry: That's what families are for.

Granny: I could always do swimming with sharks instead; that comes out a bit cheaper.

(Angela, Garry & Granny exit.)

Moira Morris: **(To camera as if signing off)** We'll it's goodbye from us at BarbAllen.

(Barbara enters. Whispers to Moira. Exits.)

Moira Morris: Barbara tells me she's made a delicious cake mix chocolate cake, and pots of Angel Delight for everyone to buy before they go. Please form an orderly queue outside the back door & take care you don't fall over the butlers sink.

(Crowd rush off, as if going to form queue. Candice & Willy follow them)

Moira: **(Smiles widely at camera)** Join us next time, when we'll be at the stylish 1990's mobile home of twin sisters Gwen and Valerie, near the golden sands of Ingoldmells, when we'll have more guests with items for our experts to value. If you have an item that you'd like valuing, do get in touch with us. **(Smiles to camera. Exits in direction of Candice & Willy.)**

END.