

OAKS  
1995

ZAP WOMAN SKIT - Alternatives '95 - St. Paul, Minnesota

Support Coalition Players

Characters:

- ZAP WOMAN - played by Gail
- DOCTOR PUSH - played by Phil
- DOCTOR ER - played by David
- NARRATOR - Janet

FOUR PSYCH. SURVIVORS "EXTRAS"

Props: Two chairs on stage. On ground is 10 Warning Signs of Normality, and the song lyrics, and picture of Howie.

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NARRATOR -- off stage: Somewhere.... deep in a back ward...

there's a woman who is surviving and fighting back... She's survived the labels and psychiatric name calling. And still she fights back. She's survived forced drugging, and solitary confinement. And still she fights back. She's survived electroshock. And -- like many of you -- still she fights back....

Her name .... is.... ZAP WOMAN! Cheer her on! [crowd cheers]

ZAP WOMAN PROUDLY ENTERS -- Struts her stuff....

NARRATOR: Zap Woman is unstoppable! We've issued a challenge tonight to Mind Industry, Incorporated to try an experiment to stop Zap Woman. Let's all welcome Doctor Push from Mind Industry, Incorporated. [Get crowd to boo. Dr. Push enters with clip board.]

ZAPWOMAN: Hello Dr. Push. [Zap Woman reluctantly shakes hands.]

DR. PUSH: Thank you.... And here's my colleague, Dr. Erz.

[Enter doctor Erz.]

ZAPWOMAN: Hello... Dr. Erz? So together, you're Drs. Push-Erz? Maybe bad jokes are the secret weapon you're using against me!

DRS. PUSH & ERZ: We'll need help from the audience. Are there four psychiatric survivors here who will help? [Quickly points to four "plants" in the audience who quickly come up.] Okay, now stand behind Zapwoman. Restrain her! [They each hold an arm or leg.] Now, begin Phase One!

This was developed at the Berkeley Alternatives Conference and we believe it may cool her out! Bring out the GOVERNMENT GRANTS. [They wave money in front of ZapWoman, but she laugh it off.]

NARRATOR: Ummmm... Drs. Push-Erz.... Don't you remember, government contracts and money don't work against ZAP WOMAN.

DRS. PUSH & ERZ: Yes, but we will combine Phase One... with Phase Two... We developed this in the Ohio Alternatives Conference... Bring out.... THE PSYCHIATRIC LABELS! ASK HER! [They wave money AND a clip-board in front of her -- ZapWoman yawns... They begin to ask her symptoms] Are you paranoid? Sleepless? Delusional?

NARRATOR: Oh, Drs. Push & Erz, don't you see even government grants combined with psychiatric labels can't stop ZAPWOMAN! [Zapwoman breaks free and scatters the FOUR EXTRAS backwards...]

ZAPWOMAN: And meanwhile Support Coalition has been busy in OUR labs Drs. Push-Erz! We've developed the TEN WARNING SIGNS OF NORMALITY! This time we have some questions for you! [She opens up Dendron. And she reads two or three labels. The doctors quiver....]

DRS. PUSH & ERZ: She's winning again.... No one could pass the Ten Warning Signs of Normality! It's impossible!

ZAPWOMAN: Oh, but someone has! As many people know he was free of all symptoms of normality for decades. Our poster child, HOWIE THE HARP! [She lifts up a picture of Howie, people cheer.]

DRS. PUSH & ERZ: You're right. We learned before to label jars not people. We're weakening... We're becoming humane! [Getting angry] That's it! You've gone too far! We're bringing out Phase Three, our top secret cunning weapon against Zap Woman and your movement! You, psychiatric survivors, STEP FORWARD! We have a question which will destroy you, zap woman and your so-called liberation!

NARRATOR: Ha! Your experiments are useless against us, Doctor. Along with Zapwoman, we have survived your oppression and kept on fighting back. We've survived government grants and labeling and kept on fighting back. What is your puny question?

DRS. PUSHER & ERZ: Okay, here it is.... "What toppings would you all choose to put on one big pizza?"

ZAPWOMAN: Can they split the toppings onto different halves?

DRS. PUSHER & ERZ, together, after pausing: NO-O-O-O!

ZAPWOMAN: Oh no! We're doomed! [She turns away in fear.]

PSYCHIATRIC SURVIVORS: [Starting slow.] Well, I'd choose to put on onions... And peppers.... and anchovies. Anchovies? But I'm a vegetarian. No mushrooms. YOUR'RE JUST LIKE MY PSYCHIATRIST!  
YOU'RE OPPRESSING ME! DON'T TOUCH ME!

[They continue fighting continuously... not loud enough to drown out people. Drs. Push & Erz are rubbing their hands. Zapwoman is weakening. Collapsing!]

NARRATOR: Infighting! You know that infighting in our movement is the Kryptonite for Zapwoman! Combined with government grants... and labeling... you could do her in!

Wait Drz. Pusher-Erz. Listen to me for a moment!

Don't you know you need Zapwoman too! Didn't she almost heal you from Normality? We all need to work together! If she goes, no one may be able to save you, Drs. Push & Erz.

Shouldn't they give her one more chance, audience! [Yeah!

The PSYCHIATRIC SURVIVORS notice she's down and out... and stop fighting for a moment....]

DRS. PUSH & ERZ: Okay, okay! Fair is fair! And we're sick of being normals! Yuck! Zapwoman, we'll let you ask one question back! Just one question. [Dr. Push stares down at her, hands on hips.]

ZAPWOMAN SUMMONS STRENGTH, BEGINS ON KNEES, STARTS SLOWLY, JUST SPEAKING WORDS AT FIRST, THEN GAINS STRENGTH AND STANDS UP:

"How could anyone ever tell you...  
That you're anything less than beautiful...  
How could anyone ever tell you...  
That you're less than whole?  
How could anyone fail to notice...  
That your loving is a miracle....  
How deeply you're connected to my soul."

[Silence. Then Dr. Push sings above first part alone, then  
Zap Woman and Dr. Push join together... singing to  
psychiatric survivors.]

NARRATOR: Everyone... sing along... [FOUR PSYCHIATRIC SURVIVORS  
hold up lyrics.... two on chair drop to other two.... then  
hand it back up... At end Dr. Push holds up photo of Howie.]

NARRATOR: Let's all sing this to Howie... he's here in this room  
in our hearts.... let him hear it! Everyone sings it to Howie....

NARRATOR: Let's sing it to each other... Turn to your sisters  
and brothers... look them in the eyes... [Everyone sings it...

Zapwoman and Drs. Push & Erz approach audience encouraging them  
to sing it, as far as mikes will allow it... Let's keep it  
going for a while...]

NARRATOR: One more time, let's hold hands and sing it to  
each other...

- The End -