

# MONOLOG:

## The Reporter

**CAST:** Reporter — age open.

**SETTING:** The reporter is seated at the table preparing herself for a newscast, about to film. She is checking her make-up, her copy, the mike, etc.

**REPORTER:** *(Tapping the mike.)* Is this on? *(Pause)* Good. Is the level OK? OK. *(To herself)* I can't believe I'm going through all this to report this garbage. *(To the booth)* Are we ready? Can we shoot this please? *(Pause)* Thank you. *(She straightens herself up, looks ahead, and starts.)*

Hi, this is Mary Short and it's time for the four-seventeen News Break. Our top story at this hour, Foo Foo the elephant, gave birth today at the L.A. Zoo. Foo Foo... *(She cuts herself off.)* That's it! I can't take this anymore. Richard, Richard are you around? I see you, don't try to leave. You're finally going to listen to me. Richard, I am a journalist, you hear me? A journalist and a good one, too. So could you please explain why in the world where there are riots in South Africa, famine, floods, people with plastic hearts, why am I reporting about some elephant named Foo Foo who just dropped another two-thousand pound kid. Oh, and I know what you are going to say. You'll say that if I'll do this one it'll be the last time.

It's the same thing you told me after I did that story last week about the ninety-seven-year-old grandmother who knitted a slip cover for her house. You know Richard, I bet if this city were nuked I would be assigned to report on fashions for the radioactive yuppie. Look, I love my job, I love reporting, but I'm begging you to let me report the news. How about letting me be on a news show that starts on the hour. I deserve

it. I went to college. I've got a B.A. from Columbia University and a Masters from Vassar in journalism, and if that isn't enough, I'm much better looking than Dan Rather. So, here's the bottom line, either I start reporting the news, the real news, or you find yourself another woman for this station. What do you think of that? Richard? Richard? *(Pause)* Are you there? *(Ad libs.)*

END