

“Smile”

Show Description

A group of young women gather in southern California after winning their local pageants to compete in the Young American Miss Pageant. Nerves are high as the experienced as well as the inexperienced hopefuls attempt to win over the judges with their talent, poise, and, what else, their smiles. Former contestant Brenda hopes to relive her almost-glory days by running the pageant this year along with her husband, a local RV dealer. As you would expect, this show is full of singing, dancing, showmanship and, of course, backstabbing. The show has laughter and heart, a feel-good musical that displays coming-of-age and self-realization amid the frenzy that is the pageant circuit.

Characters

The Grownups

BRENDA FREELANDER - A third runner up in the nationals, eighteen years ago, now she runs her local pageant. A study in surface perfection and just-below-the-surface neurosis, Brenda is an ex-prom queen who lost a contest once and will never stop trying to make up for it. Underneath her smiling and poised fluff, Brenda is made of steel.

BIG BOB FREELANDER - Her husband and head judge of the pageant. The town's favorite son, he owns a local RV dealership and his every free moment is devoted to some form of community service. He's the Henry Fonda type: brave, clean, reverent and means it. A sincere and unashamed flag-waver whose flag is this pageant.

DALE WILSON-SHEARS - National Chairman of the Young American Miss Foundation. A large, impressive, self-satisfied corporate leader with the suspicious charm of a television evangelist. He's in the charity business, but he's in the business, make no mistake.

TED FARLEY - The pageant emcee. He ought to do game shows, or run for president. A big old silly, but a professional.

TOMMMY FRENCH - The choreographer. He's a professional, but he's cynical, tough minded, and practical.

CAROL - Doubles as MOTHER in Prologue

WOMAN #1 - Robin's Mother, Louise, Woman Judge

TONY - Doubles as a parent in Prologue and a Judge

MAN #1 - Photographer, Ed, Daddy, Musical Director, Janitor, Judge

The Girls

ROBIN - Dark, sensitive, smart. She is attractive without trying to be, honest, down-to-earth, and questioning by nature. She senses that she doesn't quite belong here.

DORIA - Blonde, Southern, and obsessed. She needs badly to win something...anything. Perhaps to make up for the things that are missing in her real life: friends, self-respect, family.

SANDRA-KAY - Redhead. Pretty but not too pretty, smart but not too smart, talented but not too talented. The type that usually wins.

MARIA - Mexican-American. She tries harder. She has to.

SHAWN - A bit of a Valley Girl. Spoiled, gorgeous, competitive, and prejudiced.

VALERIE - Shawn's confidant

KATE - Doubles in Act II as JOANIE MARSHALL, last year's winner

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING CONTESTANTS – 9 other girls in the pageant of varying shapes and sizes

The Kids

LITTLE BOB - Son of Big Bob, 11 years old. He has all of his dad's charm and none of his integrity.

FREDDY - Little Bob's nerdy sidekick.