

2011 LWML Convention Promotional Sketch

Will It Play In Peoria?

Cecilia DeVille – *[dramatic; speaks and acts with great flair; costumed accordingly (dark glasses, cape, scarf, beret, etc.)]*

Penny Lincoln – *[informative; shares facts in interesting ways and makes them “come alive;” costumed with as much LWML “purple” as available]*

Props – *[easel: placard cards for any or all attractions as they are described or suggested in script; cards are in order and removed as speaker identifies; can be thrown down to the ground in a dramatic flair; first card reads “Will It Play In Peoria?” Instead of cards, another option would be a PowerPoint (PP) presentation, available on the secure log in at www.lwml.org]*

Cecilia DeVille: *[PP slide #1 or Show first card “Will it play in Peoria] - [Pacing back and forth, distressed and speaking to herself.]* I just can’t believe it! Here I am, Cecilia DeVille, celebrated screenwriter and director, and I can’t believe I’m worried about my newest play. My financial backers keep asking, “Will it play in Peoria or won’t it?” What’s so great about Peoria, Illinois, anyway?

Penny Lincoln: *[Enters with a perky attitude]* Hi, Cecilia, what’s up?! You look really worried!

Cecilia: *[Welcomes Penny]* Hi, Penny Lincoln! I’m really worried how my new show will “play in Peoria.” And anyway...What is it about Peoria that is *so* important?

Penny: Well, I know that Peoria will be the setting for the upcoming Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Convention **June 23-26, twenty-eleven.** *[Click PP #2 or Show card with theme and date]* Thousands of women will gather in Peoria under the theme of “**Being with Jesus – Living on the Edge.**” The convention will be based on the Scripture verse from Acts 4:13b & 20: *And they realized they had been with Jesus. “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”* (NKJV)

Cecilia: That sounds like an interesting theme. *[Skeptical]* But I don’t get it. How will *that* play?

Penny: Cecilia, today’s world often speaks unfavorably about Christianity. As we walk daily with Jesus, amazing opportunities arise to “live on the edge” in an unfriendly environment and to courageously reach out to share the extraordinary truth about the Redeemer of the world.

Cecilia: Okay, so how can a convention make a difference?

Penny: It’ll be an awesome experience. Those who attend will find ways to fearlessly live on the edge with Christ Jesus by their side. There will be worship, Bible study, inspirational speakers and missionaries, fellowship opportunities, voting, and, of course, fun! The whole thing starts out with a great worship service. *[Click PP#3 or Show card with names mentioned below]* The proclaimer will be Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus.

Cecilia: You mean the guy on the radio?!

Penny: Yes, that’s him! *[Click PP to show name]* And the Bible study leader will be Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing – he is *so* dynamic. I saw him at a National Youth Gathering.

Cecilia: Really!?

Penny: Absolutely. *[Click PP to show name]* And for the key note address, we’ll hear from Deb Burma, Christian author and speaker.

Cecilia: Uh huh ... sure.

Penny: *[Click PP to show names]* we’ll have great music from songwriter, Lana (lah-na) Gibbons. And Heidi Floyd will provide lots of humorous interludes.

Cecilia: I know her! *[Pause] [Spoken with some skepticism]* But why meet in Peoria?

Penny: Well, in addition to the joy of being with Lutheran Women in Mission, there are many exciting things about Peoria. Did you know that the phrase, “**Will it play in Peoria?**” *[Click PP #4 or Show card Will It Play in Peoria?]* actually originated in the early days of vaudeville?

Cecilia: Really? They took vaudeville to Illinois?

Penny: You bet. Peoria was geographically in the center of the country, had a diverse culture, and was known to have a difficult audience to please. If a play won over an audience in Peoria, it was all but guaranteed to be a hit throughout the country. The phrase “will it play in Peoria?” has even been used in political campaigns.

Cecilia: *[Skeptically]* That’s interesting, but I’m *still* not convinced. Why Peoria?

Penny: *[Click PP #5 or Show card that says “Famous People”]* Cecilia, Peoria also claims many famous *[Click PP]* **actors** and **musicians**. And did you know that *[Click PP]* **Abraham Lincoln’s career on the way to the White House** has its roots in the Peoria area. The nearby Metamora Courthouse has been restored with a museum featuring President Lincoln’s early political career.

Cecilia: Did I ever hear him speak? Is he on You-tube?

Penny: *[Sighs and rolls eyes]* Of course! *[Click PP #6 or Show card” Riverfront, Parks, More]* Cecilia, Peoria has a restored and lively **riverfront** that would seem to “play.” You can take a cruise on the Spirit of Peoria. There are a number of **parks** nearby and lots of **museums and historical sites**.

Cecilia: You’re beginning to peak my interest.

Penny: Okay! *[Click PP #7 or Show card Bike Trails]* How about some **bike trails** and botanical gardens to see. *[Click PP or Show card Botanical Gardens, More]* Why, I bet you didn’t know there are some **wineries and shopping malls** to visit in the area!

Cecilia: Shopping?! Now you’re talking.

Penny: But best of all, don’t forget, that the **LWML women** will be there with their “purple” on! *[Click PP #8 or Show card labeled “LWML Convention”]*

Cecilia: Wow! Now I *am* getting excited about Peoria! I realize it truly is an important city! And the LWML is certainly a forward-thinking group! All those women will be able to join together in the center of the country by plane, car, or bus. It all sounds great! I hope that I can join them! Where can I get more information?

Penny: We’d love to have you join us in Peoria, Illinois, June 23-26, twenty-eleven. You can get all the information on the LWML Web site at www.lwml.org. *[Click PP or Show card Web site address www.lwml.org]*

Cecilia: Wait, let me write that down: www.lwml.org. Got it!

Penny: *[Click PP #9 or Show card]* with convention theme. This will be a convention you won’t want to miss! And...to answer your original question: Yes, by God’s grace, the twenty-eleven LWML convention ...

Together: *[Click PP #10 or Unroll a banner sign with the convention dates and Peoria, Illinois on it could be unfurled between the two actors as the final line is spoken together.] ... WILL play in Peoria!*