

# A Word from Jimmy Ruff about seeing *The Energy Detective*

(To read before seeing the show.)

Hey you. Yeah you... Come here. I need your help.

My name is Jimmy Ruff. I'm a Private Detective. You may have seen my signs down at the bus station. You know, the ones that say, *No Case too Big – No Case too Small*. Yeah, that's me.

Look, I'm going to be coming to your school soon as one of the characters in a play called *The Energy Detective*. What can I say? Things were a little slow in the detective business and they told me I could have the lead role. What's a guy supposed to do?

Anyways, the Educational Touring Theatre and the Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation, that's your Touchstone Energy cooperative, have spent a lot of time and money putting this *Energy Detective* show together for you. In fact, I got it on good word that one of the props we use in the show cost over \$1,200.00! 12 hundred smackers for one prop – I wish they was paying me that much!

The thing is, this is one of those live performances. You know, a show where the actors are right there in front of you. Being a live performance makes *The Energy Detective* a lot different than a movie or a TV show. If you're sitting at home watching the tube, you can do anything you want, talk, eat Twinkies, tie knots in your little sisters hair, anything, and it won't change the show at all.

But, at one of these live performance thingys, anything that happens in the audience - that's you and your buddies watching the show – anything that happens in the audience changes the performance.

Hey, I know what I'm talking about here. We were doing the show at another school not too long ago, and there were these two guys sitting there in the second row talking and playing that tap someone on the shoulder game. You know the one I'm talking about, where you tap someone's shoulder and then act all innocent when they turn around. Well these two guys were so distracting, it made me completely forget my lines. Boy, did I feel stupid! The whole show came to a crashing halt while I tried to remember what to say next.

Besides that, these two bozos were so disturbing, that nobody else could enjoy the show. I'll tell you, I finally had to throw them out. They're probably still doing time down at the Principal's office right now!

So here's where you come in. When you come and see *The Energy Detective*, I sure would appreciate it if you would practice what they call "good audience etiquette." That means none of that talking and playing around stuff during the show. Please show respect to the performers, like me, and to the rest of the audience. If you do that, I promise, we'll do our best to give you a great show. Hey, we may even pick you to be one of the volunteers!

Thanks a lot and enjoy the show!