

Mr. Iglesias

A Very COVID Special  
(Mock Episode)

Written by  
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ACT ONE, COLD OPEN

AT Roxanne's

Marisol, Mr. Iglesias, Paula, Carlos, Tony

MARISOL

Hey, there are only two people to a table; no more, maybe less.

MR. IGLESIAS

Marisol! What are you doing here!

MARISOL

Hey, Mr. Iglesias. Working. My mom was furloughed thanks to the pandemic. And since I have a lot more time on my hands due to not physically being in school, I got myself hired as a temporary hostess for Roxanne's.

MR. IGLESIAS

Aren't all Hostess temporary? I mean, those snacks are so small You can put the whole thing in your mouth.

PAULA

Hey everybody!

MR. IGLESIAS

Oh Hey, Principal Madison! I see you are finally getting out of the house.

PAULA

Finally? Shood, I get out every weekend. If I can't touch 'em, I can still see 'em. (STARTS CHECKING A GUY OUT) Mmmm Mmm.

MR. IGLESIAS

Umm, Paula, That's Carlos.

PAULA

Oh shoot!! This COVID got me so socially deprived, I'm checking out my own darn vice principal. Eww.

TONY

Dang, this virus got us stooping  
to a whole new low!

MR. IGLESIAS

Tony, where'd you come from? I  
didn't see you come in!

PAULA

If I had just seen his face; It  
was that butt!

TONY

Don't worry Paula, COVID even got  
me checking you out.

PAULA

Oh, I know I look good.

CARLOS

Masks! Masks! Masks!

PAULA

Thank you, Carlos.

CARLOS

You are not six feet apart! Spread  
out. Spread out.

END SCENE

SCENE A  
SCHOOL HALLWAY  
Mikey, Mr. Iglesias

MIKEY MOPPING FLOOR

MR. IGLESIAS  
Hey, Mikey? What are you doing  
cleaning the corridor? School's  
closed.

MIKEY  
And if it were open, I wouldn't be  
cleaning.

MR. IGLESIAS  
Wait, did you take Janitor Jim's  
job?

MIKEY  
No, he's not working during the  
pandemic. We don't have any food  
at home. Principal Madison was  
kind enough to give me this  
temporary job.

MR. IGLESIAS  
Oh no, I don't know what I would  
do without my burritos; frijoles,  
arroz, asada, guacamole, queso, a  
dab of sour cream... You know Mikey,  
you could have just called me and  
told me you needed some food. You  
know I got your back.

MIKEY  
No, Mr. Iglesias, I don't want to  
be a mendigo. I have to be the man  
of the house. I'm almost grown.

MR. IGLESIAS  
I know Mikey, but it's even okay  
for adults to ask for help  
sometimes.

MIKEY  
Hey Mr. Iglesias, well, what are  
you doing here?

MR. IGLESIAS

Oh Mikey, I'm just picking up a  
school laptop. Mine crashed from  
an overloaded hard drive.

END SCENE

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SCENE B

OUTSIDE PRINCIPAL MADISON'S OFFICE  
Walt, Lorenzo, Grace, Mr. Iglesias, Carlos

MR. IGLESIAS ENTERS AS STUDENT EXITS

CARLOS

Fined! Any student who does not bring back a student administered tablet will be fined.

CARLOS EXITS INTO OFFICE

LORENZO

I never thought I'd have to choose between food on the table or a tablet for school. This has been the hardest semester, yet.

WALT

And we're not even in school!

GRACE

I can't believe my laptop crashed, right in the middle of geography.

MR. IGLESIAS

Your laptop crashed too, huh  
Grace?

GRACE

Hardware malfunction, or maybe the wrong coding? I still haven't figured out the proper equation.

MR. IGLESIAS

Oh, mine crashed because it was full. Maybe you can make an equation to empty it that way I don't have to borrow one from Principal Madison?

GRACE

Oh, no equation is needed, just empty it. Do you really want to lose all your files, Mr. Iglesias?

MR. IGLESIAS

Lose my files? No, not the  
pictures of my VW.... Not my baby!  
That one time, I washed it on  
Cherry Avenue. It was sparkly,  
shiny.

LORENZO

Uh, Mr. Iglesias? We're out.

MR. IGLESIAS

Hey, what about my hard drive?

STUDENTS EXIT.

END SCENE.

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SCENE C

PRINCIPAL MADISON'S OFFICE  
Carlos, Paula, Mr. Iglesias

CARLOS

I just know it. One of those students will not return the tablet. As a matter of fact, they all will lose them. Or break them!

PAULA

Carlos, it's going to be okay. Our students are more responsible than you think. Besides, each device has a tracker.

CARLOS

And their parents, will they pay for the damage?

MR. IGLESIAS ENTERS

PAULA

Carlos, once they sign up for the tablet, they are responsible for it.

CARLOS

We just cannot be accountable for their negligence.

PAULA

Gabe! Oh, you made it. I have a laptop right here with your name on it.

MR. IGLESIAS

Thank you, Paula.

CARLOS

And you are responsible for returning it in one piece. No exceptions!

MR. IGLESIAS

Right. Uh Paula, as I was walking through the school, I realized a lot of our kids are without food at home.

PAULA

Oh, you saw Mikey out there.

MR. IGLESIAS

And Walt and Lorenzo. These tablets mean a lot in helping their parents compensate for meals for their families.

PAULA

And not to mention, get their school work done on schedule.

MR. IGLESIAS

I can't help but think, there has to be something we can do for these kids during this pandemic.

PAULA

Because we're not doing enough trying to survive the pandemic ourselves, and give the kids the proper schooling?

MR. IGLESIAS

Yes, but kids cannot learn properly if they're hungry. I can barely teach without my breakfast burrito and coffee in the morning.

PAULA

Oh yeah, that reminds me, stop eating during your Zoom meetings.

MR. IGLESIAS

I can't help it. Being stuck at home hearing the refrigerator hum. It's hard to social distance.

MAKES HUMMING NOISE

CARLOS

Teaching at home still requires professionalism.

PAULA

Carlos, why don't you go take a break? Matter of fact, take these tablets out with you. Serve the students from the quad. Stop having them come to my office.

MR. IGLESIAS

Hey, that's it! What if we serve  
the students in the quad? It's  
outdoors; there is enough space to  
socially distance.

PAULA

What are you talking about, Gabe?

MR. IGLESIAS

A food bank. We can serve the kids  
free food from our school yard.

PAULA

Hey, that's a great idea, Gabe.  
That'll keep the hungry kids out  
of the cafeteria. There have been  
way too many visits during the  
shutdown.

END SCENE

ACT TWO, SCENE E

AT ROXANNE'S

MR. IGLESIAS

Marisol, you are just the person I need to see.

MARISOL

Oh, hey Mr. Iglesias. How can I help? Warning, if you sound too desperate, I'll require a thirty percent tip.

MR. IGLESIAS

Wait, hostess make tips?

MARISOL

Yeah, ten percent of whatever the waitress makes. That's the only way we can afford to remain open and get paid with this pandemic setback. I really ought to consider delivery service. But then again, I wouldn't have wi-fi to finish my homework.

MR. IGLESIAS

Marisol, you're full of good ideas and great work ethics. How about I propose to you a way to make sure that your kitchen and all the other students' kitchens remain full of food?

MARISOL

Wow, that sounds too good to be true.

MR. IGLESIAS

Well, it's not. I need your help creating a school-wide food drive campaign, so we can make sure all of the students get to eat during the pandemic.

MARISOL

Well, a full fridge does sound pretty sweet.

MR. IGLESIAS

And not to mention, the school has free wi-fi, so you won't have to stick around here making 10% of a 20% commission at a mostly empty bar.

MARISOL

All right, let's do this Mr. Iglesias.

END SCENE

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## SCENE F

LATER AT ROXANNE'S  
Marisol, Mr. Iglesias, Paula, Abby

ABBY

I cannot believe you got Marisol  
to quit her job for school.

MARISOL

Hey, it was a temp position.  
Besides, during this crisis it was  
a lot of hours for a little  
pennies due to too much distance  
and not enough social.

PAULA

Well, I'm proud of you, Marisol.  
And I'm proud of Gabe for coming  
up with a solution for our kids.

ABBY

Aww, you two!

MR. IGLESIAS

Well, I'm just a really concerned  
teacher just like the rest of you;  
otherwise, you wouldn't be here.

MARISOL

Well, I set up the plan for the  
food boxes to be delivered to the  
school and created all the flyers  
for the students.

PAULA

And who is going to pay to have  
those mailed out to all the  
parents?

MARISOL

Don't worry, Principal Madison.  
Mr. Iglesias, Mikey, and I are  
already getting the word out. News  
travels fast through our student  
body.

MR. IGLESIAS

Plus, Marisol made all the flyers  
virtual like our class shoutouts.

PAULA

You really are a genius. I don't know why we haven't hired you on as a teacher's aide. Oh wait, we can't afford you.

MARISOL

Apparently, neither can Roxanne's.

END SCENE

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SCENE J

HALLWAY

Marisol, Walt, Mikey, Grace, Lorenzo

LORENZO

So, what's this about? You called half of Mr. Iglesias's class to school during a shutdown.

WALT

Yeah, I'd rather be anywhere than at school.

GRACE

Yeah, I'm not really allowed to be this close to other people.

MIKEY

I was actually off work today, and was right in the middle of Fortnight.

MARISOL

You guys, I called you all here to help Mr. Iglesias and I fight hunger.

MIKEY

But I actually got paid yesterday, and I'm not hungry anymore.

WALT

Man, those pancakes and eggs really hit the spot. Thanks Mikey.

MIKEY AND WALT GIVE HIGH FIVES

MARISOL

No, you guys, fighting hunger as in servicing the community. Over half of the student body has been effected hard by the pandemic. And many students don't have food on their table.

GRACE

Oh, I was just reading an article about kids going to bed hungry. It was really sad.

MARISOL

Exactly, it is sad. And what's even sadder is that many of those kids go to our school.

LORENZO

Wow, I never really thought of it that way. I kind of thought it was just me. Yesterday, I had fried bologna with no bread. And I fried it just to make it seem more fulfilling.

MIKEY

Man, and did you slice it and dip it into mustard

LORENZO AND MIKEY

just to make it last longer!

WALT

I feel you.

MARISOL

See, this is exactly why I called you here. It's time to end hunger once and for all.

GRACE

Let's do this!

MARISOL

For the students of Woodrow Wilson!

END SCENE

ACT THREE, SCENE K

THE QUAD

Tony, Mr. Iglesias, Marisol, Mikey

MR. IGLESIAS

Tony are you all right?

TONY

Am I alright? I just carried 200 food boxes into the quad. How did I let you talk me into this?

MR. IGLESIAS

Tony, it's part of our duty as teachers to make sure our students are okay. Plus, we have five other volunteers beside you, Marisol, and myself.

TONY

I am supposed to be at home with my feet up, watching telenovelas, and waiting for my students to email me their homework assignments.

MR. IGLESIAS

What about Zoom meetings?

TONY

Oh, we only do those one hour a day. See, my honors students appreciate social distancing. It gives them time to do their schoolwork in peace.

MIKEY

All the boxes have been moved from the quad and onto the truck. I mean, all the trucks have been moved out of the boxes! I mean...

MARISOL

It's okay Mikey, we understand. All of the boxes have been removed from the truck and onto the quad.

MR. IGLESIAS

That's great. Students should be arriving with their parents within a couple of hours.

MIKEY

These are some really nice boxes of food.

TONY

Hey, quick, did you see anything good for me in there?!

MR. IGLESIAS

Tony, it's for the kids.

END SCENE

SCENE M

THE QUAD

Mr. Iglesias, Marisol, Mikey, Grace, Kimmy

MARISOL

Wow, I can't believe how well this is going.

GRACE

Yeah, look at the turn out.

MR. IGLESIAS

Turns out more students needed the help than we thought.

MARISOL

Exactly.

MR. IGLESIAS

Hey Kimmy, glad to see you making it through COVID. Grab a box.

KIMMY

Oh, oh. This food? No, this is for my neighbor. He's really hungry.

MARISOL

Like, it's okay if the box is for your family. We all need food, too.

KIMMY

Oh, okay then. But y'all didn't see me here.

KIMMY EXITS. MIKEY WALKS UP.

MIKEY

Five hundred boxes down in the first half hour. Woo, this is a workout.

MR. IGLESIAS

Yeah, but every box is worth it because every family counts.

MARISOL

That's such a great saying Mr. Iglesias.

MR. IGLESIAS

Yeah, I know right? But I mean it,  
every family really does count.

MIKEY

Thanks, Mr. Iglesias. I feel that  
in my heart, Man.

MR. IGLESIAS

Yeah, now let's get back to work!

END SCENE

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SCENE P

GABE'S CLASSROOM

Abby, Mr. Iglesias, Marisol, Mikey, Tony, Paula, Carlos

MIKEY

Wow, we're in Mr. Iglesias's classroom. It feels like home! I mean, school again.

MR. IGLESIAS

Yeah, it really does feel like we've been in virtual class forever.

MARISOL

It really does feel good to be back in here...

PAULA AND ABBY AND TONY ENTER

ABBY

You know I'm really proud of us.

PAULA

Yes, great job everybody.

TONY (NOTION TO ABBY)

Yes, these pythons really did a number on those boxes.

MARISOL

We fed about 1,200 students. That's nearly 80% of our student body.

PAULA

Well, that goes to show you, our hard work really did pay off.

MR. IGLESIAS

Sometimes it only takes a small team to make a huge impact.

MARISOL

Wow, this pandemic stuff really got us in our feels.

MR. IGLESIAS

Well, we gave out most of the food, but there's just enough boxes left for each one of us here.

MIKEY

Oh, yes! Woo, I was scared I missed out.

ABBY

Aww, you guys! Group hug!

CARLOS APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY

CARLOS

There are too many people in this classroom. Spread out! Spread Out!

END

CURTAIN CALL