

How NOT to build a cross-cultural friendship!

Sketch that could be used in a training capacity for an international café team

Characters:

Steve British 22 year old, very keen
Wong-Song Chinese older lady, Government official studying in Steve's town

Setting: an international café

Wong Song enters. Steve runs over to greet her

Steve: Hi! I'm Steve. Are you from Japan?

Wong Song: No, I am from the People's Republic of China.

Steve: Oh, isn't that where the Communists make you have only one baby?

Wong Song: It is the best policy for our country's future!

Steve: So, what did you say your name was?

Wong Song: My name is Wong Song. I am a party official in my country. I am in charge of the family planning policies.

Steve: OH! I see. Well Wrong Song, would you like some tea and cake?

Wong Song: Yes please. But my name is Wong Song.

They get drinks and cakes and sit down. Steve sits too close to her. She edges away and he realises and moves.

Steve: How old are you to be in such an important job?

Wong Song: In China we do not talk about age.

Steve: So what was your name? Oh Yes, Wrong Song

Wong Song: Excuse me...

Steve: I started doing evangelistic work when I was 15. You put people in prison for that in China don't you?

Wong Song: Pardon me; please could you speak a little slower?

Steve: Yes of course (repeats but way too slowly)

Wong Song: (Looks offended) In China we have freedom. There is no prejudice.

Steve: Oh really? In that case maybe you would like to meet up with me to read the Bible in my bedroom.

Wong Song: I think my studies will keep me very busy...

Steve: Oh in that case I have to go now. I have many other people to talk to!

Steve gets up and leaves her sitting alone.