Pleasures in Miranda

HUMOUR

Running jokes

* Miranda is regularly mistaken for a man – in transvestite dress shop the shop owner thinks she’s a man in drag
* Miranda’s mother thinks she’s hopeless and wants her to find a husband – mother holds up a banner saying ‘bride sale’ over Miranda in the street – Episode 3 – Miranda’ mother tries to get her a job in the navy
* Miranda is trying to impress Gary but always embarrasses herself – skirt falls down at disco, tells Gary she’s married with two children and then said they ‘froze to death’/ she tells Gary she is an Olympic gymnast

Visual humour/slapstick

* Miranda’s skirt falls down at disco
* Miranda’s mother holds a banner saying ‘bride sale’ because she wants M to find a husband
* Miranda pushes Stevie under the counter when Gary walks in
* Miranda falls over when she is trying to walk elegantly
* Miranda’s flat is filled with baby toys when she walks in with Gary after she’s told him she’s not interested in having a baby
* Episode 3 – Miranda sings the whole of Whitney Houston’s ‘The Greatest Love of All’ in a job interview

Use of props/costumes

* Miranda goes to the clothes shop ‘Transformers’ thinking it’s a women’s dress shop and returns dressed like a transvestite
* Miranda is eating a chocolate penis in the street and then puts it into a passerby’s bag
* Baby toys are in Miranda’s flat when Gary walks in

Satire

* Miranda makes fun of Trinny and Susannah type programmes during a sketch where she runs up to someone badly dressed and tells them it’s ok to wear it because they like it.

Saucy Humour/Innuendo

* Mother gives a sex toy to a baby for its christening
* Miranda eats a chocolate penis.

Characters

* Characters reflect the target audience – middle class and upwards
* Characters are exaggerated (except Gary) – we can laugh at their eccentric behavior
  + Penny – tries to be posh - whispers the wrong word when trying to be discreet
  + Stevie – excessively organized – thinks she’s running a global business but it’s just a small shop
  + Tilly – very posh and silly – uses made up words and nicknames – calls Miranda Queen Kong
* Miranda – we laugh with and at Miranda. We like her because she is able to laugh at herself and makes a fool of herself.

Techniques

* Miranda breaks the fourth wall to talk to the audience – we are immediately drawn in at the beginning of the episode – Miranda says – ‘Hello and how are you? This is exciting isn’t it?’
* At the end of the episode the caption comes up ‘You have been watching’ which was used in British sitcoms in the 70s and 80s. The actors names appear and they wave to the audience. This is an old fashioned technique that will appeal to the older audience as they will recognise it from their past.

Format

* Each episode has a resolved storyline – Episode 1 – Miranda’s date with Gary, Episode 2 – Miranda goes salsa dancing, Episode 3 – Miranda gets a job etc.
* Only 30 mins – can watch a whole episode in a short space of time.