

AMERICAN IDOL WORSHIP

by TROY SCHMIDT

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: The church holds auditions for someone to sing at an upcoming service. Three panel judges give their opinions.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The impressions don't have to be dead-on. People will get it. If the Simon character has a British accent, it would help

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 5

TOPIC: Worship

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 22:37, Psalm 5:5, Proverbs 11:2

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

SIMON—an honest and straightforward judge

PAULA—a sympathetic and optimistic judge

RANDY—a cool and hip judge

BARRY—an arrogant singer

JENNY—a well-meaning but terrible singer

PENNY—a small child with a sweet voice

PROPS: A table and three chairs for the judges

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character. Try to match the American Idol look of the judges. Simon has a black shirt, Randy has a loud shirt and glasses.

SOUND: Six wireless microphones, if desired (one handheld can be shared for singers)

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: An audition room

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AMERICAN IDOL WORSHIP *by Troy Schmidt*

We are in an audition room. SIMON, PAULA, and RANDY are sitting at the table watching our singer, JENNY, do a horrible rendition of "Kum-Ba-Ya." The body movements and hand motions in addition to the off-key singing stun our judges. The song finally, mercifully, ends. The judges can't speak.

SIMON: Well, I must say, the best part of that was the end.

RANDY: The VERY end. Like when it was over.

PAULA: Sweetie, do you really think you have what it takes to sing a solo during one of our worship services?

JENNY: No.

RANDY: Then why on earth did you come to the auditions?

JENNY: I like to torture people with my singing.

SIMON: Maybe the army could use you—or the CIA. Thank you.

JENNY walks off, waving happily.

PAULA: Send in the next singer.

BARRY walks in, a cocky, self-centered guy who chews gum while he sings.

RANDY: What's your name?

BARRY: I'm Barry. But my friends call me...Silk.

SIMON: Isn't that what caterpillars vomit?

PAULA hits him.

RANDY: So, what are you going to vomit...(PAULA hits him)...sing for us today...Silk?

BARRY: "Amazing Grace." Hope you like it.

The judges are impressed. Great choice—however, not this rendition. BARRY sings the first stanza of "Amazing Grace." His movements and improvisation suggest that he is attracting more attention to himself than the song. He's faking it for show—his body contorting, stomping his feet, rolling on the judges' table. When he finishes, the judges are stunned. Only BARRY can hear the applause.

BARRY: Thank you. Thank you very much.

SIMON: Now, who exactly were you worshipping with that song?