

CATHARSIS

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A rude customer service rep in an electronics store draws the attention of another worker, who discovers the man doesn't even work there.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This would be a nice illustration to start a sermon about being a Christian ALL the time, not just when you're at church. I'd love to tell you that was my inspiration, but that would be a lie. This skit is dedicated to anyone and everyone who: (a) had to wait on the public in retail, a call center, or similar line of work, and (b) had one of those days when you just wanted to drop the nice act and tell people to quit being stupid. Not that I advocate such behavior, but let's be honest: we've all felt this way.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3

TOPIC: Christian Living, Evangelism

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Colossians 3:23

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Illustration, Sermon Starter

CHARACTERS:

BRAD - a rude customer service rep

GLADYS - an old lady

RANDY - a nice husband

AMANDA - another customer service rep

MITCH - a bully

KELLY - Mitch's girlfriend

JUDY - lady with a country accent

PROPS: An MP3 player sales display; some shelves, merchandise you'd find in an electronics store

COSTUMES: Electronics store type uniforms for Brad and Amanda; casual dress for the others.

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: An electronics store

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The stage is set with an electronics counter. Some MP3 players are on display. Brad is on in a dark blue shirt and khaki pants. GLADYS enters.

GLADYS: Excuse me, sir?

BRAD: Yes?

GLADYS: I'm looking for a computer. Can you help me?

BRAD: Oh, I doubt it.

GLADYS: Beg your pardon?

BRAD: Let me guess. Your whole family's online now, and you want to get in on the action, sharing photos, using video chat, and listening to downloads of Nat King Cole on your MP3 player. Am I right?

GLADYS: Well, I was always partial to the King myself.

BRAD: Unfortunately, you're long past the age when people are best able to grasp on to high tech concepts like surfing the Internet, swapping photos, and downloading music, and instead of being that hip, high tech grandma you wanna be, you're going to be another boil on the butt of tech services, clogging the phone lines for hours with your stupid complaints. "The cup holder broke. My foot pedal's not working." Get a clue, granny! It's a DVD-ROM player, not a cup holder. That foot pedal you're stomping on is called a mouse, and that door over there is for you!

GLADYS: Well, I never.

BRAD: That's right you never. Never come back here, never buy a computer, and in fact, never even think about computers again! Go home, put some sad songs on the old Victrola, and leave the computing to those of us who are too young to remember the dinosaurs. Bye bye!

GLADYS leaves. RANDY enters.

RANDY: Hi there.

BRAD: Hello.

RANDY: Can you help me out? I wanted to get an iPod for my wife.

BRAD: An iPod.

RANDY: Yep.