

EDIFIERS ANONYMOUS

by JOHN C. HAVENS

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Four men join together for one of the most unique 12-step programs in existence. This exaggerated look at the need to edify one another pokes fun while tackling a serious issue.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: As this script uses exaggeration to make its point, allow the actors to go a bit over the top. Their edifying techniques are not meant to be "real world" techniques, but rather hyperbole. Still, it is important that their edifying comments are treated sincerely, which will also punch up the comedy. Todd should be played naturally, and a bit lost: a stranger in a strange land.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4

TOPIC: Self Image/Self Esteem, Love

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Romans 14:19

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Bible Study, Youth Group

CHARACTERS:

Abe — A member of Edifiers Anonymous

Dave — A member

John — A member

Todd — A friend of John's; new to the meetings

PROPS: 1) Four chairs
2) Podium (if desired)

COSTUMES: Upscale casual

SOUND: Four wireless mikes (or four regular mikes if desired)

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A church basement or a meeting room

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Lights up on four men milling around the stage waiting for the meeting to begin.

JOHN: I think you're going to get a lot out of this meeting, Todd.

TODD: You think so?

JOHN: I do. You're just the type of enthusiastic glass-half-full kind of guy that really makes the most out of every situation.

TODD: Gosh, thanks, John.

JOHN: No problem buddy.

ABE signals that the meeting is about to start. He stands at the podium.

ABE: Well, how about you fabulous bunch of guys just settle down and let's get this meeting started, huh? Well tickle me pink and shoe my donkey if you aren't the best looking muchachos I've seen around here for a long time.

DAVE: Right back at ya', Abey boy. You lose a couple of pounds since last week?

ABE: I did! And how sensitive of you to notice and kind of you to mention.

DAVE: Well, you're humble for not bringing it up first.

ABE: And that's an incisive and thoughtful thing to say.

He turns to face the podium.

ABE: Well, welcome everyone to "Edifiers Anonymous." I'm Abe.

DAVE and JOHN respond.

DAVE / JOHN: Hi, Abe!

JOHN: Great suit, buddy.

ABE: And that's great of you to say. Okay, anybody new today?

JOHN stands and indicates TODD.

JOHN: I'd like to introduce my friend Todd. Well, friend isn't really the best word for what he is. He's more of a lifelong faithful companion who would rather die than see you suffer. A compassionate man who knows how to help a guy when he's down no matter how busy he is at work or what's going on in his life. A soul brother of the highest caliber. Plus he's a heck of a golfer.