

FAULTY FOUNDATIONS

by STEVE MUNSON

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Talk show format with three legendary guests whose fame or success is revealed to be built on faulty foundations.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Here's a fun skit that will afford your more hammy actors a rare opportunity to play it over the top. The part of Sheila should be played straight, however— serious, but with a tendency for abruptness and turning suddenly and aggressively on her guests.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 7

TOPIC: Christian Living

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 6:46, Jeremiah 2:13

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

CHARACTERS:

SHEILA DE JESUS RAPHAEL—a successful daytime talk show host

CHARLOTTE O'HARA— a Southern belle

NORMA DESMOND— a decaying silent screen star

DON JUAN— a legendary Spanish lover

SISTER BRIGID— a nun

TWO MALE HOSPITAL ORDERLIES

PROPS: 3 director's chairs, a lady's fan made of play money, cigarette holder, hand mirror

COSTUMES: Hoopskirt, sun hat, leopard stole, 1920's style turban with feathers, woman's black wig, man's puffy shirt, red sash, black nun's habit, two pairs of men's white pants and white T-shirts

SOUND: Three cordless mics, one hand held microphone

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Daytime talk show set

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service@DramaMinistry.com
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Seated on stage are CHARLOTTE O'HARA, (Very much the Southern belle, dressed in a flouncy print dress and hoop skirt and a sun hat, fanning herself with a stack of money); NORMA DESMOND (decaying silent screen star, ghastly in heavy white makeup and too much mascara, leopard stole, turban with feathers galore, in one hand a mirror, which she continually consults, in the other a cigarette holder); DON JUAN (suave, slick and arrogant, thick Spanish accent, moustache, hair slicked back, puffy shirt, and red sash). Standing in front of this distinguished panel is daytime talk show host SHEILA DE JESUS [dee-Hay-soos] RAPHAEL, wearing pink-rimmed glasses, pantsuit, holds hand mic in one hand and cue cards in other hand.

SHELIA: (Grave and serious) Hello, I'm Sheila de Jesus Raphael, and welcome to our show. Today's topic: Faulty Foundations. And we're fortunate to have with us that perennial Southern belle, that blossom of the Old South, Miss Charlotte O'Hara.

CHARLOTTE: My, what a pretty dress, Sheila.

SHELIA: Do you like it?

CHARLOTTE: Just can't take my eyes off it.

SHELIA: We also have with us an actress—

NORMA: A great actress!

SHELIA: A great actress—

NORMA: And a legend.

SHELIA: Yes, a legend, long celebrated for her beauty. Silent screen star, Miss Norma Desmond.

NORMA: (Waving her fingers at the audience) Hello, all you beautiful, little, ordinary people sitting out there in the dark. (Blows them a kiss) (To SHEILA) Is it time for my close-up?

SHELIA: Not yet. And lastly, another icon, and a great favorite with the ladies. Don Carlos Ricardo Enriquez de Valencia y Zubaran, also known as ... Don Juan.

DON JUAN waves suavely, winking, and making eye contact with the ladies in the audience.

SHELIA: Miss O'Hara, we'll start with you. Or should I call you by your full legal name, Mrs. Katie Charlotte O'Hara Hamilton Kennedy Butler?

CHARLOTTE: Why, Sheila, I don't know what you mean? (Nervously fans herself)