

HELLO, YOU'RE ON THE AIR

by SEAN GAFFNEY

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: To ask questions about what causes discontentment as well as what doesn't solve discontentment.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Gary should have the freedom to move around: provide him with a swivel chair, perhaps on wheels, and help your actor refrain from hiding behind the desk. Gary is comfortable enough with his show to pace, sit on the desk, and move about as much as his headphone cords will allow. A headset with a microphone attachment is important. Gary is the only character we see onstage; the others are all voice-overs, so double casting is fine. If you double cast, however, work with the actors to establish unique voices for each character. Caller 1 refers to a "Democrat in the White House." If a Republican happens to be president when you perform this sketch, make the necessary adjustments to Caller 1's lines as well as Gary's responses.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 5

TOPIC: Contentment, Christian Living

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Ecclesiastes

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, General Service

CHARACTERS:

Gary-A radio call-in show host

Caller 1-A Republican who blames everything on the Democrats (voice-over)

Teacher-A voice of discontentment (voice-over) (taken from Ecclesiastes)

Bob-A lonely man (voice-over)

Confused-(voice-over)

Albert-A 30-year-old, feels like his life has been useless (voice-over)

Emma-An elderly caller (voice-over)

Jean-A woman looking for solitude (voice-over)

PROPS: Headset with long cord, a desk or table, a swivel chair, preferably on wheels, a multiple-line telephone (or a box with buttons)

COSTUMES: Business casual-he's at work, but it's radio

SOUND: One wireless mic; sound effect of a phone "click" to denote connection or disconnection of callers

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Stage left: contemporary home; stage right: 1970s home

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com
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HELLO, YOU'RE ON THE AIR *by Sean Gaffney*

We are watching a radio call-in show. All we see is a table with a microphone and multi-line phone. GARY sits at the table, wearing headphones. GARY talks quickly, is sarcastic and often condescending.

GARY: Hello, and welcome back to the hit talk show that has everybody talking: "What's the Problem?" I'm your host, Gary Copeland. Let's go right to our callers. *(Click)* Hello, you're on the air.

CALLER 1: Hello, is this Gary?

GARY: Yes, this is Gary. You're on the air.

CALLER 1: You know what I think the problem is?

GARY: No, what's the problem?

CALLER 1: The problem is having a Democrat in the White House, that's the problem!

GARY: I see. Let me ask you something: What was the problem four years ago?

CALLER 1: What do you mean?

GARY: Four years ago. We didn't have a Democrat in the White House. Was the world perfect? Huh? So what was the problem?

CALLER 1: I don't know about that, I only know ...

GARY: I didn't think so. *(Click)* Hello, you're on the air.

TEACHER: Meaningless, meaningless, utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless ...

GARY: *(Quickly)* Thank you for calling! *(Click)* My, that was uplifting. *(Click)* Hello, you're on the air.

BOB: Hello, Gary?

GARY: This is Gary. What's the problem?

BOB: I think the problem is loneliness.

GARY: Loneliness, eh. Who is this, please?

BOB: Ummm ... Bob.

GARY: Say, Bob, where are you calling from?