

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION SOLUTION INFOMERCIAL

by Jeffrey D. Collins

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: This sketch is an infomercial about a solution that helps people to make New Year's resolutions as well as the right New Year's resolutions (the right decision).

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1

TOPIC: New Year's

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 14:6

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS: Host—typical infomercial host
Bill—a professional businessman
Bob—a blue collar worker
Joanne—Bill's wife

PROPS: Three chairs (two together and one separate as if separated by an aisle)

COSTUMES: Bill wears a suit coat; Bob wears a baseball cap. (If one person does all four characters, use a suit coat for Bill, a baseball cap for Bob, and a wig for Joanne).

SOUND: One wireless microphone

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A studio during the filming of an infomercial

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Director's Tip:

There is a lot of mystery to this drama and that is one of the facets of the piece that makes it so appealing. By the end of the drama, a wonderful opportunity has really been created for an audience to wonder, "what did the counselor say to these people? What resolution have they made to improve their lives?" That said, it is imperative that this piece be followed up by a strong sermon or message that presents the Gospel to seekers, as the theme demonstrated by the author is: "Whether making no decision or wrong decisions, there is only one decision for life in Christ."

While the comedic value comes through the one man moving from chair to chair, changing hats to play all the characters, you must avoid overplaying the roles to the point of caricature. Blue-collar workers are sometimes stereotyped, or their wives could be seen as whiny. Avoid these stereotypes at all costs. If people in your audience are to identify with the all-inclusive message of the Gospel, the last thing you would want as dramatists is to judge the characters you're playing. On the contrary, your greatest hope as performers is that people would truly identify with the characters you're playing. Their catharsis at seeing their own situation at stage will make their yearning for the truth of Christ that much stronger and immediate.

HOST: Welcome to our show. Today we will focus on a problem that millions of Americans face this time of year. It is a time that brings great stress into the lives of individuals and families all over this country. For the next thirty minutes I am going to introduce you to people who have struggled with this yearly conflict and have found that our solution has helped them overcome this common problem.

Let me first introduce you to Bill.

Puts on suit coat and sits in first chair; smiles and waves to the audience; takes off coat and stands to become the HOST again.

Bill is a senior accountant for a major accounting firm, a husband and a father. By all outward appearances, Bill seems to have it all. But that's not what Bill told us when he first wrote to us two years ago. (*Looks at the chair as if looking at BILL.*) Bill?

Puts on suit coat and sits in chair.

BILL: I can remember when I finally got up the nerve to sit down and write you about my situation. I was at the end of my rope. Up to that point I thought I had it all...a great job, a beautiful house, a beautiful wife and great kids. But I had this one problem in my life that I just couldn't overcome.

Takes off suit coat and stands to become the HOST again.