

OPTIONS IN ALTERCATION

by JOHN C. HAVENS

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: This game show spoof is a fun way to approach a difficult topic: methods of fighting. Through humor, this script explores a variety of methods often employed in the midst of arguments and opens the door for talking about some good “options in altercation.”

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Comedy is all in the timing: line, beat, line. That beat of silence really makes it funny – the “take” to the audience, the roll of the eyes, the gesture of the hand, all done in silence. This sketch looks easy: two chairs, modern dress – what could be difficult? A lot, because it's comedy. To make this piece funny, you will need to direct the moments of silence in this script as much as the dialogue. Also, be careful not to project the end of the story in your direction. This sketch is very open-ended. Let it leave the audience hanging, and let the pastor close the gap.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3

TOPIC: Anger

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Mark 11:15-16, Ephesians 4:25-27

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship service, Bible study

CHARACTERS:

Stan - Julie's husband

Julie - Stan's wife

Narrator - A sportscaster-type who does a play-by-play commentary on the action

PROPS: 1) Two chairs 2) TV and remote control (can be pantomimed)

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character

SOUND: Three wireless mikes (or two wireless mikes for Stan and Julie and one stand mike for Narrator)

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Stan and Julie's home

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com

www.DramaMinistry.com

ISSN 1084-5917

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Kimberlee Crisafulli** / Assistant Editor: **Scott Crain**

Copyright ©2011 by Drama Ministry. Material is intended for use by the subscriber in the subscriber's local church. With the exception of scripts, no issue may be reproduced by any means. As a subscriber, you may make as many copies of scripts as needed in your church only. You may perform the sketch as often as you wish at no additional cost. Scripts and performance rights are not transferable between churches and cannot be resold. You may not use the sketch for any commercial or fundraising purpose, and usage rights do not extend to video, radio, television or film.

Drama Ministry is a division of
Belden Worship Resources
www.beldenworshipresources.com

OPTIONS IN ALTERCATION *by John C. Havens*

Scene opens with STAN sitting watching TV. He randomly changes channels. JULIE ENTERS and sits next to him, obviously wanting to speak to him. STAN doesn't catch on. JULIE clears her throat a few times, but STAN doesn't take the bait. Finally, JULIE gives in and starts an argument.

JULIE: (*Pretending to be STAN*) "Hi, sweetie, how was your day?" Fine, Stan. And you? "Great, honey, I just watched seven episodes of Welcome Back, Kotter reruns while you did all the household bills after having a really tough week at work!"

STAN starts to get irritated. NARRATOR ENTERS by jumping onstage. STAN and JULIE stand up and listen to NARRATOR.

NARRATOR: Hello, and welcome to Options in Altercation, the show that helps expand your tactics when battling with your loved ones. Communication is tough in this ever-changing world of faceless technology, so why bother?

STAN: If you're like me, you'll do anything to avoid confrontation.

JULIE: He sure will.

NARRATOR: And that's where we can help. What you just saw Julie do in our first scenario was what we call "The Blind-Side Buildup." That's when you've got a lot going on that your spouse has no idea about, and instead of bringing it up in a healthy fashion, you expect him or her to read your mind, and you get furious when he or she doesn't. Now let's repeat the end of the scenario and have Stan counter "The Blind-Side Buildup" with what we like to call, "Oh, It's All About You, Isn't It?"

STAN and JULIE sit back down in the same positions they were in when NARRATOR appeared.

JULIE finishes up the end of her last line.

JULIE: ... after having a really tough week at work!

STAN: (*Steamed, throws the remote down*) Oh, it's all about you, isn't it? You're the only one who's had a tough week, right? And just because I mowed the lawn for four hours this morning and took a little break to watch the sweatogs, all of a sudden I'm a heartless slug?

STAN and JULIE finish and stand. NARRATOR encourages applause from the audience.

NARRATOR: Duck and jab, just like a boxer. Avoidance is always a wonderful way to keep from communicating. Now, let's move to histrionics.

JULIE and STAN resume positions where STAN just finished yelling. JULIE starts to cry.