

Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

THE CRITICS

by John Cosper

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A group of churchgoers focus more on criticism of the church and its leaders than on worship.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Because the demands of the script call for all four main characters to be seated side by side, special care should be taken to make sure the audience's eyes are on the right person at the right time. Encourage your actors to stay in character throughout the scene (even when not speaking), but also try and minimize any unnecessary movements when their characters aren't the "focal point."

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 5

TOPIC: Worship, Church Life

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Psalm 100:4

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Illustration

CHARACTERS:

ELAINE – an old lady

A church USHER

BERT – a holier-than-thou type, middle aged

TODD – a young man, and a "wise" consumer

CINDY – a grateful church member

PROPS: Pew, clipboard

COSTUMES: Modern dress appropriate for the character

SOUND: Five wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A church

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com

www.DramaMinistry.com

ISSN 1084-5917

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

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.

THE CRITICS *by John Cospér*

ELAINE sits by herself on her pew.

ELAINE: *(To the audience)* Oh! What is it with this church and its music? It's not enough that they no longer sing the correct music, and our hymnbooks gather dust. They have to turn it up loud. Everything's so loud! Honestly, do we have to blare the music so that it makes an old lady's bones shake? And do we have to make it worse with all the standing and sitting and standing and sitting? I come to church to get a little peace in my heart, and I leave with a ringing in my ears and a spasm in my back.

The USHER enters, followed by BERT.

USHER: Excuse me, Miss. Would you mind scooting over just a bit?

ELAINE: Scooting over? From my seat?

USHER: Yes, ma'am. We just need to squeeze a few more in.

ELAINE: Of course, of course. *(To audience)* I spoke too soon. Not only is this place losing its sense of honor ... but they make an old woman move out of the seat she has held forever. Well, at least the movement gives me a chance to circulate my blood. This place is so cold!

BERT: *(To audience)* Why is this church always so hot?? Seriously, I ask you, are we trying to mold people in Christ's image like clay, or bake them? No, I'll tell you what it is. The warm temperatures give that so-called worship leader an excuse for not wearing the proper church attire. I've worn a shirt and tie every Sunday to church since I was two. And in every church I've ever attended since that time, every minister has had the good sense to do the same. Then I come to Rocky Peak, and I have to ask myself ... am I attending church, or a hoedown? In fact, if I am not mistaken ... yep, looks like Brent's wearing his Sunday jeans today. Next thing you know, he'll be wearing pants with the knees worn out because they're so "holy."

The USHER enters with TODD.

USHER: Pardon me, folks, can we make a little more room?

BERT and ELAINE move. TODD sits down on the pew.

ELAINE: *(To audience)* Not again! I'm getting further away from my spot. And this seat's all cold!

BERT: *(To audience)* Of course. Disrupting my worship experience to make room for the inconsiderates who arrive late. Sometimes I wonder if I'm the only one who notices what's wrong in this church.