

THE DADDY GAME

by John Cospér

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Three dads compete in a game-show atmosphere to determine how they rate as fathers, but the winning dad struggles with the final round's "Big Question."

DIRECTOR'S TIP: In a scene as fast-paced and complex as this one, rehearsal is critical. Practice makes permanent, so once the blocking is established and the lines are memorized, be sure to run the scene through several times in its entirety — and that includes all of the props, lighting, and sound cues — in order to "imprint" it in your actors' minds. One of the benefits of the "game show" genre is that the contestants can afford to be a little nervous, so a flubbed line can be covered; but be certain the actress playing your hostess has everything in order (with the lines and order of events on her "cue cards," if necessary).

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 5

TOPIC: Parenting, Family

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Proverbs 22:6

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

DOLLY WHITE —game show hostess

WILLIAM MAJORS—an Air Force colonel

DAVE SANDERS—a writer

MRS. BARRY GOLD—wife of a workaholic

VOICE OVER/STUDIO ANNOUNCER

PROPS: Three "contestant" lecterns/podiums, one host lectern/podium, two laundry baskets with white and black clothes (one red sock in each), one hamper with a very large fake spider, a fake gun, a handkerchief (in DAVE's pocket), question cards for host, two hall trees with a shirt, pants, and many ties on a hook.

COSTUMES: Modern dress

SOUND: Four wireless microphones; SFX (game-show-style buzzer and bell)

LIGHTING: General stage, spotlights if desired

SETTING: Television studio of The Daddy Game game show

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THE DADDY GAME *by John Cospers*

Lights up. On screen: "QUIET ON THE SET"

VO: "Welcome to The Daddy Game!" America's only game show where dads compete for cash and prizes! Here's your host ... DOLLY WHITE!!

SFX: Applause, music.

DOLLY: Thanks everybody! Welcome to The Daddy Game! *(Walks to contestant podium)* Let's meet our contestants, shall we? Our first contestant is stationed in Austin, Texas. Colonel William Majors of the United States Air Force. How are you today, Will?

WILLIAM: Please, it's William, Ma'am.

DOLLY: Right. You are the father of three boys?

WILLIAM: Affirmative. I've been proud to serve the U.S. of A. for twenty years now, and I have a fine family. At home I run a tight ship, so to speak, and I'm looking forward to showing today how a firm hand keeps things running smoothly. I ... uh ... also want to win that convertible over there — oooh, baby!!

DOLLY: Well good luck and good to have you "aboard!" And this is Dave Sanders! Hello, Dave.

DAVE: *(To audience)* Hi Dolly! Well, I have two daughters. I'm a mystery writer, live in Colorado, sort of your "everyday guy." I have a book coming out which means I haven't been able to do much around the house ... but ... I had this bet with my wife that I know enough to win this game show, so here I am!

DOLLY: Great. And here we are with ... with ... Barry Gold? Where's contestant number three?

MS. G: *(Runs up from audience with purse, cell phone and day-timer)* Hello, hi, hi. I'm Mrs. Barry Gold. *(Into phone)* Hold on, honey ... My husband is caught in a meeting, he's just been promoted to V.P. at Weller Associates. I dropped the kids off at soccer and ballet and have a PTA meeting at 3:00, but I can stand in for him until he gets here. After all, that's why he's working, so I can stay home -- or be on TV as the case may be. *(Into phone)* I'll tell them. He says he's sorry, but he'll make it up to you - take you all out for ice cream or something. *(She smiles).*

DOLLY: Judges? Okay! Well, good to have you Mrs. Gold *(Takes phone.)* And Mr. Gold, good luck!

On screen: "THE DADDY GAME - ROUND 1"