

## THE VIPER

by Frederick Schuszler

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** In this humorous look at standing up to the power of evil and speaking God's truth, three young people confront a vampire who claims he has the power to control them. They produce traditional talismans to ward off vampires, using these as symbols of the "tools" that God has given them to resist temptation and to empower them. (A "thankful heart" is one of those gifts.) The conclusion emphasizes gratitude for these gifts and the joy of being accepted for who we are.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 4

**TOPIC:** Spiritual Warfare, Evangelism, Youth

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Ephesians 6:10-17, 1 Peter 3:15-16

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Thanksgiving

**SUGGESTED USE:** Worship Service

**CHARACTERS:**

THE VIPER--talks in Bela Lugosi accent. Cheesy vampire costume.

YOUNG PERSON #1--Down-to-earth, sensible young woman.

YOUNG PERSON #2--A little bit flighty young woman. Speaks in Valley-girl phrases.

YOUNG PERSON #3--Slacker-dude posture and tone of voice, using words like "dude" in a monotone.

**PROPS:** Backpacks for each character, a mirror, a strand of garlic or large garlic bulb, a cross, fake plastic heart

**COSTUMES:** Vampire costume, contemporary attire appropriate for each character

**SOUND:** CD of Brahms' "Hungarian Dance #5" or gypsy violin music

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Open space

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### Director's Notes:

Much of the fun of this script comes from the juxtaposition of archetypes that don't normally go together. Take time to look at some photos, films or artwork that capture these stereotypes well. Enjoy recreating their gestures, body shapes and voices. Also, let the power of the vampire remain a threat until his true identity is revealed. Pick a moment when he reasserts his threat and must be put down again. If he's defeated immediately, there is no reason to keep going!

*VIPER approaches young people. VIPER is dressed in stereotypical vampire attire. Young people see him approaching and whisper to themselves.*

**VIPER:** Hello!

**YOUNG PERSON #1:** Sir, I don't mean any disrespect, but aren't you a little old to be trick-or-treating?

**YOUNG PERSON #2:** And like Halloween is soooo yesterday...like wasn't it three weeks ago?

**YOUNG PERSON #3:** But, man, your disco-era pilgrim costume is...uh...interesting.

**VIPER:** Allow me to introduce myself. I am a thousand-year-old Hungarian vampire—I am called The Viper!

**YOUNG PERSON #1:** Ooookaaaay.

**YOUNG PERSON #2:** You'll excuse us, we're due back on planet earth any minute now.

**VIPER:** You don't believe? (*Incredulously*) I will show you the power of The Viper! I will snap my fingers and you will hear wild Hungarian music and you will be mesmerized. Then you will be in my power!

*The VIPER snaps fingers and music plays. (Brahms' "Hungarian Dance #5" is a good vigorous choice or any mournful violin music would be another way to go.) The young people seem to be in a trance then pause and quickly snap out of it.*

**YOUNG PERSON #2:** Naaaaaaahhhh! We don't think so!

**YOUNG PERSON #1:** I mean, this doesn't make any sense. Like, I'm a young, strong, independent Christian woman. Why would I fall under the power of a thousand-year-old geezer?