

THE WEDDING RING

by Troy Schmidt

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: A husband and wife fight it out with the corner men cheering them on.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4

TOPIC: Marriage, Relationships

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Ephesians 4:17-19

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Marriage Conference

CHARACTERS:

HUSBAND - bitter and ready to battle

WIFE - bitter and ready to battle

MALE CORNER MAN - the husband's coach

FEMALE CORNER MAN - the wife's coach

PROPS: 2 chairs, 2 water bottles, 2 towels, 2 buckets

COSTUMES: Husband and wife in casual attire. Corner men should be in workout clothes.

SOUND: Four wireless microphones; SFX: Bell

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A living room

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Director's Tip:

KEEP SWINGIN': To create and maintain the illusion of a boxing match, keep the energy between all of your actors moving at a fever pitch. The scene starts with the 'fight' already in full swing, so there's really no time to build—make sure your actors are going for the jugular from their opening lines.

A fast paced line delivery not only guarantees an interesting scene, but it will add punch to the first quiet moment of the script—the embrace between the battle-weary husband and wife. This is a pivotal moment in the scene, so make sure it doesn't get lost:

SFX: In addition to the bell sound effect, it may also be in your best interest to add a "crowd" effect at the beginning of the scene to help establish the setting.

STAYING ENGAGED: Keep the corner men engaged while the husband and wife are going toe-to-toe center stage, and while the audience focus is on the other corner. Be sure that your actors are staying "alive" and in character, even when the congregation's attention is supposed to be elsewhere.

STRIKING THE SET: The stage directions call for the corner men to strike their respective set items (stools, towels, etc.) before their final lines. Don't forget to rehearse this little bit of stage business and keep it smooth. A slow or "clunky" exit can cause the scene to fizzle in its final moments, dampening the effect of the piece.

FRONT AND CENTER: Encourage your actors portraying the husband and wife to keep their faces forward while delivering their lines, and fight the temptation to turn and face their respective corner men. Likewise be careful that your corner men's faces don't get blocked behind their respective fighters!

BACK AND FORTH: The Wedding Ring calls for a lot of back and forth dialogue as we get a peek into each corner, and a fair amount of rehearsal time may be needed to make this dynamic work. Keep running the lines until they flow seamlessly between corners, and be sure the intensity doesn't get lost in the process.

HUSBAND and WIFE square off center stage in a heated exchange. On the back two corners of the stage sit two chairs. In those chairs sit the MALE CORNER MAN and the FEMALE CORNER MAN, watching and listening, but not reacting. We're wondering why they are there.

HUSBAND: Why don't you ever listen to me?!

WIFE: I am listening to you! I just don't like what you have to say!