

TRICK OR TREAT

by Troy Schmidt

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: A strange Halloween visitor displays a remarkable trick, making the homeowner very uncomfortable.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The pauses indicated in the script should be long enough to get across the impression of John's growing discomfort without giving the sense that someone forgot his lines. Don't let the actors rush through the moments of silence. If necessary, assign a certain length to the pauses. Tell your actors to take a beat or two, or three, whatever feels right and to count those beats mentally as they rehearse. The silences are just as important as the spoken lines.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Sin, Repentance, Halloween

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 16:8-11, 1 Corinthians 2:10

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Men's Gathering

CHARACTERS:

John—homeowner

Ghost—trick-or-treater (played by a small kid or adult)

PROPS: Trick-or-treater's bag for candy, candy, bowl for candy, newspaper, chair

COSTUMES: Ghost costume (simple sheet with holes cut out)

SOUND: Two wireless mics

LIGHTING: General Stage

SETTING: Front door of a house

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JOHN, the homeowner, sits onstage in a chair, reading the newspaper. The GHOST enters from offstage or through the audience, walking down the aisle. The GHOST walks to the stage and knocks. JOHN gets up, grabs the candy bowl and walks to the "door." He opens it.

GHOST: *(Monotone)* Trick or treat.

JOHN looks over the simple costume.

JOHN: What is this supposed to be?

GHOST: A ghost.

JOHN: Well, I know that. But, a sheet with holes cut out of it? C'mon. I've seen Spider Man costumes, ballerinas, astronauts, George W. Bush, even a chocolate fudge sundae with whipped cream, nuts and a cherry.

The GHOST doesn't answer.

JOHN: Can you at least say something scary?

GHOST: *(Long pause)* Boo.

JOHN: Ha-ha...oooo...that was horrifying. Try harder. If it wasn't for the holes cut out, I would think you were a walking Sealy Posturepedic.

GHOST: *(Long pause)* Boo.

JOHN: *(Giving up)* Alright. You want a treat? Then show me a trick.

No answer.

JOHN: A trick. Do something amazing. You're a ghost, so tell me what my name is.

GHOST: *(Long pause)* John.

JOHN: *(Startled)* That's pretty good. How did you...from the mailbox. It has my name on it. Pretty sneaky. Try something else. Something harder. Where did I go to college?

GHOST: *(Pause)* Penn State University *(Or any local college).*

JOHN: *(Startled)* Wow. How did...*(Realizes)* my car! I have an alumni sticker on the back. Okay, so you're observant. I want a trick. Amaze me with your ability. Tell me something about myself that no one else knows. You are a ghost!

GHOST: You're having an affair.