

TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE COMICS

by Sean Gaffney

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: To prepare the audience for a discussion on the perceived relativity of truth; to raise the questions, "Can there be one truth? Isn't everything relative, depending on point of view?"

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Truth

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 1:14-17, John 18:36-38

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Christmas Service, Easter Service, Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

Jean-Wayne's wife; spends time with Wayne reading newspapers

Wayne-Jean's husband; an avid newspaper reader

PROPS: 1) Two comfortable chairs

2) A stack of newspapers, including The National Enquirer, The New York Times, and The Daily News.

COSTUMES: Casual clothing, appropriate to character

SOUND: Two wireless mikes

LIGHTING: General Stage

SETTING: Jean and Wayne's home

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www.DramaMinistry.com
ISSN 1084-5917

Publisher: Regi Stone

Executive Editor: Kimberlee Crisafulli / Assistant Editor: Scott Crain

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Director's Tip:

This sketch is intended to ask questions, not to answer them. Because of the nature of the questions raised here, it is very important that the sketch be followed by a sermon or discussion that offers answers. By taking two papers, The New York Times (“All the news that’s fit to print”) and The Daily News (“Truth, Justice and the Comics”), both of which pride themselves on truth and accuracy, and juxtaposing their “facts,” the sketch shows the difference between opinion and truth. Pacing is critical here. Once the contest between the papers begins, the actors must suspend disbelief by finding and reading information without having to search for it. Real-time acting won’t work here. Start the sketch slowly and pick up speed until the papers are barely being referred to. Note: The last attempt by Wayne with the Spiderman comment is intentionally made not to refer to the newspaper at all. The New York Times does not carry comics; Wayne makes the comment out of pure frustration, grasping at straws. By the way, The Daily News, as their slogan suggests, proudly carries the comics.

Lights up on a couple sitting comfortably in a living room. They have obviously been married for a long while. Each is engrossed a different newspaper and does not necessarily look at the other when conversing. WAYNE holds up The New York Times. JEAN reads The National Enquirer. A stack of other papers litters the floor.

JEAN: Oh my!

WAYNE: What’s that?

JEAN: Turns out Elvis is alive after all.

WAYNE: What’s that?

JEAN: Elvis. Been hiding out in New Mexico. Showed up in Nashville last week with a new record album and two wives.

WAYNE: Huh.

Pause.

JEAN: Oh dear.

WAYNE: What’s that?

JEAN: Cher and Michael Jackson are getting married. (*WAYNE lowers the paper and glares at her. Pause. They resume reading.*) Oh my stars.

WAYNE: Now what?