

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN HURT YOU

by Bethany Wallace

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A parody of the news media and a glimpse into America's obsession with fear.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This drama demands crisp timing and well-choreographed movements. Make sure to allow at least one run through where the focus is solely on stage action rather than words. This way when you add the lines in your next rehearsal you'll have a much tighter run through.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4

TOPIC: Fear

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 14:27

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship service, Bible study

CHARACTERS:

Jane—a newscaster

Bob— a newscaster

* Jill—an off-site newscaster

* Hank—logger from Montana

* Walter—scientist

* Bunny—Walter's assistant

* Misc. Actor—to play the part of the man who falls on the escalator, and the big, scary bug

* Two actors—a male and female, can play all these parts.

PROPS: Two chairs and a table for the newscasters, three chairs in a row to make an escalator, bed, etc., plenty of Saran Wrap

COSTUMES: Modern dress

SOUND: Seven wireless mics

LIGHTING: General Stage

SETTING: Television filming studio

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The newscasters are seated in chairs behind a table at start.

JANE: Good evening, and welcome back to KPOW's eleven o'clock news. Well, Bob, I'll bet you never thought twice about riding an escalator ...

BOB: No, I'll admit I haven't.

JANE: You may change your mind after hearing this. Numerous serious injuries have been linked to escalators around the country. This video clip gives one example of how these moving stairways can be extremely dangerous.

Actor mimes going up an escalator behind three chairs, but when he gets to the top, he trips and falls dramatically, wincing in pain.

BOB: Ouch.

JANE: The man in this video caught his shoelace in the moving escalator and is currently in critical condition at a nearby hospital. He is suing the department store for fifty million dollars and the cost of a new pair of shoelaces.

BOB: That's tragic, really tragic. What you don't know can hurt you: a new study shows that butter may cause cancer. In a recent study, researchers found that sixty-five percent of all people who have developed cancer regularly eat butter. The researchers also found that certain forms of sugar, toothpaste, deodorant, soda pop, and the new purple M&Ms are also possible causes of cancer. In the meantime, it's best to avoid all of these things until further notification from the medical profession.

JANE: Scientists are worried about a new breed of killer squirrels. It seems that squirrels in Kalispell, Montana, have shown an increase in aggressiveness during the past three weeks. Let's go to JILL who's on the scene now.

JILL: Thanks, Jane. We're here with Hank Miller, a logger for a local lumber company. Tell us about your experience, Hank.

HANK: Well, me and the boys were out here cuttin' down some trees, when I heard this screechin' sound. At first I thought it was just the whine of the chainsaw, but then I saw something comin' towards me outta the corner of my eye. Before I knew what had happened, I was flat on the ground with a deranged squirrel on my back. The boys, they managed to scare it off, but I heard of two other cases like this since we began cuttin' down these here woods. I'm tellin' you, I'm thinkin' about quittin' my job here; I just don't feel safe here anymore!