DRAMA Ministry

GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE CHURCHES

by Spencer Bennett

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Goldilocks is looking for a church to join. Here are three very different possibilities for her.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The weight of this skit is on Ted and Alice. They are over-the-top singers and dancers in Scene One (they don't have to be good, just exuberant), "mafia" church types in the second scene, and gracious church members in the third scene. Goldilocks should be overwhelmed by the entertainment church and cower at the hostility of the second church but should express final satisfaction at the third. The point of the skit is that churches often project an image that ignores the needs of potential members.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3

TOPIC: Church Life

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

NARRATOR (offstage)

GOLDILOCKS— a single mother with two small children (not present) who is new in the community and is looking for a church that is right for her. She shows up on Sunday morning at three different churches.

TED & ALICE-greeters/hosts at three different churches

PROPS: Straw hats and canes, fedoras and dark glasses, a box of toys (including a teddy bear)

COSTUMES: Church attire for Goldilocks; black tee shirts and black pants for Ted and Alice

SOUND: Four wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Church narthex for first two scenes, a children's classroom in the third

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Scene opens with GOLDILOCKS center stage facing the congregation. TED and ALICE behind her, stage right, also facing the congregation. They are wearing straw hats and leaning on canes expectantly.

NARRATOR: Once upon a time there was a single parent named Goldilocks with two adolescent children, Hansel and Gretel. She had just moved into our town and was looking for a church to join, some place where she and her kids would be welcome, some place where she and her kids could become an active part of the community. Let's join her in her search.

GOLDILOCKS: Hi, my name is Goldilocks. I'm new in town and I thought I would come to your worship service this morning. I have two children named Hansel and....

TED/ALICE: (Interrupting with singing and dancing) Another opening, another show, another service that really glows. Another sermon that really zings. Another choir that really sings.

GOLDILOCKS: That's nice but I was hoping for something more intimate and warm. I have these two children, Hansel and....

TED/ALICE: (*First puzzled, then recognition; interrupts with singing and dancing*) There's no people like church people, they smile when they are down. Everything about them is exciting, everything the trustees will allow. When you see God's name in neon lighting, all things are right in his hallowed halls.

Lights down.

NARRATOR: And so Goldilocks, overwhelmed by the lights, the glitter, and the entertainment extravaganza that marked this first church, sadly tipped the parking valet and drove away from the marquee advertising "Faith with nothing down at zero percent interest" and made her way to a second church: a church unlit with shades drawn and only one door unlocked.

Lights up. TED and ALICE are wearing fedoras and dark glasses. They are back to back leaning against each other. Their hats are lowered over their eyes. ALICE faces stage right, TED stage left but both are stage right. GOLDILOCKS is facing the congregation with a tentative look.

GOLDILOCKS: He...llo. My name is Goldilocks. I'm new in town and I thought I would come to your worship service this morning. I have these two children, Hansel and.....

TED: Forgetaboutit. We don't do da childcare bit in dis choich, see! Dis place is fer adults. Da Godfader don't go in for rugrats. It distoibs da peace and quiet. See?