

Drama Ministry®

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QUIET ANGELS

by MATTHEW REITHMAYER

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Through a series of short monologues, we hear the desires of three people to be doing greater work: for God, for their family, for their community. But we also hear how those same people have unknowingly had dramatic effects on the lives of those around them.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 6

TOPIC: Servanthood, Christian Living

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 25:31-46, Hebrews 13:2

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship service, Bible study

CHARACTERS:

MARVIN – A 63 year-old man, grocery store owner

LISA – A 29 year-old single mother

Frank – A 45 year-old man, tow truck driver

ROGER – A 32 year-old lawyer

JAN – A 39 year-old mother

LIZ – Jan's daughter, 17 years old

PROPS: None needed

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing

SOUND: 6 wireless mikes

LIGHTING: Spots for six monologues (or two areas)

SETTING: Three chairs in a general setting

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DIRECTOR'S TIP:

The point of this sketch is that everyone can be used by God everyday in quiet, but important, ways. To illustrate this you can break the fourth wall (the imaginary wall that separates the audience from the actors) by having Marvin, Frank and Jan come out of the audience. Sitting near the aisles throughout the room, their standing will be a symbol of how each of the audience members can be used by God. (Not to mention the fact that the unconventional blocking will pull the audience into their stories.) The placement of the actors must allow ample time to reach the stage while delivering their monologues. Have them approach the stage in a manner that allows them to be heard by everyone in the audience. The last few lines should be said after they reach their chairs.

Part of your job as a director is to ensure that every word is heard by the audience. This can be challenging given the acoustics of your performing space, especially when actors are coming from the audience. While body mikes are an important, and sometimes necessary tool, actors must be trained to not use them as an excuse for mumbling their lines. During a final rehearsal have each actor deliver some lines at "performance level." Have the other cast members positioned throughout the audience to give feedback on what volume is right. Depend on your performance mikes for group balance, not projection.

Scene opens with six people standing on stage. They address the audience.

MARVIN: Hello. My name is Marvin Allen Johnson. I've been living on this earth for 63 years, and running this store for 44 of those. Now, I hadn't always wanted to run it, mind you — sure, I used to help stock the shelves and help my dad with the books, but I really had higher hopes than owning a mom and pop grocery. God kinda threw a wrench into things, though, when he took my dad up to see him. I was 19 at the time, and with a mom and a sister to support, this place was our only real hope. So here I sit, stocking, cleaning, reading the occasional comic book, and waiting for God to use me in some big way.

LISA: My name is Lisa Watkins. I'm 29 years old, and I've been raising my son, Ray, for eight of those. Being a single mom hasn't been easy. I work all day for a small law firm, make the commute both ways through tons of traffic, get home just in time to pay the sitter and start dinner before running out of steam and crashing on the couch. But when I see Ray's face at the door, and he smiles and runs to hug me, I know that it's all worthwhile.

We were at the store yesterday, buying a few small things for the weekend, when Ray ran up to me with a coloring book and crayons. "Can we get these, mommy?" he asked. "Not today, sweetie. We don't have money for more play stuff right now." I looked up