Drama Ministry POINT, CLICK, ACTION!

SAINT NICK

by Scott Crain

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A man flying home for the Christmas holiday strikes up a conversation with a fellow traveler in a Santa suit, and in the process learns a lesson on charity.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Hal comes on a bit strong, but shouldn't be unlikable; keep both characters as natural as possible in order to get the maximum effect from the dialogue.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3

TOPIC: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 10:30-37

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Christmas Service

CHARACTERS:

HAL mid-forties

NICK late twenties or older

WOMAN (VO): airline announcer (can be prerecorded)

PROPS: A newspaper, a carry-on bag, a small wrapped Christmas gift,

an airline ticket

COSTUMES: Suit for Hal, Santa suit for Nick

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: An airport terminal (represented by a single row of chairs)

Drama Ministry

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Lights up. HAL sits reading a newspaper as WOMAN speaks over the PA system:

WOMAN (VO): Flight 8213 to Atlanta will now begin boarding at Gate C-12. Flight 8213 to Atlanta at Gate C-12.

HAL checks his watch as NICK, a young man in a Santa costume, enters and eases into the chair two seats down. HAL notices him and grins. Beat, then:

HAL: What's the matter—Rudolph and the boys couldn't hack it this year?

Pause, then NICK realizes he's being addressed.

NICK: I'm sorry?

HAL: I said Rudolph and the boys couldn't hack it this year—you decided to fly first class?

Beat, then NICK smiles.

NICK: Oh, the suit...right.

HAL: (Still grinning) Yeah, I guess you get a lot of frequent flyer miles, what with the distance in from the North Pole and all.

NICK: Yeah.

HAL: Must be hard to get the pilot to stop at every chimney, though. (NICK smiles politely again and looks away. HAL extends his hand.) Name's Hal.

NICK shakes his hand.

NICK: I'm Nick.

HAL: (*Grins*) Course you are, course you are. Saint Nick, right? You heading home for the holidays?

NICK: Uh, no, actually.

HAL: (Barely hearing him) Well, I'm headed back home, and not a minute too soon. Only thing worse than fighting the Christmas shopping crowd is doing it in a strange town. I've been stuck here for two weeks on business, and every time I talk to the kids on the phone, all they do is recite their Christmas lists. Like they think I'm some kind of mail order catalog. Look here.

He rummages in his suitcase and pulls out a small rectangular wrapped gift.