

Drama Ministry®

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TIL WHEN?

by John Cosper

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A modern-thinking couple interjects during their own wedding ceremony to oppose the idea of keeping their vows till death.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3

TOPIC: Marriage, Relationships

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Genesis 2:24

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Marriage, Sermon Starter

CHARACTERS:

PASTOR CHAZ—a minister

MIKE—a groom

VICKI—a bride

PROPS: Bible, bouquet

COSTUMES: Tuxedo, suit, wedding dress

SOUND: Three wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Church wedding

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TIL WHEN? *by John Cospers*

Director's Tip:

COSTUMING: While a tuxedo and wedding dress for Mike and Vicki aren't absolutely required (a dark suit and white dress with a veil will communicate the point), they would be a huge bonus. If the actor and actress don't have them handy, try asking around. Many brides keep their dress from the big day squirreled away in storage, and may not mind loaning it out for a good cause.

BLOCKING: Blocking "Till When" could be tricky, as traditionally Pastor Chaz would be standing upstage of Mike and Vicki, and that means your bride and groom will have to turn away from the audience to address him. Make sure your actors "open up" downstage as much as possible during these lines, and spread out a bit to keep from blocking Chaz from view.

RUNAWAY BRIDE: The scene closes with both bride and groom-to-be calling it quits, but it may be visually effective to have Vicki storm back down the aisle following her closing line (perhaps handing her bouquet roughly to Chaz before she does), and Mike exiting stage left, leaving the bewildered pastor alone at center stage as lights fade down.

GETTING IT: The comedy of the scene of course stems from the fact that Mike and Vicki have apparently never heard the marriage vows prior to their own wedding. Take time in rehearsal to explore their process of "getting it." The transition from starry-eyed romance to complete disillusionment can be a lot of fun: keep the tone serious at first, and then descend into silliness as the objections start.

CHARACTERIZATION: While Mike and Vicki can afford to be played for full comedic effect, Pastor Chaz should probably play it straight. His advice is the real "point" of the scene, and you don't want to risk the audience missing it with an overly comic portrayal. Keep him sincere—even if that means sincerely confused!

Organ wedding music plays. PASTOR CHAZ enters and stands down center on stage. MIKE and VICKI walk down the aisle to him.

CHAZ: Dearly beloved, we are gathered here on this joyous day to witness the union of Mike and Vicki in holy matrimony. This honorable estate was created by God when he brought Adam and Eve together. And it is into this same wondrous mystery that Mike and Vicki now enter. Mike, Vicki, do you come here today of your own free will?

MIKE/VICKI: We do.

CHAZ: And do you enter into this accord freely?