

YOU WANT CHANGE FOR THAT QUARTER?

by George Halitzka

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A Salvation Army volunteer finds dramatically different views on charity among a host of holiday shoppers.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The various shoppers can be on stage at lights up, frozen in poses indicative of their characters and 'unfreezing' when the scene begins.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 7

TOPIC: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Acts 20:35

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Service, Sermon Starter

CHARACTERS:

KRISTA
GEORGE
LAURA
AMBER
VINCE
CATHY
ART

PROPS: A collection can, several shopping bags, bench, calculator, Bible, wallet, money

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Seven wireless microphones; SFX: shopping mall music, if desired

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A shopping mall

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KRISTA stands center stage, beside a sign and a collection can--she is taking donations for the Salvation Army in a busy mall.

As the lights come up, we hear tinny music over the loudspeakers, everyone unfreezes and goes his or her separate way. GEORGE and LAURA, a young couple, begin to cross the stage. GEORGE is staggering under the weight of many gift-wrapped boxes and shopping bags. LAURA is walking briskly along with nothing in her hands, carrying on a steady stream of dialogue.

LAURA: . . . And forget Aunt Selma; she bought me socks for my birthday! Socks! They weren't even Abercrombie; some Wal-Mart special . . . could you believe it?

No answer.

Could you believe it, Georgie?

She glances backwards her struggling husband.

What's taking so long?

GEORGE is trying to say something, but has a shopping bag in his mouth. He spits it out.

GEORGE: Laura, Sugar Cookie, do we have to finish Christmas shopping in [Current Month]?

LAURA: Now Georgie, you know the early bird gets the fall clearance. Let me help.

With total sincerity, LAURA takes a tiny bag off the top of the stack and keeps walking.

GEORGE staggers over to a nearby bench, where he drops his load.

You're keeping track of all this, right? You know what happens when I see a sale? There are some things money can't buy, but for everything else, there's a second mortgage.

A beat.

Oh! What are we doing for your mother? I thought maybe a new vacuum, but the woman already rides a broomstick . . . And Aunt Mildred! What do you get for the cat lady?

A sudden inspiration.

Carpet deodorizer! Perfect! Are you coming, Georgie-Porgie?

GEORGE: Why don't I wait here, Cream Puff?