

YOU'VE BEEN CENSORED, CHARLIE BROWN

by John Cosper

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: A TV network censorship panel must meet new standards and cut the Christian ending off "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Ideally, this scene would be played with the network staffers on stage, and the scene from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" where Linus recites the Christmas story playing on a video screen. If that's not possible, an actor can play Linus, in the appropriate Peanuts costume, on stage in a spotlight.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 5

TOPIC: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 2:8-14

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Service, Sermon Starter

CHARACTERS:

Greg, Glenda, Brad -- Maury's underlings
Linus (optional)

PROPS: Table and chairs

COSTUMES: Business attire; Linus costume if a live actor is used

SOUND: Four or five wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A board room

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MAURY and company are sitting at a conference table.

The phone rings. MAURY answers.

MAURY: Standards and practices... Hello, Mr. Clark! Yes, we're sitting down to look at it now... I realize where the network stands, and I assure you, we won't let you down... uh huh. Okay, Mr. Clark, will do.

MAURY hangs up.

GREG: So what's the big emergency, Maury?

MAURY: Kids, we got a major crisis on our hands. As you know, the FCC passed new regulations regarding offensive content on television. It's very important that we here do not let anything air that might violate those new rules.

GLEENDA: We know all about that, Maury. What's the problem?

MAURY: The problem, Glenda, is that the boys in programming approved a certain thirty minute TV special to air on television tomorrow night that we now have to fix.

BRAD: Thirty minutes? We aired Pulp Fiction two months ago. How bad can it be?

MAURY: How bad? Johnny! Can you run tape for us? You kids watch the screen. You'll see the problem.

Spotlight on LINUS, far stage right. Or, play the scene from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" on the video screen.

LINUS:: Lights please! And there were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, an angel of the Lord appeared before them, and they were sore afraid. But the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: you shall find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger." Suddenly, a whole host of angels appeared, singing "Glory to God in the highest! Peace on Earth, good will to men."

Spotlight/Video out.

GLEENDA: Wow.

GREG: Good grief! They approved this???

BRAD: Words can't say how offended I am.

GLEENDA: The FCC will kill us with fines.