

Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

YOUTHFUL PASSIONS

by CLARE SERA

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Jeannie is just returning from her first date with Timothy and is frustrated that she can't read his feelings for her. In her estimation, he showed mixed signs. This sketch is a fun look at both teenage dating angst and parent/teen communication.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Comedy is often an easier sell than drama. Everybody wants to laugh. But how do you get an audience to take a comic sketch's theme seriously?

Youthful Passions is bright and energetic, and the daughter provides us with amusement and a roller-coaster ride. We recognize the emotional self-doubts and rapture; in fact many of us have been on that date! To keep the theme from being lost in laughs, we need to create a foundation of parental love for Jeannie. Dad remains mostly clueless (and has some great comic lines), and Mom makes some dead-on guesses, but what is unsaid is their abiding love for Jeannie and willingness to listen.

Challenge the actors playing the parents to explore exasperation, confusion, amusement and bewilderment all supported by love and affection for Jeannie. The parents have internal stresses, but the audience needs to recognize that love and communication will eventually triumph over chaos. Ultimately, Mom's patience, ability to draw the story out of Jeannie and final insights teach both Dad and Jeanie a process of listening and respect.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2F, 1M

TOPIC: Parenting Teens; Dating; Family Communication

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 Timothy 2:22-26

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship service; Bible study on parenting; youth group retreat or meeting

CHARACTERS:

MOM - Jeannie's mother; waiting for her daughter to come home from a date

DAD - Jeannie's father; waiting for his daughter to come home from a date

JEANNIE - A teenager; distraught by her first date with Timothy

PROPS: 1) TV

2) TV remote

3) Bowl of popcorn

4) Couch

5) Purse (for Jeannie)

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing; appropriate to character

SOUND: 3 wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: The family room

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com

www.DramaMinistry.com

ISSN 1084-5917

Drama Ministry is a division of
Belden Worship Resources
www.beldenworshipresources.com

Publisher: Regi Stone

Executive Editor: Kimberlee Crisafulli / Assistant Editor: Scott Crain

Copyright ©2011 by Drama Ministry. Material is intended for use by the subscriber in the subscriber's local church. With the exception of scripts, no issue may be reproduced by any means. As a subscriber, you may make as many copies of scripts as needed in your church only. You may perform the sketch as often as you wish at no additional cost. Scripts and performance rights aren't transferable between churches and cannot be resold. You may not use the sketch for any commercial or fundraising purpose, and usage rights do not extend to video, radio, television or film.

YOUTHFUL PASSIONS *by Clare Sera*

To see each person's face, the couch will need to face as much of the audience as possible (either facing directly downstage or at an angle). If you don't use an actual TV, where are you suggesting it's located? Set a visual point of reference for your actors. (If they don't look in the same place, it will seem like they have the biggest widescreen TV on the planet!) The use of the remote control is so common that the audience will immediately know you are watching TV. If you have a real TV onstage, be sure not to block any audience members' sightlines.

Be sure to caution your actors about eating and drinking during a scene. Popcorn is notoriously dry and salty. We don't want anyone missing a line because his mouth is full or she is choking on an inhaled kernel. Instead, select the moments where Dad continues eating and watching TV - and Mom and Jeannie - but is ready for his line.

What is Jeannie wearing? She and Timothy went out for dinner. If it's a skirt, can she get up and down gracefully from sitting on the floor? According to the stage directions, Jeannie enters and sits on the floor in front of the couch, but she can move from there during the scene. She could move onto the couch beside her parents, sit on the arm of the couch, walk around the couch and hang over the back. Jeannie's energy can move her, but consider: 1) letting the parents remain seated to watch her orbit around them, 2) having Mom make moves toward Jeannie, but Jeannie obviously moving away, or 3) doing a combination of both. Whatever you decide, check your sightlines. Can your audience see Jeannie if she sits on the floor? If not, adapt! The suggestion and comic setup is that Jeannie joins Mom and Dad as if it's a normal video-watching event. Can Mom and Dad look at each other without Jeannie noticing? Their nonverbal communication provides comic elements, moments of stress and examples of their working together to care for Jeannie. Challenge your actors to stay in communication with each other and keep your eye open for these opportunities.

MOM and DAD are on the couch, watching a movie. They have a big bowl of popcorn. DAD aims the remote at the TV to shut it off He turns to MOM.

DAD: What time is it?

MOM: Ten 'til.

DAD gets up, crosses to window, looks out, paces.

MOM: She won't stay out past her curfew, and that Timothy seems like a nice boy.

DAD: Yeah, well, I seemed like a nice boy when I met your parents, too.

MOM: *(Laughs)* You were a nice boy. And I hope Jeannie is having as good a time on her first date with Timothy as I had on my first date with you.

DAD joins MOM on the couch again.