

Drama Ministry®

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AT THE DANCE

by SEAN GAFFNEY

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: To show how little we understand each other's true feelings; to demonstrate obvious and not-so-obvious self-esteem problems.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The asides for each character should be marked with a turn of the head. To clarify the device of using asides, the actors should each individually pick one spot to which they will always address their asides. Part of the convention is that no one can hear the asides except the speaker, therefore Isabella should not react to Ellen's asides, and Ellen should not react to Isabella's. During the asides, the characters are brutally honest with themselves and should drop any pretenses or poses for the duration of the aside. The script is marked "aside" and "out" to differentiate between asides and lines to be delivered "out loud" to the other character.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Self Image/Self Esteem

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 Timothy 4:4

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Youth Service

CHARACTERS:

Isabella-Age 14-17; quiet, reserved, and pretty, but doesn't see herself as pretty; she has self-esteem problems and covers it by being quiet

Ellen-Age 14-17; loud, boisterous, attractive; she has self-esteem problems, too, but overcompensates by being loud

PROPS: Plastic cup of cola for Isabella

COSTUMES: Both girls should be dressed for a school dance

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A school dance

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We are at a dance. We get the impression of a crowd moving rapidly about. ISABELLA is leaning up against a wall, watching, a plastic cup of cola in her hand. At any point when she feels that someone is watching, she looks down and away, then returns with a smile only to discover that the watcher has moved on.

ISABELLA: (Aside:) Oh, there's Karl! Don't look. Was he looking my way? No, I guess not.

ELLEN ENTERS, boisterous, loud, "hello-ing" in every direction

Ellen Karl! How's it going?! (Aside:) Go ahead, ignore me. What do I care? (Out:) Ooohh, Sandra, have you got the moves tonight! (Aside:) Think your skirt could be any shorter, Sandy? (Out:) Barry, save some energy for me!

ISABELLA: (Aside:) Oh, there's Ellen. I hope she doesn't see me.

ELLEN: Isabella! (Aside:) Oh, she's so cute. I hate her. Guess I'll have to go talk to her. (Out:) What are you doing over there by yourself? (Crosses to wall, pushing herself in next to ISABELLA.) Excuse me. I said, excuse me! Izzy, sweetie, you taking a break from dancing?

ISABELLA: Hi, Ellen. (Aside:) Yeah, taking a break.

ELLEN: So, what's happening, girlfriend? Talk to me, what's up in your life?

ISABELLA: (Shrugs, aside:) Like you care. Bet you're trying to think of a way to get away from me already.

ELLEN: (Aside:) I wonder how I can get away from her. (Out:) So, give me the scoop. What gorgeous men are here for us tonight? (Aside:) As if she'd share any of them with me.

ISABELLA: Oh, I don't know. (Aside:) As if any of them would even notice me.

ELLEN: Come, now, Izzy, don't hold back on me.

ISABELLA: (Shrugs, aside:) Don't call me Izzy. I hate that.

ELLEN: Karl! Over here, Karl! (Aside:) What did you do that for?

ISABELLA: (Aside:) Oh, no! He's looking over here! What did she do that for?

ELLEN: (Out:) Hey, babe! Why don't you come over here and spend some time with us real women! (Aside:) That was dumb. He won't even notice me with her here.

ISABELLA: (Aside:) How embarrassing! I hope he doesn't notice me over here.

ELLEN: (Aside:) Hey, I think he actually noticed us! (Out:) Karl, come on, you sweet thing, we'll show you a time like you've never had before! (Aside:) Boy, was that a dumb thing