

Sunday Players

Drama Resources

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"The No-Life Zone"

by
Jim Poling

(Synopsis: One couple, two contrasting churches. We use the "Twilight Zone" scenario to help explain how the same couple can repeat the same scenario twice – once in each church.)

(Rod, as an usher, brings Jim & Kathy down the center aisle to the pew on stage DL & seats them. Couple should freeze as Rod delivers the narration.)

(SFX: Twilight Zone music)

ROD: (DC . a la Rod Serling) Meet Jim and Kathy Lehman....two people on a quest. A quest for spiritual fulfillment....a church home. Two people caught up in the traffic jam of 21st century living and desperately needing an off ramp. Will they find the road signs they so clearly need here at this church? Or will they be detoured once again. Once again driven through the church doors outside into the rush hour chaos we call....the No-Life zone.

(Rod can sit in the choir loft)

Negative Couple

JOHN: Tell me again why we're here?

KATHY: John behave yourself. It looked like a nice little church from the outside and I figured a little religion wouldn't hurt...the way things have been going lately.

JOHN: Yeah. Easy for YOU to say. You didn't grow up facing steel ruler discipline from sister Maxine at "Our lady of corporal punishment".

KATHY: Come on John, it's not like that anymore.....although I would have expected people to be a little friendlier toward us in this church. Did you notice no one said a word to us when we came in?

JOHN: Yeah well I'll bet they talk to us when it's time to pass the collection plate.

KATHY: And no one would make room for us in any of the pews. Why did that usher make us sit in the front row?

JOHN: Oh that's easy . No one else wants to sit in the front row. The preacher must be a sprayer! Can we go now?

KATHY: No. Let's give it a chance. Oh here – stand up they're beginning to sing.

JOHN: What are they singing? I don't know the words to this song.

KATHY: I don't know either – isn't there a song book here on something?

JOHN: I got it– just sing 'watermelon' a lot.

KATHY: What? Are you crazy?

JOHN: No, I'm serious. Everyone will think we know the words. (sings)
watermelon, watermelon, or my dear sweet watermelon.

KATHY: Stop it! Gee you'd think someone would share their hymnal with us...or
there'd be words up on a screen somewhere or something.

JOHN: Oh hey. I think I know this song. It's old. I think my grandmother's
grandmother sang it on her death bed – and it was old then!

KATHY: Yeah I DO remember this. Gee, you'd think they would have come up
with something a little more modern by now.

JOHN: Oh sit..sit. The guy in the robe thing is gonna talk.

KATHY: The "guy in the robe thing" is the minister.

JOHN: Yeah. Whatever. Is there going to be a sermon?

KATHY: Yeah. Here it is in the bulletin: this week the topic is "Turn or Burn: You
can run but you can't hide".

JOHN: Oh..yes we can.

(SFX: Twilight Zone music)

(John & Kathy look at each other in agreement then walk out down the side aisle to the
back to the church)

(As Rod speaks he wanders down the center aisle and meets up with John & Kathy)

ROD: Now the sands of time defy gravity and reverse themselves in the
hourglass. It's another time, another church. Once again we meet John
and Kathy Lehman still looking for that off-ramp.

Positive Couple

- JOHN: (Rod continues walking them to the pew, but John starts his line while walking) Wow! Nice church. Why did we come here?
- KATHY: Jamie and I went to that church barbeque last week and some people invited us to attend. They said they'd save us some seats. (spots the people behind the stage pew). Oh there they are now - Hi how are you??
(both sit)
- JOHN: Wow! Did you see everyone smiling and saying "good morning" to us out there.
- KATHY: Yeah. Friendly church!
- JOHN: Much better than the church I remember. Did I ever tell you about sister Maxine?
- KATHY: Yes. Please. We've all heard it a million times!!
- JOHN: So we were invited?
- KATHY: Yes. This nice lady behind us (wave to her) invited us. She also invited us to come to her Tuesday night bible study. Oh – standup they're starting to sing.
- JOHN: I don't know the words.
- KATHY: Look up there – see the screen with the words on it?
- JOHN: Oh yeah. Hey I recognize this song, my grandmother used to sing it. But I don't remember it being like this – with guitars and drums and stuff. This is kinda cool.
- KATHY: Yeah well things have changed a little. Shhh the minister is about to say something.
- JOHN: Is there a sermon or something?
- KATHY: Yes. Here it is here in the bulletin. The topic is "Share Jesus". But it looks like there's some sort of drama skit just before it – that might be interesting.
- JOHN: What's THAT all about?

KATHY: According to this it's a sit about two people attending a new church for the first time.

(SFX: Twilight Zone music)

ROD: Submitted for your approval. One couple, two churches. Raising the question in ones mind of what kind of church we want to be. One which nourishes the spirit and feeds the soul, or one that repels a person outside the church doors – leaving them to hunger in the spiritual famine we call...the No-Life Zone.