

We Need Each Other

By
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Director Notes - We Need Each Other

Purpose

To appreciate the different personalities and gifting of women and in spite of these differences women can find common ground together.

Character Sketches

Barbara: The faithful friend. The one who always keeps everything going. Peacemaker, always thinking of others first, sometimes to her own demise.

Darlene: Usually self absorbed, lacks tact and is totally unaware of how she effects others. When she does see it, she is the first to apologize and make amends. When problems arise she is the one to take charge with a good plan.

Celeste: Spiritually sensitive. Very exuberant and bubbly. Uses very demonstrative physical actions in response to what she says.

All characters are all portrayed with exaggerated verbal responses and physical actions.

Make sure actors pause until the audience quits laughing and deliver lines slowly.

Allow the actors add their own personalities.

Pray for the audience and actors before the event date.

Props:

4 chairs facing the audience to depict a car
Luggage or imaginary luggage to carry
Flashlight
Box of Kleenex on the front seat of the car
Hub cap
Large Sign that reads "Time Passes"
Long sound effect of screeching tires with a crash at the end.

Costumes:

Barbara: conservative, earrings
Darlene: modern, classy but not overdone
Celeste: bright and colorful, can be a little wild.

Rehearsal Schedule 1-2 hours, per rehearsal, depending on the experience of the actors.

Week 1 Hand out scripts and watch video if desired. Memorize Script by week two

Week 2 Two rehearsals days

1st Rehearsal: Walk through the entire skit several times without lines. (called blocking) till comfortable. Run through with lines working on problem spots.

2nd Rehearsal: Run through till comfortable have fun and pray for audience
If possible run through the skit just before performing to get the jitters out:)

This is ideal but can be done with scripts in hand if needed.

Darlene=Red

Barbara=Blue

Celeste=Green

Guest Speaker=Pink

All in Unison= Orange

Have a backup plan for missed or forgotten lines. This adds to the fun for the audience. For example: If someone forgets their line they can run over to the director for it or they can ask the other actor for their line, staying in character.

Most of all have fun. God isn't concerned with perfection--just willing, humble hearts!

God bless always,
In all ways!

Karena

SCENE 1

Barbara is in the driver's seat and Darlene is seated in the front passenger seat. They are waiting for Celeste to arrive. Celeste is late.

Barbara is fixing her earrings in the rear view mirror while Darlene buckles up.

Darlene looking around agitated.

Darlene: Where is Celeste? We're going to be late! You KNOW how I HATE to be late. We're going to miss the first session with (main speaker's name). You KNOW what a great speaker she is. (let's out an exasperated sigh) We might as well not go at all now!

Barbara looking at her watch, appeasingly.

Barbara Well, maybe she had a few more thing to get done with all of her kids, you know and (guest speaker's name) won't be there till AFTER dinner...

Darlene interrupting.

Darlene: You know Barbara, she's kind of different from us.

Darlene points her finger back and forth from Barbara to herself.

Barbara: I know but...

Darlene interrupts again.

Darlene: She's always saying, "Have faith in this and have faith in that...God will provide ALL our needs. (rolling eyes) And all that kind of stuff.

Barbara: Yes, she's different but she's new to our church and we should at least try to be friendly.

Darlene: I just don't understand why you invited her to come with us anyway. It's always been just you and me at the retreats. Just you...and me. We're great together!

Barbara: I know but when (event organizer's name) came to me and asked if we had room in the car, I just couldn't say no. I had to do what was right.

Darlene: What does right have to do with it? Barbara, why do you always have to do what is right?

Barbara appeasingly.

Barbara: Look, don't worry. It will be just for the ride there and the ride back. It will be just like old times. Just you and me.

Barbara points out Darlene's window. Darlene looks out her window. Barbara continues relieved.

Barbara: Okay...Oh look! Here she comes now.

SCENE 2

Celeste enters from stage right, passenger side of the car, waving excitedly.

Celeste: Oh, You-whooo!

Darlene looking back at Barbara, continues sarcastically.

Darlene: Her and all her luggage! Where does she think we're going? Tahiti?

Barbara: Oh, stop that.

Darlene and Barbara get out of the car to help with all the luggage. As Barbara opens the trunk Darlene greets Celeste, extending her hand to shake it. Celeste grabs her hand and pulls her into a huge hug.

Darlene with contrived exuberance.

Darlene: Celeste!

Celeste grabs and hugs Darlene emphatically while Darlene unprepared for the hug stiffens up -- feeling awkward.

Darlene continuing.

Darlene: I'm so glad you're coming with us!

Celeste clasping her hands to her chest in great joy.

Celeste: Why thank you! Thank you!

Celeste turns to greet Barbara, leaving frustrated Darlene to pick up/ drag all the luggage. Celeste and Barbara hug and exchange excited hellos at the same time.

Celeste continues.

Celeste: Hi Barbara!

Barbara: Hi, Celeste! I'm so glad you're here.

Celeste: Well, thank you! The Lord has just been blessing me inside, outside, upside, downside. I feel so warm and fuzzy inside just thinking about this weekend!

Celeste stops and to think with her index finger placed along side her face.

Celeste: I really hope you don't mind me bringing all this extra luggage but this morning when I was praying the Lord told me to bring it. I don't know why...

Darlene sarcastically.

Darlene: Why didn't you ask Him?

She struggles to drag the last suitcase to the car. Celeste thinks if over and shrugs.

Darlene: What do you have in here? Weights?

Celeste: Why yes! Did God tell you to bring some weights too?

Darlene in disbelief.

Darlene: I DON'T think so.

Celeste: Well, we'd better hurry! We don't want to be late! We don't want to miss those worship songs!

Darlene and Barbara pretend to stuff the luggage into the trunk while Celeste gets into the front passenger seat of the car.

Celeste quietly sings "This Is The Day" and moves to the rhythm of the melody.

Barbara and Darlene are still struggling to get the trunk lid to close. Have them try several different ways to get it closed. Darlene tries to sit on it while Barbara tries closing it with her foot. Finally, they simultaneously lift their hands to bring the trunk lid down together. Darlene stretches out her back from the strain of the luggage.

Barbara: OK, we'd better get going.

Darlene and Barbara go to get into the car. Darlene stops very abruptly. Barbara notices and stops too.

Barbara: Celeste, what's the matter?

Darlene places her hands on her hips while pointing to Celeste in the front seat.

Darlene flabbergasted.

Darlene: I ALWAYS get the front seat!

Barbara: Oh Darlene, Celeste is already sitting there. Can't you just sit in the back?

Darlene pouting like a child.

Darlene: I don't care! I ALWAYS get the front seat. You KNOW I get car sick if I ride in the back seat.

Barbara exasperated.

Barbara: For heaven's sake, Darlene, you're worse than my children!

Darlene crosses her arm across her chest and stomps her foot on the ground.

Darlene: I am NOT!

Barbara walks around the car to the passenger window and knocks on the window. Darlene remains standing with hands on hips and tapping her foot in irritation. Celeste rolls down her window.

Barbara nicely.

Barbara: Celeste? Would you mind sitting in the back seat? Darlene gets car sick. She needs to sit in the front, if that's all right.

Celeste: Oh, I don't mind (as she getting out of the car she continues) You know what the Bible says. "The first shall be last and the last shall be first!"

Once in the back seat, Celeste continues her singing and dancing. Barbara walks around the back of the car to the driver's seat.

Darlene confused.

Darlene: What did she mean by that?

Barbara: I don't know.

Darlene and Barbara get into the car.

SCENE 3

Celeste: Don't forget to buckle up your seat belts ladies.

Barbara and Darlene look at each other and buckle up. Barbara pretends to be driving. Celeste continues.

Celeste: You know, I'm so excited about this weekend. I can hardly wait to get away from all those diapers.

Barbara: Yeah, I remember when my kid's were small. (pauses remembering) I thought I would never be out of diapers. But now that they're older, I wonder if I'll ever get out of my van!

Celeste: I'm so excited about meeting other women from (name of your church)

Darlene: Oh, I'm sure there will be plenty of "other" women to meet, right Barbara?

Barbara casting a look of disbelief at Darlene.

Barbara: Yes, I'm sure there will be.

Actors freeze action while stage manager or someone else walks in slow motion across the stage while holding up a sign that reads "Time Passes."

Darlene looks to the right and to the left to see where they are.

Darlene: It seems like we've been on this highway for--ever. Do you think we missed our exit?

Barbara pointing out the front windshield.

Barbara: Oh...no, I think our exit is just around the corner.

Celeste: Well, here, let me turn on the light and look at the map...

Celeste reaches up and turns on the car's dome light.

Barbara blinded by the light.

Barbara: Oh Celeste, I can't see!

Darlene turns around in her seat to turn the light out but the map is blocking access to it. She battles the map.

ALL together, scared, scream in unison.

All: Oh! No!

SCENE 4

Sound effects of screeching tires with a large crash sound at the end as the car drives off the highway.

All three ladies, in unison to the sound effect, lean to the left, then to the right, then to the left again. All lean forward, then all fly backwards.

Darlene ends up leaning back at an angle against her door. Barbara ends up leaning with her back across Darlene. Celeste lies down, sideways, in the back seat.

Darlene speaking weakly.

Darlene: Barbara?

Barbara groaning.

Barbara: Yeah.

Darlene: Barbara, are you all right?

Barbara puts her hand on her forehead.

Barbara: Yeah, I think so.

Darlene grunts while pushing Barbara upright.

Darlene: Well, then get off of me!

Barbara turns towards the back seat.

Barbara: Celeste. Are you all right?

Celeste stays lying down and extends her arm straight up into the air. Gently swaying her arm back and forth in the air while singing slowly like a drunken person.

Celeste: Swing low, sweet chariot coming for to carry me home...

Barbara and Darlene look at each other.

Darlene sarcastically.

Darlene: Good as ever.

Barbara: Oh, no! My husband is going to kill me. What am I going to do?

Darlene taking charge grabs the flashlight.

Darlene: You know what we're going to do. We're NOT going to panic. We're just going to get out of the car and look around. OK, everyone out.

All get out of the car and slowly look around. Darlene turns on the flashlight. Celeste looking out towards the audience, then up and around overhead.

Celeste: It's mighty dark out here. I just can't see a thing. Talking about your blind faith.

All walk to the back of the car. Barbara and Darlene slowly walk towards each other behind the car and startle when they meet.

ALL: Oh!

All three turn their backs 3/4 away from the audience.

Darlene points the flashlight up at the ceiling and starts looking up. She slowly traces the light across the ceiling. In unison they all follow the light as it tracks up across the ceiling from one side to the other.

Darlene: Well, the road is wayyy up there...

Darlene points the flashlight at their feet. Everyone looks down at the light.

Darlene: ...And we're wayyyy down here. (pause) I think it's time for plan "B".

All three walk together to the front of the car on the passenger side and stop abruptly and jump back together in fear.

All in unison or whatever comes out naturally for the actors.

ALL : A cliff!

Darlene upset.

Darlene: Well, Barbara, you've really gone and done it now.

Barbara: Me?

Darlene: Yes, you! We were going to go to the retreat and it was going to be so much fun. And now you, (pauses) you really missed the exit! Talking about the first being the last. We won't even be there at all!

Barbara gets slowly out of the car and paces in frustration.

Barbara: Great! Oh, that just great! I've just had it. I try so hard to do everything right and make everyone happy. I get dinner to the table on time, even when no one is home to eat it. I answer the phone. I organize car pools just to get everyone where they need to be. I tried to help bring a new friend to this retreat. And now, I've even let you down. This is just great. Just great.

Barbara collapses in the driver's seat with her legs outside and begins to cry. Darlene, realizing she has hurt her friend comes along side sheepishly. Puts her hand on Barbara's shoulder. Celeste gets the Kleenex from the front seat, hands it to Barbara.

Darlene with compassion.

Darlene: I'm sorry, Barbara. I understand.

Barbara surprised.

Barbara: You do?

Darlene: Well, yes I do. Just last Sunday, you know little Andy Smith?

Barbara nods as Celeste listens intently.

Darlene: Well, he took ALL the wheels off ALL the toy trucks. Then he proceeded to throw them all around the room like Frisbees!

Darlene pretends to throw several Frisbees.

Darlene: You should have been there when I had to tell Mrs. Johnson why her little Susie had a divot on her head!

Celeste trying to back up Darlene's attempt to make Barbara feel better.

Celeste: And you know I just never get any help with the housework. I have to ask the Lord and pray it all gets done. And heaven help me if I DO get some help cause then things get lost in the...

Celeste makes large, upward sweeping motion with her hand.

Celeste: Black abyss...

Darlene mimicking the same hand motion as Celeste but trying to understand.

Darlene: What's the black...abyss?

Celeste: You know! The place where all the missing socks go!

All three identify with this and laugh together. Darlene finally has something she can relate to with Celeste.

Darlene pointing to Celeste and nodding her head.

Darlene: I understand you now. Barbara, I'm really sorry and I'm glad we're here together.

Darlene puts one arm around Celeste and her other arm around Barbara. Celeste puts her head on Darlene's shoulder.

Barbara surprised.

Barbara: You are?

Darlene: Yeah, you know if you hadn't invited Celeste and she hadn't brought those heavy weights, we would have gone over the cliff right now.

Barbara with regret.

Barbara: Oh, but this was you first retreat, Celeste.

Celeste shakes her head up and down with a little disappointment.

Darlene takes charge again.

Darlene: That's Okay, we'll have our own personal retreat right here and get to know Celeste better!

Barbara still blaming herself for their loss.

Barbara: But (guest speaker's name) is such a great speaker and now we won't be able to hear her at all.

Celeste: Well, have faith! You know what the Bible says, God will supply all our needs.

Play long sound effect of screeching tires with the sound of a crash at the end.
Guest speaker walks onto the stage dazed, holding her head with one hand and a hub cap in her other hand.

Wait for the audience to stop laughing so the next line can be heard.

Guest Speaker: I missed my exit.

All hug and look at each other till the audience quiets down again. Celeste starts to leave with the Guest Speaker then turns and comes back to the other two.

Celeste: See, she didn't miss her exit! God provides!

Celeste exits. Darlene and Barbara look at each other in amazement.

Darlene with awe.

Darlene: How does Celeste DO that?

Barbara in awe.

Barbar: I don't know!

Darlene and Barbara Exit.

Notes:¹