In Search of the Holy Grill

-or-

It's All a Big Miss Stake

By
Craig Williams

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STORY OF THE PLAY

An evil banker, Char Cole, wants the land the church sits on to build a casino. He sends a bogus mortgage bill demanding the church pay a $10,000 balloon payment to scare the congregation in to selling him the property for a fraction of what it is worth. The minister, Paul Pitt; the choir director, Barbie Cue; and several choir members, hurriedly decide to submit Barbie Cue's departed mother's secret barbecue recipe to a contest in hopes of winning the huge cash prize. They even open a barbecue restaurant in the church to raise money.

Meanwhile, Miss Phit, the bumbling church secretary, is constantly getting the bulletins and newsletters wrong, sending misleading and funny information out to the congregation. In the end, however, it is Miss Phit who saves the day because she is really undercover as an A.N.G.E.L., er, make that A.N.G.L.E., the Anti-Nefarious Gangster Law Enforcement.

While a narrator instructs the audience when to boo and hiss, everyone will know when to laugh in this rich 30-minute comedy.

CHARACTERS

(4 m, 5 w, 2 flexible.)

REV. PAUL PITT: The minister of the little church.

MISS PHIT: The somewhat ditzy church secretary.

BARBIE CUE: The choir director and special helper to Pitt.

IRVING BENSON: Choir member.

CHARLENE MASON: Choir member.

BERTHA BELCH: Choir member.

JESSIE BENSON: *(Either male or female.)* Choir member.

CHAR COLE: The villain and banker.

KEN LING: Cole's henchman.

MISS SKEET: Cole's girlfriend.

NARRATOR: Can be director or another actor.

SYNOPSIS

Scene 1: One Saturday at the church office.
Scene 2: Two weeks later.

SETTING

The set is the office of a little country church. There is an old working typewriter on a table for Miss Phit at one side, and a desk for the preacher at the other side of the room. A coat rack, bookshelves, etc. fill out the rest of the room. There is a door on stage right that leads to outside. An entrance stage left leads into the church.

PROPS

Church bulletin for Reverend
An assortment of mail, bank's letter and cook-off flyer
Brown bag lunches for Choir Members
Bulletin for Charlene
Handkerchief for Reverend
Money
Letter containing oversized check for Bertha
Pen on Miss Phit's desk
Prop gun for Cole
Chairs for Reverend and Miss Cue
3 pairs of handcuffs for Miss Phit
Paper and pens for Choir Members

WARM UP INTRODUCTION
By Narrator

Welcome to that picturesque little church nestled in a small grove of trees on that dirt road anywhere in Kansas. It serves as the center of life for the good folk for miles around. Like any little church, the congregation works hard to manage the finances of the building. This little church has an outstanding loan to Purgatory State Bank in the near by town of Luray which is located midway between Paradise and the Garden of Eden.

The congregation enjoys the enthusiastic, if not melodic music of their choir. Please welcome the members of the choir – Charlene Mason, Bertha Belch, Jessie Carter and Irving Benson, who is around here somewhere. *(The three CHOIR MEMBERS appear smiling, followed by a harried IRVING.)*

In addition to the choir, there's the loyal, if not efficient, church secretary. As you get know her better, you will understand why when she comes on stage or does something that truly amazes you, you will go "Duh." Everyone together. Please welcome the wonderfully inefficient Miss Phit. *(PHIT enters and the audience responds.)*

The choir is lead by the sweetest voice this side of heaven, well, at least this side of the street. She has experienced some pain in her life, but has put her focus on providing music for the church. She has a special feeling for the minister, but nothing has come of it. When she comes on stage we greet her with an appropriate "Hallelujah." Try that with me. Please welcome our choir director, Miss Barbie Cue. *(CUE appears and the audience responds.)*

The minister is new to the parish, but is doing his best to lead the congregation to the promised land. He has certainly noticed Miss Cue, but has not made his feelings known. He has been too busy doing whatever ministers do. When he comes on stage we will greet him with a strong "Amen." Try it with me. Please meet our minister Reverend Pitt. *(PITT enters and the audience responds.)*

(If designed as a sing-along, perform the first song.)

NARRATOR: *(Continued.)* Of course not all of the people here are as good and loving as those you have just met. As a matter of fact, there are some people here who would make your blood curdle. They have little concern for their fellow man and even less for their fellow woman. The three you will meet tonight work together to create turmoil in the community. It my distinct displeasure in introducing them to you tonight. First, there is the local vamp who seems to have nothing better to do than to hang around trying to turn the local men's heads. When she comes on stage greet her with "Oh-la-la." Try that …. Women get a good hold on your husbands because here is Miss Skeet.

(SKEET enters and the audience responds.)

Another of this trio is quite a dandy. He is not all that bright, but is quite willing to do the evil bidding of his boss. If he could remember anything, he could tell where a lot of bodies are buried. When he enters hiss at him. Now feel free to insult Ken Ling.

(LING enters and the audience responds.)

The vilest of the group is the owner of the Purgatory State Bank. He forecloses on people just for fun. He will lie, cheat and steal. He is mean, nasty and evil. Of course, you know what to do when he comes on stage. Boo and hiss. Let's practice that …. Now please make this next person know that you do not appreciate his rotten ways, Mr. Char Cole.

(COLE enters and the audience responds.)

(Song.)

Please enjoy and participate in the production of "In Search of the Holy Grill – Or - It's All a Big Miss Stake."

End of Freeview

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