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WINNER: BEST COMEDY, 2008, Christians in Theatre Arts sketch contest

Whether We Like It or Not

By Michael Leathers

CAST: 2 males

Joe: New Christian, early to mid-20s, eager to share his faith with anyone.

Kurt: Long-time Christian, mid- to late 30s, ready to cool Joe's jets.

RUN TIME: 6 minutes

PROPS

- ❑ Umbrella
- ❑ Magazine
- ❑ Briefcase

STORY

Kurt wants to be left alone as he waits for the light-rail train to speed him into work. Joe, however, has other plans. He's an eager, new Christian who can't wait to share his faith with everyone he meets. Kurt, who's been a Christian for as long as he can remember, takes it upon himself to set this new convert straight.

THEMES

Witnessing. Evangelism. Joy. Passion. Stumbling block. Discouragement.

SAMPLE PAGES

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Whether We Like It or Not

(We're at a commuter stop for a light-rail public-transit system on a Monday morning. KURT is standing, waiting for the next car to speed him away to work. An umbrella is tucked under his arm in case it rains. He's reading an article in a magazine – the first few pages folded back – sending a signal that he doesn't want to be interrupted)

JOE

(Enters, carrying a briefcase. He's a bundle of energy. Sets his briefcase down and takes a deep breath)

Wonderful day, isn't it?

KURT

(Glances at JOE but stays focused on his magazine)

It's cloudy. Probably gonna rain.

JOE

But this wind. It makes you feel alive.

KURT

(Takes a side step away from JOE)

Yeah.

(They're quiet for a moment. KURT doesn't want to talk, but JOE can't help looking at KURT. He's trying to remember where he has seen KURT before)

JOE

Have we met before?

KURT

Don't think so. I don't take light-rail. Car's in the shop.

JOE

It's just … You're familiar.

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KURT
(Trying to drop the subject)
Sorry.

(Silent again. KURT continues to read his magazine article. JOE's fidgety with news he has to share with someone)

JOE
I guess I'm a little over eager. So much has changed since Saturday. … I'm a different man, you know.

KURT
(Looking up from his magazine, alarmed)
Not interested, bud.
(He quickly moves another step or two away from JOE)

JOE
(Advances toward KURT to explain)
No, no. That's not what I mean. I've been changed.

KURT
(Holding up his magazine as if to defend himself)
And I'm stayin' the same.

JOE
Oh, no. No, no, no. It's not that. It's … it's not what you think. See, a few days ago, I turned my life over to Jesus Christ. I'm a Christian.

KURT
Well so am I, but you don't see me getting so worked up about it.

JOE
I know where I saw you. You were in church yesterday when I went forward at the end of the service. You shook my hand.

KURT
If that's true, close to a hundred people shook hands with you after the service. How could you remember me?

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JOE
You were reading the same magazine.

KURT
Oh. Well, it's got really good articles.

JOE
How long have you gone there?

KURT
All my life. I was saved when I was, y'know, eight.

JOE
How do you stand this? I feel like I could burst. So many people to tell about Jesus. It's so overwhelming.

KURT
Don't worry, kid. You get over it.

JOE
I don't wanna get over it. I wanna tell everybody.

KURT
Been there, done that. Look, your enthusiasm's great but you don't want to burn yourself out. You gotta give it time. Pace yourself, y'know.

JOE
Pace myself?

END OF SAMPLE

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