

‘‘Parody: Men’s Support Group’’

Joseph Mack

Caveman men’s support group, Sketch 201

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FIRST DRAFT
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ACT ONE

LEADER:

NEW PERSON:

MOM:

MEN: random assorted males (whoever is around)

Comic Perspective: parody men's support group.

Suggestions from Guy Beretich

I wrote this after hearing a reading of a sketch by a woman about a cavemen's mens support group. In it the men were discussing their problems; one's man's wife wasn't fertile, another man wanted to gather rather than hunt and a third man was only there because his wife made him go. Maybe this is what women think men talk about in a support group, but it isn't. Humour has to be based in reality. I wrote this as an antidote to the woman's sketch. I had to come up with something that men really to worry about. This is it.

The new person is being put through a ridiculous test. He is to remain calm and reasonable, not get flustered, to maintain that he isn't going to do it. He won't say "no", he won't tell the leader he is being ridiculous. He just maintains a calm refusal.

The male characters appear to the audience to be adults, until the very end.

The members of the support group don't have any real speaking roles. There will be a row of them standing behind the two protagonists. They will have names. To make it easier for the Leader, you can name them alphabetically L-to-R, *e.g.* Alex, Bob, Charles, David. The leader will use adult names *e.g.* Bob, while the Mom will use diminutive (kids) names *e.g.* Bobbie.

FADE IN

1. INT. BASEMENT --- EVENING

Leader welcomes New Person with a warm hug

Support group members look tough, trying to intimidate the new person *e.g.* cracking knuckles, sour looking faces, punching palm with fist, posing (muscles). Will give expressions on their face supporting the Leader's statements.

CONTINUED

LEADER

Welcome to the men's support group
Dick... er

NEW PERSON

(loudly)
Dick Johnson.

LEADER

Ok Johnson. We hope you find the
support you're looking for in this
group. However before we can admit
you, we need to check out your
equipment.

NEW PERSON

What? Just lay it out on the table
for all to see?

LEADER

(imperiously,
perhaps like John
Cleese)
Yes. We've all done it. It's part
of joining the group. Men check
each other out all the time. It's
an important measure of being a man
and one of the first things we want
to know about each other.

NEW PERSON

(calmly but firmly)
This is stupid.

LEADER

(pointing to each
person and then to
the numbers on the
wall)
Alex here has done it, so has Bob,
Charles, David and Edward. None of
them had any problem with it. We
need this to establish the pecking
order.

NEW PERSON

You want to assess me by my
genetics, rather than my
character?!

LEADER

We'll call you a sissy if you
don't.

NEW PERSON

This is ridiculous

CONTINUED

LEADER

So you have a weenie do you?

NEW PERSON

This has got nothing to do with it.

LEADER AND MEN

Weenie Johnson! Weenie Johnson!

Mother walks on bearing a tray of glasses of milk and cookies. Puts on a table.

The demeanour of the males changes instantly to happy kids.

MOTHER

Here you are kids, milk and cookies
for all of you.

MEN

(in unison)

Thank you Mrs Smith!

Mother hands glass to each kid, naming them with diminutives. Each kid replies with "thank you Mrs Smith".

MOTHER

I hope you're having a good time
playing Xbox. Here you are Alexy,
Bobbie, Charley, Davey... Hello
Dick, haven't seen you here before.
I hope you're having a good time.

LEADER

(happy to see mom)

Thanks Mom!

Mom walks off.

Leader turns to kids

LEADER (CONT'D)

Well, guys...?

kids give indications of acceptance, *e.g.* thumbs up, nods with smiles.

LEADER (CONT'D)

Dick Johnson, we'd like you to
join our group. You passed the
initiation test. Most don't.
You're probably wondering about us
right now, so we'd like you to stay
here and play with us for the rest
of the afternoon. That way you can
get a better idea of who we are.

CONTINUED

Leader extends hand. New person looks dubiously at him; does not accept hand offered.

Do women know that "Johnson" is a relatively uncommon name for a penis? Will women get the pun about "pecking" order? There was enough laughs from the audience when I first presented this at NoShame, that it would seem that people know it.

If the tests are too ridiculous, the audience might decide that the group isn't worth joining and that the New Person's acceptance is worthless or a step backwards.

Until I came to the US, I did a lot of activities (eg sport) where I saw naked males (in the showers) every day. I rarely see a naked man now. I don't know how much time males in the US have spent naked in the presence of other males.

FADE OUT

THE END