

“Masks” by Joanna Ruth Wirtz

Characters: Man, Woman, Jesus, Signers, Two Crowds of People. (The Signers and the Man will need to know the sign language for “Come Just As You Are”.)

Props: Two masks labeled “Love” and several masks for three different labels: “Party”, “Church”, “Football”. These masks can be very simple, such as a face drawn on a paper plate.

The Man has one of each type of mask on the stage. Everyone else brings their mask with them as they walk on- and off-stage.

Scene 1: Party

Music clip: “Moonlight Serenade” (Glenn Miller)

The Man and Crowd #1 enter from stage left. They are at a party. Each person wears a “Party” mask. Actors are shaking hands, drinking from imaginary glasses, chatting, etc. When the music ends, everyone except the Man quickly exits stage left.

Scene 2: Church

Music clip: “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

Crowd #2 enters from stage right. They are standing in pews at church. Each person wears a “Church” mask. The Man notices them, replaces his “Party” mask with his “Church” mask, and joins them. Actors are singing and praying. When the music ends, everyone except the Man quickly exits stage right.

Scene 3: Football

Music clip: Various football game sounds

Crowd #1 enters from stage left. They are watching a football game. Each person wears a “Football” mask. The Man notices them, replaces his “Church” mask with his “Football” mask, and joins them. Actors are cheering, jeering, tossing around a football, etc. When the clip ends, everyone except the Man quickly exits stage left.

Scene 4: Love

Music clip: “At Last” (Etta James)

The Woman casually enters from stage right, wearing a “Love” mask. The Man notices her, replaces his “Football” mask with his “Love” mask, and joins her. He gives her an imaginary rose and they talk and dance. They shyly touch their masks together for a kiss. When the clip ends, the Woman exits stage left and the Man watches her go.

Scene 5: Jesus

Song: "Come Just As You Are" (Crystal Lewis)

The Signers enter from either side of the stage and stay toward the front of the stage and out of the way. They use sign language, signing the lyrics to the song. The Man ignores them. Jesus enters from stage right. The Man turns around, sees Jesus, and fetches his "Church" mask. Jesus shakes his head, takes away the mask, and drops it on the floor. Surprised, the Man fetches his "Love" mask. Jesus shakes his head, takes away the mask, and drops it on the floor. Confused, the Man tries his "Party" mask, which Jesus takes away, and then his "Football" mask, which Jesus takes away. The Man then stares at Jesus, unsure of what to do. Jesus embraces him and shows him the two Signers. After watching them for a while, the Man appears to understand that it's OK not to have a mask. He then joins the Signers as they finish signing the song. Jesus watches approvingly, then turns his attention to the congregation.