



Horrid Herod's Christmas Turkey

Drama sketch



Cast

King Herod
Lucia Scripta
Sophia Delecta
Fabby Abi
Matt the Hammer
Annoying beggar
Timius Moanimus
Eastern Visitors

A single image of a glittering crown is projected onto the screen behind the action. The scene is set in the royal palace, where King Herod the Horrid is looking to the side into a mirror...

Herod (*admiring himself*)

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the hunkiest, funkiest king of all?

Abi and Sophia have been watching him, but now walk to the centre and start giggling

Abi & Sophia Why you are, your majesty!

Herod (*turns around*)

Ahh...Sophia Delecta and Fabby Abi; you're just in time! I need a second opinion.

Sophia A second opinion from us, your majesty? But you are so....

Herod ...wise? I know. (*Girls giggle.*) But I just don't know what to wear for the PPP.

Abi The PPP, your majesty?

Herod Pontius Pilate's Party

Abi & Sophia collapse in giggles –

Abi & Sophia Oh your majesty is so...

Herod ...witty? I know. Well, one does one's best.

Enter Lucia Scripta carrying a clipboard

Herod Ahh Lucia Scripta, my loyal secretary. And pray tell me, who will be blessed by my presence today?

Lucia I am glad to see your majesty is in such good humour today. First to see you is your new head of security. He has been reviewing the travel arrangements prior to your trip to the Dead Sea.

Herod Really, and just who is he?



Lucia (*with menace*) He is the one man in the whole nation everyone fears – Matt the Hammer.

Enter Matt the Hammer, who approaches Herod, bows and then puts on a dazzling display of footwork and fists.

Matt the Hammer Your majesty. (*bows again*)

Herod So, you think you're a match for me eh? He then tries to do the same, but slips and falls over in an embarrassing heap.

Abi & Sophia (*picking Herod up*) Your majesty is so...

Herod ...assertive? I know.

Abi and Sophia giggle uncontrollably.

Lucia Your majesty, in line with the royal tradition of seasonal good will, we have kidnap...err selected from the streets one random poor person so that you can demonstrate how awesomely kind you are.

Herod Not that again: is it really necessary?

Lucia Well, it does look good on the news, your majesty, and then children and old people will say nice things about you.

Herod Oh very well then, who is it this time? Only last year you saddled me with that irritating young blind beggar – what was his name?

Lucia Bartimaeus your majesty.

Herod Hmm...I never want to see him again.

Lucia Don't worry Sire; we shifted him out to Jericho. It'll be a long time before he bothers anybody else.

Enter the beggar holding an old flat cap

Herod Who are you? And what do you want?

Beggar Your majesty, you are so kind. Your kindness is famous all over the world.

Herod Look, just get on with it, will you? I've got better things to do than bother with peasants like you. How did you lose all your money anyway?

Beggar Bingo.

Herod (*threateningly: suddenly annoyed*)
I beg your pardon?

Lucia (*stepping in quickly*)
Bingo Sire – it's a game of chance lazy people play in order to lose all their money.

Herod Very well. Take this and get out of my sight.

He takes a coin out of his pocket, flicks it into the air with his thumb and the beggar catches it in his cap.

Beggar (*bowing down*) Your majesty, thank you thank you thank you thank you.....

Herod Yes, yes, yes, now push off before I change my mind.



Beggar walks off backwards – bowing all the time.

Abi & Sophia Your majesty is so...

Herod ...generous? I know. Still, it's Christmas.

Lucia Your majesty, your servant Timius Moanimus has arrived with the results of the poll you commissioned.

Herod Very well; send him in.

Enter Timius Moanimus carrying a clipboard.

Herod You have some news for me?

Timius Your majesty, the answer to the question you asked the people of this country is as follows: 100% say KING HEROD!

Herod Good. And just remind me what the question was.

Timius *(standing to his full height)*

Who is the bestest king in the whole wide world? And I understand that if I give the wrong answer, I will be killed.

Abi & Sophia Your majesty is so...

Herod ...popular? I know.

Timius But your majesty, was that really a fair question?

Abi and Sophia put their hands to their mouths, fan each other and gasp in horror as everyone else freezes, waiting for Herod's reaction.

Herod *(looking at Matt the Hammer and pointing at Timius)* He questions my judgement! Kill him!

Matt the Hammer *(bows)* Your majesty.

Matt the Hammer begins his dazzling display again and then raises his hand to chop Timius into little pieces, while Timius throws himself at Herod's feet and begs for mercy.

Timius Your majesty, please! Have mercy – I am truly sorry for doubting the greatness of your wisdom – PLEASE!!!!

Herod *(as Matt the Hammer raises his hand)*

Stop. I will show mercy. You are hereby sentenced to 100 years cleaning out the Roman drains – with your bare hands!

Abi & Sophia EEOOW...GROSS!

Herod ...now get out of my sight!

Timius *(walking backwards in grovelling gratitude)*

Thank you your majesty! Thank you, thank you, thank you! I am forever in your debt.

Abi & Sophia Your majesty is so...

Herod ...merciful? I know.



Lucia Your majesty, there are visitors to the royal palace. They have travelled from the East and seek an audience with the King.

Herod (*intrigued; smiling*) Really? Show them in.

Enter strangers.

Strangers (*bowing and speaking at exactly the same time*)
Your majesty.

Herod From the East eh? And how **is** the weather in Skegness?

Abi and Sophia giggle and sigh to each other.

Strangers Your majesty, a star appeared in the night sky and we followed many miles in order to find the true king, one whose kingdom will never end.

Herod And you found me. Well, all I can say is – look no further!

Abi & Sophia Your majesty is so...

Herod ...humble? I know.

Strangers Your majesty...

Herod I know; you're looking for someone full of charm, wit...

Herod glances behind at Abi & Sophia, who giggle to themselves.

Strangers Your majesty...

Herod Someone whose kindness to the needy is the stuff of legend...

Strangers Your majesty...

Herod Someone who forgives; someone who is truly merciful to all his people...

Strangers Your majesty...

Herod Someone who is humble, gentle; a king who is loved by all his people.
Well; you've come to the right place!

Strangers Your majesty... *Herod and the visitors face each other for a long time. ...it's not you.*

Herod faces front looking aghast, Abi and Sophia put their hands to their mouths in horror, starting to hyperventilate in a mad panic and everyone else on stage freezes.

Herod falls backwards to be caught by Sophia and Abi before hitting the floor.

The backdrop image of a glittering crown on the screen slowly changes into a crown of thorns.

THE END

Writer: © Mike Dalby

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