

Marjorie Marjorie!

by Rod Belt

Theme Presenting Christ and Christianity in a simplistic manner is a dangerous thing. Explaining God simply is one thing, reducing God to a frivolity is quite another.

Cast: MARJORIE A TV presenter. She is brisk and professional, with precise tones, and smiles in all the right places. It becomes apparent that she is disdainful of MARJORIE's simplistic brand of kitchen Christianity.

MARJORIE A TV cook. She is all sweet smiles and enthusiasm, with a flamboyant delivery which as the sketch progresses seems increasingly manic. It becomes obvious that she thinks MARJORIE is an idiot.

Notes: This sketch is definitely written for a Christian audience and has an important point, but may be considered too flippant for a formal service open to the public. Consider instead using it in a more informal gathering.

Yes, both characters really are called MARJORIE! To help you work out which lines belong to which MARJORIE, they alternate strictly between the two.

The script refers to Scotch Pancakes and Jam but names for food (and their availability) vary from place to place. You just need a small flat pancake-type food that can be wrapped around a chocolate bar smeared with a fruity red spread. Experiment to see what works!

The two MARJORIEs initially deliver most of their lines to the "camera" (in reality, the audience) with smiles on their faces, but as they begin to disagree with each other their smiles become more artificial and they increasingly forget to look at the camera.

(MARJORIE is standing stage right, MARJORIE is stage left behind a countertop (or table) with various baking ingredients and utensils on it. Some music is just fading out.)

MARJORIE And that was, of course, Amy Angel. Thank you Amy. *(turns her head slightly, as if looking at a different camera)* Now, it's Tuesday, it's 11 O'clock, you're watching Creation Christian Television, it must be time for - Marjorie! *(turns to look at MARJORIE)*

MARJORIE *(to MARJORIE)* Thank you Marjorie. *(turns to audience)* Hello! Welcome once again to "Cooking in the spirit"! *(extra sickly smile)* You know, I had a letter the other day from a lady in Stratford-on-Avon who says *(picking up letter and reading from it)* "Dear Marjorie, I look forward all week to 'Cooking

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in the Spirit! I so enjoy making your creations, and it has taught me something wonderful - Christians can be creative as well as being obedient!" *(slowly and sincerely, looking at audience)* How very true! *(puts down letter, pause)* Now, today we are going to make Resurrection Rolls! *(turning to MARJORIE, who has been combing her hair etc., looking bored)* Perhaps, Marjorie, you would like to help me with this?

MARJORIE *(quickly putting down her comb, fixing her smile and walking briskly over to stand next to MARJORIE)* Of course Marjorie. Resurrection Rolls? Sounds interesting!

MARJORIE Indeed they are. They're Delicious, they're wholesome, they're fun to make and - they're In The Spirit!

MARJORIE Right... so, what can I do to help?

MARJORIE Well *(picking up a bag of mini Mars bars, and handing it to MARJORIE)* You can unwrap a few of these bars for a start! Meanwhile *(back to audience)* for each Resurrection Roll you will need one Scotch Pancake. These are best home made but *(holding up a packet and winking at the audience)* you can buy a packet like this from your supermarket for a small price. *(takes one out of the packet)* So, we start...

MARJORIE Excuse me Marjorie...

MARJORIE Yes dear?

MARJORIE How many should I unwrap?

MARJORIE A few! *(turning back to audience)* Now we'll also be needing jam for this. It really ought to be red jam - strawberry or, *(quietly, as if sharing a secret)* my personal favourite - raspberry! *(as she says this she picks up a jar of jam and tries to unscrew the top. She can't)* Marjorie, perhaps you would like to open the jam? *(MARJORIE and MARJORIE exchange what they are holding. MARJORIE now attempts to open the jam, whilst MARJORIE takes one of the unwrapped bars and holds it out for the audience to see)* Excellent! *(looking at audience)* The Mars bar is the centre of our creation! Can you guess what it represents? *(pause)* No? *(looking at MARJORIE)* Can you guess?

MARJORIE Umm...

MARJORIE *(impatiently)* Come on, think!

MARJORIE Well... *(sudden inspiration)* Maybe it represents all those things that tempt us in our daily lives?

MARJORIE *(very condescending)* No! My goodness me no.

MARJORIE Oh... well, tell me Marjorie, *(looking at audience)* what does the chocolate bar represent?

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MARJORIE Jesus!

MARJORIE *(taken aback)* Jesus?

MARJORIE Yes! *(looking at audience)* All that yummy wholesomeness, in fact, the closer you get to the centre, the more yummy it becomes - just like Jesus!

MARJORIE *(obviously very dubious about this, but deciding to press on)* Er... right. Ok, so what's next?

MARJORIE Well, Marjorie, Have you got the jam open yet?

MARJORIE Erm - no, not yet. *(looks down at the unopened jar in her hand)*

MARJORIE We haven't got all day Marjorie dear! *(MARJORIE finally gets the jar opened, and looks relieved)* Now... *(to audience)* this next bit is VERY important. *(to MARJORIE)* Jam! *(Jam is handed over. To audience)* What does the jam represent? *(turns to MARJORIE)* Marjorie, can you guess?

MARJORIE *(getting the hang of this)* The blood of Christ?

MARJORIE Well done! You see, you do know when you put your mind to it! *(turning to audience, sarcastic)* She was listening at Sunday School after all! And of course *(puts on serious face)* that's the point of all this. We all need something solid to remember the goodness of Our Lord by and that's what my creations are. Now *(picking up the Mars bar)* the important thing to remember about Christ is that he died to shed his blood for us. He was covered in lovely redeeming blood! *(plunges Mars bar into jam jar, stirs it round, pulls it out. Quite excited)* And again! *(repeats action)* and again! *(repeats again before lifting it out and holding it up triumphantly to the audience)* there!

MARJORIE *(appalled)* Marjorie... don't you think this is in poor taste? This is the death of Christ you're talking about!

MARJORIE *(insistent)* And that's why it's important to do something to remember it by. *(to audience)* It's time to put Christ in his tomb! We place the bar on the pancake *(does so)* and roll the pancake round it *(does so, then holds it up, looks at audience, and declares solemnly, as if reciting a liturgy)* Christ is buried!

MARJORIE *(trying to maintain her smile, but very worried)* Marjorie, I really do think that this is not quite respectful. Our good audience out there *(smiles nervously at audience)* know Jesus as their saviour. He's not a sweet!

MARJORIE Marjorie Marjorie! Don't you know the hymn *(to audience)* "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believers ear"! Now *(ploughing on)* for each roll you will also need two marshmallows. *(picking up a packet of marshmallows)* I prefer one pink, one yellow -but you can choose for yourself. *(she's very excited by this point)* Do you know what the marshmallows represent? do you?