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HASHTAG: WONDERFULLY MADE



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written by

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Synopsis

The @ Symbol goes to God with complaints about wanting to be more like the popular Hashtag Symbol, but learns, along with some other punctuation, the valuable lesson that he was beautifully and wonderfully made for a purpose. Many people struggle with feeling useful and wonder why God didn't make them differently. This skit emphasizes that we are all made with purpose and without mistake.

Cast of Characters

GOD

@ SYMBOL

AMPERSAND

HASHTAG

ELLIPSE #1

ELLIPSE #2

ELLIPSE #3

COMMA

INTERROBANG

Time

Present

Director Notes

Wear Black shirt and pants for AT SYMBOL and all punctuation except HASHTAG, who has a leather jacket and sunglasses. Can put the punctuation on the shirts if desired. GOD can wear all white.

Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 139:14, Ephesians 2:10, Romans 11:29

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: The curtain is drawn.

At Rise: The @ SYMBOL cautiously approaches GOD who stands on stage.

@ SYMBOL

Um, hello, God?

GOD

Well, hello At Symbol. How are you today? Diligently guiding emails everywhere?

@ SYMBOL

Yes, God, um, that's what I would like to talk to you about.

GOD

Oh?

@ SYMBOL

I was wondering if you would consider changing me-

GOD

-I'm very good at that-

@ SYMBOL

-into a Hashtag.

GOD

Oh… But At Symbol, you were made to—

@ SYMBOL

I know, I know. Email couldn't exist without me. Shorthanders everywhere love me. But… it's just…

GOD

What?

@ SYMBOL

I'm boring. And Hashtag has all the fun. Nobody gives me a second thought, but not so with Hashtag. He's the life of the party. All the time. Some people can barely spurt out a sentence without Hashtag.

GOD

Hashtag: discouraged.

@ SYMBOL

Now you're just messing with me.

GOD

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Listen, At, I know sometimes it can feel like other punctuation have it better than you. But when you all work together, doing what you were created for, you are the most amazing support system for the English language!

@ SYMBOL

It's just not fair. I mean, even the comma gets more excitement than I do. Did you know that a comma can change the entire meaning of a sentence? Let's eat, Sharla. Take out the comma, and you've got Let's eat Sharla, and it's—

GOD

-A zombie apocalypse. I get it. But At Symbol, without you, our modern world wouldn't function as it does. You are to email as ink is to paper.

@ SYMBOL

Speaking of that, you know most people, when they're writing me instead of typing me, butcher my design? I'm very elegantly designed. Nice, sweeping half circles-

GOD

-precisely formed to create two beautiful, interlocking circles.

(off @'s endeared look)

I thought long and hard about your design, At. Everything about you is beautifully and wonderfully made. So you do like something about yourself!

@ SYMBOL

I guess. When they write me correctly. But even my name sounds clunky. "At Symbol." You know what Hashtag's real name is?

GOD

Octothorpe.

@ SYMBOL

That's right. Octothorpe! I mean, it practically sounds like a super hero name.

GOD

Okay, okay… let's take a deep breath. Sometimes, when you start looking around at what others have and do, you can forget how uniquely designed you are yourself.

(@ SYMBOL shrugs, like he's not really listening.)

GOD

For example, did you know that in other countries, you're not called the At Symbol?

@ SYMBOL

What am I called?

GOD

The Dutch call you The Monkey's Tail. Israelis call you a Strudel.

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GOD

Hi Interrobang. How are you?

@ SYMBOL

What is an interrobang?

INTERROBANG

Exactly. I was quite exciting many moons ago! I was a question mark with an exclamation mark right through the middle! Then someone decided to separate my symbols and now everyone uses a question mark and then an exclamation mark to declare something shocking, and I'm left…

(emotional)

…obsolete.

GOD

But Interrobang, you have many fans. Did you know you have your own Facebook fan page?

INTERROBANG

You're kidding.

GOD

You and Ampersand may see yourselves as obsolete but I see a rare and beautiful treasure. When people learn about you, they're always intrigued.

(looks behind INTERROBANG)

Comma! Good to see you, as always.

COMMA

I'm not here to complain. I'm just letting you know that I recently found out the root of my name means Little Knife.

@ SYMBOL

That sounds… violent.

COMMA

Agreed. This could ruin my reputation as a simple and humble hook that just wants to organize sentence structure! I mean, what am I? A dangling participle?

GOD

Comma, settle down. It's okay. You put in important pauses. It's not like you're going around knifing sentences everywhere.

@ SYMBOL

I was just remarking to God about what an important job you have.

COMMA

Oh. Really? Well that's very nice of you to say, At. I'm a big fan of yours as well.

(@ looks shocked at the compliment. Suddenly three dots scurry toward GOD, one after another.)

GOD

Hello, Ellipses. You're looking very lined up today!

ELLIPSES #1,#2 & #3

(all together)

But God! It's recently come to our attention that we are used to replace parts of a quote nobody thinks are important enough to put in there.

ELLIPSE #1

Do you know how that must be making Quotation Marks feel?

ELLIPSE #2

I'm guessing awkward—

ELLIPSE #3

Dot… dot… dot…

(to others)

I'm sorry, Ellipses 2 wanted that sentence to trail off so I needed to add us to the end.

(to GOD)

That's what we're good at, God. We love trailing off sentences and thoughts!

(Suddenly, HASHTAG enters, leather jacket, sunglasses. Everyone gasps. He's clearly a star. The others part to make way for him. @ SYMBOL watches him carefully. Strangely, he is not looking as confident as usual.)

HASHTAG

God, can I talk to you?

GOD

Of course, Hashtag.

HASHTAG

I… I know everyone thinks I'm cool and all that, but…on the inside, I feel… well, let's just put it this way. How people feel when they're on hold on the phone and have to keep pushing "the pound sign"… that's how I feel about myself too. Sure, I can start a national dialogue just by being in front of a word or phrase. But on the inside, I don't feel that powerful. I feel like the button everyone hates while they're on hold.

@ SYMBOL

What? Hashtag, that's not true. You have such a gift of communication.

GOD

You should listen to At. He delivers important words very well.

(They both smile.)

@ SYMBOL

(looking earnestly at GOD)

God, I am so sorry. I think I just sort of got into my own head, and started feeling really insecure about myself.

(Everyone nods and agrees.)

@ SYMBOL

But now I see… we were all created to be wonderfully useful in this world. And maybe I'm just a way to complete an e-mail in some people's eyes, but I'm special. I'm Crazy A!

HASHTAG

Hashtag Awesome!

@ SYMBOL

That's not even stinging my heart right now!

(Lights down.)



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