Star Search 2019
Drama Troupe B - Minimum 4 actors - Ages 6-21

Through the Roof
by Justin Street

Sketch for 4 actors*

While each character is given a name, none of the roles are gender-specific, and they're never spoken. *Roles could also be split into more characters, just pay attention to each characters’ personality and how they’re reacting to the situation. You could also have someone play the “hidden” character, though that may take some air out of the reveal near the end.

PREMISE: This is the story of the people who lowered their friend through the roof to see Jesus, so that they would be healed – from the perspective of the rooftop.

CHARACTERS:

SARA - The ringleader. Bombastic and headstrong, this whole thing was her idea. Thinking it through was not.

THOMAS - The strategist. Has lots of ideas, though not all of them practical. Very excited.

RACHEL - The phobic. Wants to help, just deathly afraid of heights.

SAUL - Oblivious, but means well.

There is also an unseen character who the cast will need to decide where they are located at the end.

SETTING: A roof.

Before the scene starts, have one of the characters come out and read the following:

READER
One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. (Luke 5:17, NIV)

SARA begins pacing back and forth, THOMAS starts taking in the surroundings, SAUL peers over the side, and RACHEL is staying as low and in the middle as possible.

SARA
Ok. Cool. We’re up here. That was obstacle number one.

RACHEL
That was a nightmare.
THOMAS
That was a piece of cake, considering the height of the building was twice what I thought it was.

RACHEL
Can we not talk about that, please?

SAUL
Twice as high, you should look at from here, man. This place is huge.

RACHEL
Ugh.

SAUL
Look at all those people, though. They’re all still crowding around the place. Only they look so small from here.

RACHEL
I think I’m going to be sick.

SAUL
Oh, not you too.

SARA
Joins SAUL at the edge
Stay focused. Don’t forget why we’re here. Ok. The crowd was keeping us out, but we solved that. We went over their heads, literally.

THOMAS
I still think the catapult idea would’ve worked, if you’d given a little more time.

SARA
Time is what we don’t have. Who knows how long he’s going to be in there - and we have to get inside.

RACHEL
But we’re not inside, we’re very much outside - and we’re up here!

SAUL
Waaaaaaaay up here.

RACHEL
Ugh.

SARA
Correct. But in a way, we’re closer to our goal.
THOMAS
If my calculations are correct, depending on the interior structure of the building - we may not actually physically be closer - technically speaking.

SARA
Fine. But you know what’s not between us them him? People. This, I can work with. I don’t know how to work with people.

RACHEL
You don’t say.

THOMAS
I don’t think it will be too hard to get in. I have some ideas. As long as the windows don’t have bars on them, I think we’ll be in in no time.

SAUL
Good news! All the windows have bars on them.

SARA
What? How is that good news?

SAUL
Isn’t that what you wanted?

SARA
No, it’s the opposite. Were you even listening?

THOMAS
It’s all the same. I don’t know that we would’ve had enough momentum to break through the glass with enough force to avoid major injuries.

RACHEL
This is insane.

SARA
No chance we could get enough momentum to get through the bars and the glass?

RACHEL
What?

THOMAS
I suppose if we formed a human ladder up first, and then the top half swung down 90 degrees, then perhaps…
RACHEL
crawls over closer to them
Not happening! Look, I’m all for doing what we’re trying to do - but your plans so far... I mean. Let’s just say my confidence at this point is not through the roof.

SARA
light bulb moment
What did you just say?

SAUL
She said “Not happening!” then she said “Look, I’m all for…”

SARA
Oh, that you heard?

RACHEL
Looking down
Oh no. No, no, no.

THOMAS
It could work. Provided that the seams of the material are accessible. We may be able to peel back enough of the top layer, expose the structure of the roof enough to disassemble at least a section - enough to maybe get us through one at a time.

SAUL
Wanders over to the middle, mimes kicking his foot through the roof, and pulls his foot out.
Or you could just do that. It’s a simple mud roof, just like all the others.

SARA joins him and they start kicking in bits of roof.

RACHEL
Wait! What if this all caves in? We don’t even know whose house this is!

SARA
It doesn’t matter. They’ll understand.

THOMAS
It is very likely that they will. I mean, they are hosting him. He’s kind of into forgiveness, if what I hear if correct.

SAUL
Plus, they might have leftover fish sandwiches, and I’m hungry.

RACHEL
Fine. But what if we get in trouble?

They each react to a noise to the side of where they are. SARA goes over a little closer to where the noise came from.

SARA
It’s ok. We’re almost there. He’s just inside. We know he can heal you.

RACHEL finds resolve and stands up, goes over to where the others are kicking at the roof, smiles over to where the unseen friend is.

RACHEL
It’s going to be okay. We have a plan. Kinda.

SARA, RACHEL, THOMAS, and SAUL turn their backs to the audience and put their arms across their shoulders

SARA
Ok. Kick on three. One. Two.

Everyone freezes as the same READER comes out and reads:

READER
Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven. (Luke 5:18-20, NIV)

Lights out.