

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

Waaaaaaay 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 is 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.