

REALITY CHECK

A TROOP 1018 Skit

for 10 to 14 scouts

Essentially a sequel to “Scout Survivor”, this skit makes reference to several reality TV shows, including “Survivor”, “The Apprentice”, “American Idol”, “The Bachelor” and “Fear Factor.” It is an intricate skit that, when done well, keeps the audience smiling and engaged as it swings from one scenario to the next.

The skit has two demanding roles, the HOST and the UBER-HOST, who need to be performed by Scouts who have better-than-average drama skills and are adept at playing to an audience. Also, three Scouts are needed to impersonate the three judges from “American Idol.” While their roles are small, those three needs to be able to convey to the audience that they are indeed SIMON, PAULA and RANDY. PAULA obviously needs to speak in a high, girlish voice. For full effect, the Scout can wear a mop as a wig.

The skit can also include several smaller roles, and some Scouts may have no lines at all. The beginning can be expanded (see FINAL NOTES at end) to give more Scouts speaking parts.

CAST

HOST ... host of “Survivor”

UBER-HOST ... overseer who performs “Reality Check” on host

SIMON ... American Idol judge

PAULA ... American Idol judge

RANDY ... American Idol judge

LOSING SCOUT ... Gets most votes in tribal council

OTHER SURVIVOR SCOUTS (4 to 8) ... Other members of tribal council

Setup / Props:

- Bucket sitting on small table front and center.
- One large strip of paper _ i.e., the ballot _ inside the bucket. (A piece of a cut-up paper bag works well.) On the ballot, write the name “Chaz” in large print so that the audience can read it when displayed.
- A simulated rose (a long, flowering weed is fine), leaning behind the table, out of audience’s view.
- SCOUTS (preferably at least 5, no more than 9) sitting on camping chairs to one side and well back from the table. The LOSING SCOUT should have a torch (a walking stick works fine) lying beside his chair.
- “American Idol” judges SIMON, RANDY and PAULA seated in camping chairs on the opposite side of the table.
- HOST, standing at the table.

Skit opens with HOST standing at table, about to read the last ballot from a “Survivor” tribal council.

HOST: “Currently, the vote stands at three votes Chaz, three votes John. Now the final vote.”

(Note: This assumes there are seven SCOUTS sitting in the tribal council area. If there are five, the vote should be at 2-2. If there are nine, it should be 4-4, etc. Also, the real names of the SCOUTS can be substitute for “John” and “Chaz”.)

HOST reaches into bucket and takes out ballot, shows it to audience and announces: “Chaz.”

LOSING SCOUT: “Oh, no!”

HOST: “Chaz, bring me your torch.”

LOSING SCOUT picks up torch and walked dejectedly to HOST. HOST pantomimes putting out torch, then stepped back and points finger at LOSING SCOUT.

HOST: "Chaz, you're fired!"

LOSING SCOUT: "Wait a minute. That's not right!"

UBER-HOST (entering from off-stage): "Hold on, hold on. Everybody stop. That's not what you're supposed to say. 'You're fired' -- that's from 'The Apprentice.' This is 'Survivor.' You're supposed to say, 'The tribe has spoken, it's time for you to go.'"

HOST: "Oh, no. I got my reality shows confused."

UBER-HOST (addressing audience): "Ladies and gentlemen, this is Jeff (or use the scout's real name), and he's in need of a reality check."

HOST: "I don't know how it happened. They're my two favorite shows."

UBER-HOST: "Well, that's too bad because I don't know what the judges are going to think about this. Judges, what do you have to say?"

SIMON (in irritating British accent): "I thought it was dreadful. It was the worst performance I've ever seen."

RANDY (interrupting): "C'mon, Simon. Show 'em some love, show 'em some love. He wasn't that bad."

SIMON: "Oh, yes, he was. My blind grandmother could do better than that."

PAULA (crossing her legs and speaking in girlish voice): "Well, I thought he was just cute and adorable."

UBER-HOST (to HOST): "Well, you know what this means."

HOST: “You mean, I’m not going to be named Scout Idol?” (Note: Feel free to substitute an appropriate term. For instance, if this is being performance at a Camporee, say “Camporee Idol,” etc.)

UBER-HOST: “I’m afraid it’s worse than that.” (Picks up “rose” from behind table and gestures toward SCOUTS in tribal council.) “You now have to give this rose to the Scout you love the best.”

UBER-HOST hands rose to HOST. HOST recoils in horror. SCOUTS in tribal council stand in panic.

HOST: “What? One of those guys? Are you kidding? Huh? Aaaaaahhh!!” (Runs off screaming. SCOUTS in tribal council run off screaming in opposite direction.)

UBER-HOST (addressing audience after commotion has died down): “Now that’s what I call, ‘Fear Factor.’”

FINAL NOTES

This skit never failed to get good reviews. This was our first skit in which we had most everyone running off the stage screaming, a successful ending we recycled many times in skits to come.

Our only hiccup would come when we would try to go for one laugh too many. For instance, we performed it a couple of times with two more lines at the end. The LOSING SCOUT would say: “But what about me?” To which the UBER-HOST would replay: “You are the Weakest Link. Goodbye.” It seemed like a good idea at the time, but it served to weaken the ending considerably.

We were more successful when expanding the beginning of the skit, which would give more of our Scouts a chance to speak. We would start midway through the tribal council voting, with Scouts one at a time approaching the table, casting a ballot in the bucket and uttering a line. One Scout always got a good laugh by

saying: “Chaz, you’re going down” in a mean voice. Then he’d start back to his seat, turn back and wave to the audience and say cheerfully: “Hi, Mom.” I would not have all of the Scouts vote because it would make the skit too long. For tips on how to stage the voting, see the “Scout Survivor” skit.

ORIGINAL TROOP 1018 CAST:

HOST: ENRIQUE L-C (also played by DAN C)

UBER-HOST: DAN C (also played by JOHN D)

SIMON: HARRY W

PAULA: JOHN D (also played by ENRIQUE L-C)

RANDY: GARY R

LOSING SCOUT: CHRIS B