

THE KING OF ALL KINGS

A One-Act Play

by

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Characters

FEMALE ANNOUNCER, long hair, 20's-30's

ELVIS PRESLEY, 39

Time

1974

Place

Grammy Awards ceremony

Set/Costumes/Props

Standing microphone at lower center stage. ANNOUNCER wears a pretty, long gown with high heels. ELVIS is dressed flamboyantly. ANNOUNCER has a large sealed envelope with a piece of paper in it stating "Elvis Presley for 'How Great Thou Art.'" ANNOUNCER also has a Grammy Award trophy.

Synopsis

Elvis recounts his Christian faith during his award acceptance speech at the Grammy Awards of 1974.

Themes

Conversion
Faith
Gospel music

THE KING OF ALL KINGS

(As the lights come up, ANNOUNCER enters from stage right exit and, with all smiles, crosses to the microphone. She gives a little wave to members of the audience as she crosses. ELVIS is sitting in the stage right side of the audience)

[spot #1 on ANNOUNCER as she enters and follow]

(ANNOUNCER looks around at the audience as she reaches the microphone)

ANNOUNCER

Are you all having a good time so far this evening?

(ANNOUNCER encourages audience to respond)

[SFX: audience applauding and saying “yes”]

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

I'm sure you'll agree with me, this next award is one of the most ANTICIPATED awards in the gospel music category this year.

(ANNOUNCER flips her hair back with her hand)

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

(with a flourish) (slowly)

Ladies and gentlemen...the nominees for Best Inspirational Performance are ...Tennessee Ernie Ford for “Make A Joyful Noise”...

[SFX: audience applause]

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

Bill Gaither for “Thanks For Sunshine”...

[SFX: audience applause]

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

Sister Janet Mead for “The Lord’s Prayer”...

[SFX: audience applause]

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

Bill Purcell for “Listen”...

[SFX: audience applause]

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

And... Elvis Presley for "How Great Thou Art".

[SFX: much audience applause]

[SFX: squeals from audience]

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

(responding to squeals)

Yes!

(ANNOUNCER holds up envelope and waves it)

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

And the winner of the 1974 Grammy Award for Best Inspirational Performance is...

(ANNOUNCER opens the envelope, takes out the piece of paper, and reads the winner's name. With a smile she then looks at audience)

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

(excitedly)

ELVIS PRESLEY for "HOW GREAT THOU ART"!

[SFX: audience applause]

[SFX: segment of live version of "How Great Thou Art"]

(ELVIS stands and crosses slowly to the center stage stairs. As he crosses, he enjoys the excitement--greeting people in the audience, waving to others elsewhere in the audience, hugging some women, and shaking hands. He then enters the stage from stage right side of the center stage stairs. As he crosses to the microphone, he waves to people in the audience. When he reaches near the microphone, ANNOUNCER hands the award to ELVIS and hugs ELVIS)

[SFX: applause continues]

ELVIS

(To ANNOUNCER)

Thank you.

(ANNOUNCER steps backs. ELVIS holds award up high)

ELVIS(cont'd)

(to audience)

Thank you.

[SFX: applause continues]

(ELVIS steps to the microphone and blows kisses to the audience with both hands. He then speaks into the microphone)

[SFX: applause fades out]

ELVIS (cont'd)

I want to thank y'all here tonight for this award. This is my second Grammy for gospel music. It's no secret it's my favorite music. I've said before, I know practically every religious song that's ever been written, and I think that's true. I first heard gospel music attending the Assemblies of God church in my hometown of Tupelo, Mississippi. By two I was singing with the choir. I was baptized in that church at nine. When my family moved to Memphis, I sang at the East Tripp Baptist Church. I also discovered the all-night gospel sings at Ellis Auditorium with The Blackwood Brothers, the Songfellows, and the Jordanaires. Though I've wandered—(looks up) Lord, I've wandered—I've returned to Him because HE is the KING! That's why I can't get away from gospel music. It's brought me closer to Him. (genuinely) Recording "How Great Thou Art" this time with my friends at a live concert gave me great joy.

(ELVIS holds up Grammy)

[SFX: applause starts]

ELVIS (cont'd)

(happily) (with a smile)

This makes it sweeter. Thank you. God bless y'all.

[SFX: audience applause until ELVIS and ANNOUNCER exit]

[SFX: segment of live version of "How Great Thou Art" until ELVIS and ANNOUNCER exit]

(ELVIS blows kisses to audience. ANNOUNCER steps forward and takes arm of ELVIS. They cross slowly toward the stage right exit talking happily (inaudible to audience) to each other as they cross, and exit stage right)

[spot #1 off as ELVIS and ANNOUNCER exit]

(black out)

END OF PLAY