



HEART TRANSPLANT

Production Notes

SUMMARY: A patient is having heart problems, and describes her symptoms to the doctor. After taking an x-ray, he determines that her black heart of stone must be removed. A heart transplant is conducted and the transformation is amazing..

THEME: Our hearts are sinful and diseased. We need a transplant.

CHARACTERS AND COSTUMING:

This skit has a relatively small cast.

Narrator

Patient - Roxy Rhinestone: Well dressed, with lots of "bling"

Cardiologist/Surgeon - Dr. Wellbe: Very serious and professional, wearing white coat and with a stethoscope.

Nurse: Wears scrubs, very professional.

SETTING AND PROPS

All scenes take place in a medical facility. A chair and a low table where the patient could lie down would be all the props needed for both examination room and surgery.

Props needed include:

Stethoscope

"X-ray" (made using a transparency) of a black heart

"X-ray" (made using a transparency) of a white heart with a red cross inside

Small toy sword

Rock, about the size of a heart, painted black

White heart shaped "pillow" (or something white to represent the new heart)

TIMING:

Act I - 10 minutes

Act II - 15 minutes



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ACT I "Diagnosis"

Scene 1 - Doctor's Examination Room

Narrator: A new patient has arrived at the office of Dr. Wellbe, a well-known cardiologist.

Nurse: Doctor, your 10:00 am (*use time skit is taking place*) appointment is here. She is a new patient, (*looks at chart*) Roxy Rhinestone. She was referred by her HMO because they couldn't diagnose her heart problem. She's waiting in Room 3.

Doctor: Thank you. (*goes into Room 3*) Good morning, Ms. Rhinestone. Can you tell me about your symptoms?

Patient: Doctor, I don't know what is wrong with my heart. I feel empty, and I don't know why. I don't eat a lot of red meat, and I think I get plenty of exercise shopping. I even lift weights, if you count those heavy shopping bags that I carry.

Doctor: (*interrupting*) Ms. Rhinestone, I am a cardiologist. I can't help your feet.

Patient: Well, anyway, I go to church every week...surely that is helping my heart. You know, just about every time when the sermon starts, my eyelids just get so heavy. I just can't keep them open. Could you take a look here? (*shows him her eyelids*) I think I read something recently in "Prevention" about...

Doctor: (*interrupting*) Ms. Rhinestone...I'm sorry. We've got to stay focused on your heart symptoms.

Patient: I've felt a "knocking" on my heart at times—you know, like your car does sometime (*not my Lexus, of course*), but I just can't identify where the knock is coming from. You know, I was forced to rent a Ford Taurus recently when I flew to Boston, and it had the most obnoxious knocking. No mechanic ever seemed to be able to hear it and identify where it was coming from. They thought I was crazy. But I know what I heard...

Doctor: Can we get back to your heart??

Patient: Oh, yes, the knocking in my heart comes and goes, but I am aware of it at the oddest times. Also, my former doctor indicated that some words coming from my mouth could be indicative of a defiled heart. I think he just didn't like it when I called him a quack! But, I decided to go ahead and have a specialist to check it out.

Doctor: Let's see. According to your chart, you've never had surgery or serious illness, no allergies, no history of heart problems.

Patient: How could my chart say that? I have been in and out of doctors' offices for as long as I can remember. It's true they haven't been able to diagnose me, but I've had a lot of serious symptoms over the years! I'm a sick woman!

Doctor: I believe you. Let me listen to your heart (*uses stethoscope—stops to think in a way that the audience can tell that everything doesn't seem right to him*) Let me ask you a few other questions. Does your heart condemn you?

Patient: Well, now that you mention it, sometimes it does—but then I just call Sven and go get a massage.

Doctor: Is your heart set on things above? Or, perhaps I should say, what do you have your heart set on? Where are your treasures?

Patient: I'm not sure what you mean, Doctor. I have my heart set on the same things most women do. I want to have nice things—I can't wear just any over-the-counter diamonds, you know. I need to keep up my image. I must have designer clothes—off the rack items are so tacky. I never know when I'm going to run into a photographer from the society pages. Other women look up to me, so I need to be interesting and popular. The uninteresting and unpopular don't get invited to the influential dinner parties. My goal is to just have enough money to maintain this simple lifestyle. Does that answer your question?

Doctor: Yes, it does. Let me ask you one more question. Who would you say sits on the throne of your heart?

Patient: What a ridiculous question, Doctor. Why, I do, of course. Who else would I want directing my life?

Doctor: I guess that gives me enough information. Nurse, I would like you to take this patient down to get an X-ray so that I can get a good look at her heart.

Nurse: OK, Doctor

Doctor: *(to patient):* Please make an appointment for a consultation next week, and we will explain the results of your tests.

Patient: Thank you, Doctor.

Scene 2 - Diagnosis

Nurse: Doctor, I have Ms. Rhinestone's x-ray.

Doctor: Good. I want to look at them—her answers to my questions were somewhat disturbing.

(Nurse holds up x-ray of black heart)

Doctor: Mmmm, Yes, I was afraid of that. Her heart is desperately wicked and black with sin. And it is as hard as stone. Her disease has progressed fairly rapidly. When I talked to her, it sounded like she treasured things on earth that moth and rust could corrupt, and thieves could steal. Her heart was set on things below, and that is never indicative of a healthy heart. I am not going to have good news for Ms. Rhinestone.



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ACT II "Surgery"

Scene 1 - Consultation

Patient: I'm guessing that you did find something wrong with my heart, Doctor?

Doctor: Yes. I'm sorry. If you'll notice on this x-ray, your heart is almost entirely black.

Patient: *(very alarmed)* That's my heart? What does that mean?

Doctor: Well, your heart is seriously diseased and you are dying.

Patient: *(very alarmed)* I don't believe it! I feel fine! It's can't be! Surely you can do something!

Doctor: Yes, but there is no cure for the disease you have. Your only hope is a heart transplant.

Patient: What disease is it, Doctor?

Doctor: Your heart has been ravaged by the disease of sin, and has become a heart of stone. Luckily, here at *(name of church)* Medical Center, we have the technology to do this kind of heart transplant surgery.

Patient: A heart transplant is such a serious procedure! Won't the heart heal itself if I just begin living a more heart-healthy lifestyle? I'll do whatever you say. I'll exercise and eat right and go to church three times a week; I'll even join the cleaning ministry. I'll cut out fats and bad movies, I'll give money to feed the poor. Just tell me what good works to do, and I'll do them religiously, Doctor. I promise.

Doctor: I'm sorry, good works don't stop the progress of this disease. We know—because all men and women have this disease, and they have tried every answer that their hearts can devise.

Patient: So what will happen if I choose not to have the transplant?

Doctor: As I said, your heart has even now been hardened by the deceitfulness of sin and unbelief. If it continues to harden, you may not even have the choice you have today of having a heart transplant. The prognosis for a heart diseased by sin is death. I'm sorry.

Patient: But if everyone has some form of this disease, where will you find a healthy heart for me? I want the best heart available.

Doctor: Actually, there has only been one healthy heart—ever—and it belongs to Jesus Christ. He died for the disease of sin, and He donated His heart. It is available for your transplant. If you choose to have the transplant, you are promised abundant life and everlasting life. You could have His heart today if you choose to. It's your decision.

Patient: I can't believe His heart is available for me. I guess that's the only hope I have. I want the transplant, Doctor. But what about the cost? I will need to consult with my financial advisor. It will take a few days to liquidate some of my assets.

Doctor: Well, unfortunately, you need this surgery as soon as possible. However, even though the surgery is extremely costly, the price has already been paid by the Heart Donor.

Patient: *(in awe)* How could anyone say "no" to that? I'm overwhelmed! I hope you can do the surgery soon.

Doctor: I'll schedule you for surgery right now.

Patient: *(whips out her calendar)* Let me check my calendar. No...this week is out, I have the Auxiliary luncheon tomorrow, and Mr. Jones—you know Jerry—and a few of his Cowboys are having that dinner party Thursday night, which means that Thursday afternoon I'll be with Joseph getting my hair and nails done and getting my eyebrows waxed. Oh, and I can't make it Friday because the Black and White Ball at the Fairmont. That's actually benefits the National Heart Association, I believe. And my dearest friends, Philip and Buffy will be flying in from the Hamptons to attend with me. The best I can do is.....two weeks from next Monday.

Doctor: You don't have that kind of time, Ms. Rhinestone. My medical opinion is that time is of the essence in your case. Let me check my schedule. Hmm...my only opening for a transplant surgery is Wednesday morning. Is 10:00 OK?

Patient: Is that the best you can do?

Doctor: *(frustrated)* Your life is at stake, Ms. Rhinestone. I wish we could do it today!

Patient: Well, I guess I can adjust my schedule. This is such an inconvenience!

Doctor: Nurse, please make arrangement for the transplant. We'll see you on Wednesday. And don't forget, you cannot wear makeup or jewelry in the operating room! *(patient gasps!)*

Scene 2 - Operating Room

Doctor: I'm ready for the two-edged sword, Nurse

Nurse: *(astonished)* Do you think you need to use the two-edged sword, Doctor?

Doctor: I certainly do. I need something quick, powerful and sharp to divide asunder the soul and spirit and to discern the thoughts and intents of this heart.

Nurse: OK, here it is.

Doctor: *(uses sword, and after great effort, he pulls out a black heart of stone)* Look at this. Deceitfully wicked, and it is hard as a rock *(bangs it on the table; hands heart to nurse)*. I'm ready for the new heart *(nurse hands him white heart)*

Doctor: I've closed up now. Take her to recovery, Nurse.

Scene 3 - Recovery Room

Patient: How did it go, Doctor?

Doctor: Your stitches are healing nicely. You'll be able to return home in about a week. I want to see you back here in one month. Now, don't forget to be diligent in caring for your new heart. *(gives her a Bible)* Here's some literature that will be well worth your time to read and study. It will give you all the information you need in order to stay healthy. And if you hide His Word in your heart, you won't sin against God. The peace of God will keep your heart, but you must also guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.

Patient: I'll do whatever you say, Doctor. I'm so glad I'll be out of here in time for the Miss Plano pageant—I'm one of the judges, you know.

Scene 3 - Follow-up visit

Doctor: How have you been feeling since the transplant?

Patient: The difference is incredible, Doctor. I feel like a new creation—like all things have been made new. Some of the things that were so important to me before—like I used to be so insistent upon have only Perrier; now I can be satisfied with plain old Aquafina! And I started bearing fruit! It's the most amazing thing! I have a supernatural love for others...even for my manicurist who has always gotten on my nerves. And I have joy, and peace and patience. Oh—here comes another one *(pulls out a fruit)*

Doctor: Those are all indications of a good healthy heart. Nurse, do you have her latest X-ray?

Nurse hands doctor x-ray of transplanted heart (white heart, red cross in center)

Doctor: Looks very good--tender, pure and white as snow! And it looks like Jesus is now on the throne of your heart. Now let me listen to that new heart of yours. *(Doctor uses stethoscope, listens and smiles)* Nurse, come here and listen to this *(hands stethoscope to nurse as she too listens to the patient's heart)*

Nurse: Sounds like she is singing and making melody in her heart to the Lord.

Doctor: Another sign of a very healthy heart! Well, Ms. Rhinestone, it looks like Your heart transplant has been very successful. I'm so glad that you are doing so well. Take care of that new heart of yours.

Patient: Oh, I will, Doctor. Thank you!

Narrator: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh, and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will keep my judgments and do them." (Ezekiel 36:26-27)