

I WON THE TALENT SHOW



SCENE 1

DEEP MALE VOICE

Welcome to «You've really got talent, yes you do!». Tonight we are bringing all the action to your town. More than 2000 people applied for the show and only 30 of them were selected for tonight. And just one will win the prize. «You've really got talent, yes you do!» is celebrating its tenth edition, so this year we will have an incredible prize: 10.000 euros!

Tonight we will have all kind of acts. Singing, dancing, magic, acrobatics and even animals playing music. Only 10 contestants will qualify for the next round.

Now just relax and get ready for «You've really got talent, yes you do!».

Different contestants do their act.

JURY

That's a yes! That is a no. You are out. That is a yes!

SCENE 2

ANNA

And my father says this kind of TV shows are crap, and then there is Eric, we could say he is my boyfriend. Oh my god! How did she do that?

ALEX

It has some level this edition... I am going to be ridiculous.

ANNA

Don't say that! What was your name again?

ALEX

Alex.

ANNA

Nice to meet you. I am Anna. Sorry, I am so overwhelmed by this... Holy Mary and Joseph... He almost broke his neck! What was I talking about?

ALEX

Eric, your supposed boyfriend.

ANNA

Yes, Eric. I don't think he truly likes my act.

ALEX

Which is?

ANNA

It is beautiful, it is my whole body at work. It is strong and honest, and delicate.

ALEX

I am sure I'll love it.

ANNA

Yeah... It is sad we cannot both win. I like your style.

ALEX

I wouldn't like to think of this show as a competition.

ANNA

And how would you like to think of it?

ALEX

Just as an exhibition of the inner self of each and every one of us. Just human beings expressing themselves and their beauty.

ANNA

And you don't think the 10.000 euros prize could lead people think of this show as a competition?

ALEX

That is the wrong part. If there wasn't any money it would be better.

ANNA

But there is, and if you are here people would think you want the money.

ALEX

Well, don't get me wrong. If I win, I wouldn't reject the 10.000 euros.

ANNA

And what would you do?

ALEX

I don't think I'm going to win.

ANNA

But if you do?

ALEX

I shouldn't tell you.

ANNA

What? Why? C'mon!

ALEX

It is wrong. I wouldn't like to sound like I am showing off.

ANNA

If I win, I will travel. A lot. Across all South America. That's it. That is what I am going to do with my money. South America. Now you have to tell me. The prize. If you win...

ALEX

Well... There is a Foundation near my home. They help homeless people get off the street. If I win, I would like to donate all the money to this foundation.

ANNA

That is beautiful. You have to tell the judges!

ALEX

Oh, no way. I want them to choose me for my talent, not because they pity me.

ANNA

I don't understand.

ALEX

You don't have to. That is me, I am going now.

ANNA

You are going to be great.

ALEX

Can I ask you something?

ANNA

Of course.

ALEX

Will you pray for me?

ANNA

What?

ALEX

Pray. I know if someone is praying for me I will qualify.

ANNA

You are not joking, are you?

ALEX

Absolutely not.

ANNA

But I have never done it before.

ALEX

It's very easy. Just put your hands together, like this... Close your eyes. Close them.

ANNA

Okay, okay.

ALEX

And now repeat: Please, Mother Earth, help Alex do the best performance he can.

ANNA

Please Alex...

ALEX

Please Mother Earth.

ANNA

Please, Mother Earth, help Alex...

ALEX

Do the best...

ANNA

Do the best performance he can.

ALEX

It is my turn. Promise me you won't stop.

ANNA

I promise.

ALEX

Thank you.

ANNA

Was he serious? Was he fooling me? Oh, damn.

SCENE 3

JURY

Let's receive our next contestant. Hi, what is your name?

ALEX

Alex.

JURY

What are you going to perform tonight?

ALEX

A... thing.

JURY

Okay... And what will you do with the money if you win?

ALEX

I don't know.

JURY

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?

ALEX

I am not the talkative type.

JURY

We can tell... Okay. The stage is yours.

Alex performs his act

JURY

That is a yes! Congratulations!

SCENE 4

ANNA

He was great. Alex. Don't you think? I met him before. He is nice. I wouldn't mind if he won the prize. Are you nervous? I slept only 3 hours last night, but I feel full of energy, I feel confident, I feel like... I am going to cry! Oh My Gosh what am I doing here!? Ok, Nita, breath. Relax.... Everything is going to be fine.

So you are next, aren't you? I feel your act is going to be amazing! Why are you so calm?

SIMON

How do you know?

ANNA

How do I know you are calm? Because you are quiet and your hands are not shaking and you act like you are waiting for your turn in a shoe shop instead of the most viewed TV program in the country!

SIMON

How do you know *my act* is going to be so amazing?

ANNA

Oh... Well... You know... Just one of those things you say... For cheering you up.

SIMON

I don't need nobody to cheer me up. Don't you see I am totally calm? Calmer than a dead?

ANNA

Yes... Sorry. Just one more question.

SIMON

What?

ANNA

What is your talent? (*Simon laughs*) What did I...

SIMON

You innocent poor girl...

ANNA

What? What? Please, tell me. Is there something I should know? Maybe you can help me pass the next round?

SIMON

I will tell you a secret but then you will have to shut up.

ANNA

I will shut up. I promise. Tell me.

SIMON

It doesn't matter.

ANNA

What? What? What doesn't matter?

SIMON

Your talent. Nobody came here to see your talent.

ANNA

But... this is nonsense! It is a talent show, the talent matters!

SIMON

Look at that. Look at that girl. (*Points to the stage*). She is pretty, she sings quite well, she can dance, everybody loves this song... But she won't qualify for the next round.

ANNA

Why not? She is brilliant. And you agree. You just said she sings well and...

SIMON

You don't believe me, do you? Okay, just wait and see.

ANNA

Oh my gosh! Oh my gosh, oh my gosh... Your talent is... to see the future! You see the future! Can I ask you some questions? Will my act be ridiculous? Eric is going to love me even if I lose the contest? Please!

SIMON

Even if I could see the future, even if I am the best mentalist in history, it wouldn't matter. As I said, nobody cares about your talent. This girl was dismissed because she didn't have a story.

ANNA

A story?

SIMON

They all came here tonight not to see your talent but to listen to your story.

ANNA

I don't understand... This guy, Alex, he didn't tell any story and he passed.

SIMON

He is not going to pass the second round. Believe me.

ANNA

But this is a talent show not a story show, I don't...

SIMON

You promised to shut up.

ANNA

I did, but...

SIMON

Shhhh. It is my turn. Just watch and learn.

SCENE 5

SIMON is on the stage, sunglasses on, acting like a blind person, searching with his arms.

SIMON

Please tell me when I am in the middle of the stage.

JURY

You are okay here. Good evening. What is your name?

SIMON

Hi, I am Simon.

JURY

I believe life bit you hard. Tell us about your difficulties.

SIMON

Oh... You mean my blindness... I don't want to be boring. I prefer to show my talent.

JURY

Oh, no no, you won't bore us. Please, we have all the time in the world. Our attention is all yours.

SIMON

I was seven, and I went to Perú with my parents. I got bit by some weird kind of mosquito and I had a fever. High high fever. Forty degrees. After a week, suddenly, the fever disappeared, and so did my sight, and... When I woke up I couldn't see anymore.

JURY

I am sorry. We all are.

SIMON

Then my father was overwhelmed for the blindness of his son, and he left me and mummy. At the age of 12 I had to begin working as a dishwasher, and...

JURY

It's ok. It's ok, Simon. Just one more thing. What would you do if you win? What will you do with the 10000 euros prize?

SIMON

Well... There is an operation. A very expensive operation. Me and mom can't afford it, but with this money I could get a surgery. I would not recover all my sight, but I could see 40 or 50% better. Because my dream is to see another sunrise before it's too late...

JURY

Simon, that was heartbreaking. Can you begin?

SIMON

Yes, I am fine.

JURY

We wish you all the best. The stage is yours.

SIMON changes the attitude. He's not crying anymore.

SIMON

I would need a volunteer. Someone from the audience, please... Please, sit on this chair.

SIMON

Now I need you to be still... Finished! Look at your portrait.

JURY

Oh, Simon! That was astonishing. Your warmness, your painting skills... Today we are lucky: we have seen the birth of a new Picasso. I think there is nothing that would stop you from achieving your dreams. Your example is an inspiration for everybody. This is a yes! You are going straight to the final round.

SIMON

Really? I can't believe it... Thank you... Thank you! That means so much to me.

SCENE 6

ANNA

Dad... Dad! I need your help... Yes, I am about to perform but... No, I would do it, I know this stupid show is not your thing, but I am your daughter and you must help me. I need you to tell me one thing: What is my story? Yes, my story, something that happened to me when I was a baby. To me or to you or to grandpa... Something... C'mon, there must be something... Yes, I remember when I got lost at the park and I cried a lot and you were just behind me taking a nap. But that is not enough! I need something more emotional, more tragic... Okay... Don't be mad at me. It doesn't matter. I won't bother you anymore. It's my turn, I have to go... Dad, I will win. Bye.

ALEX enters.

ALEX

I just wanted to say... Break a leg!

ANNA

Congratulations! You were qualified for the next round!

ALEX

Yeah... Because you prayed.

ANNA

No, because your act was beautiful.

ALEX

You think so?

ANNA

Absolutely.

ALEX

It means so much to me... Now I will pray for you.

ANNA

Just wish me luck.

ALEX

It is useless. Mother Earth needs you to pray.

ANNA

We will discuss this later. I have to go.

ANNA exits.

ALEX

Please, Mother Earth, make her win. She is one of yours, she is a clean soul. She only needs a little bit of your help. Make her win, make her win, make her win. (*Brief pause.*) And make her leave that stupid boyfriend, Eric.

SCENE 7

JURY

I would like to hear a big applause for our next contestant. Come in!

ANNA

Oh, you are so cute! Thanks.

JURY

What is your name?

ANNA

Anna, but my friends call me Nita.

JURY

Okay, Nita. Is it ok if I call you Nita?

ANNA

It is fine.

JURY

So what is your act going to be about?

ANNA

If you don't mind... I would like it to be a surprise.

JURY

Well, sure... We love surprises. Anything else you would like to tell us?

ANNA

No. Well... It is kind of personal. I don't think it's...

JURY

Oh, Anna, we love it personal. If it is not a problem for you.

ANNA

Never mind.

JURY

No, Anna, don't be shy. We are all friends here. We would like to hear from you.

ANNA

It is about my... dog. My puppy... His name is Brownie.

JURY

Lovely.

ANNA

He is my best friend. My... only friend.

JURY

We hear you.

ANNA

And he... had an... accident.

JURY

Don't be vague. What kind of accident?

ANNA

He fell down. From the fifteenth floor.

JURY

Oh, God! I am so sorry. We all are.

ANNA

And I would like to dedicate my act to Brownie.

JURY

That is so sweet. And how is Brownie now?

ANNA

He is at the dogs hospital and due to the accident he won't walk again.

JURY

Thanks for sharing. I suppose this is a very hard moment for you, but we wish you all the luck. So, Nita, surprise us.

ANNA

Ok... Here goes.

Anna performs her act.

SCENE 8

DEEP MALE VOICE

This is the second round of "You got talent, yes you do!". 10 out of 30 contestants are left. And only two of them will pass into the final round. Who is going to achieve his dream? Who is going to win the 10.000 euros prize? We are getting closer to the end. Stay tuned and you will know all the answers.

ANNA

C'mon Eric... C'mon.

ERIC

Hi...

ANNA

Eric, I am on to the next round!

ERIC

I am busy. Call me later or leave a message. PIP!

ANNA

You promised you would be there!

Anna calls another number.

DAD

Anna?

ANNA

Dad! Did you see it? I am on to the next...

DAD

What the hell was that?

ANNA

But... What do you... What do you mean...

DAD

You are allergic to dogs, Anna!

ANNA

Yes, I know, but...

DAD

Why did you say that crap about Brownie and the veterinary hospital? There is no Brownie!

ANNA

I needed a cool story. Dad, If you want to win you need a good story.

DAD

No, Anna, you are wrong. What you really need is a bed. Cause you are not staying at my house tonight. You are the shame of this family.

ANNA

Dad, I just...

DAD hangs up. Anna calls another number. After some tones, ERIC takes the call.

ERIC

Yeeeah?

ANNA

Eric, hi...

ERIC

Who is this?

ANNA

It's me, Nita.

ERIC

Oh, hi. I was taking a nap. Is there something wrong?

ANNA

Did you see me?

ERIC

Where? Where are you? Are you downstairs?

ANNA

No, on TV, on the talent show!

ERIC

That thing... As I said, I was taking a nap.

ANNA

Surprise... I'm on to the next round.

ERIC

Okay... Well, you will have to help me a little out here: the next round of...

ANNA

Of the talent competition! On TV!

ERIC

What? Are you sure?

ANNA

I think I am dreaming but yeah, I am sure. They have chosen me.

ERIC

And what did you do? All that stuff of breaking things with your face?

ANNA

Not my face... but yeah!

ERIC

And they like it?

ANNA

They loved it! I can win the 10.000 euros, Eric!

ERIC

Wait a moment. And that was on TV? You broke things with your head on TV?

ANNA

Are you deaf, Eric? Yes! Turn on your TV and you will see me.

ERIC

A girl is not supposed to be on TV breaking things. Girls don't do that.

ANNA

Well, I am sorry. But this girl does it. And she is very good at it. And you know what? They loved me! And I can win the prize and I will be famous.

ERIC

Wow, that is terrific. You are going to be famous as the Hulk girl. I will be the Hulk's boyfriend. I can picture what my friends will say... Everyone will laugh at me, Nita! You have to...

ANNA

Eric, listen to me: Get lost.

ANNA hangs up. ALEX enters.

ALEX

Anna... Congratulations.

ANNA

You too.

ALEX

I am onto the next round 'cause you prayed for me.

ANNA

Don't be stupid.

ALEX

Your piece was... One of the most beautiful things I have seen.

ANNA

You are exaggerating.

ALEX

And I am so sorry... I didn't know about your dog's accident. I will pray for Brownie.

ANNA

Oh, don't waste your time. Brownie doesn't exist.

ALEX

What do you mean?

ANNA

I made up the story about my dog.

ALEX

But... why?

ANNA

I don't get why you didn't speak about the Foundation thing. You should do it on the next round or you won't pass.

ALEX

I don't understand...

ANNA

Just do it or you would not have any chance of getting to the final round.

ALEX

You mean you lied?

ANNA

Depending on your definition of lie.

ALEX

But you didn't have to! Your performance was brilliant enough.

ANNA

C'mon... You're going to be an idiot too?

ALEX

I am just saying that people lie because they don't have anything to offer. But you do. You don't have to make up the...

ANNA

Shut up! Enough! I thought you were different, Alex, but you are not. You are just like all the others.

ALEX

No, Anna, listen...

ANNA

No, you listen to me. You can get lost.

ANNA exits.

ALEX

Anna, please... Don't... Does this mean you won't pray for me on the next round?

SCENE 9

JURY

Did you decide during the break about what you will do with the money?

ALEX

Well...

JURY

C'mon, spit it!

ALEX

There is... Homeless people... Emm... -The truth is that I still don't know. I could make up a story but that will be betraying myself and deceiving the people who believe in me. I know you are angry at me, but I am not. I will pray on the next round, not for you to win but for you being yourself. I believe in you.

JURY

Whatever... That doesn't make any sense to me. You can begin your act.

ALEX performs his act.

JURY

Sorry, Alex, you are out.

ALEX

But I didn't finish my...

JURY

Don't make me furious, please.

ALEX

I am making nothing to you.

JURY

Then get out! Leave, you loser.

SCENE 10

ANNA

I must win!

JURY

Your first performance was just amazing. How are you going to surprise us now?

ANNA

If I told you, the surprise is over.

JURY

You are right. Any news from Brownie? Is he doing all right in the hospital?

ANNA

Oh, Brownie. Not really. He is not doing very well. He is bad.

JURY

I am sorry to hear that. How bad?

ANNA

Very bad. His doctor just called me. He has just a few hours left. He is not going to live another day.

JURY

Oh, Nita! My heart is broken!

ANNA

My dad is watching this show with Brownie right now. It is the last thing he will see.

JURY

In that case, Nita... I think everybody would agree: your act was mind blowing, and since you don't have any minute to lose... You can skip this round

ANNA

This means I am on the...

JURY

You are at the final round, Nita. Congratulations!

SCENE 11

DEEP MALE VOICE

We are at the final round of “You got talent, yes you do”. First there were two thousand. Now, there is just two of them. Who will be the winner? Who is going to get the 10.000 euros prize? The audience loves them both equally, but our Jury will have to choose just one.

JURY

I have been judging this competition for ten editions and I must say it is the hardest decision that I have had to make in the history of this program. Now lets welcome our two finalists. Please give a big round of applause to Nita the Wallbreaker... And Simon, the blind who sees through his soul.

ANNA

Really? C’mon Simon, it is not necessary. Stop it. You are seeing everything.

JURY

Nita, If you don’t mind you can help Simon.

ANNA

Sure...

JURY

Here we are, at the final round of “You got talent, yes you do!” tenth edition. We would love to know how it feels to have beat more than 2000 contestants.

SIMON

It feels good, really good. When you are competing with all these great performances and a clever and wise judge like you chooses... it is the best thing that has happened to me... in all my life.

JURY

Thank you for this words coming straight from your heart. And you, Nita, how do you feel?

ANNA

Well... During this show I didn’t feel I was in a competition.

JURY

But you are.

ANNA

I mean... We are not competing with each other.

SIMON

Then how do you explain there is just one winner instead of a thousand.

JURY

That is a fact.

ANNA

What I am trying to say... Is that... I'm feeling great. Being here is like a dream come true.

JURY

That is better Nita. Your final act is about to begin. There are some rumors you both have prepared something very special for this time.

SIMON

I just...

JURY

Yes, Simon? Speak up.

SIMON

Something just happened before I entered the stage.

JURY

What happened?

SIMON

My uncle called me. It's my mother... She is in the hospital.

JURY

Oh my god!!

ANNA

She is also in the hospital?

SIMON

What do you mean with this *also*? Are you comparing my mother to your dog?

ANNA

I am not comparing any...

SIMON

That's horrendous, Nita!

ANNA

Don't call me Nita.

SIMON

You crossed the line!

JURY

Dear audience, we are seeing the rising tension between the two finalists. We hope this would not go beyond the verbal attack.

ANNA

I am not verbally attacking anyone!

SIMON

My mother is very very very ill. And you mock her by comparing her to your dog...

ANNA

Okay, okay... Let's stop this. I have an announcement to make.

JURY

We hear you Nita. Is it something about your dog?

ANNA

It is something about my dog.

JURY

Is he ok?

ANNA

No, he is not ok. Because he doesn't exist.

JURY

I beg your pardon?

ANNA

It was all made up. I thought if I had an emotional reason to win the money I would pass onto the final. And I did. I am here. But I can't stand it anymore.

SIMON

Oh! I can't believe it!

JURY

What are you trying to say?

ANNA

I lied. Brownie is not real. I lied to win the money so I can travel to South America. But what I truly wanted was to show my father and to my boyfriend that I really could...

JURY

We don't care to hear the reasons why you wanted to win the prize. That could be a lie too.

ANNA

But I am telling the truth. I just wanted the money for traveling, but deep inside of me I wanted to show...

JURY

Anna, you are a liar. You are disqualified.

ANNA

But... Why? I have to perform my final act.

JURY

You won't perform anything. You are out. Which means that... Simon is the winner of the tenth edition of "You got talent, yes you do".

SIMON

I am the winner! I am the best!

ANNA

Get off! He is a liar too! He is not blind! He is faking it He has to be disqualified also! Listen to me! He is a liar. Everybody is lying! Almost everybody.

SCENE 12

ANNA at the phone.

ANNA

Yes... I know... Thank you dad. I will see you in a while. Love you too. My father... He is not angry anymore.

ALEX

You did the right thing.

ANNA

Can you wait for a moment? I have to make another call. Eric may be asking how... You know what? That's it. No more calling. He is not asking anything. I am done with this show.

ALEX

I have a proposition for you.

ANNA

What sort of proposition?

ALEX

I know we are going to be a great team. We could do a great show, each one with our own talent.

ANNA

I don't belong in the show business. It is not made for me. Or I am not made for it.

ALEX

You are wrong. I know a lot of people who would love seeing you on stage.

ANNA

Sure...

ALEX

The Homeless foundation asked me to perform in its theater every weekend. Join me, please.

ANNA

I don't know. I have to think about it. I don't... I have to go. It has been a pleasure.

ANNA rushes out.

SCENE 13

FEMALE VOICE

Welcome to "You are talented", the weekly show of our Foundation. This evening we have prepared a lot of surprises for you, we hope you have an amazing time. As usual, all the profits of the show will be dedicated to fund the activities of our Foundation. Now please welcome to our main artist, Alex The great; and me, Anna. Applause, please.