

THE GREAT MARVELLO

By Rod

This sketch is designed to go with an Advent all-age guest service 'looking forward' to the return of Jesus. The Great Marvello vaguely represents Jesus, but stretching the analogy too far would be overdoing it! The main teaching point is "Don't miss out". The main characters are all given female names but Ali and Dee could easily be male (with suitable name change) without need to alter the script. It would require a little more alteration to make Becky and Carla male but it would not be too hard.

CAST

Ali *Girl. Teenager. Sympathetic to meeting 'The Great Marvello'.*
Becky *Girl. Teenager. Cynical towards 'The Great Marvello'.*
Carla *Girl. Teenager. Equally cynical.*
CRIER *Probably, but not necessarily, an older person. [Vaguely represents John the Baptist]*
Dee *Male or female. Any age. Keen enthusiast who has seen The Great Marvello.*
Announcer *Heard from off stage.*

There is a poster proclaiming:

<p style="text-align:center">COMING SOON</p> <p style="text-align:center">THE RETURN OF</p> <p style="text-align:center">THE</p> <p style="text-align:center"><u>GREAT MARVELLO</u></p> <p style="text-align:center">GET YOUR TICKETS <u>NOW</u></p> <p style="text-align:center">BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE</p>

Enter Ali, Becky and Carla. They are in conversation (e.g. TV, films, etc. Chance to ad lib)

Ali *Here look, have you seen this poster?*

Becky *No, it must be new.*

Ali *[Reading] "The Return of the Great Marvello".*

Carla *Never heard of him.*

Becky Me neither. It's not going to be much of a return if we never noticed his first visit.

Carla Too right. It'll be like that Doctor joke.

Becky Which one?

Carla Doctor, doctor, people keep ignoring me.

B&C Next. *[They laugh together]*

Enter Town Crier.

Crier *[Shouting like a Town crier]* Roll up, roll up! Get your tickets for the return of the Great Marvello. Don't miss the greatest show on Earth. *[A, B and C go up to Crier]*

Ali Here, mate, who is this Great Marvello?

Becky Is it you?

Carla I hope not. He looks more like The Great Sad Loser-O!

Crier You are right.

Becky What?! It is you?

Crier No, your friend is right. I am not worthy even to undo the sandals of The Great Marvello.

Carla Sandals! I said he was a sad loser.

Becky Yeah, my Dad wears white socks with his sandals. It's dead embarrassing. I have to pretend I'm not with him.

Carla You're lucky, at least your Dad doesn't wear skimpy Speedo swimming trunks on the beach. Yuk. If it wasn't for his paunch hanging down he'd be arrested for indecent exposure.

Ali So, if it's not you, who is this Great Marvello? Is he some sort of magician?

Crier I suppose he is in a sort of way. But he's far far more than that.

Ali In what way?

Crier Well, imagine Paul Daniels, Harry Houdini Derren Brown and David Blain all rolled into one.

Becky You mean he's really fat?

Carla Just like my Dad. I hope he doesn't wear Speedos with his sandals.

Crier When I spoke of his sandals I was speaking figuratively to emphasise his greatness. His works and wonders far outpass anything even the greatest magician has ever performed.

Ali He sounds a pretty cool guy. I'd like to meet him.

Crier Good decision. Here's your ticket. *[Gives ticket]*

Ali How much is it?

Crier Oh, it's entirely free.

Becky Yeah, free now, but how much does he have to pay at the entrance?

Crier Nothing, I assure you.

Becky On your bike, mate. I wasn't born yesterday. I know there's no such thing as a free lunch.

Carla Except for the one you scoffed at my house yesterday.

Crier *[To B&C]* Would either of you like a ticket?

Becky No thanks, we've got far more important things to do with our time. *[Gets out mobile `phone]*

Carla Too right. We're far too busy. *[Gets out her mobile `phone]*

Crier Are you sure, only it may soon be too late. You really need to get your tickets now if you're not going to miss the show.

Becky *[Aggressive]* Look, mate, don't you understand English. We're not interested. OK?

Carla Yeah, naff off, Great Sandal Undoer-O. *[Crier moves to edge of stage and continues to advertise The Great Marvello without distracting from the others' conversation. He could wander down into the congregation as long as he is back in position later when needed.]*

Becky *[To A]* I can't believe you bought a ticket.

Ali I didn't buy it. I was given it for free.

Becky You're more of a sucker than I thought. I can see that Carla and me are going to have to educate you in the ways of the world. Isn't that right, Carla?

Carla Yes indeedy. Now, Ali, for example, when someone comes up to you and says "Would you like a sweet?" You don't take it before you ask a few searching questions like "Where has it been?" and *[Enter Dee excitedly at side where Crier is standing]*

Dee Quick, the Great Marvello has arrived. He's fantastic but you must come right away. The show is just about to start.

Ali *[Crossing to Dee]* Is he here already?

Dee Yes, have you got your ticket?

Ali Yes, here it is. *[Shows to Crier who waves him through.]*

Dee Right. Come on then. There's no time to lose. *[Exit A & D]*

Announcer *[From off stage]* Ladies and Gentlemen, please give a huge welcome to the Great Marvello. *[Huge cheer from off stage. B & C look at each other. They look intrigued, shrug to each other and go across to follow Ali but Crier blocks their way]*

Crier I'm sorry noone is allowed in once the show has begun. It is too late.

THE END