

A script from



"Hashtag Wonderfully Made: Expanded Cast"

by
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- What** The @ Symbol goes to God with complaints about wanting to be more like the popular Hashtag Symbol, but learns, along with some other punctuation, the valuable lesson that he was beautifully and wonderfully made for a purpose. **Themes:** Self-Esteem, Creation, God's workmanship, Life, Insecurity, Purpose, Wonderfully Made
- Who**
- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| God | Ellipses #1 |
| @ Symbol | Ellipses #2 |
| Ampersand | Ellipses #3 |
| Comma | Hashtag |
| Interrobang | |
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Black shirt and pants for At Symbol and all punctuation except Hashtag, who has a leather jacket and sunglasses. Can put the punctuation on the shirts if desired. God can wear all white.
- Why** Many people struggle with feeling useful and wonder why God didn't make them differently. This skit emphasizes that we are all made with purpose and without mistake. Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 139:14, Ephesians 2:10, Romans 11:29
- How** Keep the dialogue conversational and fairly swift, until there is a moment when you want to pause to emphasize a point. Practice slight pauses for laughter, so the audience doesn't miss the next joke. Stage does not need anything else, and lights can be used to narrow onto the scene, almost like they're in a place of no time or space.
- Time** Approximately 6 minutes

The @ Symbol cautiously approaches God who stands on stage.

@Symbol: Um, hello, God?

God: Well, hello At Symbol. How are you today? Diligently guiding emails everywhere?

@Symbol: Yes, God, um, that's what I would like to talk to you about.

God: Oh?

@Symbol: I was wondering if you would consider changing me—

God: —I'm very good at that—

@Symbol: —into a Hashtag.

God: Oh...But At Symbol, you were made to—

@Symbol: I know, I know. Email couldn't exist without me. Shorthanders everywhere love me. But...it's just...

God: What?

@Symbol: I'm boring. And Hashtag has all the fun. Nobody gives me a second thought, but not so with Hashtag. He's the life of the party. All the time. Some people can barely spurt out a sentence without Hashtag.

God: Hashtag: discouraged.

@Symbol: Now you're just messing with me.

God: I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Listen, At, I know sometimes it can feel like other punctuation have it better than you. But when you all work together, doing what you were created for, you are the most amazing support system for the English language!

@Symbol: It's just not fair. I mean, even the comma gets more excitement than I do. Did you know that a comma can change the entire meaning of a sentence? Let's eat, Sharla. Take out the comma, and you've got Let's eat Sharla, and it's—

God: --A zombie apocalypse. I get it. But At Symbol, without you, our modern world wouldn't function as it does. You are to email as ink is to paper.

@Symbol: Speaking of that, you know most people, when they're writing me instead of typing me, butcher my design? I'm very elegantly designed. Nice, sweeping half circles—

God: —precisely formed to create two beautiful, interlocking circles. (*Off @'s endeared look.*) I thought long and hard about your design, At. Everything about you is beautifully and wonderfully made. So you do like something about yourself!

@Symbol: I guess. When they write me correctly. But even my name sounds clunky. "At Symbol." You know what Hashtag's real name is?

God: Octothorpe.

@Symbol: That's right. Octothorpe! I mean, it practically sounds like a super hero name.

God: Okay, okay...let's take a deep breath. Sometimes, when you start looking around at what others have and do, you can forget how uniquely designed you are yourself.

@ Symbol shrugs, like he's not really listening.

God: For example, did you know that in other countries, you're not called the At Symbol?

@Symbol: What am I called?

God: The Dutch call you The Monkey's Tail. Israelis call you a Strudel.

@Symbol: Oh, well, that's kind of cute.

God: Sure it is! And in Bosnia, you're called—wait for it—Crazy A.

@Symbol: Crazy A...I like that. Makes me sound pretty tough, like, "Don't mess with Crazy A! You take Crazy A out of an email address, and you might as well send your letter to the black hole of the Ethernet."

God: See? Sometimes, to appreciate ourselves, we have to understand how others see us.

@Symbol: But I think most people just take me for granted.

God: Maybe. But I don't. Every day I see the billions of emails you escort to all the places they were intended. Important emails. Letters saying "I'm sorry." Announcements that there is a new baby on the way. You've delivered news that a war has started. That a president has died. And of particular interest to me, you've delivered many,

many notes about my Son Jesus, and what He did for the world we love.

@Symbol: *(stunned)* Oh...wow. I've never...I've never thought of me like that. *(Hangs his head.)* I kind of feel ridiculous now.

God: Don't. You're not the first piece of punctuation to stand before me and complain about who they are—oh dear.

God and @ Symbol turn to see a stream of punctuation coming in.

@Symbol: What's going on?

God: You can't imagine how busy I get listening to everyone complain about who they—

Ampersand shoves his way to the front.

God: Ampersand! How are you?

& Symbol: God, I appreciate you calling me by my given name, but just go ahead and call me what everyone else does: the And symbol.

God: Whatever you prefer.

& Symbol: What I prefer is to be put back on the alphabet. *(Off @'s stunned look)* That's right. I used to come right after the Z, until I was suddenly deemed not "good enough" to be a letter. No offense to you symbols, but I got to see a lot more action when I was a letter.

The Interrobang comes up next.

God: Hi Interrobang. How are you?

@Symbol: What is an interrobang?

Interrobang: Exactly. I was quite exciting many moons ago! I was a question mark with an exclamation mark right through the middle! Then someone decided to separate my symbols and now everyone uses a question mark and then an exclamation mark to declare something shocking, and I'm left...*(emotional)*...obsolete.

God: But Interrobang, you have many fans. Did you know you have your own Facebook fan page?

Interrobang: You're kidding.

God: You and Ampersand may see yourselves as obsolete but I see a rare and beautiful treasure. When people learn about you, they're

always intrigued. *(Looks behind Interrobang)* Comma! Good to see you, as always.

Comma: I'm not here to complain. I'm just letting you know that I recently found out the root of my name means Little Knife.

@Symbol: That sounds...violent.

Comma: Agreed. This could ruin my reputation as a simple and humble hook that just wants to organize sentence structure! I mean, what am I? A dangling participle?

God: Comma, settle down. It's okay. You put in important pauses. It's not like you're going around knifing sentences everywhere.

@Symbol: I was just remarking to God about what an important job you have.

Comma: Oh. Really? Well that's very nice of you to say, At. I'm a big fan of yours as well.

*@ Symbol looks shocked at the compliment. Suddenly **Ellipses 1, 2, and 3** scurry toward **God**, one after another.*

God: Hello, Ellipses. You're looking very lined up today!

Ellipses: *(all together)* But God! It's recently come to our attention that we are used to replace parts of a quote nobody thinks are important enough to put in there.

Ellipses #1: Do you know how that must be making Quotation Marks feel?

Ellipses #2: I'm guessing awkward—

Ellipses #3: Dot...dot...dot *(to others)* I'm sorry, Ellipses 2 wanted that sentence to trail off so I needed to add us to the end. *(To God)* That's what we're good at, God. We love trailing off sentences and thoughts!

*Suddenly, **Hashtag** enters, leather jacket, sunglasses. Everyone gasps. He's clearly a star. The others part to make way for him. @ Symbol watches him carefully. Strangely, he is not looking as confident as usual.*

Hashtag: God, can I talk to you?

God: Of course, Hashtag.

Hashtag: I...I know everyone thinks I'm cool and all that, but...on the inside, I feel...well, let's just put it this way. How people feel when they're on hold on the phone and have to keep pushing "the pound sign"

...that's how I feel about myself too. Sure, I can start a national dialogue just by being in front of a word or phrase. But on the inside, I don't feel that powerful. I feel like the button everyone hates while they're on hold.

@Symbol: What? Hashtag, that's not true. You have such a gift of communication.

God: You should listen to At. He delivers important words very well.

They both smile.

@Symbol: *(looking earnestly at God)* God, I am so sorry. I think I just sort of got into my own head, and started feeling really insecure about myself. *(Everyone nods and agrees)* But now I see...we were all created to be wonderfully useful in this world. And maybe I'm just a way to complete an e-mail in some people's eyes, but I'm special. I'm Crazy A!

Hashtag: Hashtag Awesome!

@Symbol: That's not even stinging my heart right now!

Lights down.