

Jonald Reyes
What's the Big Idea?

CAST:

Idea Jones - wearing a shirt that says "Idea" over another shirt that says "Sketch" on it; is dying
Broadway Play Carol - wearing a shirt that says "Broadway Play" on it; wants to help people in need; dramatic
Sitcom Harry - wearing a shirt that says "TV Sitcom" on it; looking for a good idea to make into a TV sitcom
Reality TV Fred - wearing a shirt that says "Reality TV" on it; likes to kill ideas; all about the fame; over-dramatic
Movie Margie - wearing a shirt that says "Movie" on it; not afraid of anything and likes to look out for the little guy
Internet Sue - wearing a shirt that says "Internet" on it; wants to rule the world

(IDEA enters stage staggering and coughing. Faints CENTERSTAGE. PLAY enters and hurries to IDEA's body.)

PLAY

Oh my god! This idea is dying! What happen to you?!

IDEA

(*coughing*)...not developed enough...

PLAY

And now you're a hack. I know how it is. I was an underdeveloped idea too but now I'm a Broadway Musical. I can sing and dance. (*sings like opera*) "I eat cornballs and drink Schmaltz liquor." People think I'm gay, but I'm not. Sure, I have good nights and bad nights, but no matter what, the show must go on!

IDEA

...help...please...

PLAY

I know! You can be my idea! With good writing and musical direction, you could be a call back or even a second Act. Together we will win Tony Awards!

(SITCOM enters and runs to the aid of IDEA.)

SITCOM

Whoa, an idea! I sure could use you. If you're good, we could make lots of money in syndication on Fox, but if you're not, we just land on the W. B. (*laughs but then suddenly stops*)

PLAY

This idea is having his final curtain call.

IDEA

...need some development...

SITCOM

...and lots of sexual innuendos... wooooooo(*suddenly stops*)

PLAY

Hey sitcom, if you help me, we could take this idea to some writers. A sparkle of embellishment might do the trick.

SITCOM

And some trite and true structure. Without structure, I'm just a vaudeville act. (*laughs but then suddenly stops*)

PLAY

Can you turn your laugh track off?

SITCOM

Sorry. With no structure, we'd be a bunch of ideas running around with our objectives chopped off. There would be no direction. We would be as bad as...

(Enter in REALITY TV.)

SITCOM and PLAY

REALITY TELEVISION!

REALITY

That's right, "Joe Schmoes!" You still around Sitcom? I thought I gave you the Eliminate 3 years ago.

SITCOM

You may get me in sweeps week but I still got Ray Ramano. Everybody Loves Raymond.

REALITY

What's this? An idea? Oooh, I can do a lot of things with a piece of this Idea.

PLAY

Don't lay your casting call on him! We all know how you treat ideas. You take a small piece of what you need, heighten the crap out of it, and fabricate the rest. You'll just kill him!

REALITY

Don't listen to this OFF-Broadway lounge act, Idea. I can get you fame across the nation kid. You would be the true "Apprentice" in the "Real World." People will watch you but never admit to it. We're everyone's dark secret, like "The Mole."

SITCOM

My watch says that your 15 minutes is up. Don't you die now?

REALITY

(mockingly) "Don't you die now?" SHUT UP! I have new seasons just like you Sitcom. People get into miles of lines to hang out with me and all I have to do is be myself. Now hold still Idea. All I need is a strand of your hair.

IDEA

(coughing) ...I'm dying...

PLAY

No! He's going quick! I'm taking this idea.

SITCOM

...he's mine! I can't be cancelled next season...

REALITY

...not before I get what I need!

(REALITY, PLAY, and SITCOM wrestle for a bit, then REALITY takes out a remote control and points it to them nervously.)

REALITY

NOBODY MOVE OR POWER OFF!

IDEA *(panicking; sick)*

Whoa...I'm just an idea. You know - a thought. Someone made me to be funny, but no one laughed. You gotta help me!

PLAY

We need a plot twist!

SITCOM

I can do this. (*Points to door, then doorbell rings*)

PLAY

Great device, Sitcom.

(Enter in MOVIE.)

MOVIE

Did someone call for help? I see the problem, you let Reality Television loose in here.

REALITY

Stay back, you over budgeted short story! I'll zap you straight to Betamax and no one will hear from you. All I want is a piece of this Idea, then you can fight over the rest.

MOVIE

Look at him. He's dying. You can't kill him; we get so few fresh ones. I'm already a remake of a remake. Give him to me. I can nurture him into a new epic, or even better, a trilogy.

REALITY

Back off! I have reinforcements too! Documentary is my cousin! And if I have to, I can always call...

SITCOM

No, don't do it!

MOVIE

You don't have the guts.

PLAY

It's suicide, Reality Television - even for you!

REALITY

I don't care! This is the Tribal Council meeting and I'm the "Survivor!" YO, big guy! I got an idea for ya!!

(Enter in INTERNET.)

INTERNET

Did you say idea? I love ideas! I can Java one up and turn it into 100 websites. He'll be Googled in no time. Hand him over!

MOVIE

The Internet doesn't scare me. The dot-com generation is dead. Everybody has their own website. You're not so special!

INTERNET

Ah, but you forget about on-line dating, you box-office bomb! No one needs to watch television, movies, or plays. They stick me on their favorites and I'm refreshed every minute. This is the Armageddon!!

SITCOM

(laughs but suddenly stops; beat) ...Ooops, sorry.

INTERNET

Now, give me this idea so I can domain his ass and force him to drop user cookies.

(INTERNET and REALITY go to IDEA, but IDEA is not moving.
IDEA is dead.)

REALITY

He's dead.

(A quick montage of reactions: PLAY gasps. MOVIE 'ugh.'
INTERNET 'ewws.' And SITCOM's laugh track goes off.)

INTERNET

Oh great. This was a bad idea. It was a virus.

PLAY

It must have been from all our arguing. *(starts sobbing)*
Can't you see?! We all grew from ideas too.

REALITY *(upset)*

OH NO!

(ALL characters question - "what?" "what's wrong?")

REALITY

"American Idol" is on and I'm here.

INTERNET

You're all wasted ideas! I could be uploading porn instead of being here. This idea was hack anyway...a flash in the pan. Give him to Carrot Top.

PLAY

Don't you have any special effects to help us out, Movie?

MOVIE

An Idea doesn't die. It lies dormant, waiting for the right medium to give it a reason to be. Sitcom, Play, we know what we need to do.

(MOVIE, SITCOM, and PLAY huddle around IDEA. IDEA takes "idea" shirt off and has "sketch" shirt on. Then emerges from the huddle.)

REALITY

A Sketch? Is this some kind of joke?

INTERNET

Who cares? It's still a bad idea. Joke dot com sucks!

IDEA

People care! Someone's watching me...

(All characters slowly turn to stare into the audience.
BLACKOUT.)