

Pen Psychic
by
Simon Wiedemann

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INT. TV STUDIO - DAY

A HECKLER (20) in casual clothes sits in an AUDIENCE of 100, on the back and highest row of chairs. In the centre of the room, is a bald PSYCHIC with a black goatee (50) and wearing sinister looking black clothes. He sits by a table with a microphone immediately in front of him. He faces a pen on the table and a microphone is immediately in front of that. A CAMERAMAN (30) films the PSYCHIC.

PSYCHIC
Hello, audience!

The AUDIENCE cheer.

PSYCHIC
As you all know, I am the only
psychic in the world who can
communicate with pens!

The AUDIENCE cheer again.

PSYCHIC
Let's not bother getting to no each
other as of course, I know everything
about you already!

The AUDIENCE say 'wow!'

PSYCHIC
So, pen. What's your name?

A squeaky voice is heard.

PEN
My name is Harold Johnson!

The AUDIENCE go wild.

PSYCHIC
Would someone in the audience like to
try and talk to the pen? I am the
only person in the world who can
share my powers. But only
temporarily. After the show only I
will be able to communicate with
pens.

HECKLER
Yes, hello Harold. I don't believe
it's you that's talking at all, I
think it's someone in this studio.

There is an icy silence.

PSYCHIC

Well, well, well. Not a popular opinion it would seem.

PEN

Yeah, stupid audience member!

PSYCHIC

Now, now pen. Everyone has the right to their opinion. So, Harold, what do you want more than anything in the world?

PEN

I want to draw!

PSYCHIC

But pen, you need someone to draw with you, you can't draw on your own!

HECKLER

This is insanity!

PSYCHIC

Look, I know everything about you. How do you think people will react to you if I tell everyone here that I know for a fact you're prick??

HECKLER

What did you say? You're just a lowlife fraud!

The PSYCHIC bangs on the table, knocking the pen to the floor. Both microphones remain on the table.

PEN

Ow! (Expletive)!

PSYCHIC

Harold! This is a family friendly occasion!

HECKLER

The pen isn't anywhere near the microphone, it's clearly a trick! And you're not psychic if you're speaking to the pen, 'psychic' means you're reading its mind!

PEN

Screw you!

PSYCHIC

You want to show to go something like this?: Hello pen!... Wow, that's amazing, tell me more!... Wow, wowee! What a smart pen you are! THAT'S why the pen has a microphone, without it I could just make any old nonsense up!

PEN

Yeah!

HECKLER

Again, there's someone behind the scenes speaking in a squeaky voice and pretending to be a pen.

The AUDIENCE gasp in horror.

PEN

Heckler, your name is Steve Phillips, you are 20 years old and you study English at university.

PSYCHIC

Pretty impressive, Harold. You're clearly psychic, too.

HECKLER

So THAT'S why someone came round my house and took a survey! They said it was for the government!

PSYCHIC

Took a survey, what's that mean?

HECKLER

Someone asked my name, how old I was and if I was in further education!

A 60 year old MAN sitting next to the HECKLER joins the conversation.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 2

Something similar happened to me...

The AUDIENCE say 'yeah...' in unison.

PSYCHIC

Look, the government needs to know about the population, otherwise criminals can enter the country and mess everything up. It has nothing to do with me.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 2

I was asked if I was really gullible and if I was prone to suffering from delusions. Why does the government need to know that?

Another AUDIENCE MEMBER speaks.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 3

I was asked how I would respond if a madman kept pestering me in a TV setting...

PSYCHIC

And what did you say? So the other audience members can know, I mean.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 3

I said 'I'd keep cool and would enjoy the show.'

PSYCHIC

Good man, do that.

HECKLER

Why does the government need to know that??

PSYCHIC

I don't know, I don't know anything about the government. If I had to guess... curiosity?

PEN

Yes, that's what it is.

PSYCHIC

Of course it is. I know it's out of curiosity, there you go.

PEN

Can you pick me up please?

PSYCHIC

Sure.

The PSYCHIC picks up the pen and puts it back on the table. He then sits back down.

PSYCHIC

So Harold, what do you think will happen to Stephen after the show?

PEN

Oh unspeakable suffering...

PSYCHIC

Wow, I'd be very careful if I were you, Steve. You're not driving are you?

HECKLER

This whole show is a farce! We're all going! Aren't we??

The HECKLER stands up and then falls over. He then sits back down.

HECKLER

Ow! My ankle!

PSYCHIC

Suffering unspeakably much?

The AUDIENCE go 'oooo!' in awe.

HECKLER

Well the show hasn't finished yet, so...

PSYCHIC

Yes, things will get worse for you.

HECKLER

He's a conman!

PSYCHIC

Everyone else in the audience, if you stay here and enjoy the rest of the show, I PROMISE that it will have at least one good outcome at least in a way!

An OLD LADY in the AUDIENCE comments.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 4

Ooh, he's very good, isn't he?

HECKLER

You're all insane!

The HECKLER leaves the room as the PSYCHIC waves his hands around mystically and pulls spooky faces with his mouth open. The AUDIENCE cheer.