

# BELIEVE

A 10-MINUTE Play

by Marc Littman

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Logline: An Elvis fan looks to The King to inspire his jaded family to believe in something greater than themselves.

History: Believe has not been staged but it has been workshopped by Theatre West in Los Angeles and also had a reading with the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights.

### Cast of Characters

Joe: Middle-aged man, an avid Elvis fan.  
He sports fake Elvis sideburns, a  
gold chain and Elvis collectible  
cap.

June: Joe's wife, not an Elvis fan.

King: Joe and June's disinterested teenage son.

### Scene

A simple set. JOE and JUNE are seated across from each other at a small table playing with a Ouija board. There's a plate of peanut butter and banana sandwiches, Elvis' favorite. Slouching next to them on a bean bag chair, smart phone pressed between his legs, KING is furiously playing *Mortal Kombat*.

### Time

Present (Aug. 16 anniversary of Elvis' death)

AT RISE:                   JOE and JUNE's fingers tentatively  
                            touch the pointer as it meanders  
                            across the Ouija Board. JOE excitedly  
                            announces the first letters. JUNE  
                            chimes in. KING is oblivious.

JOE

G - E - T

JUNE

A

JOE

L - I- F....

JUNE

E! Get a life, Joe! From the grave, Elvis is telling you to move  
on. What more validation do you need?! Thank you, Elvis! I can  
finally say that.

(JUNE springs from her chair and  
claps her hands.)

JUNE (Continued)

Hallelujah!

(Joe is flummoxed. He inspects the  
pointer.)

JOE

You cheated, June. You made the pointer move.

JUNE

Like heck! How could I do that? You were watching my every move.

JOE

It's a known fact whoever is thinking something sends nerve impulses to their fingers and subtly moves the pointer. Let's try again.

JUNE

No! Elvis has left the building.

JOE

But not the universe. Come on. It's the anniversary of his death. Elvis died at his beloved Graceland, but I sense The King is with us here tonight.

JUNE

I sense a fool. I married a fool.

JOE

Humor me. You know how much this means to me. Ever since I almost drowned in Elvis' pool -

JUNE

It was an Elvis impersonator's pool. We were at a church benefit. And you told everyone, including the pastor, you saw this hairy jeweled hand reached down and pull you up. It was embarrassing.

JOE

I had an epiphany. Elvis saved me to carry on his good work.

(Sighing, JUNE sits. Her fingers tease the Ouija board pointer then she abruptly yanks them away.)

JUNE

Just cuz Elvis could swivel his pelvis like he had jock itch doesn't make him a god.

JOE

Try telling that to the faithful I plan to drive to Graceland...that is if my boss relents and lets me drive one of his buses.

KING

Shut up! I hear something.

(KING starts playing *Hound Dog* on his smart phone and howls but stops when JOE grimaces.)

JOE

That's not funny.

JUNE

I know. It's pathetic.

JOE

And playing *Mortal Kombat* 20 hours a day isn't?

KING

When I'm a professional gamer making big bucks you'll change your tune.

JOE

Says the gamer stuck on *the* very easy level.

(KING, glaring at JOE, plays snippet of *Jailhouse Rock*. JOE shuts it off.)

JOE

Go ahead. Make fun of me and your namesake. The King would never mock me. He'd accept me. He'd accept you. Your mother, I don't know.

JUNE

I thought you said Elvis accepted everyone.

KING

Men, women, rich, poor, black, white.

JOE

Elvis knew what it was like to be put down. Did you know Elvis failed music class?

JUNE

Yeah, Humes High School in Memphis. We know the story.

JOE

And not everyone loved Elvis. No Ma'am, especially after he appeared on the Ed Sullivan show.

KING

The guy was too sexy for his jeans.

JOE

If you ask me --

JUNE

We're not.

JOE

I think race had something to do with it. Elvis married Black rhythm and blues and Country music. Broke taboo.

JUNE

They broke the mold with you, Joe.

JOE

Elvis never forgot his roots. He grew up dirt poor. Anyone who was down and out, he'd give them the shirt off his back.

JUNE

Along with his sweaty scarfs.

JOE

At concerts? Man, I'd love to have one just to smell it and savor the moment.

JUNE

You never even saw Elvis perform. You're too young.

JOE

Thank God for YouTube.