

The following is excerpted from

“MAKE IT STOP”

A Ten-Minute Christmas Comedy

By Ken Levine

Andy goes to a psychiatrist because he can't get the song “Simply Having a Wonderful Christmas Time” by Paul McCartney out of his head. And he won't until he discovers the real meaning of Christmas.

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# **MAKE IT STOP: A CHRISTMAS PLAY**

By Ken Levine

A 10-Minute Holiday Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Andy goes to a psychiatrist because he's had an earworm in his head for almost two years. The song is "Simply Having a Wonderful Christmas Time" by Paul McCartney.  
Can he be saved?

ANDY – 30's/40's, a little on edge.

DR. OWENS – Middle-aged, level-headed

MAKE IT STOP: A CHRISTMAS PLAY

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

The office of DR. OWENS, a middle-aged psychiatrist. Patient ANDY PORTER sits across from him. He is in his 30's/40's.

DR. OWENS

So how can I help you, Andy?

ANDY

Well, I have an earworm. Do you know what that is?

DR. OWENS

An earworm. I --

ANDY

It's when you have a song stuck in your head and you can't get it out.

DR. OWENS

This is why you need a psychiatrist?

ANDY

It's driving me mad. I can't shake it. It's affected my sleep, my concentration. I almost got fired for forgetting to submit important documents. My girlfriend left me. I've begun drinking way too much. I haven't done my taxes. I've lost twenty pounds. I cry on the bus. Dirty dishes are stacked to the ceiling. I post pictures of cats on Facebook. And they're not even my cats. And last week... last week I actually thought... for one brief moment... of ending it all.

DR. OWENS

Oh lord. What is the song?

ANDY

"Simply Having a Wonderful Christmas Time."

DR. OWENS

By Paul McCartney?

ANDY

Yes, I want to punch him in the face. Make it stop!

DR. OWENS

Okay, just relax.

ANDY

Every station plays it. Over and over --

DR. OWENS  
They play lots of holiday music.

ANDY  
...and over and over. And OVER. I can't escape that song.

DR. OWENS  
But it's August.

ANDY  
Yes, so you begin to see my problem.

DR. OWENS  
You've had that one song stuck in your head for eight months?

ANDY  
Twenty. This started a year ago.

DR. OWENS  
Yikes. What is it like hearing the same song in your head for twenty months?

ANDY  
How do I describe it? (beat) Okay... imagine the movie "Groundhog Day" but the day he keeps repeating is Trump's inauguration.

DR. OWENS  
Jesus. And you only thought of suicide once?

ANDY  
What do I do?

DR. OWENS  
(beat) Okay. Well, have you tried listening to other catchy tunes? Not a lot of psychiatric journals have done studies on earworms... although this is just the sort of thing that gets billions in government grants.

ANDY  
Nothing works.

DR. OWENS  
"England Swings like a Pendulum Do?"

ANDY  
No song.

Dr. Owens begins singing the Roger Miller hit "England Swings."