

Synopsis for 'Satan's School of Speech and Drama' by Mark Allen

Logline:

Satan is bored of Hell and has decided to make life more interesting by coming to Earth to recruit some new slaves to mow his eternal lawn. To achieve this, he sets up his very own school of speech and drama, and in exchange for being able to realise their artistic ambition, the recruits agree to sell their souls. The only snag is that Satan has to make them successful.

Series Outline:

Satan has too much to do in Hell, so he subcontracts the purchasing of souls branch of his operation to a group of freelance devils on Earth. Instead of collecting real names however, the freelance devils make them up in order to collect their commission without having leaving their Playstation.

When Satan turns up to collect the souls on the people's death beds, he finds that none of them actually believe in him (let alone agreed to sell their souls to him), and is laughed out of the room. Subsequently, Hell is very low on new submissions, and Satan has to remedy this problem by going back up to Earth again, accompanied by his equally-evil wife Anthea, in order to buy people's souls himself and to rebuild his work force.

After a number of unsuccessful attempts to buy people's souls on Earth, Satan has to rethink his strategy and, having seen the torturous lack of talent in most of today's "celebrities", he decides to set up his own School of Speech and Drama. Not only are there millions of talentless wannabes willing to sell their souls in exchange for fame, but in exposing them to the world and making them famous, Satan will be inflicting yet more evil onto the nation, which pleases him immensely.

Shortly after Satan places an advert for his School of Speech and Drama, he is inundated with hopefuls wishing to be made famous, of which, Satan only chooses the most obnoxious to turn into superstars. Every time Satan is about to help one of his starlets reach the top however, he discovers that it's not so easy to keep them there and he fails to close the deal and secure their souls.

The problem is, despite treating them like his own children (he locks them in the basement and feeds them through a hole in the wall), Satan finds his temperamental stars difficult to deal with and he also finds that the showbiz industry itself is more devious than he could ever have hoped.

Additionally, throughout the series, Satan encounters the group of freelance devils (whose laziness got him into this mess) in varying positions of authority within the showbiz industry, and he is forced to wreak his revenge on them for their previous misdemeanours.

Throughout the series, we see several wannabe artistes fall by the wayside despite Satan's best efforts. His training regime does not appear to go down well with his stars... or the human rights charities, and his attempts to bribe his way into the industry prove fruitless. Satan is eventually forced to return to Hell after his ordeal, and he finally realises that he's a lot happier where he is.

Character Outlines:

Satan has come to earth as an overweight 47 year old Cornish man with a large, ginger beard. He revels in the fact that he is evil, but he never truly earns this mantle, as he only mostly performs petty tricks to annoy people, rather than anything truly dastardly. He fully adopts his role as an agent and gets very frustrated when he constantly fails to achieve success. Satan is actually quite normal on earth – something that he hates. To replace the three-headed Hell-hound he has in Hades, Satan has bought a daschund.

Anthea is married to Satan and is considerably more evil than her husband, though she doesn't possess the powers to do anything about it. She is 35 and is, essentially, mutton dressed as lamb, which Satan likes. Anthea is constantly trying to goad Satan into performing random, truly evil deeds, but he will not be swayed from his job as an agent. They often argue, but always make up in a very lewd and public manner.

Petunia Swift is the sour faced 43 year old vocal coach brought in from Hell by Satan. She never shows any joy in her job and appears to hate everyone, only suffering them because she is forced to. She is very abrupt and sharp-tongued, which intimidates Satan, and her vocal classes are torturous for the 'stars', as her techniques of gargling with vinegar and screaming until you're hoarse seem a little unorthodox.

Jean La Troix is the 32 year old movement coach, also from Hell. Although he is very camp, Jean is a vicious sadist, who gets a sexual kick out of forcing the 'stars' to do gruelling physical exercise under the guise of helping them to become famous. Jean has to constantly repel the sexual advances of Deirdre, who does not accept that Jean is gay.

Busby Mackereth is the 45 year old Shakespearian acting coach brought in by Satan. Although he is seemingly jovial, he is very bitter about the new recruits being turned into stars so easily when he has failed to make a name in the career. He is the constant source of back-handed compliments and, on several occasions, unsuccessfully tries to sell his own soul to his employer.

Alexander Strood was a member of the very successful boy band 'Boytopia' until Satan swapped his legs, with those of a goose. Because of this, Alexander is scared of Satan and is forced to train the new recruits in how to handle fame. He acts as a constant reminder to the 'stars', of Satan's ability to remove their fame as soon as they are granted it.

'The Talent' – A desperate group of nobodies and wannabes, who apply to join Satan's School of Speech and Drama. Each episode will focus on the rise and subsequent fall of one of the 'stars', who range from **Glen Shackle**, the Welsh karaoke singer dreaming of fronting a boy band, to **Donna Lewis**, the aggressive wannabe pop-star from Essex, **Titus Spinks**, the terrible actor desperate to land a role as a hard man in Eastenders, and **Josie Pringle**, the talentless bimbo who would give anything to be a tv presenter.