

BILLY TWINKLE

Ronnie Burkett

BILLY: Oh God, thank you for this day and all the blessings I have received. Forgive me my trespasses, like shushing that peroxide pig in the audience tonight, for I know she is also one of your children. And a pig. Sorry, but it's true.

Forgive my evil ways and deeds, like wishing the whole audience would choke on chicken bones at the midnight buffet or have diarrhea so bad they dehydrate themselves to death, for I know they are all thy children too.

And forgive this child of yours for his weakness, because I'm going to jump off the edge of this boat, okay God?

I know, I'm not supposed to... call it a boat. It's a ship. That's the first thing they teach you. And dear God, I don't care. I don't want to do this anymore anyway. It's not been a bad life, God. It's been okay. So, thank you, Father in Heaven, for the bounty of thine okay.

This isn't the worst time I've ever known, God no. The worst is farting on stage and knowing they heard it. The worst is having a puppet in each hand and horking a phlegm ball onto yourself and watching it slide down your lapel. The worst is not liking puppets anymore. That's the worst, by far.

And yes, thank you for the blessing of being one of the top-rated cruise-ship puppeteers in the world, dear Father; which, while not exactly the asshole of show business, is at least sort of the belly button, but I'm tired of being a bear in a tutu who dances in a floating cage for stupid people to poke at.

Happy Sea Fun Cruises?

Oh c'mon, what's so happy about it? Look what they make me wear! I look like gay Popeye. I look like Moby's dick. I look like an inflatable mime. I look like Cirque de So Gay. I don't want to do this anymore! I'm invisible. I'm a performer and you're the only audience I've got left, God? So I'm walking the plank because there's no lifeboat. No floatation device. It's sink or swim, and I'm drowning... in nautical metaphors. Life will never be as beautiful as I imagined it. He looks up one last time. In thy holy name, amen.