



The Production, (the play).

Written by
Shaka Azure Sickels



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Sickels.shaka@gmail.com
707 223-6447

The set, is a 'production room' a desk has ruffled papers and electrical nonsense on it.

Characters:

Benjamin - A Bombastic, expressive, recluse who fluctuates between certainty and self-questioning.

Jerome - Wry, bored, and matter-of-fact, Jerome's grounded approach is wise, if, at times, obvious -perhaps- sarcastic.

Synopsis: Struggling to improvise a presentation scenario a hermetic eccentric (BENJAMIN) is visited by his aloof, but based friend (JEROME) who offers support and advice, but, Will Jerome's lack of hangups cause a dramatic and action packed scene to unfold between the two of them? -Yes. In fact, but is that the Conflict, or was the real conflict an internal one all along?

Used character props props include a broom and hand-broom, An umbrella, and a wad of densely written-on paper.

Sound Effects:

lock breakingi n.mp3

anticipation.mp3

'Pirate-dual'.mp3

(CLANG!.mp3)

(Big Lights, Down & Up)

(Walking downstage to
greet the audience)

BENJAMIN

(Walks forward)

Hello, I greet you, As one Misbegotton might greet another of indeterminate begottency, just as the world is filled to the brink with whatever you were most concerned about a moment ago. It's Rampant! It's in the streets, or, law-books, or in the minds of millions. Whatever it is it's freaky, and... -No! No no no Cut! I'll cut this take. I'm being too specific!

Exasperated, Benjamin takes a moment to ready themselves for a second take. Slaps their face a little bit, jumps, and then claps to reset the lights

CLAP CLAP

LIGHTS DOWN/UP

Hello. Some call me the (<.< >.>) Expositioner: let me tell you about the top five things that you could do right now, starting with number 1...

(struggles a beat)

CUT!, okay, okay, okay! Don't try to prioritize.

(CLAP)

LIGHTS DOWN/UP

The engines burn... millions of them. As if Farting into this elevator we call Earth... ---NoH! that's too serious.
<CLAP CLAP>

(does a spin while
lights down)

lights down/up

Oh! Hello, it is I, your neighborhood informant -ooh that sounds terrible.

<CLAP CLAP> (steps up pace))

LIGHTS DOWN/UP

Introductory statement everyone: arguments, conclusion, call to action- All of it! There! That's all you wanted! - CUT.

(Takes a breath)

(MORE)

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

(Turning aside, then
back)

OH, Hello, I didn't see you there. Perhaps that's because I've been in a recording studio for as long as I can remember. And you were just there, behind me this whole time. - that's Comforting. -But of course I'd only say that to comfort you. The Doom that comes with hubris sits like a raven watching us, questioning if we can even say anything more pertinent than: " (Mimes Urgency, Booking-it, and hiding under a rock)
-CUT!

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

The world today is a problem. And in order of relevancy I will tell you about it. Any second now. Just maybe after I take a napsie (Collapses into Chair)

...

(Loud Banging at the door)

JEROME

Hello?!? Benjamin?!

BENJAMIN

No guests. I'm... Experiencing restless exhaustion currently.

JEROME

Too bad, bud, car broke down on the way in.

BENJAMIN

That's terrible.

Sound Effect: Lcckbreaking.mp3
(Jerome enters,
returning a tool to
his coat)

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

Did you really just do what you clearly did?

JEROME

(pocketing a
multitool)

Yeah your door wasn't working, so I just gave it a once-over for you.

BENJAMIN

I would guess that was because it was locked@

JEROME

So, I got your letter.

BENJAMIN

I sent you a letter?

JEROME

You did, couple months ago, maybe a year or two, taped it to the outside of my bedroom window.

BENJAMIN

What was that letter about again.

Jerome withdraws a collection of
pages from a coat pocket

JEROME

It was something about you having a hard time writing out a proper introduction or deciding on a theme or something, I wasn't really paying attention. here,

(JEROME pulls out a wad of papers
to quote from)

"They'll See! One Day, Jerome: They'll All SEE! When you know you also have to deal with the fact that you don't know, because you'll even know that"

BENJAMIN

That's my writing.

JEROME

-So did you have any luck with thing?

BENJAMIN

YES. Yes, it's been going. Good. I'm Fine. Great, -Actually, I've gotten quite far into The Introduction section of --The Production--

JEROME
Really? Wow, that's great.

BENJAMIN
---Yehea.

JEROME
mean, I guess that means you aren't (references the letter)
"Reeling from existential dread, questioning anything, even
the need for questions" anymore?

BENJAMIN
Oh, yes, yes. I'm far past that point.

JEROME
Oh, That's great to hear, man. -I've been working on stuff
too, but, you're probably busy

BENJAMIN
Of course. But, ah. -I mean, if you've gone this far out of
your way already, you uh, might as well give me the pitch.

JEROME
Ok, so, first it starts like this (clears throat)
In the beginning, we are all ignorant, then, like silicone
wafers given variable informational charge in the form of
information, we learn.

BENJAMIN
Brilliant- How long did that take you?

JEROME
Oh I wasn't done

BENJAMIN
Oh.

JEROME
And as we learn, so to do we get our asses kicked, our balls
punched, and our eyes singed by radiation. -But meanwhile,
-on the inside, we become resilient to all that crappy
knowledge, and orb-kicking memory.

BENJAMIN

(as to end Jerome's
performance)

Is that all?

JEROME

No

BENJAMIN

Damn.

JEROME

What we need more than self-deception in the face of
adversity isn't perfection- It's the knowledge that we can
be good enough if we just accept that we can't be perfect.

BENJAMIN

(Now entering denial)

THAT is your takeaway? That you can just be 'Good
enough' simply by Trying? No wonder you've come to me for
help. how will that- address the rotting core of our
collective socio-psychonomic abuse that pervade nearly every
depth of our Hu-mon society!?!/

JEROME

I dunno.

BENJAMIN

(flustered, benjamin
asks:)

Just... How many of these "memorized scripts" do you have?

JEROME

Well I been struggling on one for awhile now

BENJAMIN

(greatly satisfied)

Ahh, yes, it is hard to finish a script. That's why I prefer
to improvise. I find it more-- Generative.

JEROME

I've been getting through a couple per week otherwise.

BENJAMIN

But that's... at least several?

JEROME

Yea. And I've been working out this dance meanwhile

BENJAMIN

So it's like that huh? Are you Challenging me?

JEROME

No?

BENJAMIN

Oh, By the way Jerome, Did I show you that I've installed a clapper -for the lights?

Anticipation.mp3 Begins

JEROME

(stops dancing)

What? No,
How's it work?

BENJAMIN

-It works like this

<CLAP CLAP>
Lights DOWN 5 seconds/up
Anticipation.mp3 Ends

(BEN runs offstage)

LIGHTS UP AFTER 5 SECONDS

JEROME

Benjamin? (Gets ready to lift the BROOM)

BENJAMIN

(charges back onstage
at Jerome with a
wooden sword /or/
umberella)

'Pirate-dual'.mp3

AAAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!

JEROME

(Jerome lifts the broom up with his foot, catching it to block BEN's overhand strike)

Overhead, -Clash

BENJAMIN

OOOH! What's a matter Jerome! Have you written a script for this too!

JEROME

Well I mean I did rehearse for a Fight scene we could talk about=

BENJAMIN

(cutting Jerome off with a snarl Ben presses the attack)

RRRRRAWWGH!

BEN-breaks the clash then & then strikes in combination right, left, down-right, thrust

JER reacts, with guard=left, right, upperleft, and then down to parry the thrust.

BEN sweeps his misdirected thrust in a slash

JER ducks, and in sweeps the broom at BEN, pushing him back with several thrusts to the face

Ben, pushes the broom upwards, and spins to the ground to sweep @ JEROME, who jumps over the strike coming down with a downward broom strike that Benjamin pulls sword up to block - They hold it as a clash while Benjamin slowly rises to his feet, seething

JEROME

So do you not wanna just maybe talk about what what ideas you've had or-

BENJAMIN
No!

Breaking the clash, they hit left,
right, left, then, clashing they
circle round and Benjamin's stick-
sword goes clattering up-stage.

JEROME
Aha!

BENJAMIN
Damn.

Jerome then steps on Benjamin's
foot, which he hops on

JEROME
Sorry,

one foot, Jerome shoves Benjamin
who falls,

JEROME (cont'd)
Sorry!

BENJAMIN
You'll not take me that easy!

JEROME
I'm socially obligated to do this!

JEROME raises the broom
dramatically and then strikes down
at Benjamin:

Benjamin, fallen next to of the
Handbroom uses it to block holding
the final clash from the ground:

JEROME (cont'd)
I don't suppose this is a good time to ask why you're mad?

BENJAMIN

The clash gradually goes slack

Jeromey I'm Sorry. I-I don't know what came over us. -wait-
on introspection: I think that -I- may have overreacted.
(MORE)

BENJAMIN (cont'd)

JEROME

... You gonna qualify that statement with anything? Or? ...

BENJAMIN

Yes. (the clash stops) I'm a Hack-Fraud. Jerome. It's not improvisation -It's Procrastination. Jerome: You must Strike me down, it's the only way.

JEROME

Perhaps you shouldn't take it so serious.

BENJAMIN

Do I look serious to you? -- Don't answer that, actually.

Jerome begins helping Benjamin to
his feet

JEROME

Benji, buddy, maybe what you need is to get outside of yourself, maybe take a walk, Oouh, and I don't know if you're interested but I just fell in with this theater group called the Specific Persons and-

BENJAMIN

Don't push your luck.

(Together they burst
into a bout of
sitcom-like laughter)

JEROME

ahaahah, Ahhh... wait, no, no, no, cut, the 'don't push your luck thing's' supposed to be a callback, we forgot to set that up so it didn't make sense to laugh now..

BENJAMIN

What?

JEROME

Yeah this whole take, we gotta cut it.

BENJAMIN

(increasingly alarmed)

What??

JEROME

Sorry we're going to have to cut this one.

BENJAMIN

You keep saying that but, but we're having an authentic moment here

JEROME

(Patting Benjamin on
the shoulder on his
way offstage)

Naah, Don't worry buddy, we'll get it next time. I mean, you'll get it on the next take, I'm-goin home for now, but I'm more like your conscience or whatever too. You got this. (puts hands on Benjamin's shoulder (JEROME CLAPS twice for the lights and EXITS)

Lights Down 5 seconds

(Big Lights sound-effect)

BENJAMIN

(looks aghast at the fourth wall
for a long beat)

... (swallows, then proceeds)

Greetings and hello... I am.... Someone, and Today I have come to tell you a story... Beginning, of course, where all stories must... The beginning.

LIGHTS OUT

FIN.

Pirate Dual.mp3 plays to projector
scroll of 'practice video' and
credits