

# THE\_DISABLED

Written by

Gur Koren

Translated and adopted to english by

Alon Pdut

First production: Beit- Lessin Theatre, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

Text "Romeo & Juliet" by William Shakespeare.

Won award for "The Best Comedy for 2014" of the Israeli theater academy

Gur Koren won the award for "play writer of 2014" for his play "The Disabled" of the Israeli theater academy

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## LIST OF CHARACTERS

Toby Levy : Late 40's. A gangster and a drug smuggler.

Vera Mizrachi-Levy: Late 40's. Toby's wife. A wedding-dress designer.

Josh Levy: 26. Toby and Vera's son.

Donnie: An ex-con. Works for the family.

Rainbow McDonnell - 30+. Director of the "Stage of dreams" ensemble. A theater group of disabled people.

Actors of the "Stage of dreams":

Edward- 20, suffers from a borderline mental disorder.  
(Romeo)

Mia - 24, blind. (Juliet)

Dana- 40+, deaf. Her text is marked XXX XX (Nanny)

Louie- 20+ African American. Suffers from Asberger's syndrome. (Mercutio)

Duncan- 35+, hard of hearing. (Capulet, Friar Lawrence)

Ming-Chi- 40+ Asian, chubby, super sweet. Suffers from a mild mental disorder. (Lady Capulet)

Jesus- 30+, Latino, suffers from a mild- moderate mental disorder. (Tybalt)

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE:

We found that the success of the play depends on the way the roles of the disabled are played. A grotesque depiction of these characters may harm us, not only as theater artists but also as human beings. This play already walks dangerously on the fine line of political correctness. So... I would like to advise actors playing these roles to create full, touching and lovable characters. I would say the same goes for the roles of the gangsters -but that's not my problem. If you piss them off with an unflattering approach to the characters, check under your cars before leaving the theater... and of course, never give them my name! Good luck!

GUR KOREN.

ACT 1.SCENE ONE: MAY MIT BURN TO THE GROUND.

Location: VERA's bridal salon.

JOSH is rotating between his laptop, tablet and a cell-phone. TOBY is smoking restlessly, and Donnie is keeping watch by the door. VERA is sewing pearls onto a wedding dress. The atmosphere is tense. On the wall is a portrait of VERA's father, in a suit. The radio is on.

RADIO

"And on different note, only a week after Congress announced there would be budget cuts, it seems the prime victims are, as usual, the Endowment for the Arts and Social Security benefits"

JOSH's phone beeps. JOSH turns off the radio.

TOBY

JOSH, what was that?

JOSH

Everything's under control, Dad

TOBY

Under control? This thing just beeped. Maybe something happened to the plane.

JOSH

The plane's fine. That was just an update from the app that our plane entered the Macedonian air-zone.

TOBY

(In a calming voice) Macedonia, good good. (Beep) JOSH, what was that?

JOSH

I programmed the application so that when the triangulation changes, the transmitter looks for receivers a, b and c until the next triangulation point. It's an exceptionally simple algorithm.

VERA

Joshie-pooh - don't talk to us like that.

JOSH  
Like what?

VERA  
In Chinese.

JOSH  
Mom, give me a break.

DONNY  
Yo JOSH, I know I'm only the muscle, but from where I'm standing, you don't talk to your parents like that.

VERA  
They don't teach you respect for your parents at MIT.

JOSH  
Alright- I'll explain again. I put a tiny satellite transmitter in the bags with the stuff. It works exactly like a GPS. You know GPS?

DONNY  
I know GPS!

JOSH  
Well that's way we get the stuff's location- straight from his intestines.

VERA  
So not only did you put this guy on the plane with two kilos of cocaine inside, you made him swallow a satellite dish too?

JOSH  
Mom, didn't you say to leave you out of this?

TOBY  
VERA- trust your genius son, he's taking our business cyber!

VERA  
"Cyber"..My father would take the dope, wrap it up in newspaper, put it in the mule's bag and say, "Have a safe trip buddy!"

JOSH  
You didn't have to pull me out in the middle of the semester to wrap cocaine in a newspaper.

VERA  
Joshie-pooh, don't disrespect your Babi's ways.

JOSH

I'm not disrespecting anything, but you asked me to help with the business because Dad can't handle it on his own.

TOBY

You said I couldn't handle it on my own?!

TELEPHONE RINGS. (SAME SOUND AS THE APP, TOBY THINKS IT'S FROM ONE OF JOSH'S DEVICES)

TOBY (CONT'D)

JOSH! What was that?!

JOSH

I don't know!

TELEPHONE RING CONTINUES. VERA ANSWERS.

VERA

VERA's Bridal Salon, is Mazel tov in order?

TOBY

For God's sake VERA, you're dealing with the dresses now?!

VERA

Would you prefer I write an invoice for "Toby Cocaine Ltd.?!". (To phone) Of course you can come over. I'm here. I'll wait for you... I added some pearls, I lowered the cleavage, I- no- I can't - any lower - you'll be naked! ...I'm here sweetie. Tell Mom. Amen amen.

JOSH

Mom, we're five minutes from landing and you're planning weddings?!

VERA

Remember Joel from your class? Well, this dress is for his bride.

JOSH

That dress is for Joel Adler's bride?

VERA

Yes JOSH, People your age actually get married!

TOBY

Tell her half the dress is a present from TOBY Levy

VERA

Have you lost your mind? This is a 5,000 dollar dress!

BEEP

TOBY

JOSH! What was that?

JOSH

The plane landed.

THE FAMILY AND DONNY ARE CELEBRATING.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Who da man now?! Who?? I told you, in the 21st century no business could succeed without using technology.

VERA

No disrespect to technology, but to succeed in our business you need to be a man. Do you remember how your Babi defined a man? To be a man you need to 1) make love to a woman. And 2) take out a man. Last time I checked, they didn't have apps for that.

JOSH

Just as easily as I snuck coke into Macedonia, I'll take out a man whenever you tell me to. But if I need to get married to run this business, you can tell your father he can start looking for a new heir.

VERA

Excuse me?! Why shouldn't you be married? So you aren't much of a looker, so what? You're a nice Jewish boy from a nice Jewish family. You can find someone average, can't you?

TOBY

JOSH, listen to your mother. A man needs a woman. (To VERA) I'm nothing without you. (Kisses her)

VERA

Your father can teach you a thing or two about love.

JOSH

"Love". Love is just an instinctive physiological reaction. It's a hormone named Pheromone that catapults you into a metabolic spin.

VERA

I wish MIT would burn to the ground!

TOBY

My love, let's take our son and the evolutionary miracle known as DONNY and go out for lunch to celebrate, eh?

DONNY

Can we go up to "Shlomo's Shawarma?"

JOSH  
I'm vegan.

DONNY  
Get the chicken salad.

VERA  
Ok, I'm also starving. I'll call Adler's bride and tell her to come by later.

DONNY  
What should I get? The double shawarma or the Triple kebab?

TOBY  
Get both- it's on the house. We've got 2 million dollars to spend.

BEEP.

TOBY (CONT'D)  
Now what? Our guy stopped at the duty-free shops?

VERA  
Text him on your app to get me a carton of Marlboro lights.

JOSH  
Something's gone wrong.

TOBY  
VERA, I love you

VERA  
You did good TOBY.

TOBY  
Not only me -it's our little genius son here.

JOSH  
Listen, I think something's wrong.

VERA  
(Holding the telephone) Why isn't she picking up?

DONNY  
Maybe I'll take the steak.

JOSH  
Shut up for a second! I think something happened to the plane! I've lost connection with the app!

TOBY  
"Connection with the app. If anything happened to the plane, we would hear something about it on the radio.



DONNIE TURNS THE RADIO ON

INTERVIEWEE

It's ridiculous that Obamacare is just gone without any other viable plan to replace it, I mean people are dying!

THEY ALL LAUGH. THEN...

INTERVIEWER

Sorry but I must interrupt you -we've just received a special report-An "Air Macedonia plane just landed at Skopje airport, with a dead passenger in it. American citizen Joel Adler was found dead in his seat. (VERA drops the wedding dress she's holding). The cause of his death is apparently two doses of cocaine that exploded in the passenger's stomach. Airport police have informed us that besides the drugs a tiny satellite transmitter was found in the bags. The investigation is being continued

THEY TURN THE RADIO OFF. PAUSE.

VERA

You sent Joel Adler?

DONNIE

God rest his soul.

VERA

Since when Joel Adler a smuggler?

TOBY

Weddings are expensive. For the dress alone they charged him 5,000 bucks

TELEPHONE RINGS

JOSH

It's from Macedonia

TOBY

What?

JOSH

It's the client

TOBY

Tell him the shipment has been delayed.

VERA

Delayed till when? The resurrection? You killed him TOBY.

TOBY

You're blaming me?? Did he bring me a note from the doctor about his cocaine intolerance?

JOSH

(To the phone) Hello?

VERA

Why is it so hard to smuggle drugs into Macedonia?

JOSH

(To phone) It seems we have a small problem-

VERA

For two years you've been trying to smuggle coke into that shitty country

JOSH

(To phone) Yes, I'm afraid so-

VERA

You lost Prague, you lost Budapest, Macedonia is the only country we have left.

JOSH

(To phone) You're right, of course-

VERA

How much have we already lost because of your pathetic attempts? 2 million?

JOSH

A million and a half

VERA

Is that what you needed a degree from MIT for? To kill Joel Adler?

DONNIE

God rest his soul

JOSH

It wasn't supposed to fail! Adler probably ate something acidic that raised the ph levels in his stomach and (to the phone) Of course we'll compensate you..

VERA

Why is it so fucking hard to smuggle drugs into Macedonia?

JOSH

Apparently the Macedonians don't want drugs smuggled into their country!

VERA

Well then, how come my father's men were never caught?

TOBY

Because then they had no devices, no dogs, no..what's he saying JOSH?

JOSH

He doesn't want to work with us anymore.

TOBY

Tell him I'm sending him the best stuff.

JOSH

He doesn't want to hear it.

TOBY

I'll give him a discount.

VERA

My father never gave discounts!

TOBY

Tell him he'll be getting 2 kilos for-

JOSH

He wants 5 kilos now.

VERA

Where are you going to get 5 kilos from?

TOBY

Tell him He'll get it within three weeks.

VERA

5 Kilos is at least 2 mules.

TOBY

We can make it in three weeks.

JOSH

He's giving us a week and a half.

VERA

And where are you going to get the cash for five kilos?

TOBY

He'll give us an advance.

JOSH

He says no advance.

VERA

TOBY, forget it, this is not for you. Tell him you're done.

SLIGHT PAUSE

TOBY

Tell him it's a deal, and to go fuck himself.

DONNIE

Don't say that! You'll hurt his feelings.

JOSH

He says that if this time it doesn't arrive he's switching to Silverstein.

JOSH HANGS UP. SLIGHT PAUSE.

VERA

Let's give Macedonia to Silverstein.

JOSH

Mom stop it! Let's think it through.

VERA

I am thinking it through. Silverstein is our colleague. He's better than us, his stuff doesn't get caught, and his people- don't end up dead with dope in their stomach. He may have taken out my father, but the guy sure knows how to smuggle drugs.

TOBY

JOSH, order 5 kilos.

VERA

Forget it TOBY, you're a good man, drug smuggling isn't for you.

JOSH

Shouldn't we plan first how we're going to-

TOBY

Call and order 5 kilos!

VERA

It's not your fault my father left you the business.

JOSH

It'll cost half a million.

VERA

Half a million? He'd never charge my father such-

TOBY

Enough with your father already! He's dead and now I'm running the business!

VERA

JOSH, order me a ticket. I'll take the stuff to Macedonia myself.

TOBY

VERA, I don't interfere with your dresses, don't interfere with my smuggling.

DONNIE

TOBY, I volunteer to take the stuff.

JOSH

Donnie, you're an ex-con with manslaughter and drug charges on your record.

DONNIE

Does that mean I have no right to fly from one country to another with a bunch of cocaine?

TOBY TAKES OUT A GUN AND AIMS AT  
DONNIE'S HEAD.

TOBY

Donnie, If you don't want to end up on Shlomo's Shawarma's grill you better shut the fuck up!

PAUSE

VERA

I'm going to pay my condolences to the Adler family.

TOBY

Donnie, go with her.

VERA

Donnie, stay! Oh TOBY, we're going to pay for the rest of our lives for what happened under that bridge.

JOSH

What happened under what bridge?

VERA

Ask your father. Another one of his success stories.

VERA LEAVES

TOBY

Donnie!

DONNIE LEAVES AND RETURNS IMMEDIATELY.

DONNIE

Just making sure- no Shawarma today?

DONNIE LEAVES

JOSH  
What happened under that bridge?

TOBY  
Just forget it!

JOSH  
Forgotten. I have a new plan on how to smuggle the Dope.

TOBY  
JOSH, leave me alone! You fucked up enough! Half a million  
you cost me!

JOSH  
Dad..

TOBY  
Go away!

JOSH LEAVES UPSET. TOBY LOOKS AT THE  
PORTRAIT OF VERA'S FATHER ON THE WALL.

TOBY (CONT'D)  
Hey you, yes you! Got any tips for us? A little help  
maybe?

SIRENS ARE HEARD FROM OUTSIDE

TOBY (CONT'D)  
That's some great help, thanks.

KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

TOBY (CONT'D)  
(To photo) If I can handle your daughter I can handle some  
five o's.. Come in

THE DOOR OPENS, ENTER

DUNCAN (A DEAF GUY) AND LOUIE (SUFFERS  
FROM ASPERGES SYNDROME)

LOUIE  
Hello. We are members of the "Stage of dreams group, which  
is a theater ensemble of disabled people. We're going door  
to door asking for help from our neighbors.

TOBY  
Is there a police car outside?

DUNCAN  
Are you talking to me? I need to see your lips.

TOBY

Police! Have you seen the police?!

DUNCAN

No need for the police, We just came to ask for donations

LOUIE

We are asking donations for the "stage of dreams group, a theater ensemble for disabled people. We are going door to door asking for the help of our neighbors.

TOBY

Now's not a good time.

LOUIE

Our play was accepted to a theater Festival for disabled people.

TOBY

You need money?

DUNCAN

You have to let him finish -he memorized it.

TOBY

Go on.

LOUIE

Our play was accepted to a theater Festival for disabled people. But due to cuts in the Welfare department budget, we didn't receive the necessary funding for the trip. We're grateful for any donation.

TOBY PULLS OUT A STASH OF BANKNOTES  
AND HANDS IT TO THEM.

TOBY

Here, good luck and good bye.

LOUIE

We are turning to you for help, in order to enable us to participate with our play in a Theater festival-

DUNCAN

A thousand dollars?! We don't have a receipt for a thousand!

TOBY

I don't need a receipt. Just go, please.

LOUIE

This year the festival will be held in the state of Macedonia, if you want to-

DUNCAN

Louie! Cut! Let's go. (To TOBY) You're cool.

TOBY

(To Louie) Just a moment, say what you just said again.

LOUIE

Hello. We're members of the "stage of dreams" group, which is a theater ensemble for disabled people.

TOBY

No, no What did you say after that?

LOUIE

Due to the cuts in the budget of -

TOBY

Where is your disabled festival??

DUNCAN

Macedonia.

LOUIE

We have receipts for the sum of 10, 15, 20, 25, 50 or 75 dollars you can pay in cash or..

LIGHT GOES DOWN ON TOBY AS LOUIE  
CONTINUES MUMBLING.



SCENE 2DANCE FOR YOUR LIFE!

LOCATION-

LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTER. ON STAGE "THE  
BALL SCENE FROM ROMEO & JULIET

ACTORS ON STAGE

EDWARD- AS ROMEO, MIA - AS JULIET,  
DANA - AS THE NANNY, LOUIE- AS  
MERCUTIO , DUNCAN- AS CAPULET, MING-  
CHI - AS LADY CAPULET, - AS TYBALT

ALL CHARACTERS ARE MASKED MAKING IT  
IMPOSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY THEIR FACES.

\*PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

UNTIL THE CHARACTERS ARE UNMASKED IT  
IS UNNECESSARY TO EXPOSE THE FACT THAT  
THE ACTORS ARE DISABLED. THE PLAY MAY  
NOT BE THE BEST SHOW IN TOWN, BUT THEN  
AGAIN THERE ARE MANY BAD PLAYS BEING  
PERFORMED DAILY.

DUNCAN

Welcome all! Welcome to our ball!  
Don't stand tonight - but dance for your life!  
Band play the score! Butlers pour the wine!  
Those who don't dance - don't get to dine

DANCING

EDWARD AND LOUIE (ROMEO AND MERCUTIO),  
CENTER STAGE.

EDWARD

Mercutio, who is she who dances there so fair?

LOUIE

I have no idea, dear cousin

EDWARD

Oh! She could teach a torch to burn bright  
It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night  
Like a snowy dove trooping with crows  
As the fairest lady over her fellows shows

DANCING

JESUS (TYBALT) WITH MING-CHI (LADY  
CAPULET) AND DUNCAN (CAPULET), SIDE-  
STAGE.

JESUS  
This should be a Montague, by his voice  
Fetch me my rapier, boy- He leaves me no choice

MING-CHI  
What is with you Tybalt? Why are you angry so?

JESUS  
Aunt, it is Montigue -son of our greatest foe

MING-CHI  
That's young Romeo?

JESUS  
It is he. Bring me my sword. What will be will be will be\*

DUNCAN  
Listen nephew, no one in my home shall die tonight  
Control yourself - it is my command- you have no right

EDWARD COMES UP TO MIA , TOUCHES HER  
HAND

EDWARD  
Forgive my sinful hand for it's sacrilegious act  
It's never met such beauty, and has so little tact

MIA  
Don't reprimand your hand. It came to the temple to pray

EDWARD  
Then my lips need to pray too, if they may

MIA GETS CLOSE TO KISS HIM. EDWARD  
TAKES OFF HIS MASK.

EDWARD (CONT'D)  
What are you doing? What are you doing??

ALL THE OTHERS REMOVE THEIR MASKS.  
MING-CHI BRINGS A PICNIC BOX AND OPENS  
IT.

EDWARD (CONT'D)  
Sorry for stopping the rehearsal! But this is  
unprofessional - if we decide something we need to stick to  
it.

\* JESUS HAS A TENDENCY OF REPEATING  
WORDS/PHRASES AT THE END OF THE  
SENTENCE.

DANA

XXX XX XXX XXXX XXX XXX!

JESUS

Did I double the text "What will be, will be will be?!"

DUNCAN

We were doing great! It's a shame you stopped.

MING-CHI

Would anyone like an avocado sandwich?

ALL THE "ACTORS BEGIN SPEAKING  
TOGETHER, UNTIL THE VOICE OF RAINBOW  
-THE DIRECTOR, IS HEARD. SHE MIGHT  
ENTERS-DIRECTOR'S CHOICE.

RAINBOW

No stopping! How many times do I have to tell you this?!  
Never ever stop! No matter what happens. Someone forgets  
his lines, you keep going. Someone falls off the stage,  
you keep going. Someone gets injured, you keep going.  
Someone gets severely injured, like by an axe falling on  
his head, you take him off the stage, and you keep going.

DANA

XXXX XXX XX XX XX XXX XXX XX XXX

RAINBOW (CONT'D)

Right, DANA, the first rule in theater is-

JESUS

The show must go on, all the time; forever and ever- the  
show must go on It must!

RAINBOW

(Signaling them to continue) Well, go on then!

LOUIE

Hear our tale of two households in fair Verona where we lay  
our scene Where two star-crossed lovers-

DUNCAN

Louie, cut.

RAINBOW

I can't believe that one week before our premiere you guys still stop in the middle of rehearsal.

MIA

It's not us, its EDWARD - he's the one who stopped.

EDWARD

That's right MIA, I did stop. You tried to kiss me.

MIA

Well, forgive me for not being able to control my passion, but a week before we premiere I want to act for real at least once.

EDWARD

It's not professional to kiss in rehearsals! I'm not kissing before the dress rehearsal!

LOUIE

If you don't say, "cut, I'm Mercutio, if you say, "cut I'm Louie

DANA

XXX XXX XXX XX

EDWARD

That's not true DANA! If you must know I've kissed a lot of girls in my life

RAINBOW

Let's continue from the last stop. MIA -no kissing for now.

MING-CHI

I've only kissed Tom from the supervised house but without tongues.

RAINBOW

Curtain!

MIA AND EDWARD RESUME THEIR ACTION ON  
STAGE.

EDWARD

Instead of trying to kiss me all the time -learn your lines.

MIA  
If you weren't so scared of kissing, I'd tell you to kiss my ass.

MING -CHI AND JESUS FINDS THE WORD  
"ASS" VERY FUNNY

EDWARD  
RAINBOW! I'm not scared of kissing!

RAINBOW  
Stop!!! Look at yourselves! Is this how a professional theater group looks like a week before a premiere?

DANA  
XXXX XXX XX XX XX XXXX XXX XXX

RAINBOW  
Is it true what DANA said?

MIA  
DUNCAN can you please translate what DANA said for the poor blind girl?

DUNCAN  
DANA said that because we're not sure if we're still going to the Festival, we're all starting to fight with each other.

LOUIE  
"Our play is participating in an International the-

RAINBOW  
Louie! Cut! The council member himself promised me we are going to the festival. Stop worrying.

RAINBOW'S CELL PHONE RINGS

DANA  
XX XXX XX XX XXXX

RAINBOW  
I know it's unprofessional DANA, but it's a really important call.

LEAVES

JESUS  
I want to fly to Macedonia and buy Puma soccer shoes in the Duty-free.

DUNCAN

Of course we'll fly. We need to continue collecting donations.

MING-CHI

If we get the money- we'll perform in Macedonia and have fun, if not -we'll perform here and still have fun.

EDWARD

I'm not playing Romeo in the community center!

MIA

So why don't you collect donations?

EDWARD

Because I'm an artist, not a beggar.

MIA

You're an artist? An artist who lives in a supervised group housing?

EDWARD

Partially supervised!

THERE IS A BIT OF A COMMOTION AND  
EVERYBODY STOPS AND GO SILENT ONCE  
TOBY AND DONNIE WALK INTO THE  
COMMUNITY CENTER.

MIA

Who's there?

MING-CHI

MIA, a man just walked in, and he is very handsome.

DUNCAN

That's the man that gave us a thousand dollars yesterday.

LOUIE

And we couldn't give him a receipt because we only have receipts for 10, 15, 20, 25, 50-

EDWARD

Louie, cut. How can I help you?

MING-CHI

Don't be mad at us for not giving you a receipt.

JESUS

Let's all give him all our receipts!

MING-CHI

Everyone get your receipts!

THEY ALL GO LOOKING FOR THEIR  
RECEIPTS.

TOBY

I don't need any receipts! I just wanted to ask who's in  
charge-

RAINBOW ENTERS.

RAINBOW

Everybody, please sit (notices TOBY) Sorry; we have the  
room until five!

DUNCAN

RAINBOW, this is the man who donated a thousand dollars.

JESUS

And he's mad because he didn't get a receipt, he's mad.

TOBY

I'm not mad.

RAINBOW

(Takes an envelope from her pocket) Thank-you for your  
generous donation sir, but we don't need it anymore (gives  
him 1000\$ from the envelope and shows him the way out).  
Everybody listen up, we're not going to Macedonia.

REACTION OF THE DISAPPOINTED ACTORS.

RAINBOW (CONT'D)

That was the council member on the phone, he asked me to  
let you know that he's really sorry but the city didn't  
transfer any money, so they won't be able to sponsor our  
trip.

MING-CHI

RAINBOW I'm very sad.

JESUS

So I can't buy Puma soccer shoes?

MIA

The council member is a fucking asshole.

THE REST ARE SHOCKED FROM HER LANGUAGE

RAINBOW

Please MIA, he did promise we could perform our play here,  
at the community center.

EDWARD

RAINBOW -I'm telling you right here and now -I'm not playing Romeo in a community center!

MING-CHI

I'm not sad! Let's go and collect more donations.

LOUIE

Hello. We're members of the " Stage of dreams group, which is a theater ensemble for-

ALL

Louie! Cut!

RAINBOW

The donations were for the costumes. Flight tickets are a lot more than we can raise ourselves.

DANA

XXX XX XXX XX XXX XXX XX

THEY ALL AGREE

RAINBOW

Hold on everybody! I'm also disappointed but-

TOBY

Excuse me, let me introduce myself, I'm TOBY and I love theater! I actually work in the theater and I-

JESUS

Are you an actor like us an actor?

TOBY

I'm not an actor I, eh-

LOUIE

In theater, there's also a set designer, a costume designer, a lighting designer, a director, an assistant director, a producer-

TOBY

A producer! I'm a producer.

EDWARD

I knew it.

TOBY

I've produced many plays. And I'm looking for new plays to produce. So, your play is going to Macedonia?

MING-CHI

We're not going to Macedonia and I'm very sad about it.



JESUS

I was going to buy Puma soccer shoes.

TOBY

Donnie, check out seven-eight flight tickets. When is your festival?

RAINBOW

Just a minute sir.

MIA

A week from today.

TOBY

Get 8 tickets for next week.

RAINBOW

Everybody, please rehearse the ball steps quietly, I'd like to speak to-

TOBY

TOBY

DUNCAN

The ball! Louie -now you're Mercutio.

THE DISABLED GROUP BEGINS REHEARSING,  
WHILE TOBY AND RAINBOW SPEAK

RAINBOW

Look TOBY our group is funded by the city council art department and-

TOBY

I'm not trying to interfere, but if the city can't support you, then I'd be honored to do it.

RAINBOW

TOBY, that is incredibly generous of you, but I suggest you speak to the art department and offer to donate the money- they'll transfer it to us.

TOBY

No way! Giving money to the city is like

DONNIE

Like doing cocaine with a wet bill. The shit gets stuck inside.

TOBY

Why should I donate money to the city? If the city was functioning properly, would great actors like your group have to go begging for donations?

RAINBOW

You're right but-

TOBY

Look RAINBOW, if you don't want it, I'll find another play to produce.. (Turns to go)

RAINBOW

You won't interfere artistically?

TOBY

Me? Interfere?? I just want to get you guys to Macedonia don't you have any gear or?

RAINBOW

You mean a set? No. I have a surrealist space conception that gives the stage an ironic illusion. It's an absolute anti-thesis to the mythic tragedy, consequently creating versatile episodes that are non-committed to realism plus giving me a legitimacy to break the 4th wall.

TOBY

Yeah I.. I love it.

RAINBOW

TOBY, sorry for being so suspicious, it just seems a bit weird that, I mean, you don't even know us, you don't even know what play we're doing.

TOBY

That was my next question. I need to know what play you're doing.

RAINBOW

My own interpretation of "Romeo and Juliet"

TOBY

Who?

RAINBOW

The play "Romeo and Juliet"

TOBY

An original play. That's great.

RAINBOW

(Laughs) Ha-ha. You're funny man, I love it! Everybody, I'd like you to meet TOBY. He's going to help us get to the festival in Macedonia.

ENTHUSIASTIC REACTION BY THE GROUP.

JESUS

Puma shoes! Puma shoes!

MING-CHI

TOBY, I love you, I love you TOBY.

MING-CHI GIVES TOBY A BEAR-HUG.

RAINBOW

I really don't know how we can thank-you.

TOBY

Just do a great job. You all look pretty good- I can hardly tell you are retarded.

AN AWKWARD AND PAINFUL PAUSE.

RAINBOW

TOBY, nobody here is retarded! We don't use that word here. Our actors are people with special needs! Here, let me introduce them to you. This is JESUS -He plays Tybalt.

JESUS

Nice to meet you.

TOBY

And what "special need" does he have?

RAINBOW

JESUS was born with a mild to moderate mental disability. This is Louie . Louie what's your role in the play?

LOUIE

In the play I'm Mercutio. In real life I'm Louie, and I mustn't get the two mixed up.

TOBY

Is he also "special needs"?

RAINBOW

Louie do you want to tell TOBY what your diagnosis is?

LOUIE

Actually I was diagnosed with "Asperger's syndrome", which is on the autistic scale, although today nobody formally uses that word.

RAINBOW

Cut. A genius, like all the Asperger's. This is MING-CHI. MING-CHI, tell TOBY what you have.

MING-CHI

I have an avocado sandwich, but I can make you any sandwich you want.

RAINBOW

MING-CHI is our stage director , and she's diagnosed with a slight mental disorder. This is DUNCAN, my assistant, he's partly deaf.

TOBY

(Shouts) HI! HOW ARE YOU?

DUNCAN

Ha-ha. No need to shout. I just need to see your lips.

RAINBOW

And this is our DANA.

DANA

XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX!

EVERYBODY NODS IN AGREEMENT.

TOBY

Is she in pain or something?

RAINBOW

She said she's glad there are still people in this world that care about art. This is MIA . Her role is Juliet.

MIA

I'm MIA and I'm blind, (cynically) "We love you MIA".

RAINBOW

And last but not least -our Romeo - EDWARD.

EDWARD

Thank you for helping them. It's their dream to fly to Macedonia.

TOBY

He isn't.. doesn't have any "special needs"?

MIA

He's mentally challenged but he won't admit it.

EDWARD

I'm not mentally challenged! They call it borderline but my IQ is like any normal person. I almost joined the army but I suffer from a severe allergy to eggplants.

TOBY

Tell me, RAINBOW, these "special needs" people can I trust them? I mean they won't forget the-

RAINBOW

Forget their lines? No way, they're pros. Do you want to see a scene before you decide? Everybody, let's show TOBY the balcony scene.

TOBY

No, I don't need-

MING-CHI

You don't want to see the balcony scene? It touches me right in the heart.

JESUS

We act for real, We mean every line, we mean.

LOUIE

In the balcony scene I play a tree in Juliet's garden.

RAINBOW

Everybody ready? Curtain!

THE DISABLED ALL TAKE BRANCHES\LEAVES  
AND POSE AS TREES AND PLANTS IN  
JULIET'S GARDEN. MIA GOES UP TO THE  
"BALCONY".

EDWARD

He who jests at scars has never felt a wound

TOBY

That's true.

EDWARD

But oh ! What light through the window breaks

DONNIE

Which window?

EDWARD

It is the East and Juliet is the sun.

MIA

O Romeo! It is only your name that is my foe

EDWARD

I take your word for it. Henceforth love will be my name.  
Never call me Romeo again.

JOSH ENTERS.

JOSH

Dad, you can't just turn off your cell-

Shhhh! TOBY

MIA  
How did you come here?

EDWARD  
With love's light wings I did get by

MIA  
Tell me you love me. I know you do -just tell me it's true  
LIGHT FADES ON JOSH, FALLING IN LOVE.

SCENE 3 - WE'RE ALL INTO SHOWBIZ.

LOCATION

VERA'S BRIDAL SHOP.

DONNIE AND TOBY ARE WEIGHING AND  
PACKING COCAINE INTO SMALL BAGS. JOSH  
IS WRITING ON THE BAGS AND WRAPPING  
THEM, WHILE RECAPPING ROMEO AND JULIET  
FROM HIS TABLET.

JOSH  
Then Romeo arrives, sees Juliet lying still in the grave.  
He's sure she's dead, so he kisses her, drinks from the  
vial of poison and dies. A moment later (he mocks the  
story) Juliet awakes, and finds Romeo's dead body beside  
her. So she takes the dagger, stabs her own heart and dies.  
The end.

SLIGHT PAUSE.

TOBY  
That's the stupidest story I ever heard.

DONNIE  
You know what, they deserved to die. You can't go against  
your family.

TOBY  
Well, they're going to be here soon.

JOSH

Who are "they"?

TOBY

The director and the blind girl are coming in to choose a dress.

JOSH

The director and MIA are coming here?

TOBY

Who's going to take care of the costumes if not the producer?

JOSH

Shouldn't we first plan how we're going to smuggle the dope?

TOBY

Plan? Ha! We pack it in the bag of one of the mutations. Go to the airport, security will ask, "did you pack alone? The mutation says (in a "retarded" voice) "I'm acting in Romeo and Juliet. Not only they don't check the bags -they give the mutation candy for the way.

JOSH

I don't know if I'd put 5 kilos of coke on these kinds of people. They might play with it, or eat it, or say to security "Officer look what I found"

DONNIE

I volunteer to fly with them. If anyone starts talking too much, I'll take him out.

TOBY

Donnie, You can't pass security in a bus station.

JOSH

Dad, I can program a chip that will neutralize the ultra-sound-

TOBY

JOSH, we saw what happened with your devices! This is my operation now and we're going with the special needs guys.

DOOR OPENS. DONNIE AND TOBY  
INSTINCTIVELY DRAW THEIR REVOLVERS.  
VERA APPEARS AT THE ENTRANCE.

VERA

What does the door sign say? "VERA's Bridal salon or "VERA drug-dealing salon"?

DONNIE LEAVES

VERA (CONT'D)

JOSH, this is the number of Judith Cowan's daughter.  
Bachelor degree, not ugly, almost a virgin.

DONNIE ENTERS

DONNIE

The sign says "VERA's bridal salon".

VERA

And this is for you (gives TOBY a note) the perfect mule  
A veteran from Iraq, with an amputated leg, and tons of  
space in his stump.

TOBY

No thanks, I'm fine.

VERA

Don't tell me you're actually going to smuggle the stuff  
with those retards?!

TOBY LOOKS AT DONNIE.

DONNIE

I never said "retards, I said "people with special needs".

VERA

"Never smuggle stuff with someone who doesn't know he's  
carrying" That's a smuggler code my father never broke.

TOBY

Didn't your father put 50 ecstasy pills up a poodle's ass?

VERA

And you think the poodle didn't know about it?! Do you want  
people going around saying that Mizrachi smuggles drugs  
using retards?

DONNIE

People with special needs.

TOBY

Not "Mizrachi". My name is Levy! From now on the business  
is "Levy & Son Productions ltd"

VERA

"Productions"? Have you ever seen a play in your life?

JOSH

When I was 7 Dad took me to "The wizard of Oz"



VERA

That was because my father sent him to break the arms of the scarecrow. TOBY, this is the biggest deal of our lives. You can't risk it with a bunch of disabled people.

TOBY

VERA they're not disabled, they are a-

JOSH

Start Up.

TOBY

They're a start-up! After Macedonia I'm going to run that stupid play all over the world. I'll get back the Prague lines, Budapest, I'll get us to Berlin with them! I'll call the Berlin theater and go "Hello Nazis, do you want to see mutations playing Romeo & Juliet? And voilà- Levy cocaine in Berlin. Did your father ever smuggle to Berlin?

VERA

Can you clear out your "production office" from here?

JOSH

No Mom -we can't. They're coming here to choose a dress.

VERA

Who's coming here?

DONNIE

Juliet needs a dress cause she's getting married to Romeo even though her parents won't let her.

VERA

TOBY I am not working with the retards!

DONNIE

People with special needs.

TOBY TAKES OUT A GUN AND AIMS IT AT  
DONNIE'S HEAD.

TOBY

Donnie, another word and I'll-

RAINBOW AND MIA APPEAR AT THE DOOR.  
RAINBOW'S A LITTLE ALARMED. TOBY AND  
DONNIE FREEZE.

RAINBOW

What's going on?

JOSH

Cut!! (To RAINBOW) We were just demonstrating to Donnie the dual in the 2nd act. Action!(TOBY points the gun again at Donnie's head)

RAINBOW

The dual's in the 3rd act.

TOBY

JOSH! That's the last time you mix the second and the third act up!

RAINBOW

Wow! Look at this gun. (Takes the gun and begins to play with it, causing the gangsters to hold their breath) What a prop.

TOBY

A what?

RAINBOW

A prop- it looks so real. Where did you get it?

JOSH

From our last production.

RAINBOW

What was that?

DONNIE

The Wizard of Oz!

RAINBOW

Is there a gun in that play?

JOSH

When my Dad's the producer there is.

RAINBOW

Love it! What's that?

TOBY PICKS UP THE BOX WITH THE COKE.

TOBY

Donnie, take the.. props inside.

VERA

TOBY you can't leave your "props" here.

TOBY

That's VERA, my beloved wife -she'll help you with the dress.

DONNIE TAKES THE BOX OUT.

RAINBOW  
Are you the costume designer?

VERA  
I'm what?!

JOSH  
She prefers director of costume designing.

RAINBOW  
Love it!

JOSH  
Mom do you have a dress for MIA?

VERA  
No.

JOSH  
There's Adler's dress. I don't think she'll be getting married this week.

THEY ALL LOOK AT VERA PLEADINGLY.

VERA  
Ok, get undressed in there (points towards the cubicle)

MIA  
Where?

VERA  
There (points again)

JOSH  
Mom (mimes to her that MIA cannot see)

VERA  
(Whispers) Oh, she's blind? I thought she was retarded!  
(Loudly) Joshie-pooh, help the poor girl - can't you see she's blind?

MIA  
Give me your shoulder.

JOSH HOLDS OUT HIS ARM AND LEADS HER  
TO THE CUBICLE.

RAINBOW  
(Points at the photo on the wall) Who's that?

VERA  
My father.

RAINBOW

He looks familiar. Was he?

TOBY

Yup. A producer. He passed away.

VERA

Yeah, he "passed away" because another producer, son of a million bitches, killed him.

RAINBOW

Killed him?!

JOSH

You know what it's like in Showbiz, it's very competitive.

TOBY

Anyway after he passed away, I began running the productions.

VERA

And since then the productions are way less successful.

TOBY

VERA, you know it was a tough year for productions.

RAINBOW

A tough year? We're living in an awful time for culture! Making real art is almost impossible.

TOBY

(To VERA) I'm going to make "Romeo & Juliet" such a hit, it will go all the way to Berlin.

RAINBOW

Wow! That's my dream; to perform in Berlin.

TOBY

VERA's father never produced in Berlin.

VERA

If my father wanted to, he could've done so many plays in Berlin that the Germans would have died of a theater overdose.

VERA GOES BEHIND THE CURTAIN TO HELP

MIA GET DRESSED.

RAINBOW

(With the veil) What a déjà vu. Two years ago I almost got married to a costume designer whose name I won't mention because we're all in showbiz.

THEY ALL NOD IN FAKE AGREEMENT

RAINBOW (CONT'D)

We already had a venue, invitations; a dress, from the stress of getting married the guy started drinking. He'd hide the bottles so that I wouldn't find out he'd become an alcoholic. When we did "Cherry Orchard" I found empty Vodka bottles in the trees on the stage. So I told him It's either the Vodka or me.

DONNIE

Tough choice.

TOBY

Get it JOSH? The guy hid the vodka in the trees on the stage.

JOSH

Genius.

RAINBOW

Can anyone perhaps, give MIA a ride to the community center?

JOSH

I'll take her. I need to take care of the "props" anyway.

RAINBOW

And do me a favor, help our Star learn the lines of the wedding scene.

RAINBOW GIVES JOSH THE TEXT.

TOBY

Donnie, take RAINBOW wherever she wants to go (takes out some cash) and buy her whatever she needs.

RAINBOW

Do you know where I could get a good dagger?

DONNIE

How's this? (Pulls a switchblade from his sock)

RAINBOW

What a prop! Do you do stage combat maybe?

DONNIE

Stage combat, behind the stage combat, put you in the hospital combat-

RAINBOW

Love it!

DONNIE AND RAINBOW LEAVE.

TOBY

JOSH, read the text and see what scenery we can build to hide the-

TOBY GIVES HIM THE BOX OF COCAINE AND LEAVES. VERA AND MIA ARE STILL IN THE DRESSING CUBICLE.

JOSH

MIA , RAINBOW told me to help you learn your lines.

MIA

What scene did she give you?

JOSH

(Looks at the text) "The wedding"

MIA

Oh, I hate the wedding.

VERA

Give me a break, "the wedding"?! He doesn't "believe in love"

JOSH

Mom!

VERA

24 years old, a Virgo, a degree from MIT, even looks OK..

JOSH

Mom!

VERA

He never had a girlfriend. But you know what really gets me? His mother has a bridal salon and he doesn't want to get married! It's like your mother would be an optometrist.

MIA

My mother was a dentist...

VERA

Ahhh

MIA

And she's dead.

VERA

Oh,

MIA

It's ok.

VERA

I'm sorry.

MIA

Never mind, it's not all bad. She never let me eat jellybeans and now I can eat as much as I like. Besides, (cynical) orphan AND blind- now, that's a tragic figure.

JOSH

No wonder you got to play Juliet.

MIA

Actually, that's because of the concept "love is blind".

JOSH

So why isn't Romeo blind?

MIA

Because love also makes you retarded.

JOSH

Falling in love is retarded anyway. Love is just a chemical reaction-

MIA STEPS OUT OF THE CUBICLE DRESSED  
IN THE WEDDING DRESS, LOOKING  
BREATHTAKING

JOSH (CONT'D)

A hormone named pheromone that makes our metabolism spin.

VERA TURNS MIA TO FACE THE MIRROR

VERA

(To MIA) What do you say?

JOSH

Mom.

VERA REALIZES THE FOOLISH MISTAKE SHE  
HAD HAD MADE.

VERA

You are so beautiful so beautiful, JOSH, help her learn her lines.

(VERA leaves)

JOSH

So how does this work? I just read it to you?

MIA

Yeah, go for it.

JOSH

Romeo colon "Juliet if the measure of your joy is as mine  
too heavy to carry / Tell the world how happy we will be  
after we marry

VERA

(From outside) Marry already you little shit!

MIA

If there be-

JOSH

Truth in something

MIA

If there be truth in something it cannot be put into words  
Maybe-

JOSH

A beggar.

MIA

"Fuck! I can't remember the lines - I just can't connect to  
it! I can't stand EDWARD, how can I love him? Ok. Again.

JOSH

Is there someone you do love?

MIA

There is someone.

JOSH

Ok, so look at me, I mean in my direction and imagine that  
I'm the one you love.

MIA

(Gets into it) If there be truth it cannot be put into  
words  
Maybe a beggar can count his worth  
But your love is a treasure that's value grows by the  
minute  
I cannot weigh or measure my love, it knows no limit.  
Here we kiss... I mean Romeo and Juliet kiss.

JOSH

Do you want to go through it again?

MIA

Sure.

JOSH

"Juliet if the measure of your joy is as mine too heavy to  
carry /  
Tell the world how happy we will be after we marry



LIGHT FADES ON THE DILIGENT TEXT  
LEARNERS.

END OF SCENE THREE

SCENE 4 - THE COFFIN

LOCATION

THE COMMUNITY CENTER. ON STAGE ARE MIA  
AND EDWARD, REHEARSING.

EDWARD

Juliet if the measure of your joy is as mine too heavy to  
carry /  
Tell the world how happy we will be after we marry

MIA

If there be a truth it cannot be put into words  
Maybe a beggar can count his worth  
But your love is a treasure that's value grows by the  
minute  
I cannot weigh or measure my love, it knows no limit

EDWARD

Let us be done with it here and now  
The heavens shall honor your holy vow

COMES CLOSE TO KISS HIM.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Don't kiss for real!

RAINBOW

Ok, stop! EDWARD, c'mon, the scene was working great!

MING-CHI

It made my heart tremble.

EDWARD

Thanks MING-CHI. And Thank-you MIA for finally learning her  
lines.

DANA

XXXXXX XXXX XXX XXXXX XX

EDWARD  
Who helped you?

MIA  
None of your business.

DANA  
XXXXXX

EDWARD  
Who?

DUNCAN  
JOSH, the producer's son helped her learn by heart.

RAINBOW  
Tell him to work with you on the lark scene too.

EDWARD  
She needs to work with me on the Lark scene.

DANA  
XXX XXX XXX XXX?

DUNCAN  
DANA asked if you like him?

MIA  
He helped me with the text.

MING-CHI  
So do you have feelings for him?

MIA  
I don't have "feelings" for him, he's nice.

EDWARD  
How exactly did he help you?

MIA  
Unlike you, he actually listens to me when I act.

MING-CHI  
Are you in love with him?

MIA  
Stop it! I don't want you talking about it, especially not when he's around, MING-CHI.

RAINBOW  
This is not a break! Duel scene please!

LOUIE

Duel scene, Act three, scene 1, page 41. In the duel scene I'm Mercutio.

RAINBOW

Quiet backstage! Curtain!

JESUS AND LOUIE BEGIN THE SCENE.

JESUS

Mercutio may I have a word with you?

LOUIE

A word? Just one? Why not make it two?  
One word, plus one weapon, what do you say?

JESUS

A weapon first thing in the morning? You make my day.  
Mercutio you are part of Romeo's gang?

LOUIE

Gang?! In a moment you'll be saying band?  
If you have something to say Tybalt, say it like a man

EDWARD (ROMEO) ENTERS

JESUS

Here's the man I've been waiting for never mind he's late

DONNIE AND JOSH ENTER THE STAGE  
CARRYING A LARGE COFFIN. THEY GO ON  
THE STAGE THAT IS ON THE STAGE. THEY  
SIGNAL THE ACTORS NOT TO MIND THEM.  
TOBY, OFF STAGE, GIVES THEM  
DIRECTIONS.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Romeo, my feelings for you can be described in one word  
-hate.

EDWARD

Tybalt and you I lo-

RAINBOW

Stop! Can someone please tell me why there are people,  
whose last name is not Capulet or Montague, on my stage?

TOBY

Why did you stop? Just when the action started.

MEANWHILE, ALL THE ACTORS WHO WERE NOT  
IN THE SCENE GO ONSTAGE.

RAINBOW

TOBY, what is this thing?

DONNIE

IT'S A COFFIN.

RAINBOW

And what do I need a coffin for?

MING-CHI

MIA, JOSH's here.

TOBY

I felt that what was missing in the play was-

JOSH

Scenery.

TOBY

Right, so JOSH read the book-

JOSH

The play

TOBY

The play, and we found out that - what happens after Juliet  
is doing drugs?

DUNCAN

She goes into a deep sleep for 42 hours.

LOUIE

Your cheeks and lips shall pale, no warmth no breath  
To the naked eye it will seem like death

TOBY

Louie, cut. And where do you put the dead?

DONNIE

In a coffin.

MING-CHI

JOSH, here's MIA.

DUNCAN

How will we take the coffin on the plane?

TOBY

Good question. It will be in your carry on.

JESUS

But the coffin's big and our carry on is small.

TOBY

That's why we built a coffin that can be split into 4 small pieces.

EDWARD

RAINBOW -I'm telling you- I'm not taking any piece of this coffin in my carry on .

DONNIE

You'll take what I'll tell you to take in your carry on.

RAINBOW

TOBY, we agreed that you wouldn't interfere artistically.

TOBY

I'm interfering artistically? You can put the coffin wherever you want

RAINBOW

I don't want a fucking coffin on my stage!

EDWARD

And we don't want JOSH to help MIA either!

MIA

Idiot.

EXITS

TOBY

Miss RAINBOW, we went to a great deal of trouble to get this coffin, Donnie went to a carpenter who owes us money and had him build it especially.

DONNIE

Yeah, I told him "Build me a coffin that splits into four pieces, or I'll split you to four pieces".

TOBY

And after all that, all you have to say is?

LOUIE

I don't want a fucking coffin on my stage!

MING-CHI

JOSH, you helped MIA yesterday, right?

RAINBOW

With all due respect to your efforts, it's my name on this production.

JOSH

And my Dad's name.

TOBY

Believe me, I could've built you all Verona if I wanted to- but I'm not interfering - I came with a modest little coffin, and what do you say?

LOUIE

" With all due respect to your efforts, it's my name on this production"

RAINBOW

DUNCAN, get the coffin off the stage please.

JOSH

RAINBOW, just look how many options the coffin opens for you. In the ball scene it could be a small podium (climbs on the coffin)- the actors speaking could be higher than the dancers, it'll solve the focus problem you have there.

MING-CHI

(To MIA who returns with a different dress)He's sweet AND smart.

JOSH

Thanks MING-CHI. (Donnie illustrates the instructions on the coffin) In the duel you could stand the coffin horizontally, like a closet, and then you could stab Tybalt from behind and you'd get this surprise effect because the audience won't know if Romeo stabbed Tybalt or Tybalt stabbed Romeo. In the next scene, EDWARD could come out of the closet.

EDWARD

RAINBOW -I'm telling you here and now- I'm never coming out of the closet!

JOSH

Let's try one scene with it and see what happens.

RAINBOW

(Whispers to TOBY and JOSH) Listen, even if I did agree to it artistically, and I don't, these guys don't react well to changes.

TOBY

Everybody- how about trying a scene with the coffin?

DANA

XXXX XX XXX XX XXXX XXX

THEY ALL AGREE.

MING-CHI

And JOSH's really cute so we agree.

RAINBOW

Let's take the duel scene, from Romeo's entrance. Curtain!  
(To TOBY) Just so you can see how it won't work,  
conceptually. Louie, you're Mercutio. Romeo- enter.

LOUIE AND JESUS ARE ON STAGE WITH THE  
COFFIN "STANDING CENTER-STAGE. EDWARD  
ENTERS.

JESUS

Here's the man I've been waiting for never mind he's late  
Romeo, my feelings for you can be described in one word  
-hate.

EDWARD

Tybalt and you I love, 'tis my fate. You could be my mate

JESUS

Never! For what you have done to me I will never forgive.  
Draw!

TOBY

They're acting even better

EDWARD

I have done you no harm, I swear, what's more  
The name Capulet is sweeter to me than ever before

SLIGHT PAUSE.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Louie ,Louie! It's your line!

RAINBOW

Louie you are now Mercutio.

ALL EYES ON LOUIE WHO SEEMS UNCERTAIN.

LOUIE

Hear our tale of two households in fair Verona where we lay  
our scene  
From ancient grudge to blood that makes civil hands unclean  
When a pair of star-crossed lovers hit by blind fate

EDWARD

Louie cut.

LOUIE

(Fluently and madly) Take their own lives because of pure  
hate  
Love is tough, love is cruel love is breaking all the rules

RAINBOW

He's started all over again.

LOUIE

A gang? Soon you'll be saying a band?  
If you have something to say Tybalt, say it like a man!

LOUIE DRAWS HIS SWORD AND BEGINS TO  
BREAK THE COFFIN.

RAINBOW

Cut Louie, stop!

LOUIE BREAKS THE SIDE OF THE COFFIN.

RAINBOW (CONT'D)

Get that coffin out of here!!!

LIGHT FADES ON ANGRY RAINBOW

## SCENE 5 - THE LARK

LOCATION

THE DRESSING ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY  
CENTER. JOSH AND MIA ARE JUST  
FINISHING THEIR TEXT REHEARSAL. ON  
STAGE (WE CANNOT SEE THIS) DONNIE IS  
REHEARSING THE STAGE FIGHTS.

MIA

I will kiss your two lips in hope to find some poison left  
for me I love you (sighs) and that's It!

JOSH

I think you're ready for the dress rehearsal.

MIA

I think you're ready. You have almost all your lines  
memorized.

JOSH

Yeah, well I've seen so many rehearsals. How did you know I  
wasn't reading it?



MIA

JOSH, there's something I need to tell you, I'm not blind. I can see just as well as you. I knew they wouldn't let me play Juliet in a regular theater, so I've been pretending to be blind to score this gig.

BEAT

MIA (CONT'D)

I'm kidding JOSH.

JOSH

Omg, MIA!

MIA

I can just feel when you're looking at me.

TOBY

(Enters) JOSH, I just want to remind you we don't have the set concept figured out yet, so we don't know how to transfer the props.

JOSH

I'll take care of it, dad.

TOBY EXITS.

MIA

Do you need to go Mr. Producer?

JOSH

No, I need to help you with your lines.

MIA

I know my lines by heart since you told me to imagine someone I love. Even EDWARD seems less retarded.

EDWARD'S SHOUTS CAN BE HEARD FROM  
BACKSTAGE!

EDWARD

Awwwww! RAINBOW I'm not working with this psycho!

EDWARD ENTERS THE DRESSING-ROOM  
HOLDING HIS EYE. DONNIE AND RAINBOW  
FOLLOW.

DONNIE

EDWARD, go back inside or I swear to God I-

EDWARD

RAINBOW, he's threatening me!

RAINBOW

EDWARD, go back inside!

EDWARD

I'm not going back - he's supposed to be teaching us stage combat, not beating us up.

DONNIE

Believe me. If I'd beat you up, there's no way you'd be talking right now.

RAINBOW

EDWARD, go back inside.

EDWARD

I'm going back only because I'm a professional.

EDWARD LEAVES.

RAINBOW

Donnie, I'm a fan of method acting but you've got to be more gentle with them.

DONNIE

More gentle? They're fighting for their honor!

RAINBOW

But you could make it more stylish.

DONNIE

Stylish? You think Tybalt could last a day on the streets if he fought "stylish"?

RAINBOW

Love it.

DONNIE AND RAINBOW EXIT.

JOSH

So who do you imagine when you're speaking to Romeo?

MIA

Someone I love. But of course I'm kidding myself because "love is just a chemical reaction"

JOSH+MIA

A hormone named Pheromone that causes our metabolism to spin.

MIA

I think about my dad.

JOSH

Is your dad also?-

MIA

Blind? No. I was born with Glaucoma and since I was 7 I've been 100% blind. Because of my dad, I fell in love with theater. At first, I didn't want to go and see plays with him -it sounded boring. But he promised he'd buy me jellybeans and not tell my mother. Guess what play he took me to when I was 8?

JOSH

The Wizard of Oz?

MIA

Medea.

JOSH

(Searching for it on his tablet) Oh wow, Medea. That's ..wow.

MING-CHI ENTERS (JOSH CHECKS HIS  
TABLET TO SEE WHO THE HELL IS MEDEA )

MING-CHI

Is he wooing you?

JOSH

What?

MING-CHI

Can I watch you guys a little?

MIA

MING-CHI!

MING-CHI

OK, never mind, just keep doing what you're doing. (Leaves reluctantly)

JOSH

Medea? Your Dad took an 8 year old to see (reading from his tablet) a play about a mother who slaughters her children?

MIA

Yes, my dad is a very special guy. He would whisper in my ear what the actors were doing, what the set and costumes looked like. He would whisper to me the entire play. You know what the last play we saw together was? "Romeo and Juliet. It was really bad! My dad said because of performances like that he's jealous of me being blind.

JOSH

He'll probably be really proud of you tomorrow at the dress rehearsal.

MIA  
He won't be there.

JOSH  
Why not?

MIA  
He has a medical problem.

JOSH  
I'm sorry, is there anything I can do to help?

MIA  
Can you do me a favor?

JOSH  
Sure.

MIA  
Let's do the lark scene again.

DONNIE ENTERS RUNNING

DONNIE  
JOSH, your parents are calling you.

MIA  
Are you going? It is still so dark

JOSH  
I must -dawn is here. Did you not hear the lark?

MIA  
It was not the lark -but the nightingale that pierced your ear

DONNIE  
No, it was me, Donnie!

JOSH  
But look love at the light that laces the clouds in the East

MIA  
It is not daylight but a meteor - please!

JOSH  
If I stay - I die

DONNIE  
JOSH..

MIA  
Just a little while longer

JOSH

I cannot say no- I have more will to stay than will to go  
Come death Welcome! Juliet wills so

DONNIE

JOSH-

MIA

Be gone away -  
'Tis the lark that sings so out of tune the coming of day

DONNIE

Fuck the lark!

(DONNIE EXITS)

MIA

Go! If you stay it will be our end

JOSH

One more kiss and I'll descend

THEY ALMOST KISS. DANA ENTERS WITH  
MIA'S CELL-PHONE.

DANA

XXXX XXXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXXX XXX XXXX

MIA

What did she say?

JOSH

I think she brought you your phone.

MIA

Hello?

DANA

XXXXXXX XXXX XX

JOSH

DANA, sorry, I don't understand

MIA

WHAT?!... (Leaves)

TOBY ENTERS.

TOBY

JOSH we need a "production meeting"

JOSH

Dad, I'll find somewhere to hide the stuff in.

JOSH- TOBY

JOSH  
Can't this wait till after rehearsals?

VERA ENTERS

VERA  
No, this can't wait.

JOSH  
What happened now?

VERA  
We need to save your father's ass again.

TOBY  
No you don't!

VERA  
Go to the hospital, in ward C, you'll find Benjamin Koppel.  
Until yesterday the guy was a vegetable, but right now he's  
coming back to life.

TOBY  
"Coming back to life" He moved a finger!

VERA  
He moved a finger and soon he's going to move his head and  
before we know it he'll tell the police who threw a grenade  
at him under the Brooklyn bridge.

JOSH  
(To VERA) Daddy??

VERA  
And Babi.

JOSH  
Koppel? Never heard of him.

TOBY  
He's not in the business. He and his wife just happened to  
be there.

JOSH  
So why throw a grenade at them?

VERA  
Why, why, because we were trying to take out our biggest  
enemy.

JOSH  
Silverstein?

VERA  
No, social security. Of course, Silverstein.

JOSH  
So what do you want to do now?

VERA  
Joshie-pooh, This vegetable needs to be picked.

JOSH  
Picked?

VERA  
You know how it is in our business- those that know too much..

DUNCAN PASSES BY AND STOPS BY THEM.  
THEY ABRUPTLY STOP.

DUNCAN  
Welcome, make yourself at home.

DUNCAN CONTINUES AND SITS BESIDE DANA.

TOBY  
I'll take out Koppel after the disabled festival.

VERA  
You might not get to the disabled festival! Besides, This is JOSH's chance to pop his cherry.

JOSH  
What?

TOBY  
Leave the boy alone. We'll send Donnie.

VERA  
Taking out a vegetable is best for a first-time - there's no resistance, and you're actually doing him a favor. Anyway- you do want to take out someone, right JOSH?

JOSH  
Right, but shouldn't we first check what the medical prognosis for moving a finger is?

VERA  
The medical prognosis is- you are about to become a man today.

VERA SIGNALS TO TOBY TO GIVE HIM A  
GUN. JOSH TAKES THE GUN RELUCTANTLY.

JOSH  
(To VERA) You would make a great Medea.

JOSH STORMS OUT.

TOBY  
Aren't you afraid for your son, just a little bit?

VERA  
Was I under the bridge or you?! He won't screw it up.

TOBY  
Did you ever stop to think why I'm not as successful as  
your dad was? (VERA point to DUNCAN and DANA) they're deaf!  
Cause I don't have his Talent? His leadership? Or maybe  
it's because I don't have a supporting wife like he did.

RAINBOW  
(enters hastily) Has anyone  
seen MIA? (Leaves)

VERA  
I don't support you? Then what the hell am I doing here?

TOBY  
Remember how your mother, God bless her, used to answer any  
question? "I only listen to my husband". Can you please for  
once just trust me?

JESUS ENTERS

JESUS  
Come on, DANA- we're doing Juliet and the Nurse we're  
doing.

RAINBOW ENTERS AND THE REST OF THE  
ACTORS FOLLOW.

RAINBOW  
We're not doing Juliet and the Nurse because our Juliet is  
gone!

DANA  
XX XXX XXXX?

RAINBOW  
That means she's not here! She's gone! And she's not  
answering her phone!

(MORE)



RAINBOW (CONT'D)

We are one day away from dress-rehearsals, Donnie hasn't finished the stage combats, VERA hasn't finished the costumes, the grave scene is not working and I'm doing 'Romeo and Juliet' without a Juliet!!!

EDWARD

RAINBOW can't you see what's going on here? MIA's missing! JOSH is missing! What does that mean?

MING-CHI

It means they're making love!

LIGHT FADES ON BLUSHING MING-CHI

#### SCENE 6 - OF VEGETABLES AND MEN

LOCATION

HOSPITAL ROOM. A MAN CONNECTED TO A RESUSCITATION DEVICE WITH TUBES AND PIPES COMING OUT OF HIS NOSE AND MOUTH. DONNIE AND JOSH ENTER, DRESSED AS SURGEONS WITH THE CAPS ON THEIR HEADS.

DONNIE

Do you know why theater is such a bullshit thing? Because what does theater love? Conflicts. And what do people hate? Conflicts. And that's why people hate theater.

JOSH

(Whispers) Quiet!

DONNIE

Why can't they write a play without conflicts? About a guy who wants tons of women and he gets tons of women. He wants a bunch of money for partying and drugs, and he gets a bunch of money, for partying and drugs.

JOSH

Shush!

JOSH HESITATES FOR A MOMENT.

DONNIE

Do you want me to take him out? We can tell your folks you did it.

SLIGHT PAUSE

JOSH

No, it's ok. Watch the door.

DONNIE

There you go! Nothing like the first time.

JOSH IS ABOUT TO DISCONNECT THE  
MEDICAL DEVICES WHEN THE DOOR OPENS.  
MIA WALKS INTO THE ROOM, MAKING HER  
WAY WITH HER CANE. SHE REACHES THE BED  
AND SITS BESIDE THE MAN THAT JOSH  
ALMOST DISCONNECTED

MIA

Is it true? Did you really move a finger? Is it true Daddy?  
I knew this would happen, when the doctors said you would  
never come out of it, I knew they were wrong. Daddy, you  
can hear me right? Daddy, if you can hear me move your  
finger.

BEAT

Daddy, remember I told you about the producer who's helping  
us to get to Macedonia? Well, he has a son. He's name is  
JOSH, and he's been helping me to learn my lines, for  
Juliet. When he reads as Romeo, I sometimes pray something  
bad would happen to EDWARD so JOSH can play the role  
instead. He's really sweet, a little dorky, but you would  
like him and I think I'm Falling in lo-Hey? Is there  
anybody here?? Hello?

DONNIE AND JOSH FREEZE. MIA SEATS DOWN  
AGAIN.

MIA (CONT'D)

When will you answer me? When will you wake up and start  
talking to me again, and we can go to the theater and eat  
jellybeans and..(He moves a finger) I knew today was a  
special day!

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

SCENE 1 - THE VIAL

LOCATION-

COMMUNITY CENTER. DRESS REHEARSAL DAY.

REHEARSAL OF THE FIRST SCENE OF THE  
4TH ACT IN "ROMEO AND JULIET"

DUNCAN

Juliet - It grieves me to see the tears you've shed  
I see no other way -on Thursday -  
to this County you must be wed

MIA

This hand - by you - to Romeo was sealed  
I am his wife!  
If you have no counsel, no wisdom  
Then I must use this bloody knife

DUNCAN PULLS OUT A 5 LITER EMPTY  
PLASTIC JAR.

DUNCAN

Wait! Take this vial and drink the potion to it's full -  
RAINBOW, I can't do it with this thing.

TOBY ENTERS.

TOBY

Never stop! Whatever happens, you don't stop! How many times do we have to tell you?

RAINBOW

Stop! DUNCAN, what is that hanging around your neck?!

DUNCAN

TOBY the producer said This is the new vial.

ALL FOCUS ON TOBY.

TOBY

The moment the friar gives Juliet the poison is a turning point in the story, right? It's bad enough Juliet can't see the bottle, why shouldn't the people from row seven and upwards be able to see it?

RAINBOW

Shakespeare wrote "take this vial not "take this Costco milk jar!"

TOBY

Shakespeare also wrote, in Act 1 scene 3, that Juliet turns 14, at harvest-time, does she look like she'll be 14 at harvest time?! If all of a sudden you're worried about realism then why are they speaking in rhymes?!

THE SHOUTING BRINGS THE REST OF THE  
DISABLED (BESIDES EDWARD) TO THE  
STAGE.

RAINBOW

You didn't even bother to ask me "RAINBOW, maybe instead of the little poison vial we'll use a 100 milk jar? No, you decided on the day of the dress rehearsal, to go backstage to one of my actors, and forgive me - just like a gangster-make him use a different prop.

TOBY

Who do think I'm doing this for? Myself? People, let's remember that we're not only representing ourselves here, we are representing the United States of America.

JESUS

United States of America!!

TOBY

How are we going to look if the Armenian disabled do a better show than ours? Are the Arminian disabled better than American disabled? Forget the Arminians, what about the Japanese? Are we gonna let them beat us? Do you know what the Japanese did to us?! No offense MING -CHI.

MING-CHI

I'm Korean.

JESUS

They did Pearl Harbor they did!

LOUIE

The Pearl Harbor attack was a surprise organized attack, which the Japanese air force-

RAINBOW

Louie cut! Go and organize your costumes and props for the dress rehearsal.

MING-CHI

On Pearl Harbor day, I'm very sad.

THE ACTORS EXIT. TOBY AND RAINBOW ARE LEFT ALONE ON STAGE.

RAINBOW

I think I know what's going on here. You don't really care about "Romeo and Juliet," or this marginalized group of people. Everything makes sense now- all these questions about props and the set, all these phone calls to Macedonia. You are here for a completely different reason.

TOBY

What reason?

RAINBOW

You want to be a director.

TOBY

RAINBOW- you got me.

RAINBOW

God, it drives me crazy. Only in our business does everyone think they can just wake up one day and do it, everybody's an actor or a director. Don't you understand it's a profession?!

TOBY

Love it!

RAINBOW

Do you want to help? Make sure they're ready for the dress rehearsal.

RAINBOW LEAVES. VERA ENTERS, THROUGHOUT THE DIALOGUE SHE HANGS COSTUMES.

VERA

Do you know where JOSH is?

TOBY

Do you know where we're going to hide the stuff?

VERA

That's your problem?

TOBY

That, and the fourth act is not working. DUNCAN is yelling all the time.

VERA

(Shouting backstage) Donnie, get your ass over here!!(To Toby) The fact that your son has disappeared since he taken out Koppel doesn't bother you?

TOBY

The dress rehearsal is in one hour, the flight's tomorrow morning, and I still don't know where I'm putting the stuff..

VERA

Shhhh calm down, your costume designer sewed five inside pockets to one of the costumes.

TOBY

No, that could make it hard in the scene that- oh love it!

DONNIE ENTERS

DONNIE

VERA, did you call me?

DANA ENTERS.

DANA

XXX XXX XXXX?

VERA

One disabled at a time please! Donnie, sit. DANA, try this on. Where's my son?

DONNIE

JOSH?

VERA

No, Bart Simpson! Of course JOSH.

DONNIE

I don't know.

DANA

XX XX?

VERA

That's right, I added some material.

VERA (CONT'D)

Were you at the hospital yesterday?

DONNIE

Yeah.

VERA

And did you guys take Koppel out?

DONNIE

Yeah.

VERA

Who did it? You or JOSH?

DONNIE

JOSH.

VERA

You saw it with your own eyes?

DONNIE

I swear by my rehab.

JESUS ENTERS.

JESUS

Mr. TOBY, I can't find my ball mask I can't find.

TOBY

JESUS, I'm not going to Macedonia with you guys if you can't look after your things.

JESUS LEAVES.

VERA

How did he do it?

DONNIE

He programmed the vegetable's device so it would look like his heart just stopped.

VERA

And you're sure he's taken out?

DONNIE

I'm sure.

MING-CHI ENTERS.

MING-CHI

VERA, I'm really nervous. Everybody from my supervised housing group is coming to see the dress rehearsal today and I'm scared I won't act well as Juliet's mother. Does anyone want a tuna sandwich?

VERA

MING-CHI, try on the dress I made you for the third act, let's see if it still fits you.

MING-CHI AND DANA LEAVE.

VERA (CONT'D)

(To Donnie) Donnie, what did JOSH tell you exactly? Word for word.

DONNIE

He said, "get the car" so I got the car. We got into the car, then I said "Want a mint? Because after I take out someone I always crave a mint. He said "I don't want a mint" I asked him "Want a shawarma wrap?, Because me, after the mint, I always crave a-

VERA

Where did you two go, you idiot?

DONNIE

We went to-

MIA ENTERS.

MIA

VERA, they told me to come pick up my dress. You took it in for me, right?

VERA

Here sweetie. (gives her the dress)

MIA

Is JOSH here?

VERA

No dear.

MIA

But he'll be here for the dress rehearsal, right?

TOBY

MIA, you're playing Juliet in an hour. Right now you need to concentrate only on your love for Romeo. Don't worry about JOSH or anything else.



MIA EXITS.

DONNIE

I said "Want me to take you home?" He said "No, I need to think"

VERA

That's your son alright- "I need to think". Where did you take him to think?

DONNIE

The Brooklyn bridge. He asked me to take him to the Brooklyn bridge.

VERA

The Brooklyn bridge??

DONNIE

Yeah.

JESUS AND DUNCAN ENTER.

JESUS

Mr. TOBY, Even DUNCAN doesn't know where his mask is doesn't know.

TOBY

DUNCAN, are you the assistant director or not?!

VERA

Did he take the gun with him?

DUNCAN

I'm responsible for rehearsal schedule, dividing the scenes, telling Louie before he goes on stage "Now you're Mercutio", and when he gets off stage "Louie, cut!" Reminding everyone to go to go potty before rehearsals, but I can't be responsible for every fucking prop!!

TOBY

Language DUNCAN! We're in the theater.

JESUS AND DUNCAN LEAVE.

TOBY (CONT'D)

(Yells) Who gave you permission to leave my son alone on that bridge?!

DONNIE

I asked him if he wants me to stay but he just said something weird, from the play, one of Romeo's lines.

TOBY

"I have night's cloak to hide me from their sight?"

DONNIE

No.

VERA

"Tell Juliet to come this afternoon to Friar Lawrence's cell"

TOBY

"I have not what to do with this life without your love?"

VERA

"Love's light wings showed me the way"

TOBY

Donnie, what did JOSH say?

DONNIE

He said-

MIA ENTERS.

MIA

VERA, are you sure this is my dress?

VERA

Of course I'm sure.

DONNIE

MIA, what does Romeo say at the beginning of the balcony scene?

MIA

"He who jests at scars has never felt a wound"

DONNIE

That's what he said.

MIA

So if this is my dress, may I ask why you've added these five pockets inside?

VERA

What does "He who jests at scars has never felt a wound" mean?

MIA

That only those who have seen death are not afraid of it.

VERA

Not afraid of death?! TOBY, do something.

JESUS

Mr. TOBY, I found my mask I found.

TOBY

Great JESUS. Donnie, go get the car.

JESUS

So now will you come with us to Macedonia because we are responsible we are?

TOBY

Sure, JESUS. (To his cell-phone) It's TOBY, I need you to check out a couple of things for me.

JESUS

So I'll buy Puma soccer shoes in the duty-free, I'll buy?

TOBY

You will buy Puma soccer shoes!

RAINBOW ENTERS.

RAINBOW

Everybody, I have some bad news.

ALL THE ACTORS ENTER, WEARING THEIR COSTUMES, TRYING TO TALK TO RAINBOW.

RAINBOW.

MIA, I suggest you sit down. I just got a call from the hospital, they told me EDWARD had been hospitalized. The reason- He ate eggplant lasagna and got a severe allergic reaction to the eggplants. He might not be able to fly with us to Macedonia. Anyway we have to cancel the dress rehearsal.

TOBY

You're not canceling anything! I need to see their costumes on them TODAY. Get EDWARD over here!

RAINBOW

Do you know what an allergic reaction to eggplants can do?

DANA

XXXXX XXXXX XXX!

TOBY

Right DANA! In my entire career, I've never seen an actor not making it to the dress rehearsal! How does a man who's allergic to eggplants, decide today of all days to chomp on eggplant lasagna?? How many special needs does he have??

(MORE)

TOBY (CONT'D)

He's lucky we're flying to Macedonia tomorrow or I Would  
end his ...career in showbiz!

RAINBOW

In my entire career I've never had to ask the audience to  
leave before the show.

RAINBOW LEAVES.

DUNCAN

We can't go to Macedonia without EDWARD.

TOBY

WE are going to Macedonia!!! I'm going to find out about a  
treatment for eggplants allergy.

TOBY LEAVES.

DUNCAN

Good job EDWARD.

DANA

XXXX XXXXX!

LOUIE

Today I won't be Mercutio, I'll just be Louie.

JOSH ENTERS, EXTREMELY TENSE. LOOKS  
LIKE HE HASN'T SLEPT ALL NIGHT.

JOSH

MIA, I need to tell you something.

MIA

JOSH...

MING-CHI

JOSH, where were you? Our dress rehearsal's been canceled.

DUNCAN

That asshole EDWARD ate eggplants.

JOSH

(To MIA) Can I have a word with you, please?

JESUS

My family came from upstate they came.

MING-CHI

My friends from the supervised house came to see me as  
Juliet's mother.

LOUIE

But we can't do "Romeo and Juliet without Romeo.

BEAT

MIA  
JOSH, can I ask you something?

LIGHT FADES ON JOSH AND MIA

ACT 2 SCENE 2 - RAINBOW LEVI'S SPEECH

RAINBOW STANDS BEFORE THE STAGE,  
SPEAKS TO THE AUDIENCE IN THE THEATER

RAINBOW  
Good evening. My name's RAINBOW McDonnell and I'm the director of the "Stage of dreams". I'm very pleased to see here tonight our special actors family and friends, and other theater connoisseurs. Thank you all for coming. As you all probably know, tomorrow we are flying to Macedonia to represent our country in an international theater festival for the disabled. Our trip has been made possible due to the generosity of a well-known yet humble producer, who wishes to remain anonymous. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him from the bottom of my heart.

JESUS  
(Clapping) Give it up to TOBY Levy, give it up!

RAINBOW  
On top of the Shakespearian tragedy, we had our very own little tragedy today, but as we say in theater "The show must go on" so without any further ado, I'm proud to present the "stage of dream" in Romeo and Juliet. Curtain!

LIGHT FADES ON A VERY EXCITED RAINBOW

ACT 2 SCENE 3 - THE DRESS-REHEARSAL

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

IN THIS SCENE THE ONLY TEXT IS SHAKESPEAREAN BUT, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO THE GREATEST PLAYWRIGHT OF ALL TIMES, WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN THIS SCENE IS THE ACTION. THE DRESS-REHEARSAL IS CONDUCTED ON TWO PARALLEL LEVELS. FIRST, THE DRESS-REHEARSAL ITSELF, WHICH GETS WORSE AND WORSE AS IT GOES ALONG.

SECONDLY JOSH . HOW DOES HE FEEL ON STAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH A WOMAN HE LOVES? HOW DO THE OTHERS REACT TO HIM?

ALL THE ACTORS, BESIDES EDWARD, ENTER AND PICK UP SIGNS WITH WORDS.

EACH SIGN HAS ONE WORD AND EACH ACTOR SAYS THAT WORD.

THE ACTORS

(ONE BY ONE) A WELL-MADE/ TRAGEDY/  
EXTRAORDINARILY/ SAD / AS YOU/ CAN  
EXPECT/ ABOUT/ ROMEO/

PAUSE. THE ACTORS WAIT TO SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN, JOSH ENTERS, STARES AT THE AUDIENCE, AND FINALLY

JOSH

And Juliet

MUSIC. VERA AND TOBY ARE RELIEVED TO  
SEE JOSH ARRIVED. BLACK.

PROLOG-A

LIGHT COMES UP ON LOUIE STANDING FRONT-  
CENTER STAGE. BEHIND HIM DANA AND  
DUNCAN TRANSLATE THE TEXT TO SIGN  
LANGUAGE. LOUIE CAN FEEL SOMETHING'S  
NOT AS IT WAS IN REHEARSALS. HE HAS  
STAGE-FRIGHT AND SEEMS PARALYZED. HE  
CAN'T SPEAK. DANA AND DUNCAN ARE  
WAITING FOR HIM TO BEGIN, AS ARE  
RAINBOW, DONNIE,

VERA, TOBY, AND OF COURSE THE  
AUDIENCE. AFTER A LONG PAUSE HE BEGINS  
TO SPEAK. AT FIRST WORD BY WORD BUT  
GAINING CONFIDENCE AS HE GOES ALONG.

LOUIE

Hear -our -tale- of two households- in fair Verona  
Where we - lay our scene  
Where an ancient grudge made civil hands unclean  
When a pair of star-crossed lovers hit by blind fate  
Take their own lives because of pure hate

B-THE BALL

DANCING. AS SEEN IN ACT 1 SCENE 2,  
ONLY NOW JOSH IS PLAYING ROMEO INSTEAD  
OF EDWARD.

DUNCAN

Band play the score! Butlers pour the wine!  
Those who don't dance -

ALL

Don't get to dine.

FADE TO BLACK.

C-THE BALCONY SCENE

LIGHT COMES UP - THEY ARE POSITIONED  
AS IN ACT 1 SCENE 2, ONLY NOW JOSH IS  
ROMEO

JOSH

Henceforth love will be my name.  
Never call me Romeo again.

MIA

How did you come here?

JOSH

With love's light wings I did get by.

VERA TAKES A PHOTOGRAPH OF HER SON ON  
STAGE. BLACK

D-THE WEDDING

AS IN SCENE 4. DUNCAN IS CONDUCTING  
THE MARRIAGE OF MIA AND JOSH. JOSH IS  
ON THE VERGE OF TEARS TO BE MARRYING  
HIS LOVE, ESPECIALLY AS HE KNOWS

(AFTER WHAT HE SAW IN THE HOSPITAL),  
THAT IN REAL LIFE THERE IS NO FUTURE  
FOR THEIR LOVE.

JOSH

Juliet if the measure of your joy is as mine too heavy to  
carry /  
Tell the world how happy we will be after we marry

MIA

But your love is a treasure that's value grows by the  
minute  
I cannot weigh or measure my love, it knows no limit

DUNCAN

Let us be done with it here and now  
The heavens shall honor your holy vow

MIA AND JOSH SLOWLY GET CLOSE AND  
THEN KISS.

MING-CHI

They're kissing on the mouth.

THEY PART THEN KISS AGAIN,  
PASSIONATELY.

MING-CHI (CONT'D)

They're kissing with tongues!

ALL THE ACTORS WHO NEVER SAW ROMEO AND  
JULIET KISSING DURING REHEARSALS  
(EDWARD DIDN'T AGREE) NOW COME CLOSE  
TO SEE, AND ALL REACT, SOME  
EMBARRASSED AND OTHERS EXCITEDLY.

LOUIE

Stop it now!



VERA HERSELF IS TOUCHED TO TEARS TO  
SEE HER SON GETTING "MARRIED" .BLACK.

#### G-THE DUAL

LIGHT COMES UP ON JESUS AND LOUIE  
HOLDING SWORDS. LOUIE BEGINS FENCING  
BUT JESUS IS STILL SO EXCITED FROM THE  
KISS IN THE LAST SCENE -HE JUST LAUGHS  
OUT LOUD AND COMPLETELY FORGETS TO  
STAB LOUIE. POOR LOUIE PUSHES HIMSELF  
ONTO JESUS'S SWORD AND "DIES". JOSH  
COMES ON STAGE AND "KILLS" JESUS.  
TYBALT ESCORTS THE FIGHT BY WAVING  
HIS HANDS IN THE AIR AND SHOUTING  
"KNOCK HIM DOWN

MAN!" RAINBOW BURIES HER FACE IN HER  
HANDS, DONNIE IS ACCOMPANYING THE  
FIGHT WITH CHEERS-"YES GIVE IT TO HIM!  
GIVE IT!" BLACK.

#### H-TYBALT'S DEATH

LIGHT COMES UP ON MING-CHI BENT OVER  
JESUS'S DEAD BODY.

#### MING-CHI

Tybalt , don't die child, Tybalt my dear nephew!

DUE TO THE EXCITEMENT, MING-CHI FEELS  
A DROP IN HER SUGAR, TAKES OUT A  
SANDWICH AND BEGINS EATING. DUNCAN  
JUMPS ON STAGE AND TAKES THE SANDWICH  
AWAY.

#### MING-CHI (CONT'D)

In his bloodshed is engraved the name of a Montigue  
Justice will be done! Justice our Prince must give  
Romeo slew Tybalt -Romeo must not live!

MING-CHI TAKES OUT ANOTHER SANDWICH  
AND BEGINS EATING. THIS TIME DANA  
TAKES IT AWAY. BLACK.

#### I

The vial. Light goes up on MIA and DUNCAN who is holding  
the vial.

#### DUNCAN

(Gives her the vial) Take this vial and it's distilled  
liquor drink till nothing remains

LOUIE

You skipped the Lark scene.

DANA SITS HIM DOWN.

DUNCAN

A cold and drowsy liquid shall run through your veins

LOUIE

You skipped the lark scene. Act 3 scene 5. It won't work without it.

ALL

Louie, cut!

HE RUNS OUT

BLACK.

J-THE DEATH

LIGHT GOES UP ON THE GRAVE. JOSH, CENTER-STAGE, IS BENT OVER MIA'S "DEAD" BODY. ALL THE ACTORS GATHER AROUND THEM, INCLUDING DONNIE WHO PUT ON A PERIODIC HAT AND IS PHYSICALLY HOLDING TROUBLED LOUIE.

JOSH

My love! My wife! Death has no power yet upon your beauty.  
Could it be that  
What's this?

AS JOSH STROKES MIA HE FEELS THE BUMPS OF THE DRESS AND LIFTS IT, FINDING THE FIVE SPECIAL POCKETS SEWN INTO THE DRESS. HE IMMEDIATELY REALIZES WHAT THEY ARE FOR AND LOOKS BACKSTAGE FURIOUSLY. LOUIE, WORRIED ABOUT THE LONG PAUSE SHOUTS OUT HIS TEXT

LOUIE

It cannot be that you are dead

DONNIE SHUTS LOUIE'S MOUTH.

JOSH

It cannot be that you are dead  
your lips and cheeks are still crimson red

AS HE SAYS THE TEXT, HE LIFTS HER DRESS AND TEARS THE POCKETS OUT THROWING THEM ONTO THE STAGE.

JOSH (CONT'D)

This grave will be our everlasting bed  
Doors of breath -sweet lips -give me your final kiss

KISSES HER ON THE LIPS AND DRINKS FROM  
THE VIAL.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Oh, Apothecary- this drug is bitter

"DIES". JULIET WAKES. SHE IS SO  
STUNNED THAT JOSH PUT HIS HANDS UP HER  
DRESS AND TORE PARTS OF IT THAT SHE IS  
SPEECHLESS, JESUS THINKS SHE'S HAD A  
BLACKOUT.

JESUS

MIA, It's your turn to speak it is. (To the audience) It's  
MIA's turn to say her lines it is.

MIA TAKES THE DAGGER AND "STABS"  
HERSELF IN HER HEART. MIA AND JOSH LIE  
'DEAD'. TEARFUL MING-CHI FACE THE  
AUDIENCE AND CAN BARELY SAY HER LINES.

MING-CHI

The sun for sorrow will not show it's head- gloomy morning

DUNCAN

Tell all of the price of hatred and lust for (MING-CHI is  
so distressed she falls crying on top of MIA and JOSH) MING-  
CHI!

JESUS

Tell them of this love, this story of woe tell them

BECAUSE OF ALL THE MISHAPS ON STAGE,  
LOUIE IS MUDDLED AND DONNIE ENCOURAGES  
HIM TO SPEAK UP

LOUIE

Tell them of Juliet and her Romeo.

DONNIE

The end.

LIGHT FADES ON THEIR DISGRACEFUL  
PERFORMANCE

ACT 2 . SCENE 4-EVERYONE HAS A SPECIAL NEED.

RAINBOW

I understand being nervous, or a little confused even, but to stop in the middle?? You stopped in the middle of the play! We've been working on this play for almost a year now. You all know your parts in and out; you can do it in your sleep! So a few people watching you and you lose it all together? Never mind JOSH, he's not a real actor but pros like you? DANA, you of all people forgot your lines?? What do I do now? Give notes? Another rehearsal? Swallow cyanide?

MING-CHI

RAINBOW I'm sorry for eating a sandwich when Tybalt died.

LOUIE

We were thrown off because JOSH didn't stand where EDWARD used to, he didn't speak the same way, and he kissed MIA. EDWARD never kissed her.

JOSH ENTERS.

JOSH

Louie, cut (to MIA ) MIA, take that dress off now!

MING-CHI

You cant make love to her here!

JOSH

(To MIA) You said we could talk after the dress-rehearsal.

MING-CHI

Are you going to tell her that you love her?

MIA

MING-CHI stop it! (To JOSH) What's wrong with you?

RAINBOW

Sit down JOSH! You're one of my actors now so sit down!

JOSH

I am not one of your actors!

RAINBOW

Yes you are! Your father just spoke to the organizers of the festival and got a special permission for you to play Romeo. We'll talk about the dress incident later.

MING-CHI

You have to control your passion, otherwise it's sexual harassment.

TOBY AND VERA ENTER.

TOBY

I wasn't going to say anything but Guys! We have a hit on our hands!

RAINBOW

TOBY, give us a moment alone O.K?

TOBY

Did you see my son's acting? Unbelievable right? He gets it from me.

VERA

Everybody go and take off your costumes. People are waiting for you outside. (To JOSH) Joshie-pooh

RAINBOW

Excuse me, but I'm talking to my actors now.

JOSH

I'm not goanna let you do it! We have to cancel everything!

TOBY

It's the adrenaline from the pl-

JOSH

MIA , please come outside with me, I want to-

TOBY

MIA is listening to her director now, and you should be too.

JOSH

I'll tell her here.

VERA

Joshie-pooh, I understand you had a traumatic experience yesterday, but let's think logically for a minute.

JOSH

You're thinking logically? What kind of sick logic is it to involve these people in our business?

TOBY

It's very logical because we are producers and they are a theater group and if we don't get to Macedonia with them tomorrow we're finished and you know it.

JOSH

I don't care, I'm not letting this-

VERA

So what do you want us to do?

JOSH

Cancel it. I'm begging you Mom, there'll be other "plays"

RAINBOW

What's going on? Do you want to cancel?

MING-CHI

Don't you want to fly with us?

TOBY

We're flying with you. JOSH, come here, I need a word with you.

JOSH

Cancel everything or I'm telling them the truth.

MIA

Telling us what??

VERA

Go on tell them. Ruin the business your family has taken years to build.

JOSH

MIA , I'm going to tell you something that will be difficult to hear, but it's the truth.

VERA

(Dead serious now) Joshie-poo, you know how show business is, knowing too much can be really dangerous.

JOSH

Dad, you wouldn't.

MIA

JOSH just say it already!

VERA

Come on JOSH, say it! Tell them why you want to cancel their trip to Macedonia.

PAUSE.

JOSH

(turns to leave, pauses and  
turns around.)

Because you suck! You are all terrible actors. Forget that, you are not actors, period! Let's all be honest here, you can't act in any play, let alone Romeo and Juliet. The only emotion you can elicit from any crowd would be pity. People will think "oh god, look at this freaks, let's clap so they'll think they are like everybody else" well guess what, you aren't! Why do you want to fly to Macedonia anyway? To embarrass yourselves?

Because what happened here is nothing compare to what's gonna happen in there. You are going to shame our entire country. Is that what you want? DANA the sounds that you make are embarrassing. You should join the circus not a theater group. DUNCAN, translate it to her. MING-CHI, you don't have to go all the way to Macedonia to eat a sandwich, you can do that here. JESUS, you can buy puma shoes at the mall, in fact I'll buy you 3 pairs myself, just do me a favor and don't go on that stage ever again. Louie, you're a lost cause. Anyway, even if my parents decide to go, I'm not coming. I'm not going to act with you because I'm not going to make a fool of myself in front of-

MIA

Is that what was so important for you to tell me? That you're ashamed of acting with my friends?

JOSH

I didn't mean to-

MIA

Oh I understand exactly what you meant, that you are ashamed to be on the same stage with people like us. But listen here, JOSH. We are way more ashamed to be on the stage with someone like you! A disability like you have is a real fuck up of nature. Sure, life has screwed us over, big time, but unlike you, we were born with a heart. So as much as you feel sorry for us, we feel way sorrier for you. I'm sure that if MING-CHI could choose between a mental disability and an emotional one, she would never choose to be a person who doesn't have feelings.

JOSH

It has nothing to do with feelings. I have feelings too, I even-

MIA

I'm not talking about chemical reactions! If you don't believe that love is real, then you don't belong in the "stage of dreams" theater group.

(MORE)

MIA (CONT'D)

We don't want you to go with us to Macedonia. Go and live the rest of your miserable life elsewhere!

JOSH LEAVES.

MIA (CONT'D)

And i'll tell you one more thing..When you kissed me today I really believed that you loved me. I believed that there is a chance for love that is stronger than this stinking life..

MING-CHI

MIA, he's not here.

SLIGHT PAUSE.

MIA

I'm going to change.

VERA

Do you need help?

MIA

No!

MIA LEAVES AND VERA LEAVES AFTER HER.

TOBY

Look, JOSH didn't really mean it, he spoke like an asshole because-

RAINBOW

He did speak like an asshole, but he's right, I can't put them at so much risk.

TOBY

What risk?

RAINBOW

I can't let them fly to Macedonia with that kind of stuff!

TOBY

What stuff? They don't have any stuff on them yet.

RAINBOW

Only RAINBOW McDonnell with her monstrous ego can give disabled people stuff like "Romeo and Juliet". I'm so sorry everybody, but I think we need to rest, wait for EDWARD and register for next year's festival with a different play.

TOBY

Hold on just a minute RAINBOW, this play's not only yours, I invested in it..



RAINBOW

I will personally pay you back all the money you invested.

TOBY

Forget the money! How can you disappoint them like this?  
(To the group) Do you want to give up the festival?

MING-CHI

I'm scared they'll laugh at me.

JESUS

I know I'm not good at acting I'm not. I'm mildly to moderately retarded.

LOUIE

I don't want to be Mercutio anymore; I just want to be Louie.

TOBY

How can you call yourselves "the stage of dreams" if you give up on your dreams so easily??

RAINBOW

TOBY, you'll never know what it feels like to be disabled, to stand on a stage in front of the whole world and to screw it all up.

VERA RETURNS (TOBY DOESN'T NOTICE AT FIRST).

TOBY

Believe me I know what it feels like to screw up. Before I met you I used to screw up all the time. I screwed up so much my wife actually told me to stop Producing. She said that this business is not for me. She said that I would never be a producer like her dad. (Notices VERA) but you know what the worst part was? I started believing her. I started doubting myself. And then I met you guys.. I saw how hard you try and how, no matter what, you don't give up. So why should I? You are all brave smart sensitive and talented people. You have an incredible director and a producer who believes in you, so tomorrow we are all flying to Macedonia and we are going to put on a Romeo and Juliet that will blow everybody's mind away.

DANA

XX XX XXXXX XXXXX

THEY ALL AGREE.

RAINBOW

But who will play Romeo?

TOBY

We'll get an actor, I don't care how. Worst case we can have Donnie play Romeo, he's mentally challenged for sure.

RAINBOW

Go and get dressed, your families are waiting for you.

JESUS

(Confused) So, Am I buying Puma soccer shoes or not buying Puma soccer shoes?

THE ACTORS LEAVE AND RAINBOW LEAVE.  
TOBY TAKES OUT THE BAG WITH THE DRUGS.

TOBY

What are we going to do?

VERA

I'll sew it into the dress, it'll be fine.

TOBY

I meant what are we going to do with JOSH?

VERA

I don't know what got into him

TOBY

What is there to know VERA? The boy is in love.

MING-CHI ENTERS WITH A BOUQUET OF  
FLOWERS. TOBY HIDES THE DRUGS.

MING-CHI

(Loudly to MIA who's off stage) MIA, your Uber to the hospital is waiting.

TOBY

She's going to visit EDWARD?

MING-CHI

She's going to say goodbye to her Dad.

VERA

Oh, is he ok? What happened?

MING-CHI

Don't you know? It's a very sad story. Three years ago MIA's parents were walking under the Brooklyn bridge and some Gangsters were fighting and someone threw a grenade that killed her mom and put her dad in a coma. Do you know that the police never caught these bad men who did it?

DUNCAN PEEPS IN.

DUNCAN

MIA Koppel- your Uber is waiting outside!

MIA

I'm coming!

(DUNCAN exits)

MING-CHI

Oh, TOBY and VERA I love you so much. You're such good people.

MING-CHI GIVES TOBY THE FLOWERS, HUGS VERA AND LEAVES. MIA ENTERS WEARING HER OWN CLOTHES, AND HANDS VERA THE DRESS. MIA LEAVES WITH MING-CHI.

VERA

Koppel. She's Koppel's daughter.

TOBY

(To his cell-phone) Donnie, come to the stage.

VERA

We killed her mother and JOSH killed her father.

DONNIE ENTERS.

TOBY

Donnie, there's an Uber outside! Get rid of it and take MIA in our car. Don't leave her, and whatever you do, don't take her to the Hospital! You Got me??

DONNIE

TOBY I need to tell you something.

TOBY

Not now! Go!

DONNIE

Your family's been so good to me and-

TOBY

Donnie did you hear what I just said?!

DONNIE

And I feel really bad about lying to you.

TOBY

Donnie go now or I'll -(pulls out his gun and puts it to Donnie's head)

DONNIE

JOSH didn't take out her dad! I wasn't supposed to tell you. I was conflicted.

(MORE)

DONNIE (CONT'D)

On one hand, JOSH loves Mia so much, how could he do it after seeing her there like that. On the other hand, you are like family to me and I shouldn't lie to you. Love on one side, family on the other. A conflict.

TOBY

So he didn't kill him?

VERA

So what happened there?

DONNIE

I got an idea. I knew that MIA loves JOSH too so I took EDWARD to Mario's for an eggplant lasagna . That stuff is legit!

DONNIE EXITS

VERA

What do I do with this now? (holds the dress and the drugs)

TOBY

What would your father do?

VERA

My father's dead. I listen only to my husband.

TOBY

There's a rule in theater "the show must go on"

LIGHT FADES ON TOBY AND VERA, AND  
THEIR CONFLICT

## ACT 2 . SCENE 5 . I LOVE U TERMINAL

LOCATION

AIRPORT. THE GROUP OF THE DISABLED, TOGETHER WITH RAINBOW, ARE STANDING IN LINE FOR THEIR SECURITY CHECK, AT THE END OF WHICH STANDS A SECURITY GUARD.

\*PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

THERE IS NO REASON TO TELL THE THEATER EXECUTIVES THAT YOU NEED ANOTHER ACTOR FOR THE SECURITY GUARD. BEST TO LEAVE IT TILL THE LAST-MINUTE AND THEN TELL THEM TO CAST A FRESH DRAMA SCHOOL GRADUATE WHO WILL SELL HIS MOTHER FOR A GIG IN THE THEATER.

EDWARD

I said, "Doc, I'm not staying here for even one more minute. I happen to be an Actor that represent you and our country so you better let me out of here fast! That, and my insurance doesn't cover more than one night.

DANA

XXX XXX XXXX XXXXX

EDWARD

Of course it was! JOSH played the part! How can you have a good dress rehearsal with an amateur?

DANA

XXX XXXXX!

EDWARD

Where is your Romeo anyway?

DUNCAN

He's not coming with us because "we're not good enough for him".

EDWARD

"Not good enough??" Ha! He would never be able to capture the emotional depth of Romeo.

MING-CHI

But he and MIA kissed for real.

EDWARD

I'm also going to kiss her for real and I'm not scared at all.

DONNIE ENTERS.

RAINBOW

(To Donnie) Where are TOBY and VERA?

DONNIE

They can't be seen here! I'm in charge of you.

DUNCAN

Do they also think we're not good enough?

DONNIE

They had to take care of another "production". You know how its like in showbiz.

SECURITY GUARD ENTERS.

SECURITY GURD

Good Morning. Where to?

ALL

MACEDONIA!!

SECURITY GURD

Did you pack alone? (Begins to check the luggage)

DONNIE

Hey buddy! This is a group of people with special needs.  
You don't have to-

RAINBOW

Donnie, let them feel like any other person who flies  
overseas.

JOSH ARRIVES CARRYING A TRAVEL-BAG.

JOSH

MIA!

DONNIE

JOSH, you shouldn't be here!

DUNCAN

What are you doing here? Aren't you ashamed to be seen with  
a bunch of disabled people?

EDWARD

I'll tell you what he's doing here- he thinks he can take  
Romeo away from me. So listen carefully, Mr. "I got the  
part just because my dad's the producer" -with all due  
respect to you trying to imitate me yesterday, you'll never  
be able to truly understand Romeo's emotional world-

JOSH

You're right EDWARD, I was imitating you on stage last  
night. I'm sorry. I want to apologize to all of you. I want  
you to know that I didn't mean any of the awful things that  
I said. I was acting like the biggest jerk but for a  
reason. You see, last night I kissed a girl for the first  
time in my life. Not just any girl, but a girl that I'm in  
love with.

EDWARD

I knew it!

JOSH

But I didn't have the guts to tell her how I feel, because  
I knew that someone as wonderful as her would never be into  
someone like me. So I freaked out and lost control. I'm  
really sorry.

(MORE)

JOSH (CONT'D)

But I bought a ticket because I really want to see you guys preform in Macedonia. I hope you can forgive me.

MING-CHI

Awww, love can really make you stupid. Of course we forgive you JOSH.

JESUS

JOSH! I have money to buy Puma soccer shoes I have!

JOSH

That's awesome JESUS. Now can you let me through? I need to get to MIA.

DONNIE

JOSH, you can't fly with them.

EDWARD

Ok, I forgive you. It kills me that everyone thinks they can just act.

SECURITY GUARD

Did anyone give you anything to take with you?

DANA

XX XXX XX XXX XX XXXX

JOSH

(To MIA) Hi. Can I help you with the dress?

MIA

What was that all about? Are you retarded?

JOSH

(Corrects her) Not retarded, I have special needs.

SECURITY GURD

(Yells) Do you have any weapons?

DUNCAN

I don't and there's no need to raise your voice.

JOSH

I need to tell you something before we board.

MIA

Was it really your first kiss yesterday?

JOSH

Hmm, yeah.

MIA

Not bad for a first time.

SECURITY GUARD

Did you Pack alone?

LOUIE

My Mom packed for me. I have 6 pairs of underwear, six pair of socks 6 pants, one cotton, one dry fit, six..

RAINBOW

Louie, cut.

JESUS

Now is the duty-free now?

MIA

Me too.

JOSH

That was your first kiss?

MIA

You think? I meant I love you too.

SECURITY GUARD

Did anyone give you anything to take with you?

MING-CHI

Carmella Jacobs, my friend from the hostel gave me a little bible.

RAINBOW

MIA.

JOSH

I need to tell you something, and there's a chance that after I tell you this you'll never see me again. I only have a small bag, let me take the dress.

MIA

Forget the dress! What did you want to say?

JOSH

Give me the dress.

SECURITY GUARD

Next. MIA Koppel.

JOSH

MIA. Listen to me! My parents, there's a reason why they're not here with you.

VERA AND TOBY ENTER WITH SUNGLASSES  
AND SUITCASES.



TOBY

We almost missed the flight. They checked us at the entrance like we were gangsters.

VERA

Joshie-pooh, what are you doing here?

JOSH

What are you doing here?

TOBY

Flying with our production to Macedonia.

SECURITY GAURD

What's this?

MIA

A wedding dress. I'm marrying Romeo in Act 3.

JOSH

It's my dress!

SECURITY GUARD

Are you marrying Romeo in Act 3?

THE SECURITY GUARD FINDS THE DRESS  
"HEAVY" AND FINDS THE POCKETS.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

What's in the pockets?

MIA

I didn't put anything in them.

JOSH

I did! All the stuff in her pockets is mine! I put it there.

THE SECURITY GUARD OPENS THE POCKETS.

SECURITY GUARD

You like jelly-beans ,ah?

MIA

Yes, how do you know?

SECURITY GUARD

8 pounds of Jelly-beans in the pocket make sure you floss.  
Have a good flight.

JOSH LOOKS BACK AT HIS PARENTS.

VERA

What? Its an artistic choice.

MIA

So what were you saying about your parents?

JOSH

That deep inside they're good people, after all. (To his parents) What about the "props"?

TOBY

Props? It's not our concept. I hate realism.

EPILOGUE - MACEDONIA, BABE, MACEDONIA

LOCATION

THEATER FESTIVAL FOR PEOPLE WITH  
SPECIAL NEEDS. SKOPJE, MACEDONIA.

THE FINAL SCENE OF "THE STAGE OF  
DREAMS" PRODUCTION. THE ATMOSPHERE IS  
INTENSE AND PROFESSIONAL, THE COSTUMES  
ARE WONDERFUL, AS IS THE WHOLE SET  
(LIGHTING, SCENERY ETC.) IT IS OBVIOUS  
THE ENSEMBLE HAVE HAD A WONDERFUL  
PERFORMANCE.

EDWARD

My love! My wife! Death hasn't scarred your beauty yet  
It cannot be that you are dead  
Your lips are still a crimson red  
This grave shall be our everlasting bed  
Sweet lips -give me your final kiss

EDWARD HESITATES, LOOKS AT JOSH WHO  
ENCOURAGES HIM TO KISS HER. HE KISSES  
HER LIPS AND IS SO HAPPY THAT HE WAS  
ABLE TO GO THROUGH WITH IT, HE ALMOST  
RUNS TO HUG JOSH, BUT RESTRAINS  
HIMSELF. HE DRINKS FROM THE VIAL.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Oh, Apothecary- this drug you have given me is bitter

"DIES". JULIET WAKES.

MIA

Where am I? I'm here. But where is he?

SEES ROMEO LYING DEAD WITH THE VIAL IN  
HIS HAND.

MIA (CONT'D)

Drunk all left no friendly drop for me...  
Perhaps on your lips?

KISSES HIM.

TAKES THE DAGGER

( (CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

I love you.

MIA TAKES THE DAGGER AND "STABS"  
HERSELF IN THE HEART. ALL THE ACTORS  
ENTER THE STAGE AND SEE EDWARD AND MIA  
LYING "DEAD". THE FINAL LINES ARE  
GIVEN TO THE AUDIENCE BY GREAT ACTORS.

MING-CHI

Gloomy morning- The sun for sorrow will not show it's head

DUNCAN

Tell all of the lust for power the price of hatred

DANA

XXX XXX XXXXX XXXXX (Tell them of this love, this story of  
woe)

LOUIE

Tell them of Juliet and her Romeo.

JESUS ENTERS THE STAGE IN HIS PERIODIC  
COSTUME OF TYBALT, BUT WITH BRAND NEW  
PUMA SOCCER SHOES, SMILING FROM EAR TO  
EAR HOLDING UP A SIGN

"THE END"