

The Disabled

A play by Gur Koren

Translated by Hadar Galron

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

Artistic Manager : Tzippy Pines

Dramaturgy: Avishay Milshtein and Gilad Kimchi

Text "Romeo & Juliet" by William Shakespeare .

Adapted by: Rainbow Levy

Script Assistances: Nufar Hurwitz , Moran Rosen `

Translator's note: as the theme and plot of the play are Universal, the playwright requested that I leave the language as uncharacterized as possible (American / UK/ other), to encourage theatres to make the play local anywhere in the world. Changes in nuances of language to characterize the gangsters, and/ or local slang, may be made in cooperation with the translator via mail: hadargalron@gmail.com .

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Represented by: "Kneller Artists Agency Ltd." Ibn Gabirol 62, Tel-Aviv, Israel. 6436211. Tel: 972+3-5232242

List of Characters:

Toby Giorno : Late 40's. Head of the family.

Vera Perselini-Giorno: Late 40's. Toby's wife , a wedding-dress designer.

Zach Giorno: 26. Toby and Vera's son.

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

Rainbow Levy- 30+. Director of the "Fantasy Stage" ensemble. A theatre group of disabled people.

Actors at "Fantasy Stage":

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

Liah - 24, blind. (Juliet)

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

Chief- 20+, suffers from Asperger's syndrome. (Marcutio)

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

Darling- 40+, plump. Suffers from a mild mental disorder. (Lady Capulet)

Dylan- 30+, suffers from a mild- moderate mental disorder.

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 theatre artists but as human beings. This play already flirts dangerously on the "politically correct" border. So... I would like to advise actors playing these roles to create full, touching and loveable characters. I would say the same goes for the roles of the gangsters – but that's no concern of mine. Only, if you annoy them with an unflattering approach to the characters, check under your cars before leaving the theatre... and of course, never give them my name! Good luck ! Gur

The Disabled

Act 1. Scene One: May whoever invented college rot in hell

Location: Vera's bridal salon

Zach is rotating between his laptop, tablet and cell-phone. Toby is smoking restlessly, and Tiran 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 to a completely different issue... A week after the Ministry of Finance announced there would be budget cuts, it seems the prime victims are, as usual, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Welfare... This morning we were already informed that Government support of Theatres has been frozen, as well as the budgets of several departments in the Ministry of Welfare. With us on line is spokesman for the National Theatre...

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

Toby: Zach, what was that?

Zach: Everything's under control, Dad

Toby: What *control*? You just beeped. Maybe something happened to the plane.

Zach: The plane's fine. It was just an update from the application that our plane entered the Macedonian air-zone

Toby: (**calms**) Macedonia- goood.... (**beep**) Zach, what was that?

Zach: I programmed the application so that when the triangulation changes, the transmitter looks for receivers a,b and c until the next triangulation . It's the simplest algorithm of mobile there is.

Vera: Love of m'life - don't speak to us like that ...

Zach: Mum, give me a break

Tiran: Look, Zach... me, I'm only the bodyguard, but I see things from the side and I'm tellin' you that's no way to talk to your parents.

Vera: In college they don't teach them how to honor their parents

Zach: OK- I'll explain again: I implanted a tiny satellite transmitter into the bags with the stuff, it works exactly like a GPS. You know... 'GPS'? It transmits to a satellite.

Tiran: I know GPS !

Vera: So not only did you put this guy on the plane with 2 kilo coke to stomach- you also stuffed his gut with a satellite dish?

Zach: Mum- didn't you say you don't want anything to do with this?

Vera: I don't. I don't want to know who you sent or what he swallowed, I'm just a wedding-dress designer.

Toby: Vera- trust your genius son, he's making our business hi-tech...

Vera: 'Hi-tech'... my father would take the dope, wrap it in newspaper, put it in the mule's bag and say: "Have a safe trip buddy"

Zach: To wrap coke in newspaper, you didn't have me to drag out of college in the middle of the semester.

Vera: Love o' m'life – don't mock your grandfather's ways

Zach: I'm not *mocking* anything- but *you* asked me to help with the business 'cause "Dad's not coping alone"

Toby: You said "I'm not coping alone"?

Ring. (Toby thinks it's from one of Zach's devices)

Toby: What was that Zach?

Telephone ring continues. Vera answers.

Vera: Vera "Please god by you" Bridal salon, hello.

Toby: For God's sake Vera, now you're dealing with the dresses?!

Vera: Do you prefer to write an invoice for "Toby cocaine ltd."?! (**to phone**) Of course you can come, I'm here, I'll wait for you... I added some pearls, I widened the cleavage, no- I can't – any lower - you'll be naked! ...I'm here sweetie.. tell Mum. Please God .

Zach: Mum, we're five minutes from landing and you're arranging weddings?!

Vera: Remember Billy from your class? Well, this dress is for his bride, so..

Zach: That dress is for Billy Kashri's bride?

Vera: What're you so surprised about? People your age get married!

Toby: Tell her half the dress is a present from Toby Giorno

Vera: What's got into you? This is a 10,000 dollar/pound dress

Beep

Toby: What was that Zach?

Zach: The plane landed. (**The family and Tiran are excited**)

Zach: I told you that with all due respect to Grandad, in the 21st century no business can succeed if it's not managed as a hi-tech

Vera: With all due respect to hi-tech to manage our business you also need to be a man. And how did your Grandfather define 'a man'? 1.He who knew a woman. 2. He who bumped off a man. And for those two things there are no applications yet.

Zach: Well I promise you, just as I smuggled the coke into Macedonia today I will "bump off" any man whenever you want! But- if I need to get married to manage the business, tell Grandad to find himself another heir.

Vera: Why shouldn't you get married? So you're not Prince Charming, that means you don't deserve someone average? You're crippled? Lame? What are you a hunchback?

Toby: Zach, listen to your mother, a man needs a woman. (to Vera) Where would I be without you? (kisses her)

Vera: Your father can teach you what love is.

Zach: Love... "love" is merely the instinctive reaction to physiological features. "Love" is a hormone named Pheromone that causes people a metabolic spin

Vera: Whoever invented college should rot in hell.

Toby: Gorgeous , let's take our son and the evolutionary miracle known as Tiran, and go out for lunch to celebrate, eh?

Tiran: Can we go up to "Sammy's skewers"?

Zach: I'm a vegan

Tiran: Take the chicken nuggets

Vera: O.k. -I'm also starving, I'll call Kashri's bride and tell her to come later.

Tiran: What should I take? Shish-kebab or the rack of lamb ?

Toby: Take them both -on the house. We've got 2 million bucks/ quid to spend.

Beep.

Toby: What now? Our guy stopped at the duty free?

Vera: Text him on your application to get me a pack of Marlborough lights.

Zach: Something's gone wrong

Toby: Vera I love you

Vera: You played your cards right Toby.

Toby: Not only me –it's our little genius

Zach: Listen, I think something happened.

Vera: (holding the telephone) Why isn't she answering now?

Tiran: Maybe I'll take the 300 gram entrecote?

Zach: Shut up a minute! I think something happened to the plane! We've lost connection with the application!

Toby: Application, application- if anything had happened to the plane, they would've said something on the radio

Tiran turns the radio on

Interviewee : It's ridiculous that the National Theatre can't pay royalties to playwrights and directors! Not only does it receive from the state the highest budget... it's the theatre that represents us internationally...

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 Scopje airport, with a dead passenger in it. **British/American/?** citizen Billi Kashri was found dead in his seat at the end of the flight. (**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 Billy Kashri?

Tiran: (God) bless 'im

Vera: What's Billy Kashri got to do with smuggling?

Toby: Weddings are expensive. For the dress alone they charged 10,000 bucks/
pounds/?

Telephone rings

Zach: It's from Macedonia

Toby: What?

Zach: It's the client

Toby: Tell him the shipping's been delayed

Vera: Delayed till when? Resurrection? You killed him Toby,

Toby: You're blaming me he's dead? He didn't bring me a note from the doctor that
he's allergic to cocaine!

Zach: *(To the phone)* Hello...

Vera: What's the big deal to smuggle drugs into Macedonia?

Zach: *(phone)*...it seems we have a small problem

Vera: for two years you've been trying to smuggle a gram of crack into that bloody
country

Zach: *(phone)* Yes, I'm afraid so

Vera: The Prague line you lost, Budapest you lost, Macedonia's the only line we have
left.

Zach: *(phone)* You're right off course

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

Zach: A million and a half

Vera: Is that what you needed a degree for? To implant coke and a satellite into
Kashri's gut?

Tiran: (God) bless 'im/

Zach: It wasn't supposed to fail! Kashri probably ate something acidic that raised the pH in his stomach and ... Of course we'll compensate you...

Vera: **Why's it such a big deal to smuggle drugs into Macedonia?**

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

Vera: Well then, how is it my father's men were never caught?

Toby: Because in his time, they had no devices, no dogs, no... Zach, what's he saying?

Zach: He doesn't want to work with us anymore.

Toby: Tell him I'm sending him excellent stuff.

Zach: He doesn't want to know.

Toby: I'll make him a reduction.

Vera: My father never made reductions.

Toby: Tell him he'll be getting 2 kilo for...

Zach: He wants 5 kilo now.

Vera: Where are you going to get 5 kilo from?

Toby: He'll get it within three weeks.

Vera: 5 kilo is at least 2 mules* (*smugglers)

Toby: We can make it in three weeks.

Zach: He's giving us a week and a half.

Vera: And where're you going to get the *cabbage for five kilo from? (*money)

Toby: He'll send us an advance

Zach: He says he won't send an advance.

Vera: Toby, forget it, it's not for you. Tell him you're giving up.

Slight Pause

Toby: **(to Zach)** Tell him it's a deal, and may he drop dead amen.

Tiran: Don't say that! He might get offended...

Zach: He says if this time it doesn't arrive... he's giving the line to Bebeh.

Zach hangs up. Slight pause.

Vera: Let's give the line to Bebeh.

Zach: Mum stop it! Let's think straight for a minute...

Vera: I'm thinking straight: Bebeh's our colleague. He's better than us, because his stuff doesn't get caught, and his people- don't blow up with crack in their stomach. Maybe he bumped off my father but the guy sure knows how to smuggle drugs.

Toby: Zach, order 5 kilo.

Vera: Forget it Toby, you're a good man, drug smuggling isn't for you.

Zach: Shouldn't we plan first how we're going to ...?

Toby: Call and order 5 kilo!

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

Zach: It'll cost half a million.

Vera: Half a million? He'd never charge my father such...

Toby: Leave your father out of it! He's dead and now I'm running the business!

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Vera: Zach, order me a ticket. I'll take the stuff to Macedonia.

Toby: Vera, I don't interfere with your dresses, don't interfere with my smuggling.

Tiran: Toby, I volunteer to take the stuff

Toby: Tiran, you're an ex-con with a manslaughter and drug record.

Tiran: Does that mean I have no right to fly with coke from one country to another

Toby takes out a gun and aims at Tiran's head.

Toby: Tiran, If you don't want to reach Sammy's on a skewer shut the fuck up!

Vera: As pleasant as it is here, I'm going to pay my condolences to the Kashri family.

Toby: Tiran go with her.

Vera: Tiran, stay! ...Oh Toby, we're going to pay for the rest of our lives for what happened on Pigeon Beach.

Zach: What happened on Pigeon beach?

Vera: Ask your father. Another of his successes.

Vera leaves

Toby: Tiran...

Tiran leaves and returns immediately.

Tiran: Just to get it right- no Skewers today...?

Tiran leaves

Zach: ...What happened on Pigeon Beach?

Toby: Just forget it!

Zach: Forgotten. I have a contingency plan how to smuggle the...

Toby: Zach, leave me alone! You've caused enough trouble! Half a million you cost me!

Zach: Dad...

Toby: Go away!

Zach leaves. Toby looks at the portrait of Vera's father on the wall.

Toby: Huh... no tips for us? Directions? Can't you help out a bit?

Sirens are heard from outside

Toby: Great help.

Knock at the door.

Toby: (to photo) He who survived your daughter is not afraid of cops!.. Come in

The door opens, enter Nathan (a deaf guy) and Chief (suffers from asperger's syndrome)

Chief: Hello. We're members of the "Fantasy Stage" troupe, which is a theatre ensemble for disabled people. We're going through the neighborhood, asking for the help of our neighbors.

Toby: Is there a police car outside?

Nathan: If you're talking to me- I need to see your lips.

Toby: Police! Did you see the police?!

Nathan: Why police? We just came to ask for a donation...

Chief: A donation for the "Fantasy Stage" troupe, a theatre ensemble for disabled people. We're going through the neighborhood asking for the help of our neighbors.

Toby: Now's not a good time.

Chief: We're participating with our play, in a theatre Festival for disabled people.

Toby: ...You need money?

Nathan: You must let him finish –he learnt it by heart.

Toby: Go on.

Chief: We're participating with our play, in a theatre Festival for disabled people.
But due to cuts in the Ministry of Welfare 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... be healthy and happy.

Chief: We are turning to you for help, in order to enable us to participate with our
play in a Theatre festival...

Nathan: A thousand pounds/dollars...?! We don't have a receipt for a thousand !

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

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

Nathan: Stop Chief! Let's go. **(to Toby)** You're cool.

Toby: **(to Chief)** Just a moment, say what you just said again.

Chief: Hello. We're members of the "Fantasy Stage" troupe, which is a theatre
ensemble for disabled people.

Toby: No, no... What did you say after that?

Chief: Due to the cuts in the budget of –

Toby: Where is your disabled festival ??

Nathan: Macedonia.

Chief: ...we have receipts for the sum of 10, 15, 20, 25, 50 or 75 dollars/
pounds..., you can pay in cash or...

Light goes down on Toby as Chief continues mumbling.

End of Scene One

Scene 2 : Dance for your life!

Location: Local community center. On stage “the Ball scene” from Romeo & Juliet

7 “actors” on stage: Ace- as Romeo, Liah - as Juliet, Nina – as the Nanny, Chief- as Marcutio , Nathan- as Capulet, Darling – as Lady Capulet, Dylan- 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 poor plays on stage.

Nathan: *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: Ace and Chief (Romeo and Marcutio), center stage.

Ace: *Marcutio, who is she who dances there so fair?*

Chief: *I have no idea, dear cousin*

Ace: *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: Dylan (Tybalt) with Darling (Lady Capulet) and Nathan (Capulet), side-stage.

Dylan: *This should be a Montague, by his voice*

Fetch me my rapier, boy- He leaves me no choice

Darling: *What is with you Tybalt? Why are you angry so?*

Dylan: *Aunt, it is Montague –son of our greatest foe*

Darling: *That's young Romeo?*

Dylan: *It is he. Bring me my sword. What will be will be will be**

Nathan: *Listen nephew, no one in my home shall die tonight*

Control yourself – 'tis my command- you have no right

Ace comes up to Liah , touches her hand

Ace: *forgive my sinful hand for it's sacrilegious act*

It's never met such beauty, and has so little tact

Liah : *Don't reprimand your hand. It came to the temple to pray*

Ace: *Then my lips need to pray too, if they may*

Liah gets close to kiss him. Ace takes off his mask.

Ace: What are you doing? What are you doing??

All the others remove their masks. Darling brings a picnic box and opens it.

Ace: Sorry for stopping the rehearsal! But it's unprofessional – if we set something then we set something!

Nina: XXX XX XXX XXXX XXX XXX!

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

Nathan: It was cool! Shame you stopped.

Darling: Would anyone like an avocado sandwich?

* Dylan has a tendency of repeating words/phrases at the end of the sentence.

All the "actors" begin speaking together, until the voice of Rainbow –the director, is heard.

Rainbow: Never- ever – stop ! Whatever happens- you carry on. Someone forgot text- carry on, someone fell off the stage- carry on, Someone

got injured, a minor injury- carry on, a major injury- like – an axe fell on you – stop, find the injured actor and carry on.

Nina: XXXX XXX XX XX XX XXX XXX XX XXX

Rainbow: Right, Nina, the first rule in theatre is...

Dylan: The show must go on, all the time, forever and ever- show must go on!

Rainbow: **(signaling them to continue)** So 'go on'

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

Nathan: Stop Chief stop.

Rainbow: I can't believe that a week before our premiere you're all still stopping in the middle.

Liah : It's not all of us it's only Ace – he stopped

Ace: Right Liah I stopped. "Coz you tried to kiss me

Liah : Well I'm really sorry I couldn't stop my passion, but a week before the play I want to act for real.

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

Chief: If you don't say "stop", I'm Marcutio, if you say "stop" I'm Chief"

Nina: XXX XXX XXX XX

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

Rainbow: We're continuing from where we stopped. Liah –no kissing for now.

Darling: I only kissed Tom from the hostel but without tongues.

Rainbow: Curtain!

Liah and Ace resume their places on stage.

Ace: Instead of trying to kiss me all the time –learn your lines.

Liah : If you weren't so scared of kisses I'd say "Kiss my arse"

Ace: Rainbow! I'm not scared of kisses!...

Rainbow: Stop!!! Look at yourselves! Is this how a professional theatre group looks less than a week before premiere?

Nina: XXXX XXX XX XX XX XXXX XXX XXX

Rainbow: Is what Nina said true?

Liah : Nathan can you please translate what Nina said for the poor blind girl?

Nathan: Nina said that because we're not sure if we're going to the Festival, we're all beginning to lose it.

Chief: "... Our play is participating in an International th.."

Rainbow: Stop Chief! The Mayor himself promised we'd fly to the festival. Don't worry.

Rainbow's cell phone rings

Nina: XX XXX XX XX XXXX

Rainbow: I know it's unprofessional Nina , but it's a really important call.

Leaves

Dylan: I want to fly to Macedonia and buy Puma sport shoes in the Duty Free.

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

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

Ace: I'm not playing Romeo in a community center!

Liah : So why don't you collect donations?

Ace: Because I'm an artist not a beggar.

Liah : You're an artist? An artist living in sheltered housing?

Toby and Tiran walk into the community center.

Liah : Is anyone here?

Darling: Liah , a dark-skinned man just walked in, but he's good-looking.

Nathan: That's the man that gave us 1000 dollars/pounds/? yesterday.

Chief: And we couldn't give him a receipt because we have receipts for 10, 15, 20, 25, 50...

Ace: Stop Chief. How can I help you?

Darling: Don't be angry with us for not having a receipt.

Dylan: If we all gave him all our receipts, we could give him a lot of receipts.

Darling: Everyone get your receipts!

They all go looking for their receipts .

Toby: I don't need any receipts! I just wanted to ask...

Rainbow enters.

Rainbow: Friends, please sit ... (notices Toby) Sorry, the hall's ours until five!

Nathan: Rainbow, that's the man who donated 1000 dollars/ pounds.

Dylan: And he's angry they didn't give him a receipt he's angry.

Toby: I'm not angry...

Rainbow: **(takes an envelope from her pocket)** Thank-you for your donation sir, it's irrelevant **(gives him 1000 from the envelope)** . Friends, we're not going to Macedonia.

Reaction of the disappointed 'actors'.

Rainbow: That was the Mayor on the phone, he asked me to tell you that "he's really sorry but Welfare didn't transfer any budgets so they won't be able to sponsor our trip"

Darling: Rainbow I'm very sad.

Dylan: So I won't buy Puma sport shoes I won't?

Liah : The Mayor is one son of a bitch.

Rainbow: Please, Liah ... but he promised we could put on our play here ,at the community center.

Ace: Rainbow –I'm telling you here and now –I'm not playing Romeo in a community center!

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

Chief: Hello. We're members of the "Fantasy Stage" troupe, which is a theatre ensemble for-

All: Stop Chief !

Rainbow: The donations were for the costumes we don't have. For flight tickets we'll need a sum we could never raise alone.

Nina: XXX XX XXX XX XXX XXX XX

They all agree

Rainbow: Wait Friends! I'm also disappointed but...

Toby: Excuse me, let me introduce myself, I'm Toby and I ... love plays... actually I work in... plays and I...

Dylan: Are you an actor like us an actor?

Toby: Not an actor I , eh...

Chief: In plays there's also a set designer, a costume designer, a lighting designer, a director, an assistant director, a producer...

Toby: A producer! I produce plays.

Ace: I knew it.

Toby: I've produced many plays. And I'm looking for new plays to produce... so your play's going to Macedonia ?

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

Dylan: I was going to buy Puma shoes.

Toby: Tiran, check out seven-eight flight tickets. When's your festival?

Rainbow: Just a minute sir.

Liah : A week from today.

Toby: Get 8 tickets for next week.

Rainbow: Friends, rehearse the ball steps quietly, I'd like to speak to...

Toby: Toby

Nathan: The ball! Chief –now you're Marcutio.

The disabled group begins rehearsing, while Toby and Rainbow speak

Rainbow: Look Toby... our group belongs to the local council, they give us budgets from the Ministry of Welfare and ...

Toby: I'm not taking anything from anyone, but if the State is incapable of supporting you, then I'd be honored to...

Rainbow: Toby, it's really generous of you ...but I suggest you speak to Welfare and offer to donate the money- they'll transfer it to us.

Toby: No way! Transferring money through the State is like...

Tiran: Like sniffing coke through a wet note... the stuff gets stuck in the middle.

Toby: Why should I donate money to the State? If the State knew how to function properly, would great actors like your group have to go begging for donations?

Rainbow: You're right but..

Toby: Look Rainbow, if it doesn't suit you, I'll find a different play to...
(turns to go)

Rainbow: You're not going to interfere? Artistically I mean ...

Toby: Me? Interfere?! I just want to get you to Macedonia... you don't have any stuff that...?

Rainbow: Scenery? No. I have a surrealistic space conception that gives the stage an ironic illusion ... 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: Yeh... I... I like it.

Rainbow: Toby, sorry for being so suspicious, it just seems strange that without even knowing us and... 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 edition of "Romeo and Juliet".

Toby: Who?

Rainbow: The play "Romeo and Juliet".

Toby: Original stuff. Great.

Rainbow: (laughs) Ha-ha. Like! ...Friends I'd like you all to meet Toby. He's... going to help us get to the festival in Macedonia .

Enthusiastic reaction of the group.

Dylan: Puma shoes ! Puma shoes!

Darling: Toby, I love you, I love you Toby.

Darling 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 fine- I hardly even noticed you're retards.

An awkward and painful pause.

Rainbow: Toby, nobody here is a retard! We don't use that word here. Our actors are people with **special needs**! Come, I'll introduce them. This is Dylan –his role in the play is Tybalt.

Dylan: Pleased to meet you.

Toby: And what "special need" does he have?

Rainbow: Dylan was born with a mild to moderate mental disorder. This is Chief . Chief what's your role in the play?

Chief: In the play I'm Marcutio. In real life I'm Chief, and I mustn't get mixed up.

Toby: He's also disturbed...?

Rainbow: Chief do you want to tell how you were diagnosed?

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

Rainbow: Stop Chief. A genius , like all the Aspergers. This is Darling . Darling tell Toby what you have.

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

Rainbow: Darling is our monitor, and she's diagnosed with a slight mental disorder. This is Nathan, my assistant , he's hard of hearing.

Toby: (shouts) HI ! HOW ARE YOU ?

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

Rainbow: And this is our Nina.

Nina: XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX!

Toby: Maybe something hurts her?

Rainbow: She said she's glad there's someone in this country who cares about culture. This is Liah . Her role is Juliet .

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

Rainbow: And last but not least –our Romeo – Ace.

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

Toby: He doesn't... isn't... doesn't have any "special need"?

Liah : He's mentally disturbed but he won't admit it .

Ace: I'm not mentally disturbed! They call it borderline but my IQ is like anyone's. I could have even recruited to the army if I didn't have a bad allergy to aubergines / egg plant (usa)

Toby: Tell me, Rainbow, these "special needs people"... can I trust them? I mean they won't forget ...?

Rainbow: Forget their lines? No way, they're pro's. Do you want to see a scene before you decide? Friends, let's show Toby the balcony scene.

Toby: No, I don't need...

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

Dylan: We act for real, meaning every line , for real.

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

Rainbow: Ready friends ? ... Curtain!

The disabled all take branches\leaves and pose as trees and plants in Juliet's garden. Liah goes up to the "balcony".

Ace: *He who jests at scars has never felt a wound*

Toby: That's true.

Ace: *But oh ! What light through the window breaks*

Tiran: What window?

Ace: *It is the East and Juliet is the sun.*

Liah : O Romeo! It is only your name that is my foe
Ace: I take your word for it. Henceforth 'love' will be my name.
Never call me Romeo again.

Zach enters.

Zach: Dad, you've got to leave your cell-phone on...
Toby: Shhhh
Liah : How did you come here?
Ace: With love's light wings I did get by
Liah : Tell me you love me . I know you do –just tell me it's true.

Light fades on Zach, falling in love.

Scene 3 – We're all into Showbiz.

Location: Vera's Bridal shop.

Tiran and Toby are weighing and packing cocaine into small bags. Zach is writing on the bags and wrapping them, whilst briefing the story from his tablet.

Zach: ...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. Just then Juliet awakes, and finds Romeo's dead body beside her. So she takes the dagger, stabs her own heart and dies, End.

Slight pause.

Toby: Never in my life have I heard such a stupid story.
Tiran: You know what, they deserved to die. You mustn't go against your family.
Toby: Well, they're going to be here soon.
Zach: Who's 'they'?
Toby: The director and the blind one are coming in to choose a dress.
Zach: The director and Liah are coming here?
Toby: Who's going to take care of the costumes if not the producer?
Zach: Shouldn't we first plan how we're going to smuggle the stuff?

- Toby: What's there to plan? We pack the stuff 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'b bactig ib bobeboban bubibet" (I'm acting in "Romeo and Juliet"). Not only do they not check the suitcase –they give the mutation a lollypop for the way.
- Zach: I don't know if I'd put 5 kilo of coke on such half-baked creatures. They might play with it, or eat it, or say to security "bobicenban book bot bi bound" (policeman look what I found).
- Tiran: I volunteer to fly with them. If anyone asks any questions I'll bump him off on the spot.
- Toby: They'll check YOU before you get into a cab/ taxi.
- Zach: We could program a chip on the stuff that will neutralize the ultrasound-
- Toby: We saw what happened with your devices! This is my special mission and we're going for the special needs.

Door opens. Tiran and Toby instinctively draw their revolvers. Vera appears at the entrance.

- Vera: What's written on the door sign "Vera's Bridal salon" or "Vera drug-dealing and packing"? Zach, this is the number of Mary Zanne's daughter. BA, not ugly, almost a virgin.
- Tiran: The sign says "Vera's bridal salon".
- Vera: And for you (**gives Toby a note**) A brilliant mule: An ex-officer from Labanon, with an amputated leg, and loads 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 Tiran.

- Tiran: I never said "retards", I said "people with special needs".
- Vera: There's a code amongst smugglers- that my father always honored: "Never smuggle stuff on one who doesn't know he's carrying stuff"

Toby: Didn't your father put 50 ecstasy pills up a poodle's bum/backside?
Vera: And you think the poodle didn't know?! Do you want people saying "Perselini smuggle drugs on retards"?
Tiran: People with special needs.
Toby: Not "Perselini smuggle ". My surname is Giorno ! From today the business is "Giorno & son Productions Ltd."
Vera: "Productions"? Have you ever seen a play in your life?
Zach: When I was 7 Dad took me to "The wizard of Oz"
Vera: That was because my father sent him to 'help' one of the actors *break a leg*. Toby this is the deal of our life. You can't put it on a bunch of disabled people.
Toby: Vera they're not disabled, they're...
Zach: Start Up.
Toby: They're 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 to Berlin with them! I'll call the Berlin theatre "Hello Nazzis, do you want to see mutations playing Romeo & Juliet?" and hop! Coke Persie's in Berlin. Did your father ever smuggle to Berlin?
Vera: Can you clear out your "production office" from here?
Zach: No Mum –we can't. They're coming here to choose a dress.
Vera: Who's coming here?
Tiran: Juliet needs a dress 'cause she's getting married to Romeo even though her parents don't let her.
Vera: Toby I am not working with the retards!
Tiran: People with special needs.
Toby takes out a gun and aims it at Tiran's head.
Toby: Tiran, another word and I'll ...
Rainbow and Liah appear at the door. Rainbow's a little alarmed.
Rainbow: What's going on?

Zach: Cut !! (to Rainbow) We were just demonstrating to Tiran the dual in the 2nd act. Action... (**Toby points the gun again at Tiran's head**)

Rainbow: ...The dual's in the 3rd act.

Toby: Zachi! That's the last time you mix between the second act and the third!

Rainbow: Wow look at that revolver. (**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- a stage property- it looks so real. Where did you get it?

Zach: From our last production.

Rainbow: What was that?

Tiran: The Wizard of Oz !

Rainbow: Is there a gun in that play?

Zach: When my Dad's the producer there is.

Rainbow: Like! What's that?

Toby picks up the box with the coke.

Toby: Tiran 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.

Tiran takes the box out .

Rainbow: Are you the costume designer?

Vera: The what?!

Zach: My mum prefers "dressmaker"

Rainbow: Like !

Zach: Mum do you have a dress for Liah ?

Vera: No.

Zach: There's Kashri'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**)

Liah : Where?

Vera: There (**points again**)

Zach: Mum... (**mimes to her that Liah cannot see**)

Vera: (**whispers**) Oh... she's blind? I thought she was retarded! (**loudly**)
Love of m'life help the poor girl – can't you see she's blind?

Liah : Give me your shoulder.

Zach 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: Yeh, he 'passed away' because another producer, son of a million
bitches, killed him.

Rainbow: **Killed** him ?!

Zach: You know how it is in Showbiz – such competition.

Toby: Anyway after he passed away, I began to manage the productions.

Vera: And since then the productions are much less successful.

Toby: Vera, you know it wasn't an easy year in the line of productions.

Rainbow: Not an easy year? We're living in an awful time for culture! And it's
not going to change until the government realizes that theatre looks
after us as a nation, no less than any tank or plane.

Toby: (to Vera) You'll see, I'm going to make "Romeo & Juliet" such a hit,
we'll reach Berlin with it.

Rainbow: Wow! That's my dream-to do a play in Berlin.

Toby: Vera's Dad never did any play in Berlin.

Vera: If my father would've wanted he could've done so many plays in
Berlin-the Germans would have died of an overdose of theatre.

Vera goes behind the curtain to help Liah 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. We already had a hall, invitations, a dress... from the stress of getting married the guy began to drink. 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 of the scenery. So I said to him: It's either me or the Vodka.

Tiran: Hard choice.

Toby: Get it Zach? The guy hid the vodka in the scenery .

Zach: Genius.

Rainbow: Can anyone perhaps, pop Liah up to the community center?

Zach: I'll bring her. I've anyway got to take care of the 'props'.

Rainbow: And do me a favor, help our Star learn the wedding scene.

Rainbow gives Zach the text.

Toby: Tiran, take Rainbow wherever she wants (**takes out a stash of banknotes**) and buy her whatever she needs.

Rainbow: Do you know where I could get a good dagger?

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

Rainbow: What a prop! Maybe you do stage fights?

Tiran: Stage fights, off stage fights, just knock-you-out m whatever...

Rainbow: Like!

Tiran and Rainbow leave.

Toby: Zach, read the text and see what scenery we can build to hide the...

Toby gives him the box of cocaine and leaves. Vera and Liah are still in the dressing cubicle.

Zach: Liah , I've been told to help you learn your lines.

Liah : What scene did Rainbow give you?

Zach: (**looks at the text**) "The wedding"

Liah : Oh, I hate the wedding.

Vera: Do me favor, 'the wedding'?! He doesn't "believe in love"

Zach: Mum...

Vera: 24 years old, a Virgo, college degree, even looks o.k...

Zach: Mum!

Vera: He hasn't even had a girlfriend. And what's driving me nuts? His mother has a bridal salon and he doesn't want to get married! It's like your mother would be an optometrist.

Liah : My mother was a dentist...

Vera: Ahhh

Liah : And she's dead.

Vera: Oh,

Liah : It's ok.

Vera: I'm sorry .. I

Liah : Never mind, there are even advantages. She never let me eat jelly-beans and now I can eat as many as I like. Also, (cynical) being blind *and* an orphan- that's really tragic.

Zach: No wonder you got to play Juliet.

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

Zach: So why isn't Romeo blind?

Liah : Because love also makes you retarded

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

Liah steps out of the cubicle dressed in the wedding dress, looking breathtaking

Zach: A hormone named pheromone that makes our metabolism spin.

Vera turns Liah to face the mirror

Vera: (to Liah) What do you say?

Zach: Mum.

Vera: You are so beautiful so beautiful, Zach help her learn her lines.

(Vera leaves)

Zach: ...so how does it work? I just read it out to you?

Liah : Go for it

Zach: 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. pain in the arse!

Liah : *If there be*

Zach: *truth in something*

Liah : *If there be truth in something it cannot be put into words*
Maybe ...

Zach: *A beggar...*

Liah : I can't remember the lines – I just can't connect to it ! I can't stand
Ace how can I love him? Ok. Again.

Zach: Is there someone you do love?

Liah : There is someone...

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

Liah : *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.

Zach: Do you want to go through it again?

Liah : Sure.

Zach: *"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 Liah and Ace, rehearsing.

Ace: *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

Liah : *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*

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

...comes close to kiss him.

Ace: Don't kiss for real !

Rainbow: Stop! Ace, c'mon, the scene was working at long last !

Darling: It made my heart tremble.

Ace: Thanks Darling. And Thank-you Liah for finally learning your lines.

Nina: XXXXX XXXX XXX XXXXX XX

Ace: Who helped you ?

Liah : None of your business.

Nina: XXXXX

Ace: Who?

Nathan: Zach, the producer's son helped her learn by heart.

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

Ace: She needs to work with me on the Lark scene .

Nina: XXX XXX XXX XXX?

Nathan: Nina asked if you fancy him?

Liah : He helped me with the text and...

Darling: So do you have feelings for him?

Liah : I don't have 'feelings', he's nice...

Ace: How exactly did he help you ?

Liah : Unlike you he actually pays attention when I act.

Darling: Are you in love with him?

Liah : Stop it ! I don't want you talking about it, especially not when he's around, Darling.

Rainbow: This is not a break! Duel scene please!

Chief: Duel scene, Act three, scene 1, page 41 . In the duel scene I'm Marcutio.

Rainbow: Quiet backstage! Curtain!

Dylan and Chief begin the scene.

Dylan: *Marcutio may I have a word with you?*

Chief: *A word ? Just one? Why not make it two ?*

One word, plus one weapon , what do you say?

Dylan: *A weapon first thing in the morning? You make my day.*

Marcutio you are part of Romeo's gang?

Chief: *Gang?! In a moment you'll be saying band ?*

If you have something to say Tybalt, say it like a man

Ace (Romeo) enters

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

**Tiran and Zach enter the stage carrying a large coffin. They signal to the actors
"continue and take no notice "... Toby, from off stage, gives them directions.**

Dylan: *Romeo, my feelings for you can be described in one word –hate.*

Ace: *Tybalt and you I lo-*

Rainbow: Stop! Can I understand why people, whose surname is neither
Capulet nor Montague, are on my stage?

Toby: Why did you stop? The action was just beginning.

Meanwhile all the actors who were not in the scene go backstage.

Rainbow: Toby, what is this thing?

Tiran: It's a coffin.

Rainbow: And... what do I need a coffin here for?

Darling: Liah , Zach's here.

Toby: I felt that what was missing in the play was...

Zach: scenery.

Toby: Right, so Zach read the book of

Zach: the play...

Toby: the play... and we found out that – what happens after Juliet takes
the drugs?

Nathan: She goes into a deep sleep for 42 hours

Chief: *Your cheeks and lips shall pale, no warmth no breath*

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To the naked eye it will seem like death

- Toby: Stop Chief. And where does death belong?
- Tiran: In a coffin.
- Darling: Zach, here's Liah .
- Nathan: How will we take the coffin on the plane?
- Toby: Good question. It will be in your hand-luggage.
- Dylan: But the coffin's big and our hand-luggage is small.
- Toby: That's why we built a coffin that can be split into 4 small pieces.
- Ace: Rainbow –I'm telling you- I won't take any pieces of coffin in my hand-luggage .
- Tiran: You'll take what you're told to in your hand-luggage.
- Rainbow: Toby, we agreed that artistically, you wouldn't interfere.
- Toby: I'm interfering artistically? You can put the coffin wherever you want
- Rainbow: I don't want any bloody coffin on my stage!
- Ace: And we don't want Zach to help Liah either !
- Liah : Idiot... (exits)
- Toby: Miss Rainbow, we went to great efforts to get this coffin, Tiran went to a carpenter who owes us money and had him build it specially.
- Tiran: Yeh, I said "Build me a coffin that splits into 4 or I'll split you into 4"!
- Toby: And after all that what do you say?
- Chief: I don't want any bloody coffin on my stage!
- Darling: Zach, you helped Liah yesterday, right?
- Rainbow: Friends, with all due respect to your efforts, my name is signed on this play.
- Zach: And my Dad's name isn't signed on the play?
- Toby: Believe me, I could've built you all Verona if I'd have wanted to- but I'm not interfering – I came with a modest coffin, and what do you say?
- Chief: "Friends, with all due respect to your efforts, my name is signed on this play."

Rainbow: Nathan, get the coffin off the stage please.

Zach: Rainbow just see, how many options the coffin opens. 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 in the scene .

Darling: He's not only sweet he's smart/clever too.

Zach: Thanks Darling. 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 Ace could come out of the closet.

Ace: Rainbow –I'm telling you here and now- I'm never coming out of the closet!

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

Rainbow: (**whispers to Toby and Zach**) Listen, even if I did agree to it, artistically, and I don't, these 'special' actors don't react well to changes.

Toby: Friends- how about trying a scene with the coffin?

Nina: XXXX XX XXX XX XXXX XXX

They all agree.

Darling: And Zach'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. Chief you're Marcutio. Romeo- enter.

Chief and Dylan are on stage with the coffin "standing" center-stage. Ace enters.

Dylan: *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.*

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

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

Toby: They're acting even better

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

Slight pause.

Chief ,Chief it's your line!

Rainbow: Chief you are now Marcutio.

All eyes on Chief who seems uncertain.

Chief: *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

Ace: Stop, Chief.

Chief: *(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.

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

Chief draws his sword and begins to fight the coffin.

Rainbow: Stop Chief, stop!

Chief breaks the side of the coffin.

Rainbow: Get that coffin out of here !!!

Light fades on storming Rainbow

Scene 5 – The Lark

Location: The dressing room at the community center. Zach and Liah are just finishing their text rehearsal. On stage (we cannot see this) Tiran is rehearsing the stage fights.

Liah : *I will kiss your two lips in hope to find some poison left for me... I*
love you ... (sighs) and t h a t ' s I t !

Zach: I think you're ready for the dress rehearsal.

Liah : I think you're ready. You knew almost all the text by heart.

Zach: Yeh... well I've seen so many rehearsals... how did you know I wasn't reading the text?

Liah : Zach, there's something I need to tell you... I'm not blind. My sight is as good as yours, but I knew I'd never get to play Juliet in a regular theatre, so I pretend I'm blind to act with the disabled... I'm kidding Zach. I can just feel when you're looking at me.

Toby: **(enters)** Zach... er, don't forget, we don't have a scenery concept yet, and we don't know how to transfer the 'props'.

Liah : Do you need to go Mr. Producer?

Zach: No, I need to help you with your lines.

Liah : I know my lines by heart... since you taught me how to imagine someone I love, even Ace seems less retarded.

Ace's shouts can be heard from backstage!

Ace: Ahhhh! Rainbow I'm not working with this psycho!

Ace enters the dressing-room holding his eye. Tiran and Rainbow follow.

Tiran: Ace, get back on stage or I don't know what I'll do to you.

Ace: Rainbow, he's threatening me.

Rainbow: Ace, back on stage.

Tiran: I'm not going back – he's supposed to be teaching us stage fights not to be fighting us .

Tiran: Believe me. if I'd have fought you, there's no way you'd be talking right now.

Rainbow: Ace, get back on stage.

Ace: I'm going back **only** because I'm a pro.

Ace leaves.

Rainbow: Tiran, I also admire total theatre but you've got to be gentler with them.

Tiran: Gentler? They're fighting for their honor!

Rainbow: But you could make it more stylish.

Tiran: Stylish? You think Tybalt could last a day out there if he fought 'stylishly'?

Rainbow: Like.

Tiran and Rainbow exit.

Zach: So who do you think of when you're speaking to Romeo?

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

Zach+Liah : A hormone named Pheromone that causes our metabolism to spin.

Liah : I think of my father.

Zach: ...is your father also... ?

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

Zach: The Wizard of Oz?

Liah : Medea .

Zach: Yeh, sure, Medea's is .. eh... one of the... with the... כן מדיה זה מפורסם זה עם ה...

Darling enters (Zach checks his tablet to see who the hell Medea is).

Darling: Is he flirting with you?

Zach: What?

Darling: Can I watch you a bit?

Liah : Darling...

Darling: I won't disturb, just continue from where you stopped. **(leaves reluctantly)**

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

Liah : Yes, my father's a very special person. He would whisper in my ear what the actors were doing, what the scenery looked like, the

costumes, the entire play he would whisper to me. You know what the last play we saw together was? "Romeo and Juliet". It was such a ... flop! My father said because of plays like that he envies my blindness.

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

Liah : He can't make it to the dress rehearsal.

Zach: Does he live far off? I could fetch him.

Liah : No he... he has a medical problem.

Zach: I'm sorry ... is there anything I can do to help?

Liah : Could you do me a favor?..

Zach: Anything

Liah : Let's do the lark scene again.

Tiran enters.

Tiran: Zach, your parents are calling you .

Liah : *Are you going? It is still so dark*

Zach: *I must –dawn is here. Did you not here the lark?*

Liah : *It was not the lark –but the nightingale that pierced your ear*

Tiran: No, it was me Tiran!

Zach: *But look love at the light that laces the clouds in the East*

Liah : *It is not daylight but a meteor – please!*

Zach: *If I stay – I die*

Tiran: Zachi .

Liah : *Just a little while longer*

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

Tiran: Zach.

Liah : *Be gone away –
'tis the lark that sings so out of tune the coming of day*

Tiran: What a lark!

(Tiran exits)

Liah : *Go! If you stay it will be our end*

Zach: *One more kiss and I'll descend*

They almost kiss. Nina enters with Liah 's cell-phone.

Nina: XXXX XXXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXXX XXX XXXX

Liah : What did she say?

Zach: I think she brought you your phone.

Liah : Hello?

Nina: XXXXXX XXXX XX

Zach: Nina, sorry, I don't understand

Liah : WHAT?!... (leaves)

Toby enters.

Toby: Zach we need a "production meeting"

Zach: Dad I'll find somewhere to hide the stuff.

Toby: Zach...

Zach: Can't this wait till after rehearsals?

Vera. No, this can't wait.

Zach: What happened now?

Vera: We need to save your father's butt again

Toby: You don't need to save my anything...

Vera: Go to the hospital, in internal ward C, you'll find Benjamin Kopel. 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 tongue, and without us realizing he's going to tell the police who threw a grenade at him on Pigeon beach.

Zach: **(to Vera)** Dad..?

Vera: And Grandpa.

Zach: Kopel? Never heard of him.

Toby: He's not in the business. Him and his wife, they just happened to be on the beach...

Zach: So why throw a grenade at them?

Vera: Why, why, because we were trying to bump off our biggest enemy

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Zach: Bebeh?

Vera: No, social security. Of course Bebeh.

Zach: And what are you going to do now?

Vera: Love of m'life. This vegetable must be picked.

Zach: Picked?

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

Nathan passes by and stops by them. They abruptly stop.

Nathan: Welcome, feel at home.

Nathan continues and sits beside Nina.

Toby: I'll bump Kopel off after the disables' festival.

Vera: You may not get to the disables' festival! This is Zach's chance.

Zach: What?

Toby: Leave the boy alone. We'll send...

Vera: Bumping off a vegetable is best for a first-time – there's no resistance, and in a way you're doing him a favor. Anyway- you want to bump off someone, right Zach?

Zach: 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.

Vera signals to Toby to give him a gun. Zach takes the gun reluctantly.

Zach: (to Vera) You'd make a great Medea.

Zach storms out.

Toby: Don't you care about your own son?

Vera: I wasn't on Pigeon beach! **He** won't screw it up.

Toby: Have you ever asked yourself why I'm not as successful as your father? (Vera points at Nathan and Nina) Those are the two deaf ones! Because I'm not as talented? Because I'm not a leader? Or maybe it's because I don't have a wife to support me like his wife did?

Rainbow: (enters hastily) Has anyone seen Liah ?? (leaves)

Vera: I don't support you? Then what the heck am I doing here ?

Toby: Remember how your mother, bless her, would answer any question? "I listen only to my husband". If, for once, you'd trust me...

Dylan enters

Dylan: Come on, Nina- we're doing Juliet and Nurse we're doing.

Rainbow enters and the rest of the 'actors' follow.

Rainbow: We're not doing Juliet and Nurse because our Juliet's disappeared!

Nina: XX XXX XXXX?

Rainbow: That means she's not here! Gone with the wind! She never said where !
she's not answering her phone! One day to dress-rehearsals, Tiran hasn't
finished the stage fights, Vera hasn't finished the costumes, the grave
scene looks like my nightmares and I'm doing 'Romeo and Juliet' with no
Juliet!!!

Ace: Rainbow can't you see what's going on here? Liah 's missing! Zach's
missing! What does that mean?

Darling: It means they're making love!

Light fades on blushing Darling

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. Tiran and Zach enter.**

Tiran: Zachi, you know why theatre's a shitty thing? 'Cause what's theatre
about? Conflicts. And does man hate? Conflicts... That's why man hates
theatre.

Zach: Shshsh

Tiran: Why don't they make a play about someone who wants a lotta chicks- and
lots o' chicks come to him! Wants money for drugs and nightclubs- and
finds money for drugs and nightclubs- no conflicts!

Zach: Shhhhh

Zach hesitates for a moment.

Tiran: You want me to bump him off? ...we'll tell your parents you did it...

Slight pause

Zach: No. Keep guard.

Tiran: C'mon –do it... there's nothing like the first time...

Zach is about to disconnect the medical devices when the door opens. Liah walks into the room, making her way with her cane. She reaches the bed and sits beside the man that Zach almost disconnected.

Liah : Is it true ? Did you really move a finger? Daddy? I knew it would happen.

When the doctor said “you’d never recover”, I knew he was wrong. Daddy, can you hear me? If you can hear me just move your finger... Daddy, remember I told you about this producer that’s helping us get to Macedonia? Well, he has a son... Zach, he’s helping me learn my lines...

When he reads Romeo I sometimes pray something will happen to Ace and Zach will have to do the part... He’s really sweet, a bit of a nerd, but you’d like him, he’s a good guy from a good family and I think I’m in... Is anyone here? Is there anyone in the room?

When will you answer me? When will you open your eyes and talk to me and take me to the theatre and eat jelly beans with me and... **(he moves a finger)**... I knew something really special would happen today...

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”

Nathan: *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*

Liah : *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*

Nathan pulls out a 5 liter jerrycan.

Nathan: *Wait! Take this vial... and drink the potion to it's full...* Rainbow, I can't with this thing.

Toby: Never stop! Whatever happens, carry on ! How many times do you have to be told?

Rainbow: Stop! Nathan, what is that hanging around your neck?!

Nathan: 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 punish the audience from row 7 onwards? They bought tickets- they also deserve to see the bottle!

Rainbow: Shakespeare wrote "take this vial" not "take this 500 liter jerryan"!

Toby: Shakespeare also wrote, in Act 1 scene 3, that Juliet would be 14, at harvest-time... does she look like she'll be 14 at harvest time?! If you're suddenly worried about 'realism' then why are they speaking in rhymes?!

The shouting brings the rest of the disabled (besides Ace) to the stage.

Rainbow: You didn't even consult me "Rainbow, maybe instead of the little bottle of poison we'll use a 500 liter jerry-can?" No, on the day of the dress rehearsal, you go backstage to one of my actors, excuse me -like a gangster- and you stuff the prop into his hands???

Toby: Who do think I'm doing this for? For myself? Friends, let's remember that we're not only representing ourselves here, we have a State to represent.

Dylan: We're representing the State we're representing.

Toby: How could we come back and face our country if the disabled of Azerbaijan are better than us? Why go all the way to Azerbaijan? Will we let the disabled of Germany beat us? Do you know what the Germans did to us?

Dylan: The Holocaust that's what they did to us they did

Chief: The Holocaust was a systematic, State-sponsored genocide, by the Nazi regime in World War Two...

Rainbow: Stop Chief stop! Go and organize your costumes and props for the dress rehearsal.

Darling: On holocaust 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 even for these people, society have labeled type B if not type C... asking about the scenery, about props, endless phone calls to Macedonia – it suddenly all fits. You're here for a completely different purpose.

Toby: ...What purpose?

Rainbow: You want to be a director.

Toby: Rainbow- ...you got me.

Rainbow: Only in our country everyone thinks they know better than the director, than the football manager, than the Minister of Finance... don't you understand it's a profession?!

Toby: Like!

Rainbow: 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 Zach is?

Toby: Do you know where we're going to hide the crack?

Vera: That's your problem?

Toby: That, and the fourth act isn't working. Nathan shouts all the time.

Vera: **(shouting backstage)** Tiran, get here!! The fact that your son's vanished since he bumped Kopel off doesn't concern 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 ...

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

Toby: No, that could disturb them in the scene of... oh... like.

Tiran enters

Tiran: You called me, Vera?

Nina enters.

Nina: XXX XXX XXXX?

Vera: One disabled at a time please! Tiran sit. Nina try this on. Where's my son?

Tiran: Zach?

Vera: No, Lionel Messi! Of course Zach.

Tiran: I don't know.

Nina: XX XX?

Vera: That's right, I added some material.

Vera: Were you at the hospital yesterday?

Tiran: Yeh.

Vera: And you bumped off Kopel ?

Tiran: Yeh.

Vera: Who did it? You or Zachi?

Tiran: Zach.

Vera: You saw it with your own eyes?

Tiran: I swear by my rehab.

Dylan enters.

Dylan: Producer Toby, I can't find my ball mask I can't find.

Toby: Dylan, I won't take you to Macedonia if you don't look after your things.

Dylan leaves.

Vera: How did he do it?

Tiran: He programmed the devices on the veggie, so that it would seem he had a "Cardiac arrested"

Vera: and... you're sure it worked?

Tiran: Positive.

Darling enters.

Darling: Vera, I'm really nervous. The whole hostel's going to come to the dress rehearsal today and I'm scared I won't play my part as Juliet's mother well. Would anyone like a tuna sandwich?

Vera: Darling, try on the dress I made you for the third act, let's see if it still fits you...

Darling and Nina leave.

Vera: (to Tiran) Tiran, what exactly did Zach say? Word for word

Tiran: He said "get the car", I got the car. We got into the car , I said "Want a mint?" , because me, after I bump off someone I need a mint, he said "No thanks". I asked him "Want a shish-kebab?", because me, after the mint I need a...

Vera: where did you go, idiot?

Tiran: We went to ..

Liah enters.

Liah : Vera, I was told to collect my dress. You took it in for me, right?

Vera: Here sweetie. (gives her the dress)

Liah : Is Zach here?

Vera: No dear.

Liah : But he'll be here on time for the dress rehearsal, right?

Toby: Liah , you're playing Juliet in an hour's time. You need to concentrate on your love for Romeo, not Zach or anything else.

Liah exits.

Tiran: I said "Want me to take you home?" He said "No. I need to think"

Vera: That's your son "the thinker" . Where did you take him to think?

Tiran: To the sea. He asked me to take him to Pigeon beach.

Dylan and Nathan enter.

Dylan: Producer Toby, Even Nathan doesn't know where his mask is doesn't know.

Toby: Nathan are you assistant director or not ?!

Vera: Did he take the gun with him?

Nathan: I'm responsible for rehearsal schedule, dividing the scenes, telling Chief before he goes on stage "Now you're Marcutio", and when he gets off stage "Stop Chief", reminding everyone to go to the toilet/bathroom before rehearsals, but I can't be responsible for every fucking prop!!

Toby: Mind your language Nathan! We're in the theatre.

Dylan and Nathan leave.

Toby: Who gave you permission to leave my son alone on Pigeon beach?!

Tiran: I asked him if he wants me to stay but then he answered something weird... something from the play, one of Romeo's lines.

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

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: Tiran what did Zach say?

Tiran: He said...

Liah enters.

Liah : Vera, are you sure this is my dress?

Vera: Of course I'm sure.

Tiran: Liah , how does Romeo begin the balcony scene?

Liah : *"He who jests at scars has never felt a wound"?*

Tiran: That's what he said.

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

All the 'actors' enter, wearing their costumes.

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

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

Vera: Not afraid of death?! Toby do something.

Dylan: Producer Toby, I found my mask I found.

Toby: Great Dylan. Tiran, get the car.

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

Toby: Sure, Dylan. **(to his cell-phone)** It's Toby, I need you to check out a couple of things for me.

Dylan: So I'll buy Puma sport shoes in the duty-free ?

Toby: You will buy Puma sport shoes!

Rainbow enters.

Rainbow: Friends, I have bad news. Liah I suggest you sit. I just got a call from the hospital... they told me ... Ace has been hospitalized. The reason: He ate a sabich sandwich and suffers a severe allergic reaction from the eggplant. He may not be able to fly with us to Macedonia... anyway we have to cancel the dress rehearsal.

Toby: I'm not cancelling anything! I need to see their costumes on them TODAY. Get Ace here!

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

Nina: XXXXX XXXXX XXX!

Toby: Right Nina! Throughout my whole career I've never heard of an actor who never showed up to dress-rehearsal! How come if the guy's allergic to eggplants, suddenly today he fancied a Sabich?! How many special needs does the guy have?! He's lucky we're flying to Macedonia tomorrow otherwise I would ruin him.. in showbiz.

Rainbow: Never in my career did I think I'd have to send the audience home.

Rainbow leaves.

Nathan: How can we fly to Macedonia without Ace?

Toby: WE ARE FLYING TO MACEDOIA !!! I'M GOING TO CHECK HOW TO BUMP OFF EGGPLANTS .

Toby leaves.

Nathan: Well done Ace – you really played your cards right.

Nina: XXXX XXXXX!

Chief: Today I won't be Marcutio, I'll just be Chief.

Zach enters, extremely tense.

Zach: Liah , I need to tell you something.

Liah : Zach...

Darling: Zach, where were you? Our dress-rehearsal's been cancelled.

Nathan: Ace the shthead ate eggplants.

Zach: (to Liah) Can I have a word with you, please?

Dylan: My family came from up-North they came.

Darling: My friends from the hostel came to see me as Juliet's mother.

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

Liah : Zach... would you do me a big favor?

Light fades on Zach and Liah

Act 2 scene 2 – Rainbow Levi's speech

Rainbow stands before the stage

Rainbow: Good evening. My name's Rainbow Levy. I'm director for "Fantasy Stage". I'm glad to see family and friends of our special actors and also some enthusiastic theatre lovers. As you all know, tomorrow we're supposed to be flying to Macedonia to represent our country at the International Theatre festival for people with Special needs. Our journey turned from fantasy to reality, thanks to the generosity of a well-known theatre producer – but so modest- he requested to remain anonymous – still, I want to thank him...

Dylan: (clapping) Hurray for Toby Giorno Hurray

Rainbow: Besides the Shakesperian tragedy, we had our own little tragedy but, as we say in theatre "The show must go on". Friends we will

now perform for you “Romeo and Juliet” adapted for “Fantasy Stage”. And I’m proud to say ... “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: Firstly: The dress-rehearsal itself, which gets worse and worse as it goes along Secondly: Zach . 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 Ace, 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... Zach enters, stares at the audience, and finally

Zach: And Juliet

Music. Vera and Toby are relieved to see Zach arrived. Black .

A

Light comes up on Chief standing front-center stage. Behind him Nina and Nathan ‘translate’ the text to sign language. Chief can feel something’s not as it was in rehearsals. He has stage-fright and seems paralyzed. He can’t speak. Nina ,Nathan are waiting for him to begin, as are Rainbow, Tiran, 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.

Chief: *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 Zach is playing Romeo instead of Ace.

Nathan: *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 Zach is Romeo

Zach: *...Henceforth 'love' will be my name.*

Never call me Romeo again.

Liah : *How did you come here?*

Ace: *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. Nathan is conducting the marriage of Liah and Zach. Zach 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.

Zach: *"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

Liah : *But your love is a treasure that's value grows by the minute*

I cannot weigh or measure my love, it knows no limit

Nathan: *Let us be done with it here and now*

The heavens shall honor your holy vow

Liah and Zach slowly get close and then kiss.

Darling: They're kissing on the mouth.

They part then kiss again, passionately.

Darling: They're kissing with their tongues!

All the 'actors' who never saw Romeo and Juliet kissing during rehearsals (Ace

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didn't agree) now come close to see, and all react, some embarrassed and others excitedly.

Chief: Stop it now!

Vera herself is touched to tears to see her son getting 'married'. Black.

G

The duel. Light comes up on Dylan and Chief holding swords. Chief begins fencing but Dylan is still so excited from the kiss in the last scene –he just laughs out loud and completely forgets to stab Chief. Poor Chief pushes himself onto Dylan's sword and "dies". Zach comes on stage and "kills" Dylan. Tibalt escorts the fight by waving his hands in the air and shouting "knock him down man!" Rainbow buries her face in her hands in despair. Black.

H

Tybalt's death. Light comes up on Darling bent over Dylan's 'dead' body.

Darling: *Tybalt, don't die child, Tybalt my dear nephew!*

Due to the excitement, Darling feels a drop in her sugar, takes out a sandwich and begins eating. Nathan jumps on stage and takes the sandwich away.

Darling: *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!*

Darling takes out another sandwich and begins eating. This time Nina takes it away. Black.

I

The vial. Light goes up on Liah and Nathan who is holding the vial.

Nathan: *(gives her the vial) Take this vial and it's distilled liquor drink till nothing remains*

Chief: You skipped the Lark scene. Nina sits him down.

Nathan: *A cold and drowsy liquid shall run through your veins*

Chief: YOU SKIPPED THE LARK SCENE. Act 3 scene 5. It won't work like this.

All: Stop Chief .

Black.

J

The Death. Light goes up on the grave. Zach, center-stage, is bent over Liah's "dead" body. All the 'actors' gather around them, including Tiran who put on a periodic hat and is physically holding troubled Chief.

Zach: *My love ! My wife! Death has no power yet upon your beauty.*

Could it be that ... what's this?

As Zach strokes Liah 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. Chief, worried about the long pause shouts out his text

Chief: *It cannot be that you are dead* Tiran shuts Chief's mouth.

Zach: *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.

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.

Oh, Apothecary- this drug is bitter

"Dies". Juliet wakes. She is so stunned that Zach put his hands up her dress and tore parts of it that she is speechless, Dylan thinks she's had a blackout.

Dylan: It's your turn to speak Liah your turn. **(To the audience)** It's Liah's turn to say her lines.

Liah takes the dagger and "stabs " herself in her heart. Liah and Zach lie 'dead'. Tearful Darling faces the audience and can barely say her lines.

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

Nathan: Tell all of the price of hatred and lust for ... **(Darling is so distressed she falls crying on top of Liah and Zach) ...Darling!**

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

Because of all the mishaps on stage, Chief is muddled and Tiran encourages him to speak up

Chief: Tell them of Juliet and her Romeo .

Tiran: End.

Dylan: All's well that ends well?

Light fades on their disgraceful performance

Act 2 . Scene 4 : Everyone and their own special needs.

Rainbow: I can understand being a little nervous, getting a bit mixed up, but we've been working on this play for almost a year! But to stop in the middle? To stop in the middle?! You know your parts inside out, suddenly you have an audience and you totally lose it? I'm not referring to Zach –he's not an actor, but pro's like you? Nina, *you* forgot your lines? I don't know what to say, what to do, to give you a feedback? To add a rehearsal? To take cyanide? What? What?

Darling: Rainbow I'm sorry for eating a sandwich when Tybalt died.

Chief: We got mixed up because Zach didn't stand where Ace stands, he didn't speak the same way, and he kissed Liah , which Ace never did...

Zach enters.

Zach: Stop Chief. (to Liah) Liah , take that dress off immediately!

Darling: You can't make love when we're here.

Zach: (to Liah) You said we could talk after the dress-rehearsal.

Darling: Are you going to tell her you love her?

Liah : Darling stop it! (to Zach) What's wrong with you?

Rainbow: Sit Zach! You're now one of my actors so sit!

Zach: I am not one of your actors!

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

Darling: You have to conquer your passion otherwise it's sexual harassment.

Toby and Vera enter.

Toby: Ok- until now I never said a word – but finally I can say "Friends, we have a hit!"

Rainbow: Toby, give us a moment alone o.k.?

Toby: What an actor my son is, eh? He takes after me!

Vera: Go and take off your costumes. Hang them outside. (to Zach) Love of m'life ...

Rainbow: Sorry, but I'm talking to the cast right now.

Zach: I won't let you do it! We have to cancel everything!

Toby: It's the adrenaline from the pl..

Zach: Liah , please come outside with me, I want to...

Toby: Liah is now listening to her director, and you should be too.

Zach: I'll tell her here.

Vera: Love of m'life, I understand you had a bad day yesterday, but let's think logically for a minute.

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

Toby: It's very logical because we are producers and they are a theatre ensemble and if we don't get to Macedonia tomorrow we're finished and you know it,

Zach: I don't give a damn, I don't...

Vera: So what do you want us to do ?

Zach: Cancel it. I'm begging you, Mum... there are other 'plays'

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Rainbow: What's going on? You want to cancel ?

Darling: Don't you want to fly with us?

Toby: We're flying with you. Zach, come, I need a word with you.

Zach: Cancel everything or I'm telling them the truth.

Liah : Telling us what??

Vera: Tell them, go on. Ruin the business your parents have taken years to build.

Zach: Liah , I'm going to say something that will be really hard on you, but it's the truth...

Vera: Zach, you know how productions are –those that know too much get hurt in the end.

Zach: Dad, you wouldn't...

Liah : Zach just speak already!

Vera: Go on, Zach, speak up! Tell them why you want to cancel their flight to Macedonia.

Pause.

Zach: You're awful. You're awful actors. You're not even actors, let's face it. You're a bunch of disabled people that can't act anything, least of all "Romeo and Juliet". The only emotion you can evoke is pity. The audience will say "Poor things, let's clap so they think they're good". Is that what you want to fly for? To embarrass yourselves? Because what happened today isn't close to what's going to happen in Macedonia! You're going to shame our country. Nina, the sounds you make are embarrassing- you should be in a circus not a theatre- translate that for her Nathan. Darling you don't need to fly to Macedonia for a sandwich –there are plenty here. Dylan-I can bring you as many Puma shoes as you want –just don't get on a stage ever again... Chief-well, you're a lost case- anyway, if you want to fly with my parents you can be sure I won't be flying with you –because I'm just too embarrassed to act with...

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

Zach: I didn't mean to...

Liah : You meant that you're embarrassed to be on one stage with disabled people like us!? Well now listen to me- it's far more embarrassing to be on stage with someone like you! Because a handicap like yours is an insult to nature. However much life fucked us up –and it did- at least we were born with a heart. So you can stuff your pity because we pity you much more. I'm sure if Darling could choose between a mental disorder and a sentimental disorder, she'd never choose to be a person with no feelings.

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

Liah : I'm not talking about chemical reactions! If you don't believe in love, than you have no place on our "Fantasy Stage". We don't want you to fly with us to Macedonia. Go and take your miserable life elsewhere!

Zach leaves.

Liah : And I'll tell you something else. When you kissed me today... I really believed that you loved me, that there could be a love that is stronger than our stinking lives...

Darling: Liah , he's not here.

Slight pause.

Liah : I'm going to change my clothes.

Vera: Do you need help?

Liah : No!

Liah leaves and Vera leaves after her.

Toby: Look, Zach didn't really mean it, he spoke disgustingly because...

Rainbow: Maybe disgustingly, but he's right... I can't endanger them like that!

Toby: Endanger them?

- Rainbow: Endanger, yes! It's a real danger for them to fly abroad with such complicated stuff.
- Toby: What stuff? They don't have any stuff on them .
- Rainbow: Who gives people with special needs stuff like this? Only Rainbow Levy with her monstrous ego can give disabled people stuff like "Romeo and Juliet". I'm so sorry friends, but I think we need to rest, wait for Ace and register for next year's festival with a new play and...
- Toby: 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 agree to give up the festival?
- Darling: I'm scared they'll laugh at me.
- Dylan: I know I'm not good at acting I'm not. I'm mildly to moderately retarded.
- Chief: I don't want to be Marcutio any more, I just want to be Chief.
- Toby: How can you call yourselves "Fantasy Stage" if in one moment you're willing to give up all your fantasies and dreams!?
- Rainbow: Toby, you'll never know what being disabled feels like, standing on stage in front the whole world and screwing it up

Vera returns.

- Toby: Believe me I know what it feels like to screw up. Before I met you I screwed up time and again until even my wife said I had to give up the productions, that I'm "no good at it", that "I'll never be a producer like her father was", **(notices Vera)** and you know what was worse? I began to believe her, but when I met you lot and saw how you never gave up, I said to myself 'why should I give up?' You're strong, talented, brave people with an excellent director... we're flying tomorrow to Macedonia, and we're going to put up a "Romeo and Juliet" that won't leave one dry eye in the audience.
- Nina: XX XX XXXXX XXXXX

They all agree.

Rainbow: But if we fly, who'll play Romeo?

Toby: We'll get Ace, we'll get another actor, I couldn't care if Tiran played the part –he's no less disabled than anyone else here.

Rainbow: Go and get dressed –your families are waiting for you.

Dylan: (**confused**) So... will I buy Puma sports shoes or not buy Puma sports shoes?

The 'actors' leave and Rainbow leave. Toby takes out the bag with the drugs.

Toby: What're we going to do?

Vera: I'll sew it to the dress, it'll be fine.

Toby: I meant what are we going to do with Zach?

Vera: Love of m'life ... I don't know what got into him...

Toby: What's there to know? The kid's in love.

Darling enters with a bouquet of flowers. Toby hides the drugs.

Darling: Liah , your cab to the hospital is waiting.

Toby: She's going to visit Ace?

Darling: She's going to say goodbye to her Dad.

Vera: Oh, what happened to him?

Darling: Don't you know? It's a very sad story. Three years ago Liah 's parents were walking on Pigeon beach, and by chance some gangsters were there and they threw a grenade at them. Her Mother was killed, and her father has been in a coma ever since. You know, until this very day the police haven't found those bad people?!

Nathan peeps in.

Nathan: Liah Kopel- your cab's waiting outside!

Liah : I'm coming!

(Nathan exits)

Darling: Oh, Toby and Vera I love you so much. You're such good people.

Darling gives Toby the flowers, hugs Vera and leaves. Liah enters wearing her own clothes, and hands Vera the dress. Liah leaves with Darling.

Vera: ...Kopel... she's Kopel's daughter...

Toby: **(to his cell-phone)** Tiran get to the stage

Vera: We killed her mother and Zach bumped off her father.

Tiran enters.

Toby: Tiran, there's a cab outside! Get it away and take Liah in our car. Whatever happens don't leave Liah and don't take her to the hospital!

Tiran: Toby I need to tell you something.

Toby: Not now! Go!

Tiran: Your family's been so good to me and-

Toby: Tiran did you hear what I just said?!

Tiran: And I feel really bad about lying to you.

Toby: Tiran go now or I'll... **(pulls out his gun and puts it to Tiran's head)**

Tiran: Zach didn't bump off her father! I wasn't supposed to tell you. I was in a conflict. On one hand Zach loves her so much, how could he do it after he saw her with him? On the other hand –you're like family to me and I don't want lie to you. On the one hand love, on the other hand- family. A conflict.

Toby: So he didn't bump him off?

Vera: So what did you do?

Tiran: I had an idea. I knew that Liah loved Zach so I took Ace to Sammy's for a Sabich. **(Tiran 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 theatre "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 Theatre management that you need another actor for the Security guard! Best to leave it till the last-minute and then persuade the theatre to take a fresh drama school graduate who's willing to sell his mother to put a foot into a theatre.

Ace: I said "Doctor, I'm not staying in hospital even one more minute – because I'm an actor, and I happen to be representing you and the whole country, so you better release me from here fast". You think I'd leave you without a Romeo?

Nina: XXX XXX XXXX XXXXX

Ace: Sure ! Because Zach played the part! How can you have a good play with an amateur?

Nina: XXX XXXXX!

Ace: Where is he anyway, your Romeo?

Nathan: He's not coming with us because "we're not in his league".

Ace: "His league" Ha! He'd never be able to transfer the emotional depth of Romeo.

Darling: But he and Liah kissed for real.

Ace: I'm also going to kiss her for real... and I'm not afraid at all.

Tiran enters.

Rainbow: (to Tiran) Where are Toby and Vera?

Tiran: They mustn't be here! ...I'm in charge of you.

Nathan: Do they also think we're not in their league?

Tiran: They're taking care of another 'production'... showbiz.

Security Guard enters.

Security: Good Morning. Where to?

All: To Macedonia! !

Security: Packed alone ? **(begins to check the luggage)**

Tiran: Hey, man! This is a group of people with special needs. No need to-

Rainbow: Tiran, let them feel like any other person going abroad.

Zach arrives carrying a travel-bag.

Zach: Liah !

Tiran: Zach, you mustn't be here.

Nathan: What are you doing here? Aren't you ashamed to be seen with us?

Ace: I'll tell you what he's doing here- he thinks he can take Romeo away from me. So listen Mr. "I got into the play just because I'm the producer's son" –with all respect to you imitating me yesterday, you'll never be able to understand Romeo's emotional world-

Zach: You're right Ace, I imitated you on stage, sorry, I want to apologize to you all. I want you to know that I didn't mean a word I said. I spoke like an asshole yesterday, but I had a reason: Yesterday I kissed a girl for the first time in my life. I kissed someone I'm in love with.

Darling: I knew it!

Zach: But I didn't have the guts to say so, because I knew there was no chance someone like her would want someone like me. So... I lost control... I hope you'll be able to forgive me. I bought a ticket because I really want to see you performing in Macedonia.

Darling: Yeh, love can *really* make you stupid. We forgive you Zach.

Dylan: Zach! I have money to buy Puma sports shoes I have!

Zach: Great! Dylan, sorry, I need to get through to Liah.

Tiran: Zach, you can't fly with them.

Ace: I forgive you. It drives me nuts that everyone thinks they can be actors.

Security: Did anyone give you anything to take with you?

Nina: XX XXX XX XXX XX XXXX

Zach: (to Liah) Hi. Can I help you with the dress?

Liah : What the hell? Are you nuts?

Zach: ('corrects' her) Why "nuts"? I have special needs...

Security: **Do you have any weapons?**

Nathan: I have no weapon and there's no need to shout.

Zach: I need to tell you something before the flight.

Liah : Was it really your first kiss yesterday?

Zach: eh... yeh.

Liah : Not bad for a first time.

Security: Did you Pack alone?

Chief: My Mum packed for me. I have 5 vests, 6 pairs of underwear, 6 pants/ trousers, one cotton, one...

Rainbow: Stop Chief.

Dylan: Now is the duty free now?

Liah : Me too...

Zach: It was your first kiss?

Liah : Are you kidding? I meant I love you too.

Security: Did anyone give you anything to take with you?

Darling: Carmella Jacobs, my friend from the hostel gave me a little prayer book.

Rainbow: Liah .

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

Liah : Leave the dress ! What did you want to say?

Zach: Give me the dress.

Security: Next... Liah Kopel.

Zach: Liah ! Listen to me! My parents... there's a reason they're not here on the flight with you.

Vera and Toby enter with sunglasses and suitcases.

Toby: We almost missed the flight. They checked us at the entrance as if we were gangsters.

Vera: Love of m'life, what are you doing here?

Zach: What are you doing here?

Toby: Flying with our play to Macedonia.

Security: What's this?

Liah : A wedding dress. I get married to Romeo in Act 3.

Zach: It's my dress!

Security: *You* get married to Romeo in Act 3 ?

The security guard finds the dress "heavy" and finds the pockets.

Security: What's in the pockets?

Liah : I didn't put anything in them...

Zach: I did ! I filled her pockets! I filled them not her!

The security guard opens the pockets.

Security: You like jelly-beans , huh?

Liah : Yes... how do you know?

Security: 5 kilo of Jelly-beans in the pockets... watch you teeth. Have a good flight.

Zach looks back at his parents.

Vera: Love of m'life, what's wrong? Artistic choice.

Liah : So what were you saying about your parents?

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

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

Epilogue – Macedonia, babe, Macedonia

Location: Theatre festival for people with special needs. Skopje, Macedonia.

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The final scene of “Fantasy Stage’s” 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.

Ace: *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

Ace hesitates, looks at Zach who encourages him to kiss her. He kisses her lips and is so happy that he managed, he almost runs to hug Zach, but restrains himself. He drinks from the vial.

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

“Dies”. Juliet wakes.

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

Sees Romeo lying dead with the vial in his hand.

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

Kisses him.

Takes the dagger “I love you “Liah takes the dagger and “stabs “ herself in her heart. All the ‘actors’ enter the stage and see Ace and Liah lying ‘dead’. The final lines are given to the audience professionally.

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

Nathan: *Tell all of the lust for power the price of hatred*

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

Chief: *Tell them of Juliet and her Romeo.*

Dylan enters the stage in his periodic costume of Tybalt, but with Puma sports shoes, smiling from ear to ear holding up a sign: “THE END”.