

PLACES!
A New Comedy
By
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Dramatis Personae

Ellsworth----- the Stage Manager. Thin to the point of anorexic very very dry. (Early 30's)
 Randy Herrera-- a stagehand. (Mid 30's-early 40's)
 Diane LeBeau--- an aging actress. (Late 60's)
 Paul Richards-- Straight acting homosexual and a bit of an ass. (Mid to late 20's)
 Andrew Thomas-- An insecure actor, and a bit dense. (Late 20's Early 30's)
 Julian!----- Flamboyantly gay. In love with Paul. (Mid to late 20's)
 Cathy----- An attractive young woman, average in every way. Comes backstage by accident. (Early 20's)
 Carl Blumenthal The Producer, neurotic. (Mid 50's)

TIME: The present

PLACE: Backstage at a small Broadway house.

ACT I: Preshow

ACT II-Sc 1: Intermission

ACT II-Sc 2: Post show

ACT I

Preshow

Backstage at a theatre. The stage door is left, with a podium nearby. An orchestra light is on the podium and a check in board hangs behind it. The prop table is center approximately half set up. Ladders, flats and set pieces are scattered about, typical back stage stuff. One of the dressing rooms to the right is cut away so we can see into it, the door reads "Ms. LeBeau". Inside the dressing room is a lighted mirror with a vanity, a dressing screen, a door which leads to a bathroom, a rolling rack with at least ten costumes hanging from it and possibly a settee. Next door to the first dressing room are two more doors, one reads "Julian!", the other reads "Mr. Richards." Stairs go up from right to left and a walk goes along the back of the stage. Three more doors are up there. The one furthest stage-left reads "Mr. Thomas," the other two have no sign and are apparently unoccupied. There are two other exits, one is up-left leading to the laundry room. The other is the exit to the stage, this may either be down-right or up-right depending upon the space.

Ellsworth enters right and crosses to the Prop table setting up a few more props.

Ellsworth
Randy, you wanna hit the work lights?

The lights come on.

Thanks. When you get a second bring me my clipboard?

Randy (O.S.)
No problem.

Ellsworth
Thanks. We'll do the light check in about 20.

He moves to the podium, sits down and takes out a Snickers bar from under the podium. He opens it as he goes over some notes and the door opens. Ms. Diane LeBeau enters with a flourish.

LeBeau
Ellsworth, darling, are we ready for another evening on the boards?

Ellsworth
Mmm-hmm.

LeBeau
Is my dressing room open?

Ellsworth
Mmmm, ummm, yup.

LeBeau
You shouldn't talk with your mouth full sweetness, it's not polite. Oh, I nearly forgot to sign in. Would you be a dear?

Ellsworth turns and marks her in.

Thank you darling. I'll be in my dressing room, be a dear and let me know if disaster strikes.

Ellsworth
Yes, Ms. LeBeau.

LeBeau
What's the call time?

He checks his stopwatch hanging from his neck on a string.

Ellsworth
Fifty-five minutes to places Ms. LeBeau.

LeBeau
(in a singsong) Thank you!

LeBeau enters her dressing room and closes the door. Once inside she leans against the door and flips the light switch. She leans there for a moment then walks to the makeup table tossing her purse underneath and her hat to a chair off to the side.

Oh Ms. LeBeau, you aren't getting any younger.

She begins to tug at her face. "A facelift?" She sits staring at herself in the mirror and starts to cry. Randy enters from right carrying a clipboard.

Randy
Here you go.

Ellsworth
Thanks.

Randy looks toward LeBeau's dressing room.

Randy
Esta aqui?

Ellsworth
Huh?

Randy
She here?

Ellsworth
Mmm-hmm.

Randy crosses to the dressing room slowly. He looks back to Ellsworth who is going over his clipboard paying no attention to Randy. He touches the door delicately, then exits quickly. Paul enters immediately. He is very handsome and impeccably dressed.

Paul
Hey Ell. What's the good word?

Ellsworth
Mmph.

Paul
Got another one of those?

Ellsworth
Sure guy.

Ellsworth reaches down into his stash as Paul goes to the wall to

sign in.

Paul
Her highness is in, huh? She's early.

Ellsworth
Uh huh.

Paul
Have you heard how the house is tonight?

Ellsworth
Sold out.

Paul
Bout time, huh?

Ellsworth
Bout time.

Randy enters with more props for the table.

Paul
Randy. What's the good word?

Randy
Lookin' good Paul.

Paul
Oh, hey thanks. You like? I just picked it up
this afternoon.

Ellsworth comes over and starts setting out the props with Randy.

What's the call?

Ellsworth
Fifty five to places.

Paul
Let me know when props are ready.

Ellsworth
Yup.

Paul exits to his dressing room.

Randy
I'm gonna go check on the booth, see if they're set
up yet.

Ellsworth

Right.

Randy
Mind if I hit your stash?

Ellsworth
Nah.

Randy
Gracias.

Ellsworth
Just stay away from the Snickers.

Randy
Okay.

Andrew enters carrying a briefcase and an umbrella.

Andrew
Good evening gentlemen of the theatre!

Randy
Hello Mr. Thomas.

Andrew
Ah! Como estas mi amigo.

Randy
Oh, very good Mr. Thomas.

Andrew
I've been studying!

Randy
I can tell.

Andrew
Ellsworth my good man! How are you?

Ellsworth
Good.

Andrew
Looking good! Have you gained weight?

Ellsworth
Um, no.

Andrew
Well you look good!

He begins to climb the stairs.

Ouch ouch ouch ouch. I did the Stairmaster this morning. Heh heh.

Ellsworth

Oh.

Andrew

Ouch. AAAaaaaaahhhh. That'll teach me won't it.

Andrew enters his dressing room.

Ellsworth

Let's get out on the stage and check it out.

Ellsworth goes to his stash and pulls out another candy bar and follows Randy off. Andrew comes out of his dressing room.

Andrew

Ellsworth, I forgot to sign in, would you be so kind as to... Ellsworth? Ellsworth! Crap.

He crosses to the stairs, takes a breath and begins his decent,

Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh... Ahhhhh.

He crosses to the sign in board and signs in. Julian enters wearing the same thing that Paul was wearing, head to toe.

Julian

Evening Andrew.

Andrew

Julian. Nice outfit.

Julian

Oh, you like it? Thanks. Ready for another night?

Andrew

Always, Julian, always.

Andrew hands Julian the pen.

Julian

Thanks. Looks like I'm the last one tonight.

Andrew

Oh, yes it does. Hmmm, props, props, props. All set.

After looking over his props Andrew moves to the steps

Ouch, ouch, ouch, ouch, ouch, ouch.

He looks at Julian who is staring at him.

Stair master. Ouch, ouch. Aaaaaaaahhhhh.

As Andrew exits into his dressing room Julian crosses to Paul's dressing room and delicately touches the door just like Randy did to LeBeau's, then exits to his dressing room. Randy returns with two large bouquets of flowers. He sets one down on the prop table and crosses to Paul's door with the other and knocks.

Randy
Mr. Richards?

Paul
(opens the door)
Yes? Oh! Wow! For me? That's great! Thank you Randy.

Randy
No problem.

Paul opens the card as Randy goes to the other bouquet.

Paul
Aw, that's really nice. Is she in the audience tonight?

Randy
I guess so.

Paul
Are those for Julian?

Randy
Ummmm, no sir.

Paul
Uh oh. I'm in for it. Who are they for?

Randy
Ms. LeBeau.

Paul
Oh! Oh, I see! Well, good. Very good. That's um... so there weren't any for Julian?

Randy
No.

Paul
Oh boy. Well, thanks.

Randy then goes to Ms. LeBeau's door and knocks. She looks up from where she has been sitting all this time.

LeBeau
Yes?

Randy
It's Randy Ms. LeBeau.

LeBeau
Randy? Oh, just... um, just one moment. I'll be right there.

Randy shuffles his feet. LeBeau moves to the door and as she opens the door Julian opens the door at the same time.

Julian
Oh, sorry, I thought you had knocked on my door.

LeBeau
Oh Randy!

Julian
Oh, flowers, they're lovely.

LeBeau
Thank you!

Julian
Who are they from?

LeBeau
Oh, oh, who are they from. Randy do you know?

Randy
An admirer.

LeBeau
Well, there are so many!

She opens the card.

Thank you Randy.

Randy exits quickly.

Julian
I never get flowers.

LeBeau

That's not right. I'm going to change that right now.

At that she pulls a flower from the center of the bouquet and hands it to him with a kiss.

Julian

That's not necessary.

LeBeau

I know. And just look at you, lovely outfit. Aren't you smashing.

Julian

And you, my dear, are as beautiful as always. Save me a dance?

LeBeau

There is always space on my dance card for you love.

Julian

Thank you. And thank you for this.

LeBeau

Of course.

Julian goes back into his dressing room smelling the flower as LeBeau brings her flowers into her dressing room, then goes out to check her props. She stands looking over the table. Moves one. She looks around to see if anyone is nearby and runs into her dressing room, digs into her bag and pulls out a pack of cigarettes. She then pokes her head out of the dressing room and begins to tiptoe her way to the stage door. Just before she arrives at the door it opens. LeBeau stifles a scream as Cathy, a youngish girl comes in.

Cathy

Oh, sorry. I'm terribly sorry!

LeBeau

Oh my god. Sweet one, you nearly scared me out of my skin.

Cathy

This isn't the lobby is it?

LeBeau

Not even close. You have entered the inner sanctum. Backstage.

Cathy
Backstage?

LeBeau
Backstage.

Cathy
Oh my goodness! Then you must be one of the actresses!

LeBeau
The actress dear. The actress. There are no other actresses in this play.

Cathy
Oh. I probably shouldn't even be back here! You must have a lot of preparation to do.

LeBeau
A good actress doesn't need to prepare. She is always prepared at the drop of a hat! Have you ever acted?

Cathy
I played Eliza Dolittle in high school. Oh, and one of the Pigeon sisters in the Odd Couple. That was at Kennedy High.

LeBeau
A fellow thespian. You have it in your blood.

Cathy
Oh, I don't know about that.

LeBeau
Of course you do. I know the first time I performed, why, I knew from that moment on that I had found my niche in this world. I'm sure it was the same for you.

Cathy
But you're on Broadway. You're a star!

LeBeau
Aren't you a dear, I like you already!

Ellsworth enters.

Ellsworth
Forty-five minutes to places Ms. LeBeau.

Cathy

LeBeau? Diane LeBeau? Oh my god. I had no idea!
I love you! You really are a star!

Ellsworth
I'm sorry, do you know this woman Ms. LeBeau?

LeBeau
No.

Ellsworth
I'm sorry ma'am, you'll have to leave.

LeBeau
No, no, no, Ellsworth, that's OK. I don't mind.
She's not harming anyone. We're bonding. Aren't
we? I'm sorry dear, what was your name?

Cathy
Cathy.

LeBeau
Diane LeBeau. A pleasure to make your
acquaintance.

Cathy
The pleasure is all mine.

Ellsworth
The call is forty-five. Check your props.

LeBeau
Done. Thank you Ellsworth.

Ellsworth, dismissed, goes up the stairs and LeBeau turns to
Cathy.

So, you played Eliza Dolittle. That's a wonderful
role. Such depth, so much to play. And what was
the other? The bird thing?

Cathy
Oh, one of the Pigeon sisters...in the Odd Couple?
I don't remember which one now.

Ellsworth knocks on Andrew's door and opens it a bit.

Ellsworth
Forty-five minutes to places Mr. Thomas. Check
your props.

Andrew (o.s.)
Thank you Ellsworth. Already did! Thank you!

Ellsworth closes the door behind him and makes his way to Julian and Paul's dressing rooms.

Cathy
This is all so exciting.

LeBeau
You get used to it.

Cathy
Oh my, is that a real gun?

LeBeau
Heavens no, these are props.

Cathy
Of course, how silly of me.

LeBeau
No, it's not silly at all, it's enchanting! So, do you have tickets for tonight's show?

Cathy
Well, actually I was...

LeBeau
Ellsworth, how's the house tonight?

Ellsworth
Sold out.

LeBeau
See if you can find a spare seat for Cathy, will you?

Cathy
No, you don't have to...

Ellsworth
Yes Ma'am.

He knocks on Julian's door and opens it a bit.

Forty-five minutes to places Julian. Check your props.

Julian
Thank you Ell.

LeBeau
Ellsworth will make sure you have a seat. There is

always a few that are held for guests.

Cathy
That was very nice but...

LeBeau
I insist.

Ellsworth moves to Paul's door, knocks and opens it.

Ellsworth
Forty-five minutes to places Mr. Richards. Check your props.

Paul
Thank you!

Ellsworth
I'll see about a seat.

He goes to his podium and picks up a phone.

Cathy
Really, it isn't...

LeBeau
Come, let's go into my dressing room. Tell me all about your budding acting career.

Cathy
Well, it's hardly a career. It's only a couple shows from high school.

LeBeau
We all start somewhere. I started studying in New York with Sandy Meisner. Oh, what a character!

Cathy
Who?

LeBeau
Oh, you are a dear! Such an innocent.

As they begin to cross to her dressing room, Julian and Paul's doors open simultaneously. Both still wearing the same clothes, they start to move for the prop table

Paul (overlapped)
Good evening Julian...Oh sweet Mary and Joseph!

Julian (overlapped)
Paul, how are... oh no.

Paul
What the hell are you wearing?

Julian
What about you?

Randy enters.

Paul
Where did you get it?

Julian
Bloomies.

Paul
So did I.

Julian
I know.

Paul
You know? You didn't do this on purpose did you?

Julian
I...well I... No!

Cathy
Why are they wearing the same clothes? Is that part of the show?

LeBeau
No. I'm afraid not.

Andrew comes out of his dressing room in a robe.

Andrew
What's all the commotion? Oh, look, they've got or the same clothes! Isn't that cute!

Paul
You were following me again weren't you?

Julian
Not exactly. We just have a lot of the same tastes, that's all.

Paul
The same taste. My god. Julian!

Julian
Paul...

Paul
Don't. Don't talk to me. Not right now.

Julian
All right.

Ellsworth hangs up the phone as Paul and Julian look over the prop table.

Ellsworth
I have a seat for your friend Ms. LeBeau.

LeBeau
Thank you Ellsworth, you're a dear. Come Cathy.
Let's retire to my dressing room. I need to put on
my makeup and make ready. We can talk in privacy.

As LeBeau and Cathy cross toward the dressing room Randy crosses over to Ellsworth.

Julian
Paul?

Paul
I said no.

Julian
OK.

LeBeau
Oh, everyone, allow me a moment.

All turn to LeBeau

This is Cathy, one of the public!

(An uncomfortable beat passes.)

Andrew
Hello Cathy.

Cathy
Hi.

Paul
I thought backstage was a closed area.

Paul exits to his dressing room.

Julian
Any friend of Diane's is a friend of mine.

Pleasure to meet you.

LeBeau
This is my dear friend Julian.

Julian
Exclamation point!

Cathy
Oh, hi! I'm a great fan.

Julian
You've seen my work?

Cathy
Of course! Well...um...no, sorry.

Julian
Oh well, who has. But you will! Sorry things are a little strained here tonight.

Cathy
Oh, that's OK. I'm just thrilled to be here.

Julian
Well, I'd better adjourn to my room. I'll bring you a signed picture.

Cathy
I'd love one!

Julian
I'll leave the two of you to your gossip. You're in good hands.

Julian exits to his room as Cathy and LeBeau go into hers closing the door behind them. Ellsworth and Randy rise and move off.

Ellsworth
Let's get the light check over with.

Andrew is left standing alone on the balcony.

Andrew
Ummmm. OK.

He exits to his dressing room.

Cathy
I'm sorry if I'm being incredibly dense, but is he ... you know?

LeBeau

Is he bent? Yes. The best ones are.

Cathy

And he and...

LeBeau

Alas, I don't think he and Paul are meant to be. Paul doesn't feel the same as Julian does, and try as Julian might... he can't accept it. From the day they met Julian was picking out china patterns. Fell hard and fast. But that's a long sad story, I don't want to tire you with it. You know you may be just the thing this sordid little group needs. A little jolt of humanity.

Cathy

Oh, really? Me? That's very flattering.

LeBeau

And sadly the truth. Now to the make up. Time to become beautiful.

They begin to do LeBeau's make-up as Paul's door opens. He crosses to the phone by the podium and dials a number.

Paul

Hello, Joel? Hi, it's me. How are you? No, we've still got about half an hour. Are we still on for tomorrow night?

Julian's door opens

Good. Good. I'm looking forward to it too. Do you know where you want to go? In the Village? Sounds good. That's sweet. So what are you doing now? Really? For shame! Ha ha.

Paul leans back against the wall and then sees Julian's door shut quickly.

Ah fuck. No, no, not you. I'm sorry. Julian. Yes. He's getting under my skin again. Listen, I need to go. I can't wait to see you either. OK. OK. Bye.

Paul walks over to Julian's door and is about to knock on it when Andrew comes out.

Andrew

Paul! I'm glad I caught you! I ... just one second, I'll be right down.

He goes into his dressing room and then comes right back out with a package of papers in hand.

I've got this ... Oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh. Listen, I've got this script that I was wondering if you could take a look at? I'd really appreciate it.

Paul
Oh, sure Andrew. I'd be happy to.

Andrew
Thank you! Thank you so much! I really appreciate it! It's my first script. I hope you like it!

Paul
No problem.

Andrew
I'll look forward to hearing what you think!

Paul
It's OK. I don't mind. I'll let you know.

Andrew begins his ascent again screaming as he gets to the top.

Paul
Are you OK?

Andrew
Oh, yeah, I did the Stairmaster this morning.

Paul
Ah.

Paul goes into his dressing room. Andrew moves to go into his then comes back out.

Andrew
And be careful with that it's ...

He looks down to see Paul has already closed the door.

Never mind

Andrew exits to his dressing room and focus shifts to LeBeau's dressing room where she has been putting on her make-up with Cathy looking on.

LeBeau
Am I beautiful yet?

Cathy

Oh yes!

LeBeau

I think I need just a little more work.

Cathy

You look wonderful. I remember the first time I saw you.

LeBeau

Really? Tell me.

Cathy

Let's see, I was, well, I couldn't have been more than nine or ten and you were in a film playing a woman past her prime, your children were on their own and your husband had left you but you were so strong. So beautiful. And you were being wooed by William Casey, so handsome, and he was just getting over the death of his wife. I loved the scene by the lake. Oh what was the name of the film? Um... Oh, it's right on the tip of my tongue...

LeBeau

(dejectedly) Never Too Late.

Cathy

Yes!

LeBeau

Have you seen any of my early work?

Cathy

Early?

LeBeau

My ingenue period. I did have one you know. Help me get my hair off will you?

Cathy

I'm sorry?

LeBeau

My hair, I need to take off the wig to put on this one.

Cathy moves around behind LeBeau and begins pulling out hairpins.

I remember a certain John Garfield... he and I had quite an affair. Oh and there was of course Rock. He was a dear friend, and sweet sweet Jimmy. I had

quite a life in Hollywood. Of course I started out in New York working on Broadway, but I received the call to Hollywood and leapt at it. I spent a few seasons in the West End... that's London dear, oh, just put those pins here, but I always went back to Hollywood.

Cathy
Do you ever miss it?

LeBeau
Miss it? Why, I never left. All performing is the same when it comes down to it. This is every bit as wonderful.

Cathy
You look sad.

LeBeau
Sad? No.

Cathy
What will you do after this?

LeBeau
Well, there are so many offers. Always offers coming in. See this pile of papers? Offers, all of them offers.

Cathy
Oh. That's good!

Julian exits his dressing room now wearing a different suit, this is his costume.

LeBeau
And this, why, it's sold out! It may never close! Amen, you heard Ellsworth, sold out!

Cathy
Knock on wood.

Julian knocks and Cathy jumps a bit.

LeBeau
Come in Julian.

Julian
How did you know it was me?

LeBeau
Darling, all the years we've been friends, I know

your knock.

Paul opens his door and comes around behind Julian.

Julian
I just came by to give your guest my picture.

Cathy
For my friend Cathy, All the best. Julian.

Paul
Exclamation point I'm sure.

Julian
Of course. Because I'm so exciting!

Paul
Yeah. May I speak to you please?

Julian
Of course, I always have time for you lover.

Paul
Stop that.

LeBeau
Oh, this will be a good one.

Cathy
Are they always like that?

Paul
You're returning those clothes aren't you?

Julian
Why should I?

Paul
Julian, you've managed to ruin half of my wardrobe! I never know what I can wear, you might be wearing the same thing! If I buy something you run out and buy it too, and whenever you buy clothes you buy one for me too. I don't want the same damn clothes as you! I don't want to be a bobsy twin.

Julian
We just have the same taste. I think of you when I see something. What's gotten into you? Why are you acting like this?

Paul
This, my dear deluded Julian, is not acting. This

is real life! I'm telling you, stop this crap!
You are not me, and I am not you! When I told you
I was asked to do this show, how long did it take
you to call the director?

Julian

I didn't call the director! I called the
producer, he called the director.

Paul

I knew it!

Julian

Fine, I'll take back the clothes.

Paul

And I want that tie back.

Julian

What tie?

Paul

JULIAN!

Julian

I'm teasing.

Paul

No Julian, teasing is "Ha Ha I'm not going to give
this to you" Teasing is not weeks of "I don't have
it." "I don't know where it is." "I'm going to
wash it first." "No it's mine now!" That is not
teasing. You've been a wonderful friend for years,
but you've got to stop this!

Julian

I didn't know it made you so mad.

Paul

I'm apparently very good at hiding it!

Julian

I'm sorry!

Paul

Why don't I believe you?

Julian

You are hateful!

Paul

Listen to yourself for a second, will you?

Julian
And what does that mean?

LeBeau
Boys!

Julian
You say such hateful things to me! I love you!
How can you do this to me?

Cathy
I think I should go.

Paul
Who ARE you anyway?

Cathy
I'm...

LeBeau
She is none of your concern.

Julian
You're avoiding the subject.

Paul
Avoiding the subject? Which one? There is never
just one subject when I talk to you! It changes
from word to word!

LeBeau
Paul, that's so unfair!

Paul
You be quiet, I don't need advice from a has been
like you. And you, just stay out of my way tonight
OK.

Julian
Stay away? You want me to stay away? Fine. Fine.
I'll stay away. I'll stay far away.

Julian goes to his dressing room and pulls down his name. (He is mumbling to himself throughout this next section)

I'll stay well out of your way! "Just stay out of my way" huh. I'll show you staying out of your way.

LeBeau
Julian, what are you doing?

Julian

I'm moving!

Julian goes up the stairs and opens the first door.

Too small.

He goes to the second door and opens it,

Much better.

He slaps his name on the door then goes back down, goes into his dressing room

You want me to stay away? You want me out of your way? I'll get out of your way.

Paul

Julian.

Julian

Don't try to stop me Paul! No, no, you wanted me to stay away from you, I'm getting away from you!

Paul

Julian, this is ridiculous.

Julian continues going up and down the stairs emptying his dressing room and refilling his new one. Andrew comes out of his dressing room.

Andrew

What's going on out here?

LeBeau

Julian is moving his dressing room.

Andrew

Oh, are we neighbors now?

Julian looks at Andrew, then to Paul

Julian

Yes. Yes, we are.

Andrew

Oh good. It get's lonely up here.

Paul

I hope the two of you are very happy up there.

Julian takes a powder puff and throws it down at Paul. All watch as it floats slowly down. A beat passes.

Andrew
Probably not the effect you were going for was it?

Julian
Oh shut up!

He storms into his room and slams the door.

Cathy
My god.

LeBeau
Lovers quarrel.

Paul
We aren't lovers!

Andrew
You aren't?

Paul
NO!

Andrew
I'm so confused.

Julian exits his dressing room, goes to his old dressing room and comes out with one last handful of things.

Paul
Julian, stop acting like a child.

Julian
This isn't acting, Paul. This is real life.

Paul
We don't have to be enemies.

Julian
You could have fooled me. I'll be in my dressing room if anyone needs me.

Paul
Not that anyone will.

Julian
OH!

Julian slams the door behind him.

Paul

Ahem. That was a productive little chat, don't you think?

LeBeau

Come dear, time to get dressed, then we'll get you to your seat.

Cathy

Oh, yes.

Paul

Yes, could you please get her out of here? Some of us have work to do.

Cathy and LeBeau go into their dressing room. Paul moves to his dressing room.

Andrew

Paul? Paul?

Paul

WHAT!

Andrew

Did you get a chance to look over that script?

Paul

Andrew, you barely gave it to me ten minutes ago!

Andrew

I'm sorry, I'm just a bit anxious to hear what you think.

Paul

(he takes a deep breath)

Let me get dressed, then I'll sit down with it for a little bit before curtain.

Andrew

Thank you! Thank you so much! Say, I haven't gained weight have I? Do you think?

Paul

No. You look exactly the same as when the show opened.

Andrew

I feel fat.

Paul

I'm going into my dressing room now.

Andrew
Oh, yes, of course. Thank you again Paul.

Paul
You're welcome Andrew.

Ellsworth enters.

Ellsworth
Half hour to places. House is open.

Paul and Andrew
Thank you.

They both exit into their dressing rooms. Andrew comes back out immediately.

Andrew
Ellsworth?

Ellsworth
I just sent Randy to get it.

Andrew
You are perfect. You are the perfect stage manager. Thank you.

Andrew closes his door.

Ellsworth
It's not easy.

Ellsworth crosses to LeBeau's dressing room and knocks.

Half hour to places, Ms. LeBeau. House is open.

LeBeau and Cathy
Thank you!

He crosses to Julian's old dressing room and knocks.

Ellsworth
Half hour to places. House is open.

(Silence.)

He opens the door all the way, pulls back and looks at the door to see the name is gone. He turns, looking somewhat frantic.

Oh crap.

Then he looks up to see the sign up above at Julian's new dressing room. He climbs the stairs and knocks on that door.

Half hour to places. House is open.

Julian (OS)
(through racking sobs) Thank you!

Ellsworth
Oh boy. Would you like to talk about it?

Julian (OS)
Noo-hooo-hooo-hooo.

Ellsworth
Are you sure?

Julian (OS)
Ye-heh-heh-heh-hess.

Ellsworth
Was it Paul?

Julian comes to the door dramatically

Julian
Oh Ellsworth, love hurts!

Ellsworth
I know. Can I bring you anything?

Julian
Do you have a gun? Sorry, just the pain talking. Thank you, but no. No, I need to get through this. And I will. Trust me, the play will not suffer because of my pain. Thank you. Thank you. I feel much better Ellsworth. You're wonderful. Really.

Ellsworth
So you're OK?

Julian
No. But thank you. Really I'll get through this.

Ellsworth
So this is your dressing room now?

Julian
Yes.

Ellsworth
All right.

Julian
Actually there is one thing...

Ellsworth
Yeah?

Julian
Could you order some flowers for me?

Ellsworth
Who would you like them delivered to?

Julian
Me.

Ellsworth
You?

Julian
I know how pitiful it sounds, but please, just send me some flowers.

Ellsworth
It's OK, I'll take care of it.

Julian
Thank you.

Julian goes back into his room and Ellsworth make his way down the stairs. Randy enters through the stage door carrying a bag.

Ellsworth
Back already?

Randy
Yeah. I'll bring it up to him.

Ellsworth
'Kay.

Randy
Looks like rain.

Ellsworth
Oh?

The phone rings, Ellsworth crosses to answer it.

Hello. Oh, hello Mr. Blumenthal. Yes. Just one

second, I'll get him.

Randy knocks on Andrew's door as Ellsworth crosses to Paul's dressing room.

Andrew (o.s.)
Who is it?

Randy
It's Randy sir, I have your package.

The door opens almost immediately and Ellsworth knocks on Paul's door.

Andrew
Oh, thank you Randy. Peanut?

Randy
One large bag plain one large bag peanut.

Paul's door opens.

Paul
Yes?

Andrew
You know me so well.

Ellsworth
Mr. Blumenthal is on the phone for you.

Paul
Oh, thank you.

Andrew
A call from the producer?

Paul
Guess so.

Randy is holding out his hand.

Andrew, tip Randy for your M and M's.

Andrew
I...M and...You told him?

Randy
No!

Paul
Everyone knows that you get a package of M and M's

before the show every night. It's no secret.

Andrew
Oh my god! No!

Paul
Andrew!

Andrew slams his door shut.

Randy
Mierda! What about my tip!

Andrew's door opens again and he gives Randy a few dollars and takes the M and M's into his room, Randy goes down the stairs.

Paul
It's no big deal.

He picks up the phone

Hello. Yes it is. No. No, I'm sorry I've made the decision. No. I'm sorry. It is not negotiable. Fine. Good. Talk to you then.

He hangs up.

Bastard. Ellsworth, I'm going to run out on the stage to check on my props out there and warm up a little.

Ellsworth
All right.

Paul
Oh, and just so you know, Mr. Blumenthal said he would be coming by the theatre tonight.

Ellsworth
You're sure you won't reconsider?

Paul
I'm more than sure. Be right back.

Paul exits to the stage as

Randy
What's going on?

Ellsworth
I'll tell you later.

Randy
Doesn't sound good.

Ellsworth
It was bound to happen.

Julian comes out of his dressing room.

Julian
Has anyone seen my Natural 7 lip color?

Ellsworth
Try your old dressing room.

Julian
Of course.

He goes to his old dressing room. Over this past section LeBeau has gotten dressed and put on her new wig with Cathy's help. LeBeau steps out from behind a screen to reveal herself. During this scene Ellsworth calls for Julian's flowers.

LeBeau
Perfection?

Cathy
Oh, Ms. LeBeau, yes.

LeBeau
Now, we need to get you to the front of the house so you can watch the show from out there. You've certainly seen enough of the show from back here.

Cathy
I'm looking forward to it!

LeBeau
And, I will walk you out the back door. When you came in you caught me on the way to engaging in my only vice.

Cathy
Oh, sorry about that!

LeBeau
But I have very much enjoyed your company darling. You are coming back after the show aren't you? We can go find a bite to eat and finish our little chat.

Cathy
I would like that.

LeBeau
And, my sweet Cathy, so would I.

They move out from the dressing room towards the stage door.

Ellsworth, I'm going to show Cathy the way to the front of the house, don't worry, I won't go far.

Ellsworth
Just be careful of the costume.

LeBeau
Yes mother.

Ellsworth
Nice to meet you Cathy.

Cathy
Oh, thank you, I mean, you too!

Julian comes out of his old dressing room as Cathy and LeBeau go out.

Julian
Not there. Damn it. Oh shit. I loaned it to Paul.

Julian knocks on Paul's door.

Ellsworth
He's out on the stage.

Julian
I'm just going in for my lip color.

Ellsworth
OK.

Julian
No, really, I'm just going in for the lip color.

Ellsworth
OK.

Julian goes into Paul's dressing room. Andrew comes out of his dressing room and comes down the stairs walking sheepishly over to Randy and Ellsworth.

Andrew
I'm sorry.

Ellsworth

Huh?

Andrew

I'm terribly sorry for that little outburst Randy.

Randy

It's OK.

Andrew

No. No, it isn't. I was acting like a prima donna. I always promised myself that I would never be a prima donna and then out of nowhere, bang, I start throwing a fit. All over some little candy coated pieces of chocolate. I mean, how silly! It was immature and I apologize. Lo siento, y mea culpa.

Randy

Really, it's all right Mr. Thomas.

Andrew

I shall never behave like a Diva again.

Andrew moves over to the prop table.

Who's been touching my props? Someone moved my props!

He begin's furiously rearranging props.

Who has been touching my props? This goes here right next to the newspaper, and this, what's this doing here? Shouldn't this be on stage? Oh wait no, no, it goes here. Dammit, I hate when people move my props! I'm doing it again aren't I?

Ellsworth and Randy

Mm-hmm.

Andrew

Well, someone was touching my props!

Ellsworth and Randy turn back to their business. Andrew moves his prop back into place. Paul returns from the stage.

Were you touching my props?

Paul

What? No.

Andrew

I'm staying right here 'til I find out who was touching my props.

Paul

Right. Ellsworth, could you check on that door stage right? It's sticking again.

Ellsworth

Sure. Randy, you want to grab the WD-40 and a screwdriver?

Paul

Thanks. And before you ask Andrew, I'm going to go look over your script right now.

Andrew

Oh, thank you Paul, I really appreciate it.

Paul

And listen, I'm really sorry about the whole candy thing.

Andrew

It's all right. I am too. I shouldn't have reacted like that.

Paul

You're all right Andrew.

Andrew

You mean that?

Paul

Sure. Sure I mean it. You're probably the most together of all of us. I really look forward to reading your script.

Andrew

Thanks.

Paul moves to his dressing room and opens the door. Julian screams from within.

Paul

What the hell are you doing in here? Get out here!

Julian comes into the doorway.

Julian

I... I was... Who sent the flowers?

Paul

What? You didn't read the note?

Julian
I didn't want to pry.

Paul
You didn't want to pry? You didn't want...! Well,
go ahead, go on. Read it.

Julian goes back into the dressing room and comes out carrying the card. He opens the envelope dramatically.

Julian
Oh my god!

Andrew
What? Who is it from?

Paul
Go on. Tell him.

Julian
You bastard!

Andrew
Who sent the flowers?

Julian
I hate you!

Paul
His mother.

Julian
I have been acting since I was 5 years old, and not
once has my mother ever sent me flowers. Not once!
Now she's sending you flowers! It's not fair!

Paul
I'm really sorry.

Julian
Like hell you are!

Paul
I didn't make her send me the flowers, she did it
herself.

Julian
You're trying to sabotage my performance tonight
aren't you?

Paul

Yes, yes of course, that's what I'm trying to do.

Julian

My mother is in the audience, and you want me to fail! Well it won't work! This will be my best performance ever. I will win a Tony for tonight's performance.

Paul

A Tony?

Julian

A Tony! Tonight will be a Tony winning performance.

Paul

Oh please!

Julian

I won best actor at a regional theatre competition!
I won an Auntie!

Paul

Oh yes, I forgot! What was it again? The Association of United Northern Theatres?

Julian

I won!

Paul

Yeah, I bet it was pretty stiff competition!

Andrew

I've never heard of them.

Paul

Of course not! It's the award for North Dakota Community Theatres! That's where Julian is from.

Julian

I am not!

Paul

Oh yeah, you moved there when you didn't make it in L.A.!

Julian

Shut up!

Paul starts laughing hysterically and continues building.

Andrew
No offense Julian, but...

Julian
You stay out of this!

Andrew
All I'm saying is a "Tony", I mean... Wow.

Julian
Shut up Andrew! Don't you have a bag of M and M's
with your name on them?

Andrew
Now look here!

Paul
(Through tears of laughter)
A Tony!

Julian
Stop laughing!

A pounding begins on the back door going unheard by Andrew, Paul
and Julian. Paul starts to regain his composure, but just barely.

Paul
I'm sorry, it's just...no... Julian, you're a very
talented actor. You won an "Auntie!"

Julian
I'm going to my dressing room.

Julian storms up the stairs.

Paul
Julian, I'm sorry.

Julian
No you aren't!

Andrew
Julian!

Paul
I don't know why you're so mad! Your mom sent me
the flowers! You should be mad at her!

Julian
I'm not speaking to either of you!

Andrew

What did I do?

Julian slams his door. A beat passes as the pounding on the door registers.

Paul
Do you hear something?

Andrew
It's the stage door.

Paul
Who would be out there?

Andrew
I don't know.

Paul
Well, open it.

Andrew
We aren't supposed to open the door to anyone.

Paul and Andrew stand staring at the door as the pounding becomes more and more frantic. A thunder clap is heard and Ellsworth returns from the stage. Andrew and Paul remain staring at the door.

Ellsworth
Fifteen minutes to places gentlemen.

Paul and Andrew
Thank you.

Paul
There's someone at the door.

Ellsworth
At the ...? Oh my god.

He runs to the door and opens it to reveal a drenched Ms. LeBeau. Mascara running down her cheeks and her wig hanging in dripping strands from her head. Her costume is clinging to her body and she looks every bit like the proverbial drowned rat.

LeBeau
It started to rain....

Ellsworth
Randy!

LeBeau

... so I came back to the stage door...

Ellsworth

Randy!

LeBeau

...but it was locked.

Randy enters.

Randy

What's going on? Ms. LeBeau!

LeBeau

I was knocking on the door, and then it was raining... Oh Randy, sweet one...it was raining harder and harder...I'm a bit of a mess aren't I.

Ellsworth

Fifteen minutes. God. All right Andrew, you get the wig up to Julian. Paul, go get your hair dryer and Randy let's get her into the dressing room.

The frenzy begins as Andrew starts pulling out hairpins, Paul runs into his dressing room and Randy rushes to her side.

LeBeau

I'm all wet.

Randy

Come on Ms. LeBeau, come with me.

Andrew

Wait, I'm trying to get the wig off!

LeBeau

I'm positively drenched. Ouch! Careful Andrew.

Randy

We'll get you taken care of. Let's go to your room.

Julian comes out of his dressing room in a fury.

Julian

For god's sake, I'm trying to concentrate up here, could you all just keep it ... Diane!

LeBeau

Julian, I'm all wet.

Andrew

I'm getting the wig off for you Julian.

Julian

I'm coming love! Be careful with that wig! Take the pins out carefully!

Paul comes out with a blow dryer as Julian runs past, grabbing the dryer as he passes.

Thank you. How are you dear? Are you all right? How did this happen?

LeBeau

(overlapping)

I'm wet. I suppose. I was outside for...

Ellsworth

Would you people MOVE! Thirteen to places!

Julian

What?!

Paul

Thirteen to places.

Julian

I heard him!

Julian grabs the wig and runs up to his dressing room.

Paul

Hair dryer!

Julian

I need it!

Paul

You have five of them!

Julian runs back down and gives Paul the dryer back.

Randy

I'll take care of Ms. LeBeau's costume.

Paul

Here, take this.

Randy takes the hair dryer

Andrew

What should I do?

Ellsworth
Go to your room.

Andrew
Go to my room? I'm not a child!

Ellsworth
...and get dressed.

Andrew
Dressed? Oh my. I'm not dressed!

Andrew runs up the stairs.

Andrew
Aaaaaaagh. Oh that hurt.

Ellsworth
Randy, work some magic, please.

Randy
I'll do my best.

Andrew limps his way to his dressing room and Randy guides LeBeau to her room. Ellsworth crosses to his stash and breaks open another Snickers bar and bites into it with a vengeance. Paul turns to him.

Paul
You know you really are a great stage manager Ell.

Ellsworth
You need to stay out of my way.

Paul
Right.

A thunderclap sounds. Paul crosses into his dressing room and there is a knock at the stage door. Ellsworth opens the door and accepts the bouquet of flowers from the unseen person, hands him a couple bucks as tip and closes the door. He takes the flowers up to Julian's dressing room and knocks.

Julian
Just one moment!

Ellsworth stands there looking none to pleased with anyone right now. Julian opens the door.

Julian
OH! They're beautiful!

Ellsworth
Your flowers.

He hands them to Julian and begins to cross back to the stairs.

Julian
Ellsworth. Ellsworth, did Paul see them?

Ellsworth
No.

Julian
Would you do my a favor? Go back down, here take these, go back down and call for me from down there.

Ellsworth
I really don't have time for this right now.

Julian
Do you want the wig done or not?

Ellsworth sighs and crosses over to Julian, takes the flowers.

Ellsworth
Fine.

Ellsworth goes down the stairs and crosses to the stage door. Julian like a giddy school boy watches him go down and goes back to his room. He looks down one more time, then closes the door.

Julian (OS)
Ready!

Ellsworth
I can't believe I'm doing this.

Ellsworth opens the stage door and slams it shut.

Julian!

Julian (OS)
What!

Ellsworth
Could you come down here for a moment?

Julian opens his door

Julian
I'm kind of busy right now, is it important?

Ellsworth
(whispers) Would you get your ass down here!

Julian begins down the stairs.

Julian
(whispers back) OK, OK! (normal voice) What is it
Ellsworth?

Ellsworth
(yelling)
You have flowers.

Julian
(directed to Paul's dressing room) Flowers? For
me? My what a surprise!

Ellsworth
(to himself)
Isn't it.

Julian
(yelling)
I mean, FLOWERS! And they're so beautiful! Why
this is the biggest bouquet I've ever seen!

Ellsworth
Are we done yet?

Julian
Not 'til Paul comes out.

Ellsworth
(yelling)
Why don't you open the card to see who it's from!

Julian
(yelling)
Good idea Ellsworth, I'll open the card and see who
they are from! I'm opening the card now!

Ellsworth
This is coming out of your pay, I hope you know
that.

Julian moves toward Paul's door, he leans against the wall next to
the door and shouts into the door.

Julian
So many flowers all for me! Let's see here, the
card says, "For Julian, one of the FINEST actors on
stage, here's to your long and illustrious career

- may it never end!" Signed, "Your biggest fan!"
Did you hear that Ellsworth?

Ellsworth
I think they heard it at the Winter Garden.

Julian
Hmmp. My isn't this a lovely bouquet! So Many...

Paul opens his door in Julian's yelling face.

Paul
Would you stop!

Julian squeals

Paul
Dear god, I'm trying to read in here.

Julian
Look at my flowers Paul.

Paul
You had Ellsworth order you flowers?

Julian
What? NO!

Paul
Let's see, I know the paper - this is from Chang's
on the corner of 7th and 45th isn't it?

Julian
How should I know?

Paul
Looks like the number 15 spring bouquet to me.

Julian
It's a beautiful bouquet. You're just jealous.

Paul
Runs about twelve dollars I think.

Julian
Go to hell!

Paul
I'm already there.

Julian purses his lips tight.

You're making the pissy face again. You know that's going to give you wrinkles.

Paul bats Julian on the arm with the script he is reading and crosses over to a chair near the Prop table and resumes reading. Julian stands at the door pouting for a moment then throws down the flowers and crosses to Paul.

Julian
What are you reading?

Paul
A new script.

Julian
What?

Paul
A new script, I was asked...

Julian
You are already looking for your next job! You're going to try to get out of your contract just to spite me!

Paul
Oh stop.

Julian
How dare you! Let me see that!

Paul
No!

Julian
You are just afraid I'll audition for it and get your part! Give me the script!

Paul
I'm not giving you this script.

Paul and Julian begin wrestling over the script. Ellsworth is sitting at his podium going through his stash. He pulls out a Baby Ruth. Andrew comes out of his dressing room.

Andrew
All dressed! How do I look?

Julian
Give it to me!

Paul

Let go!

Julian
I just want to look at the title! So I won't miss
its one week run.

Paul
Jesus Christ, Julian stop this!

Andrew
Apparently I haven't missed anything.

Julian takes hold of the script and gets it from Paul.

Julian
HA! Now let's see.

Paul
Fine. Look. Take a good gander.

Julian
The Winter's Fall, by Andrew Thomas?

Andrew
Oh! Were you reading it?

Paul
I started to, 'til I was so rudely interrupted.

Julian
Oh my god! You aren't seriously thinking of doing
a show for Andrew are you?

Paul
Even if I were, it's none of your business!

Julian
Are you having an affair with Paul?

Andrew
Who? ME?

Julian
I should have seen this coming!

Paul
What?

Julian
You are having sex with Andrew!

Paul

I don't think so.

Andrew
But I'm not...! I mean, I'm...!

Paul
Julian, don't be stupid.

Andrew
Not that there's anything wrong with it...! Oh my god!

Julian
No, I've been so stupid, but now, now at last I see!

Andrew
I'm not...I think I may be ill.

Julian
I know just how you feel. Sex with Paul can do that to you.

Paul
Julian, I'm not sleeping with Andrew! I've been seeing Joel for the last three months if you must know!

Julian
Joel!

Paul
Yes. Joel.

Julian
No.

Paul
Yes. Now give me that script.

Andrew
I'm not gay!

Paul
Good Andrew, that's the first step to recovery. Give me the script!

Julian
If you want this script so bad...

Julian goes to the stage door and flings it open.

Then go get it!

He throws the script out into the rain.

Andrew

NOOO!

Julian slams the door as Andrew comes running down the stairs and Paul throws his hands up in the air.

Andrew

Ow ow ow ow ow ow ow!

Julian

How do you like that!

Paul

You're certifiable, you know that don't you?

Andrew goes to the stage door and opens it, it is still pouring rain.

Andrew

Oh no!

He runs out into the torrents. Andrew comes back with the script. He is drenched and the script is muddied and dripping. He clutches it to his white shirt.

Julian

What is your problem? It's just a script!

Andrew

It's the only copy!

Paul snickers.

Julian

You... you're kidding right?

Andrew

I spent the last month typing it. This is the only copy I have! I threw out all my notes once it was done.

Julian

You didn't!

Paul

Why?

Andrew

Superstition. I spent the last three years of my life writing this.

Julian
The only copy?

Andrew
I'm ruined.

Julian
For the love of God, get a fucking computer!

Andrew
I like my Smith Corona.

Paul
Your shirt Andrew.

Andrew
Oh no!

Andrew drops the script in a wet pile and falls to his knees with a moan. Randy comes out of LeBeau's Dressing room.

Randy
Julian?

Julian
What?

Randy
We're ready for Ms. LeBeau's wig.

Julian
The wig!

Julian runs upstairs and goes into his dressing room.

Randy
(seeing Andrew)
What happened to him? No, I don't want to know.
No me digas.

Paul
If anyone needs me, I'll be in my dressing room.
Oh, and Andrew?

Andrew
Yes?

Paul
What I read was good. Very good.

Andrew
Oh, really? You... you liked it?

Andrew starts pulling himself and the script together

Paul
Yes. I did.

Andrew
Thanks.

Paul
I look forward to reading the rest.

Paul goes into his dressing room and closes the door behind him. Andrew gathers up his script and goes toward the stairs looking at the script. Julian bursts out of his dressing room holding the wig before him and trying to style as he goes.

Julian
I'll style it on her.

Julian and Andrew slam into each other, the wig and script go flying. Randy catches the wig but the papers go everywhere.

Julian
Watch where you're going!

Andrew
Oh hell!

Julian
Get out of the way!

Andrew
My script!

Julian
How is she?

Randy
Doing all right.

Julian and Randy go into the dressing room, Andrew starts picking up his script a page at a time.

Ellsworth
Five minutes to places if anyone cares.

Andrew
You can't be serious.

Ellsworth

Yup. Sold out house you know.

Andrew picks up the pace on his script and once done goes to his dressing room. Julian and Randy are in LeBeau's dressing room. She comes out from behind her screen.

LeBeau

Fortunately I have so many costumes in this show that one less change won't hurt. Now dears, let's get to work on my less than natural beauty.

Julian

You'll always be beautiful darling.

LeBeau

I fear this may be my swan song.

Julian

Bite your tongue! Sit here now.

LeBeau

No, really. That girl that was in earlier. She is the future of the stage. People don't want larger than life. They want real people. They want truth. I'm a dinosaur.

Julian

If you're a dinosaur then so am I.

LeBeau

You're sweet. But I think it may be time for this dinosaur to head for the tar pit. Write my memoirs, if there's anyone who's interested, and go off to the country. A little farm in Vermont maybe.

Randy

Sounds like a slice of heaven.

Julian

Heaven. No Paul. No theatre. Just life.

LeBeau

Get some chickens. Maybe a pig.

Julian

Oh, and a puppy.

LeBeau

Sitting out on the porch with a pitcher of lemonade

and a good book.

Randy
Or curl up by the fire.

LeBeau
Mmmmmmm.

Julian
Heaven.

LeBeau
But, Julian, you have a brilliant career ahead of you. Simply brilliant. You'll just have to come visit me between shows for now.

Julian
Wait, you're serious aren't you?

LeBeau
Afraid so. I think this may be our last production together. Oh, I'll still come to see you dear heart. I wouldn't miss a show with you in it.

Julian
You could stay in New York, teach some classes.

LeBeau
Those who can do, those who can't...

Julian
I didn't mean it like that.

LeBeau
I know you didn't. No, I can't imagine teaching. I'm a doer.

Julian
Some do both.

LeBeau
Some don't. No, I think it's time to be completely away from it all.

Julian
What did that girl say to you?

LeBeau
It wasn't so much that she said anything... just that she still had that wide eyed look about her. I miss that wide eyed look. I wish I still had it. I don't, and I know for damn sure I can't get it

back. I'm just an old lady of the stage and screen. I remember the first time I walked in through the stage door. The door opened and it was as though I had walked into Oz. There I was, oh I couldn't have been more than sixteen. I've never told you this have I? Well, there I was, this wide eyed little girl. My mother was dead set against it, but I put up one devil of a fight and got my way. I've been getting my way ever since. The stage manager greeted me with a grunt. What was his name... Frank I think. He was a tough one on the outside but was really a warm little teddy bear. I had to share my dressing room with two other girls. Seasoned performers. Then it came time for places. I went out on stage with nineteen other chorus girls and the curtain rose and the lights came up and I thought, "this is magical!" But there's a price to pay isn't there? Just like in fairy tales, the magic comes with a price tag. You start to be blind to the magic. And when that happens, it's time to go. One last curtain call. I'll tell you something Julian, don't let go of that magic. Whatever you do, don't let go.

Julian

I won't.

LeBeau

Well, look at me! I'm not all that ugly anymore am I?

Randy

No, you never were.

LeBeau

Sweet. Julian, go tell Ellsworth I am ready.

Julian

All right.

Julian goes out of the dressing room and crosses to Ellsworth.

Randy

You look wonderful.

LeBeau

Estoy bonita?

Randy

Si. Muy bonita.

Randy and LeBeau move towards each other, and they kiss.

Julian
I think we're ready.

Ellsworth's stopwatch alarm goes off.

Ellsworth
Places.

Ellsworth crosses to Paul's dressing room and knocks on the door.

Places.

He crosses up to Andrew's door and knocks.

Places.

Paul and Andrew come out of their rooms at the same time. Andrew has changed his shirt but aside from that, still looks pretty bad.

Andrew
Think anyone will notice?

Ellsworth
Not really.

LeBeau's door opens and she comes out like Norma Desmond creating a Tableau of Ellsworth and Andrew on the upper level, Paul at his door near LeBeau, Julian at the stage door and Randy in the dressing room behind LeBeau.

LeBeau
Gentlemen! Let's put on a show!

She heads for the stage. Paul looks at Randy who comes out of the dressing room.

Paul
Got a little lipstick smeared there.

Randy looks embarrassed and tries to wipe it off. Paul heads out to the stage. Julian follows, and pulling up the rear is Andrew.

Andrew
Break a leg everyone!

LeBeau (OS)
Thank you! Break a leg!

Ellsworth crosses to his podium and picks up a headset. Randy goes out up left to the laundry room.

Ellsworth

Standby.

Andrew comes running back.

Andrew

Prop! Sorry, I forgot my prop! Did someone move things here again?

He picks up a newspaper

Andrew (overlapped)

Oh, here it is! Sorry!

Ellsworth (overlapped)

House to half. (pause) House out. (pause) Cue one, go.

Andrew runs back to the stage.

End Act 1

ACT II

Scene 1: Intermission

Ellsworth takes off his headset, drops it to the podium with a sigh and begins rubbing his face in his hands. Andrew enters, followed by Julian, LeBeau and Paul in that order. They all walk directly to their dressing rooms and slam their doors behind them in unison.

A beat passes as Randy enters.

Again in unison all four doors open and they all yell in unison.

Andrew/Paul/Julian/LeBeau
Ellsworth!

Andrew looks at Julian, Julian at Paul, Paul at Julian and LeBeau at Randy. All but LeBeau slam their doors.

LeBeau
Randy, could you help me with my zipper?

Randy
Of course Ms. LeBeau.

Randy goes into LeBeau's dressing room, once in the dressing room they embrace and move behind the screen.

Andrew comes out of his dressing room with his crumpled and dirty script. He goes downstairs.

Andrew
Ellsworth? Could you get me an ironing board and an iron?

Ellsworth
Yeah. Just a minute.

Ellsworth exits to the laundry room. Andrew sets his script down on the prop table. Julian comes out of his dressing room.

Andrew
You.

Julian
Oh don't you start!

Andrew
What was that?

Julian
I don't even know what you are talking about.

Andrew
You skipped about three pages out there!

Julian
Oh please!

Andrew
You skipped my character's entire subplot! Act two isn't going to make any sense at all!

Julian
It's paper thin even with those lines!

Andrew
Is there anything else of mine you would like to destroy? You've taken care of my script and my role!

Paul comes out of his dressing room

Paul
Shouldn't you be going over your lines?

Julian
Paul, don't start.

Paul
So much for that Tony!

Julian
What are you doing?

Paul
I'm going to make sure the gun is ready.

Julian
What do you mean by that?

Paul
Don't worry, I'm not planning on killing you. I'm mad, not insane.

Ellsworth returns with an ironing board and iron for Andrew with an orange extension cord trailing behind him.

Ellsworth
Here.

Andrew
Thank you Ellsworth.

Andrew grabs his script and turns on the iron. Ellsworth moves to

his podium.

Julian
So I guess we're through.

Paul
Through?

Julian
We're breaking up aren't we?

Paul
Julian, let me explain something to you, you and I are not, nor have we ever been, nor will we ever be, in a relationship! Is that clear?

Andrew starts to iron his script which he does throughout the rest of the scene.

Julian
But...I know

Paul
You know?

Julian
I know!

Paul
I know you know it up here, (points to his head) but I don't know if you know it in here (points to his heart). People ask me if we're in a relationship and I say no. There are people who have asked me repeatedly "how are things with Julian?" "How are you and Julian doing?" "You two are so cute together!" Now I know they aren't getting it from me, who does that leave. Hmm...

Julian
I don't tell people we're in a relationship.

Paul
But you also don't do anything to discourage people from thinking that we are. Unless someone outright asks you, you pretty much let them think it.

Julian
I know we aren't in a relationship.

Paul
OK, fine you know.

Julian

Look, I'm not obsessed with you. I ... maybe it's because I admire you. Because I do, I admire you. Is that wrong?

Paul

No it's not wrong, hell, who doesn't? But Julian, I'm afraid to tell you about people I'm seeing or friends that I'm making because frankly I don't know what you will do. You threaten them, you threaten me. I don't know where the joking stops and the real threats begin. People have offered to introduce me to people and you tell them "don't you dare." You get jealous when I go out alone. You want to know everything I do all the time. I knew Joel for a long time before I even mentioned his name in front of you. Now, Julian, I don't want to hurt you, but I'm not going to hurt myself in order to avoid hurting you. If anything works out with Joel and I, please, stay out of the way!

Julian

I know.

Paul

And that's another thing "I know, I know" I don't think you do!

Ellsworth

Ten minutes to places.

Paul and Julian

Thank you!

Andrew

Ten minutes? Already?

Ellsworth

Time flies when you're having fun.

Andrew returns to ironing with a new enthusiasm. Ellsworth moves to LeBeau's dressing room.

Paul

So are we clear Julian?

Julian

Crystal.

Paul

Good.

Ellsworth knocks on LeBeau's door.

Ellsworth
Ms. LeBeau?

Paul
She's got company.

Ellsworth
Company?

LeBeau's head comes out around the dressing screen.

LeBeau
Who is it?

Ellsworth
Ten to places Ms. LeBeau.

LeBeau
Thank you!

Ellsworth
What do you mean company?

Paul
Oh, nothing.

Paul moves to his dressing room.

Nothing at all.

Paul closes the door behind him.

Ellsworth
I hate him.

Julian
Join the club!

Ellsworth
Go look over your script.

Julian
Right.

Ellsworth moves to his podium and hit's his stash again as Julian returns to his room.

Andrew
How can you eat all that?

Ellsworth

Huh?

Andrew

How can you eat all that and not be as big as a rhinoceros?

Ellsworth

I don't know.

Andrew

I hate you!

Ellsworth

Don't start with me. Not tonight.

Andrew resumes ironing his script as focus shifts to LeBeau's Dressing room. She and Randy knock over the dressing screen in their passion.

What was that?

Ellsworth crosses to LeBeau's Dressing room and knocks on the door.

Ms. LeBeau? Are you all right?

LeBeau attempts to untangle herself from Randy

LeBeau

Don't come in!

Ellsworth

I'm sorry?

LeBeau

I'm fine! I'm fine! Don't come in!

There is a pounding on the wall to LeBeau's dressing room

Paul (O.S.)

Would you two keep it down in there!

Ellsworth

Is there some one in there with you Ms. LeBeau?

LeBeau

NO! (Whispers) Hide!

Randy

Where?

Ellsworth
Ms. LeBeau, please open your door.

LeBeau
Just a moment, I'm not dressed!

Ellsworth
That's what I'm afraid of!

Andrew
You know, I think Paul's right.

Ellsworth
Andrew, not now.

Andrew
But if Julian and Paul are gay, and I'm out here
and you're out here, that doesn't leave many
options does it?

Ellsworth
With her habit of taking in strays off the
street... I don't even want to think about it.

Randy is running around trying to find a place to hide in the
small dressing room, he crawls under the vanity, LeBeau drapes one
of her costumes over the edge and sits at it quickly.

LeBeau
Come in!

Ellsworth opens the door.

Ellsworth
Is everything all right in here?

LeBeau
Of course! What seems to be the problem?

Ellsworth
I heard something fall.

LeBeau
Oh, yes, it was my dressing screen. I had hung my
robe on there.

There is a knock at the stage door.

Andrew
Ellsworth!

Ellsworth

So you're fine.

LeBeau
I'm fine.

Andrew
Ellsworth!

LeBeau
Andrew is calling you.

There is a second series of knocks.

Andrew
Ellsworth!

Ellsworth
What IS it Andrew!

Andrew
I'm sorry Ellsworth, but someone is knocking at the door again...

Ellsworth crosses toward the door. As he crosses to the door Randy scrambles out from under the table at LeBeau's signal and scurries off towards the stage unseen by Ellsworth and Andrew.

Ellsworth
Now what?

Andrew
...And you told us to never open the stage door to anyone....

Ellsworth
Yes Andrew, I know.

Andrew
...I didn't want to break any rules.

Ellsworth
Yes Andrew, thank you.

Ellsworth opens the door to reveal Mr. Carl Blumenthal, the producer. He is an older gentleman. He stands in the door wearing a wet London Fog trench coat.

Blumenthal
Well don't just stand there!

Ellsworth
This is a bad night for this Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal

Tell me! I left my wife to come out in this?
Here. Take my coat.

Andrew

Evening Mr. Blumenthal, this is a pleasant
surprise.

Blumenthal

Pleasant? I'll let you know when it's a pleasant
surprise. This! This is not a pleasant surprise.
A pleasant surprise is finding out you've just won
the lottery. A pleasant surprise is coming home
and finding my wife with a tub of cool whip. A
PLEASANT surprise is anything but being hauled out
of my warm townhouse on the upper east side to come
down here to take care of some shmutz who thinks
he's a star. Ellsworth, in my coat, right outside
pocket, there's a roll of antacid tablets. Bring
it to me.

Ellsworth

Yes sir.

Blumenthal

I don't even want to think about how much money
I've sunk into this flop, some of it was even my
own! Now this putz goes and pulls the prima donna
routine on me. Thank you Ellsworth. "I need room
to grow" he says. Some of the biggest names on
Broadway begged me for this role, begged me! They
were down on their knees, and what, some hot shot
director decides the only man who can play the
role... I can't think about it. I think about it,
my ulcer acts up, my ulcer acts up and my sex life
goes Pphhhht. So, Mr. Thomas, do not tell me this
is a "pleasant surprise," because quite frankly it
gives me agida. Where is he?

Ellsworth

That door there.

Blumenthal

Thank you. Get me out in this rain so he can make
himself feel important... I'll show him important.

Blumenthal knocks on Paul's door.

Richards! Richards! Let me in!

Paul (OS)

Not by the hair on my chinny chin chin.

Blumenthal
Not by the ...? Richards!

Paul's door opens.

Paul
This isn't exactly ideal timing.

Blumenthal
Oh, I'm so sorry, maybe I could come back another time when it's more convenient for your ego!

Paul
Ellsworth?

Ellsworth
Five minutes.

Paul
You have three.

Blumenthal
Oh goody.

Ellsworth goes to hang up his coat as Randy reenters from the stage. Andrew is still ironing.

Ellsworth
Where have you been?

Randy
Out at the front of the house. Why, did I miss something?

Ellsworth
Just stay back here. The last thing I need is something else to go wrong, at least I know I can trust you.

Randy
Sure thing boss.

Ellsworth crosses back to LeBeau's dressing room and knocks.

Ellsworth
Five minutes Ms. LeBeau.

LeBeau
Thank you Ellsworth.

Ellsworth climbs the stairs to Julian's dressing room and knocks.

Ellsworth

Julian!

Julian opens his door.

Julian

What is it Ellsworth?

Ellsworth

Five minutes to places for act two.

Julian

Fine.

Paul and Blumenthal are heard from behind the door.

Paul (OS)

You're the one who put the clause in the contract!

Blumenthal (OS)

Who knew you would use it!

Paul (OS)

I've gave you two weeks!

Blumenthal (OS)

My ulcer!

Paul (OS)

It's not going to work! I'm sorry but tonight is my last night!

Julian

What?

Andrew

Can he do that?

LeBeau's door opens

LeBeau

I didn't just hear that did I?

Ellsworth sighs.

Julian

Ellsworth, is it true?

LeBeau

Ellsworth?

Ellsworth

I don't know, and even if I did know I couldn't tell you.

Julian

Oh my god, it is true!

Andrew

But, the show! What about the show?

Julian

It's all my fault! If I had given him room, if I had been a better lover none of this would have happened.

Paul (OS)

Get out!

Blumenthal (OS)

You'll regret this! I know people! I have connections.

The door to the dressing room opens and Julian and LeBeau retreat to their dressing rooms as cockroaches scared by a light as Blumenthal and Paul come out. Julian's door is kept open a crack and we see LeBeau attempting to look through her keyhole. Andrew is ironing like a man possessed.

Paul

My decision is final! I gave you two weeks to find a replacement, that's exactly what the escape clause said. You told me from the beginning, you didn't like me and didn't want to hire me but the director wanted me. He's the only person involved with this show who knew what he was doing! I don't mean you Andrew, or you Ellsworth. You are both gems. I want out of this show, and I want out tonight.

Blumenthal

What? You want a raise, is that it?

Paul

Am I speaking English?

Andrew

I... I think so.

Blumenthal

What do you want Paul? What do you want? I'll get it for you. You want a bigger dressing room? You

want LeBeau's dressing room?

LeBeau's door opens

LeBeau
I beg your pardon!

Blumenthal
Beautiful! How are you, angel!

LeBeau
Don't you "angel" me! You just offered Paul my dressing room! Where were you going to send me?

Blumenthal
Don't be silly! I wasn't offering him your dressing room! I was trying to find out what he wanted!

LeBeau
Let him go, we don't need him. There are plenty of actors who could play his role blindfolded.

Paul
LeBeau, don't make me call the home, they've been wondering where you wandered off to.

Blumenthal
Look, I'll go now, I'll come back after the show. We'll talk, we'll work this out.

Paul
There is nothing to work out. I've been offered a movie deal and I'm taking it.

Julian's door flies open.

Julian
You've been offered a what!

Paul
Dear god. Why me.

Blumenthal
You're being punished. Just like me.

Julian
No, no no no no no no no no no. I just want to make sure I heard what I thought I heard.

LeBeau
A movie deal? Hollywood?

Paul
No, Salt Lake City, Utah. Yes Hollywood, what do you think?

LeBeau
Well, I certainly wouldn't have expected it.

Julian
I don't believe it.

Paul
I'll show you the contract later.

Blumenthal
Paul, all right, we've had our differences, but please, I'm begging now, look at this I'm begging. I'm on my knees. I'm begging you to have pity on me. Have pity on my family. I have a daughter in medical school. I have a son, he's in high school talking about becoming a musician! A musician! You must understand the kind of stress that put's on a man. I just bought a new car! I have a mortgage. Paul, please!

Paul
This is not open to negotiation!

LeBeau
Think about it Paul.

Paul
Did you?

LeBeau
No. No, I didn't. I leapt at the chance. I still would.

Paul
There you go.

Paul goes back into his dressing room and quietly closes his door.

Julian
Well, I mean, really. Who want's to do movies anyway. There's no prestige there. Oh sure, gobs and gobs of money, but not the prestige. Sure, there's the fame. But who really respects movie actors?

LeBeau turns and walks toward her dressing room.

I didn't mean that Diane! I didn't mean you!

She closes the door and begins to sob.

Andrew

Smooth.

Julian moves to LeBeau's dressing room and begins to knock

Julian

Diane! Diane! Open the door. Diane. Can you hear me? I know you can hear me. Open the door please.

Blumenthal

I'm ruined. Ellsworth, my coat. I'm destroyed. My grandchildren will have crooked teeth and when they ask me why I'll tell them, "it's because your grandfather is a failure and couldn't afford the orthodontia." I tried. I'll be back after the show tonight. Have all the cast together for an announcement.

Ellsworth

Yes sir.

Ellsworth's stop watch alarm goes off.

Ellsworth

Places!

Blumenthal moves to the stage door and exits. It is still raining.

Blumenthal

Maybe I'll get lucky and catch my death of cold.

Ellsworth

Places!

Andrew

I just have a couple pages left.

Julian

Diane, come out. I'm sorry!

Ellsworth

PLACES!

Andrew

Oh my god! Places?

Julian
What? Diane! Places!

Julian runs up to his dressing room as Paul comes out of his room.

Paul
Let's put on a show!

Paul heads for the stage. LeBeau comes out of her dressing room, mascara running down her cheeks for the second time tonight. Andrew runs up the stairs and nearly runs into Julian on his way down. Julian looks at LeBeau.

Julian
Come here! Mascara running all over the place, can't have you looking like that! Look at this, your natural beauty, you shouldn't use so much makeup. There, there you are. I'm sorry.

LeBeau
I know.

Once Julian has wiped off the mascara he goes to the prop table.

Ellsworth
Let's go people, let's go, there's a real live audience out there, that paid real live money to see a show.

Andrew comes running down the stairs and heads for the Prop table as Julian leaves it. They both trip on the cord from the iron falling in opposite directions. Paul comes back from the stage as Ellsworth puts on his headset.

Paul
I'm ready!

Julian
I think I broke my nose!

Paul
I'm in places out here!

Andrew
My ankle!

Ellsworth
House to half!

Andrew
Oh god!

Julian
You're kidding right?

Paul and LeBeau make their way out to the stage.

Ellsworth
House out.

Andrew and Julian leap to their feet. Julian run's for the stage holding his nose and Andrew limping along behind him.

Ellsworth
Cue eighty three, go.

Andrew comes limping quickly back.

Andrew
Prop!

And hobbles back out toward the stage as the lights fade out.

Scene 2: Postshow

Ellsworth is at his podium and the floor around him is scattered with various candy wrappers. He takes off his headset and sets it down. A cacophony of voices is heard coming from the stage. LeBeau enters first carrying her wig, followed by Paul and Julian. Andrew pulls up the rear being helped by Randy. (The following four lines are all overlapped.)

LeBeau

Get me out of this costume! Oh, I have never been so embarrassed! I don't ever want to perform again! I quit. I quit! What was I thinking when I took this? What was I thinking? Would someone please tell me what I was thinking.

Paul

Thank god that's the last time I have to do that! What a disaster! What's the matter? Oh, please. You aren't deaf. That's because no one was applauding. Who in their right mind would applaud that performance.

Julian

What were you doing with that gun? Don't you think you were a little close? My god, I think I'm deaf. I could hardly hear the applause. Don't you dare! Oh my god, my mother was out there!

Andrew

Thank you Randy, I really can't put much pressure on my foot. I think I broke it. I really think it's broken. Oh, ouch, ouch. Just set me down over there. Thank you Randy, you're a gem. Oh, Ellsworth, get me some ice please will you?

Ellsworth

All right, that's it! SHUT UP!

Julian

What's your problem?

Ellsworth

What's my problem? What is my problem? I have been babysitting you four all night long. Hell, the entire run of the show! Could you just quit your bickering for five minutes, that's all I ask.

LeBeau

Ellsworth dear, certainly you aren't including me in this.

Paul

I don't have to listen to anything you have to say.
I quit.

Julian

But Ellsworth, you know full well what I've been
through with Paul. How can you...

Paul

Don't you drag me back into your melodrama!

Andrew

Ellsworth, ice? Please?

Ellsworth

Shhhht!

Andrew

But...

Ellsworth

Shush! Randy, get Andrew some ice, will you? Let
me see it, and you three stay right where you are.

Paul

You have got to be... oh fine. Fine!

Julian

I'm not going anywhere.

LeBeau throws her wig on the prop table.

Ellsworth

Does this hurt?

Andrew

Ooo, yes.

Ellsworth

And this?

Andrew

Ow.

Ellsworth

Wiggle your toes?

Andrew

Ohhhhhh!

Ellsworth

It's not broken. Quit your whining.

Andrew
Ellsworth!

Julian
I would really like to get out of here. My mother
is waiting for me.

Paul
Thank her for the flowers will you?

Julian
Don't you dare throw that in my face again!

Ellsworth
I give up. I can't do anything. All right. Mr.
Blumenthal would like to see all of you for an
announcement tonight.

Julian
Hmmm, I wonder what it could be!

Randy returns with Andrew's ice pack.

Paul
I can't help I'm talented.

Julian
Please!

Andrew
Oh, thank you Randy!

Paul
So are we free to get out of our costumes?

Ellsworth
Sure. Go.

LeBeau
Thank you Ellsworth.

Ellsworth
Mmm hmmm.

Ellsworth goes to his stash and tears open a candy bar. Paul,
Julian and LeBeau all go to their dressing rooms.

LeBeau
Randy? My zipper?

Randy goes to LeBeau's room where they immediately fall into each

others arms.

Andrew
 Julian, would you...? No. Oh, Paul... Paul?
 Ran ... dy?

Andrew looks to Ellsworth pleadingly.

Ellsworth
 Oh all right.

Ellsworth helps Andrew to his feet and they start up the stairs.

Andrew
 Thank you Ellsworth. I hate to be a burden,
 especially tonight. Oh, oh, it hurts. I know what
 you're going through. I certainly wouldn't want to
 have to deal with this cast, well, of course I have
 to deal with them, but I mean in the same way that
 you have to deal with us. Not so fast. It's not
 easy. With Julian and Paul yelling at each other,
 Diane, me, really, we must be the worst cast you've
 ever had. Tell me the truth, are we the worst cast
 you've ever had?

Ellsworth
 If you don't stop I'm going to drop kick you down
 these steps.

Andrew
 I'll take that as a yes.

There is a knock at the stage door.

The door.

Ellsworth
 I know Andrew. Do you need me to call you a car?

Andrew
 Oh, would you!

Ellsworth
 Yes. Just rest for a little until the meeting.

Andrew
 All right. Thank you again Ellsworth.

Ellsworth
 Don't mention it.

Ellsworth closes Andrew's door and goes back down. The knocking

resumes.

I'm coming!

Ellsworth goes to the stage door and opens it to reveal Mr. Blumenthal

Blumenthal

What in the name of the seven wonders of the world was that! My god! I'd rather sleep naked on shards of glass for a month than sit through that again. There goes my psychiatrist bill, right through the roof! Oh, he'll have a field day with this one. What were they doing out there? I've seen porn movies with more plot! Julian was running around just saying whatever came into his head, which wasn't much, let me tell you. And Andrew, he was limping. Since when does his character have a limp? And why was LeBeau's wig hanging off her head by a thread? Can you answer that question for me? Can you? I couldn't stand, I couldn't sit, I was sitting then standing then sitting then standing. Who knew going to the theatre was such a work out. What are you doing just standing there? Get the cast for me! My god, do I have to do everything around here?

Ellsworth goes to his podium and sits.

I see. I see. You just sit there, I'll get them.

Blumenthal climbs the stairs, about half way up he stops.

Oh, oh, my heart. I think I'm having a heart attack. Ellsworth, what does a heart attack feel like? Quick, what does a heart attack feel like? I'm having a heart attack here! I can't breathe. I can't... oh my chest. My chest is pinching up or me. My life is passing before my eyes. Not much of a life. There's my mother. My babies, my wife, my second wife, my third wife. This is what I need? Adelle told me to cut back on the fat, she told me. She'll never let me hear the end of it. I'll be sitting in the hospital bed dying as she serenades me with I told you so's.

He makes his way back down the stairs and takes an antacid tablet.

Wait, wait, it's passing. It's passing. It's going. Ellsworth! Do you hear me?

Ellsworth

I'm waiting to see if you're going to die.

Blumenthal

Just get them out here! Man's dying and what does he do, sit's there like a vulture. You're worse than Adelle, you know that?

Ellsworth climbs the stairs.

I'm not giving either of you the satisfaction! The more you complain, the longer God let's you live. I'm never going to die. I'm going to be immortal!

Ellsworth knocks on Julian's door. Julian comes to the door.

Julian

What is it?

Ellsworth

Julian, Mr. Blumenthal is here for the announcement.

Julian

Hello Mr. Blumenthal! I'll be right down! Just a moment Ellsworth, let me get dressed.

Ellsworth

Make it quick, I want to get home sometime this week.

Julian

Someone needs a hug.

Ellsworth

I don't need a hug. Julian, let go of me.

Julian

Sorry.

Ellsworth goes to Andrew's room and knocks.

Ellsworth

Andrew, Mr. Blumenthal is here!

Andrew (OS)

Be right out!

Ellsworth makes his way back down to Paul's door and knocks. Paul opens his door and is dressed in all but his jacket, his tie draped around his neck.

Paul

Is he here?

Ellsworth

Please try to be civil.

Paul

I'll try, but I'm not promising anything.

Julian comes out again dressed exactly like Paul, tie draped around his neck also. Andrew opens his door and hobbles to the railing.

Andrew

Ellsworth! Ellsworth, how am I supposed to get down? Could you come help me?

Ellsworth

Get Julian to help you. I'm not climbing those stairs again tonight.

Andrew looks at Julian for a moment.

Andrew

I'll just listen from up here.

Andrew goes back into his dressing room and brings out a chair as Julian starts down the stairs.

Julian

Mr. Blumenthal, about tonight's performance, I don't want you to think for one...

Blumenthal

Julian, I'm not mad at you right now. Don't say something I'll regret.

Julian

Understood. Sorry.

Blumenthal

Nice tie.

Julian

Oh, Thank you! I bought it today at Bloomingdales.

Julian sneers at Paul. The dressing screen in LeBeau's dressing room falls as Randy and LeBeau crash into it yet again. LeBeau's robe is disheveled and they lay on the floor giggling. Ellsworth rushes to the door and opens it, Paul and Julian follow, Blumenthal pulling up the rear discovering Randy and LeBeau entwined in each other and kissing deeply.

Ellsworth (overlapped)
What was that! Randy get ... Oh.

Julian (overlapped)
I'm coming Diane, are you all ... Oh!

Blumenthal (overlapped)
Out of the way! Is Ms. LeBeau ... Oh.

Paul walks away from LeBeau's room self satisfied.

Paul
I could have told you.

Andrew
What is it? What's going on? What happened?
Would somebody talk to me up here!

Paul
Diane and Randy are making out in her dressing
room.

Andrew
Of course! Randy!

Randy
I can explain!

LeBeau
Don't bother Randy, we've been caught "in flagrante
delicto," we may as well come clean. Would you
help me up.

Julian
Why didn't you tell me?

LeBeau
Julian, a woman needs to have a few secrets.

Ellsworth
Um, Sorry but could we have this meeting?

LeBeau
Of course.

Julian
I can't believe you didn't tell me!

LeBeau
Julian, I didn't mean to hurt your feelings any
more than you meant to hurt mine with your comment

about movie actors.

Julian
I am SO sorry.

LeBeau
Forgiven.

Julian
Diane!

LeBeau
Sweet one!

Julian and LeBeau embrace.

Andrew
That's so sweet! I need a tissue.

Paul
Oh, I think I'm going to be ill.

Blumenthal
All right, if the Walton's are through?

Paul
Yeah, what's this big announcement?

Blumenthal
You all know now that Paul is leaving the show.

(Julian cheers.)

Yes, no great loss, that's what I thought too, but I'll be damned if I can find a replacement. Ticket sales have been nil...

LeBeau
But, tonight ... it was sold out!

Blumenthal
Lucky us, seventeen tour busses that couldn't get tickets to anything else making up an audience that makes my mother look like she belongs on the Good Ship Lollipop. Let me put it this way, they were going to Broadway when YOU were still a chorus girl.

Paul
No wonder no one walked out, they couldn't reach their walkers in time.

Blumenthal

And another thing, the only redeeming quality about tonight's show was this putz's performance. So, I've given it a lot of thought, how can I turn the show around, who can I call? Nothing and no one. So as of tonight, the show is closed.

Julian

What?

LeBeau sits in silent awe and Andrew leaps to his feet.

Andrew

You can't be seri ... Augh!

Paul

So that's it? That's the big announcement? Fine. I'm going home.

Julian

You can't close the show! You can't!

Blumenthal

Do you have an extra five million dollars to keep it running for another week or so? See if you can get an audience?

Julian

Well, no.

Blumenthal

There you go.

Julian

I can play Paul's role!

(Paul laughs.)

Andrew

Oh please!

Julian

I can!

LeBeau

Julian, let it go.

Julian

Et tu Diane?

LeBeau

Well, no, but Julian, we need to let it go. Let

the show go.

Julian

I don't have a movie deal to look forward to! I don't have the memories you have, I'm not writing a brilliant new script, I'm just an actor! I need a show! I have to have a show or I'm nothing Diane!

Julian falls to his knees and hugs Blumenthal's leg.

Mr. Blumenthal, you can't do this to me! Please! Please! Don't close the show! Please don't close the show!

Paul

Julian, please!

Blumenthal

You're cutting off the circulation in my leg.

Paul

Julian, let go.

Julian

Tell me you have another show in production! Tell me that and I'll let go!

Blumenthal

My foot's falling asleep, let go! Ellsworth, do something.

Ellsworth

Uh uh. I've been dealing with them, it's your turn. You're doing great.

Julian

I'm nothing without a show! I'm no one! Without a show I'm just Julian. I'm just me, and I don't like me!

Paul

Well, I hope you're happy!

Blumenthal

ME? I'm not the one who closed this show.

Paul

Oh no, you're right, it was me. It was all me. Listen you overgrown dwarf, if you'd kept your hands off this show it just might have had an outside chance of succeeding, but no, you had to have a say in every little decision. Don't think

the director and I didn't talk!

Blumenthal

Paul, I think you've done more than enough, just clear out of your dressing room and go home.

Paul

Oh, don't worry, I'm looking forward to it! But let me tell you, the world of theatre will be that much better if you never have anything to do with it ever again!

Blumenthal

Why you little...!

Blumenthal rushes at Paul with Julian still clinging to his leg and wraps his hands around Paul's throat attempting to strangle him. LeBeau does what she can to untangle Julian. Randy doesn't know what to do. Ellsworth sits calmly at his podium and Andrew cheers from above. Chaos erupts. All overlap.

LeBeau (overlapped)

Oh my god! Julian, darling look out! Julian! Get out from under there! Let go of his leg dear! Let go! Let go! Julian, listen to Diane! Listen to me! Let go of the leg! Oh for the love of Pete! You three are obviously not going to listen to reason.

Julian (overlapped)

Just a small part! I'll play the butler! I'll do a walk on! I'll do anything! I need a part! I need a play! Please Mr. Blumenthal... Carl! Can I call you Carl? This is all your fault! Movie deal my butt! You're ruining me! You're trying to destroy my life! You son of a bitch!

Paul (overlapped)

Augh! Let go of me! Get off me! I'm an actor, you can't...! Get off! Argh! I went to Julari for this? Let go! Julian! Julian get off my leg! That's my leg! Ow! You bit me! I can't breathe! I can't...

Blumenthal (overlapped)

Die! You pompous little weasel! Overgrown dwarf huh? I'll show you an overgrown dwarf! I'll kill you! I'll fucking kill you! Ow! Oh, my leg, I can feel my leg! That's right! Die! Worthless actors!

Randy (overlapped)

Ellsworth! Ellsworth, do something! Shouldn't we be doing something? Ellsworth! Diane, be careful! Look out! Ellsworth!

Andrew (overlapped)

Oh my god! People! Calm down! Get him Paul! Ms. LeBeau, the leg! Paul! Paul! Paul! Julian! Diane! Paul!

LeBeau finally goes over to the prop table as the three men continue to wrestle and grunt and beg and scream. She picks up the gun, points it up and fires three times. Silence falls over the scene.

LeBeau

Julian, let go of Mr. Blumenthal. Mr. Blumenthal, let go of Paul. Paul, not one word! Could we please try for one moment to behave like professionals?

Paul

You will be hearing from my lawyer.

Blumenthal

My lawyer will eat your lawyer for lunch.

Paul

I'll get five lawyers!

Blumenthal

I'll get ten!

LeBeau

I give up.

Paul

Oaf.

Blumenthal

Schmuck.

Julian

I'm unemployed.

LeBeau

I'm going to my dressing room.

Randy

I'll be right there.

LeBeau goes to her dressing room as Randy crosses to Ellsworth.

Paul
She's got you whipped into shape, doesn't she?

Julian
I'm unemployed.

Blumenthal
Julian, get up. Have your agent call me next week.

Julian
You mean it?

Blumenthal
No, I'm just playing with you like a mouse. Yes I mean it. I'll see what we've got.

Julian
Oh thank you, you won't regret it!

Paul
Just keep him on the east coast, that's all I ask.

Paul goes to his room.

Blumenthal
I have a friend who's casting for a Los Angeles production.

Julian
Bless you!

Blumenthal
Anything to make his life miserable.

Julian
I'll do my best!

Andrew
What? Wait, you mean that's it? The show is closed?

Blumenthal
That's it, the show is closed.

Andrew
Can I send you my script?

Blumenthal
Sure, fine, send it to me. I'll have Adelle read it.

Andrew

Thank you Mr. Blumenthal!

Blumenthal

Yeah, yeah. Ellsworth, don't think it hasn't been a little slice of heaven, cause it hasn't, but I'll tell you one thing, I have more respect for you than I thought possible.

Ellsworth

Yeah.

There is a knock at the stage door.

Blumenthal

Let me.

He opens the door to reveal Cathy.

Hello sweetheart!

Cathy

Oh, hello.

Blumenthal

Where have you been my whole life?

Cathy

Ellsworth?

Ellsworth

Cathy, this is Mr. Blumenthal, the producer.

Cathy

Oh! Hello. Wonderful show Mr. Blumenthal! I loved it!

Blumenthal

Finally someone who knows something about theatre!

Cathy

Is Ms. LeBeau in her dressing room?

Randy

Yeah, just knock.

Cathy

Thank you.

Cathy crosses to the dressing room.

Blumenthal

Who was that and how can I get her in my Mercedes?

Ellsworth
Good night Mr. Blumenthal.

Blumenthal
Right, right, good night Ellsworth.

Blumenthal opens the door.

Hey, it stopped raining.

Ellsworth
First good thing that's happened all night.

Cathy knocks on LeBeau's door.

Blumenthal
Good night.

Blumenthal exits. LeBeau comes out from behind the dressing screen and sits seductively at her vanity or on the settee.

LeBeau
Come in!

Cathy
Hello, Oh! Ms. LeBeau.

LeBeau
Cathy! I'm... I'm sorry, I was expecting someone else!

Cathy
Would you like me to go?

LeBeau
No, of course not! Oh, about tonight's show...

Cathy
You were wonderful! You all were! Even Paul!

LeBeau
I... I beg your... we were wond...? Well, what did you expect of professionals!

Cathy
I suppose I should have known it would be perfection with you in it. So much talent.

LeBeau
Oh Cathy, you are so sweet. Such a dear sweet child. But I know what happened out there tonight

was awful. I was there too. I experienced it.
It's very nice of you to try to make me feel better
but...

Cathy

I mean it!

LeBeau

It was utterly lacking any shred of humanity. I've
forgotten what it means to be human. I'm an old
worthless actress who can't do anything real
anymore. I can only do big. Ethel Merman would
have loved me.

Cathy

No! No, I was completely enthralled.

LeBeau

I'm listening.

Cathy

It was filled with humanity, it was human, it was
beyond human though, it was superhuman. You
weren't just Diane LeBeau out there, or Mary, you
were...

LeBeau

Margaret.

Cathy

I'm sorry?

LeBeau

The character is Margaret, not Mary. Not that it
matters.

Cathy

But that's just it! It didn't matter. You were
more than just those people, you were all women.

LeBeau

Really?

Cathy

Of course! And when you took off the wig it was
like you were...

LeBeau

It fell off.

Cathy

...breaking a... I beg your pardon?

LeBeau
Nothing dear, nothing.

Cathy
It was like you were breaking a rule, shrugging off the rules of society, saying to the world "I don't care if I don't look perfect! I don't care what you think of me! To hell with all of you! Fuck you!"

Cathy, having worked herself into a frenzy has caught herself offguard with this last outburst.

Oh my, did I just say... Oh, Ms. LeBeau, I'm so sorry!

LeBeau
Don't be.

Cathy
I am, I'm sorry, but your performance was so moving!

LeBeau
Perhaps my career isn't so dead as all that.

Cathy
What? NO! You should have heard everyone talking about you out there! They loved you! I loved you!

LeBeau
Sweet child. Sweet sweet child.

Cathy
You're crying.

LeBeau
Oh, oh, no. Just a little darling. Well, I suppose I had better start making some calls tomorrow. Find myself another show.

Cathy
Why?

LeBeau
Oh, Cathy, the producer came tonight after the show...

Cathy
Yes, I met him on the way in.

LeBeau
I'm sorry. Well, he had a bit of bad news for us.
Tonight was closing night.

Cathy
It can't be!

LeBeau
It is. Paul is going off to Hollywood, and me,
well, me... I had given up.

Cathy
You can't!

LeBeau
I'm not. Not now.

Cathy
Besides, you have all those offers! This pile of
papers, you said they were offers!

LeBeau
A little white lie I'm afraid.

Cathy
Oh.

LeBeau
Cathy, I don't know what twist of fate brought you
through the stage door tonight, and quite frankly,
I could care less. I'm just happy that you found
your way into my family.

Cathy sits and starts looking through the papers as LeBeau sits
silently watching her. Julian's door opens and he comes down the
stairs.

Julian
Ellsworth! Ellsworth, there is no way I'm going to
get all this home tonight! Will the theatre be
open tomorrow?

Ellsworth
Sure, they'll probably start striking the set in
the morning.

Julian
Not really how I imagined the show closing. Of
course I never even thought of it as a possibility.
I thought it would run forever and ever.

Ellsworth

I woke up in cold sweats with thoughts like that.

Julian
Oh, Ellsworth, I'm going to miss you!

Ellsworth
Don't hug me! Don't hug...! Oh fine.

Julian
Dear sweet Ellsworth!

LeBeau
Come, let's go.

LeBeau grabs her purse, jacket and hat and they head out.

Julian
Randy! Oh Randy!

Paul's door opens.

Paul
He's creating a scene isn't he?

LeBeau
You expected anything less?

Paul
Not really.

Julian
Paul! Diane! Cathy!

Julian makes his way across to them. LeBeau meets him half way.

LeBeau
Take care dear!

Julian
Write me from Vermont, will you?

LeBeau
Vermont my ass. I've still got work to do here!
There's a little magic left in me after all.

Randy
Really?

LeBeau
Really. I hope you aren't upset.

Randy

Not at all! Vermont scared the crap out of me!
Not a lot of Latinos there.

LeBeau
Oh, I love you!

Randy
Mi cara!

Paul
Ellsworth! Call me a cab!

Ellsworth
You're a cab.

Paul
Ah yes, that's what I'll miss most, your wry wit.

Andrew's door opens, he carries his briefcase and umbrella.
Papers are sticking out of the briefcase.

Julian
Cathy, I don't know what you did, but thank you!

Cathy
Nothing!

Paul
Good bye Julian. Write when you get work.

Julian
Paul, I at least get one last little kiss.

Paul
It goes against my better judgment.

Julian
Pweeze!

Paul
Oh fine. Come here.

Paul holds his arms open. Julian rushes into them and gives Paul a full on kiss. Paul struggles against it, and Julian finally pulls away.

Paul
Yow! You said a little kiss!

Julian
You know what? I think that did it. I think you are out of my system. I got absolutely nothing out

of that! Nothing!

Paul
It was no picnic for me either!

Andrew
Don't worry, I can get down by myself.

Paul
That's a big boy! Andrew, give me a call next week. I want another chance at reading your script!

Andrew
Oh, yes! Of course! Thank you Paul!

LeBeau
Good bye Paul.

Paul
Ellsworth, sign me O - U - T!

Ellsworth
Gladly.

Paul
The rest is silence!

Paul exits.

LeBeau
Cathy, would you like to go back to my apartment for some tea?

Cathy
Would I!

LeBeau
Good, and maybe some Chinese food. I know a wonderful place we can get some take out.

Cathy
Sounds like heaven!

LeBeau
Randy, call me when you're done here?

Randy
Sure thing.

LeBeau
Kiss kiss. Julian. Oh Julian, I love you.

Ellsworth, Parting is such sweet sorrow!

Ellsworth
Night Ms. LeBeau.

LeBeau
Shall we, Cathy.

Cathy
We shall.

Cathy and LeBeau exit.

Andrew
I'm doing just fine here. No need to help.

Ellsworth
Randy, would you please?

Randy
You got it.

Randy goes to help Andrew.

Andrew
Oh thank you Randy, thank you!

Julian
Well, I guess this is it. Oh, it's never easy is it? Closing night I mean? All that happened here. All the hard work. Poof. There it goes.

Andrew
Julian, for all the hell you've put me through, I'll miss you.

Julian
The hell I've put you through? What are you talking about?

Andrew
My script! My role! My ankle! I was going to try to make this pleasant, but... oh never mind. Good bye Julian.

Julian
Andrew, Andrew, wait! I'm sorry! I'm sorry!

Andrew signs out.

Andrew
Don't touch me! Don't touch me! God only knows

what you'll do to me next!

Julian
Good bye Andrew.

Andrew
Good bye!

Andrew pops open his umbrella.

Oh, it's stopped! How nice!

Andrew exits, and Julian runs to the door and shouts after him.

Julian
Andrew, is there a role for me in your play?

Andrew (OS)
NO!

Julian turns back in.

Julian
Worth a try. I suppose I should go out to see mother. I'll come back tomorrow to clear out my dressing room.

Ellsworth
Tell you what, don't. I'll clean it out personally and have it messengered over to you.

Julian
You would do that for me?

Ellsworth
I would do it for me.

Julian
Thank you! Well, Fare thee well, great heart.

Ellsworth
Good night.

Randy
Take care Julian.

Julian exits.

I guess that's it huh?

Ellsworth
I guess so. You wanna go hit the work lights?

Randy
You got it boss.

Ellsworth moves to the podium and turns off the light there.
Andrew comes back in.

Andrew
Sorry! Sorry, forgot something in my room, sorry!

Ellsworth
No problem. Be quick.

Andrew starts up the stairs as Ellsworth heads out toward the stage.

Andrew
Oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo! Ah. That hurt more
than the Stairmaster.

He goes into his dressing room and comes back out with a package of M and M's. He takes one out, pops it in his mouth.

Mmmmmmmmm.

Lights go out.

Oh no! Ellsworth! Randy! Anyone! Crap.

Curtain.