

Drama and Theatre

An Actor Prepares

Location: A rehearsal room. An empty space.

Characters: **ACTOR:** Used to be a 'name', but since working on a soap she/he has found it difficult to get work and leave the soap character behind. Charming and eager to please.

DIRECTOR: Dislikes auditioning. She/he is seeing this actor against their better judgement but has been talked into it as a favour for a friend. Weary and cynical.

*[The **ACTOR** walks into the empty space, obviously a little nervous and worried that there appears to be no-one to meet her/him. Looks around. **DIRECTOR** enters behind **ACTOR**'s back and takes the opportunity to 'size up' the actor. **DIRECTOR** coughs in order to attract attention and **ACTOR** spins round].*

ACTOR: Hi I'm Sam.

DIRECTOR: I know. Nice to meet you.

ACTOR: Is there only me here today?

DIRECTOR: Yup, just you.

ACTOR: Where shall I put my stuff?

DIRECTOR: Somewhere over there.

ACTOR: Well...

DIRECTOR: You know the part is not that big?

ACTOR: No such thing as a small part, only a small actor.

DIRECTOR: Quite.

ACTOR: So, what do you want me to do?

DIRECTOR: Right, well... the character has to wander into the Casualty Department at the beginning; and looking vulnerable, sit down, nursing what appears to be an injured hand.

ACTOR: Right, where is the door?

DIRECTOR: Wherever you want it. Oh, say here.

ACTOR: Okay, just give me a minute.

DIRECTOR: Anything wrong?

ACTOR: I'm just having trouble with 'vulnerable'.

DIRECTOR: Take your time.

ACTOR: Look, I am sorry this is a bad idea. I'm wasting your time.

DIRECTOR: Let me be the judge of that.

ACTOR: I am wrong for this, you have been very kind. Bye.

[Gathers belongings and leaves]

DIRECTOR: Oh, how the mighty have fallen. Mmmmm...time for lunch.

[exits]