



Mitchell Roush

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BIG DOG PUBLISHING
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Quiet on the Set!

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To
D.R., T.Q., and Issa—
*without your love and support
fueling my random ideas
my creativity would die.*

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Quiet on the Set! was produced by the International Theatre Academy of Norway in December 2010 in the TITAN Black-Box Theatre: Michell Roush, director.

MAN: Espen Klaeboe

WOMAN: Silje Hogstoyl

DIRECTOR: Sara Benedicte Bolstad

ASSISTANT: Rachael Stover

BOOM MIC-GUY: Daniel Husby Waltin

DEAF GUY: Havaard Susaas Halvorsen

Quiet on the Set! was produced by the York College Theatre Department in November 2011 in Gurganus Hall: Mitchell Roush, director.

MAN: Jordan Siebold

WOMAN: Morgan Goracke

DIRECTOR: Erin Florea

ASSISTANT: Lauren Post

BOOM-MIC GUY: Paul Helms

DEAF GUY: Ryan Nelson

BOY-BAND MEMBERS: Alan Clark, Daniel Magner, Alfred Peters, Parker Seilstad

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FARCE. At this low-budget film shoot, the director has no vision for the film, the boom-mic guy keeps falling asleep, the assistant has a tendency to panic, and the script is absolutely horrible. The director tries to salvage the film by forcing two wannabe method actors to rehearse their lines as a nerd and Valley Girl and then as a monkey and a parrot. When this doesn't work, the actors assume the roles of a boy band singer and an opera diva and sing their lines!

Performance time: Approximately 30 minutes.

Characters

(4 M, 2 F, 3 flexible, opt. extras)

DIRECTOR: Passionate, crazy film director who has no clue as to what his vision is for the film; flexible.

ASSISTANT: Type-A assistant who is unaware that she is annoying and has a tendency to freak out and stand way too close to the Director; female.

MAN: Sarcastic, arrogant method actor; male.

WOMAN: Moody method actor who is a bit of a diva; female.

BOOM-MIC GUY/GAL: Narcoleptic boom-mic operator who has to be constantly woken up; flexible.

DEAF GUY/GAL: Token film clapper who is always on cue even though he's deaf; flexible. Note: Name is Buck if male and Barb if female.

BOY BAND MEMBERS 1-3: Boy Band back-up singers and dancers; wear coordinating outfits that include khakis, all-white tennis shoes, wife-beater T-shirts under white button-down shirts, brown belts, and sunglasses; they have too much gel in their hair and wear various hats including a fedora, beanie, etc.; male.

EXTRAS (Opt.): As Film Extras who wander around silently munching Little Debbie Snacks, etc.

NOTE: Change the script accordingly for flexible roles.

Setting

Low-budget film shoot.

Set

Basic living room. There is a worn-out couch and coffee table CS along with a cheap painting that looks like it was purchased at Goodwill. A few film lights have been strategically placed throughout the set. There is a card table with Little Debbie snacks and juice boxes downstage and opposite the Boom-Mic Guy. A side table with a dimly lit lamp is optional.

Props

Boom mic
Clipboard
Papers
Note cards
Empty soda can
Piece of toilet paper
Movie clapper (can be homemade)
Little Debbie snacks, assorted
Juice boxes

SOUND EFFECTS

Karaoke version of a boy-band song
Air horn

"I WON'T perFORM tHIS
UNLESS I SPeNd at LEaSt FOuR WeeKS
LIVING IN a cAge
aNd eatIng NOtHING bUt crAckeRS.
I MUSt be tHe pArrot."

—WOMAN

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(AT RISE: Low-budget film shoot. A basic living room. Boom-Mic Guy is snoring on the couch. Woman enters and realizes she has to wake him up.)

WOMAN: *(Shouts in Boom Mic Guy's ear.)* Hey!

BOOM-MIC GUY: *(Startled.)* Hot Pockets!

(Boom-Mic Guy gets up, grabs his mic, and takes his place. Woman sits on the couch, waiting for the scene to begin. Scene begins. Woman is sitting on couch. Man enters.)

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Hey!"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "Hi."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "How was it?"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "You know."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "No, I don't."

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "Well, it was what it was."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Yeah. *(Woman sighs.)* Who'd you go with?"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "No one."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Really?"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "Really, really."

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Oh."

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "Yep."

(Two second pause.)

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "So, what'd you think?"

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "About what?"

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "The other night..."

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl.)* "Which night?"

MAN: *(As Nerd.)* "Um...Tuesday."

WOMAN: *(As Valley Girl. Realizing.)* "Oh, that night!"

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MAN: (As Nerd.) "Yeah!"

WOMAN: (As Valley Girl.) "I remember."

MAN: (As Nerd.) "So...?"

WOMAN: (As Valley Girl.) "So what?"

MAN: (As Nerd.) "What'd you think?"

WOMAN: (As Valley Girl.) "I'm not sure."

MAN: (As Nerd.) "Is that good or bad?"

WOMAN: (As Valley Girl.) "I'm not sure."

DIRECTOR: (From audience, shouts.) Cut!

(After Director says "cut," Boom-Mic Guy has trouble staying awake. Note: Throughout every exchange, Boom-Mic Guy falls asleep until he is woken up another character or by the Director yelling "Action!")

MAN: (To Woman.) Geez, that was horrible!

WOMAN: I'm not getting anything from you! It's like working with a brick wall.

(Assistant enters with a clipboard in hand, writing furiously. Note: Assistant has a tendency to get way too close to the Director. Director approaches Man and Woman.)

DIRECTOR: (To Man and Woman.) Stop, stop, stop! The scene's way too flat!

ASSISTANT: What do you suppose the problem is?

(Director turns around and is startled at how close Assistant is.)

DIRECTOR: Geez!

ASSISTANT: (Screams.) Aaaah!

DIRECTOR: Don't do that!

ASSISTANT: Don't do what?

DIRECTOR: Never mind. (To Man and Woman.) It's not working! In fact, that was downright terrible.

WOMAN: That was harsh.

MAN: (*Indicating the Director.*) But she's right!

ASSISTANT: Yeah, she is! That was awful!

(*Man, Woman, and Director all glare at Assistant. Pause.*)

DIRECTOR: We need something different. We need...

(*Thinks.*) ...animals! Yes, we need animals!

WOMAN: What?! You can't be serious.

MAN: (*To Assistant.*) Are they even in the budget?

ASSISTANT: (*Gasps.*) Animals?! Budget?! (*Starts flipping furiously through her papers. Panicking.*) Uh...no! Nope. No animals. How could this happen?!

DIRECTOR: Just cool your jets—

ASSISTANT: (*Panicking.*) Nobody told me about the animals! How am I supposed to round up the zoo when no one notifies me that we need it?!

DIRECTOR: Stop it!

ASSISTANT: (*Panicking.*) Who should I call?

DIRECTOR: Stop it!

ASSISTANT: (*Panicking.*) But the—

DIRECTOR: (*Slowly.*) Stop it. (*Assistant nods.*) You've got it all wrong. (*To Man and Woman.*) You're the animals.

WOMAN: What?!

MAN: (*To Director.*) Please, for the love of God, tell me you're joking.

ASSISTANT: (*To Director, confused.*) What?

DIRECTOR: (*Ignoring Assistant. To Man.*) Couldn't be more serious. (*Points at Man.*) I want you to be a monkey... (*To Woman.*) ...and you a parrot.

ASSISTANT: (*Realizes, relieved.*) Oooohhhh! I get it now! We don't need animals! They're going to be the animals! That makes perfect sense!

MAN/WOMAN/DIRECTOR: (*Amazed at how dumb that sounded.*) Wow.

DIRECTOR: Now, where was I? Oh, yes—

WOMAN: Excuse me. I won't perform this unless I spend at least four weeks living in a cage and eating nothing but crackers. I must *be* the parrot. How else could I do it?

MAN: *(To Director.)* If she gets to do that, then I get to be naked and swing from jungle branches!

DIRECTOR: Nope. None of that.

MAN/WOMAN: *(Posing.)* But we're *method* actors!

DIRECTOR: Don't remind me. Places! *(Shoos Man and Woman into place. Hears Boom-Mic Guy snoring. To Assistant.)* What's his problem?

ASSISTANT: It appears that he is asleep.

DIRECTOR: I know that. Do you know his name?

ASSISTANT: *(Referencing clipboard.)* Buck.

DIRECTOR: His name is Buck? *(Assistant nods.)* Buck what? *(Assistant shrugs.)* So it's just Buck, the boom-mic guy? *(Assistant nods.)* Well, wake him up!

(Assistant scurries over to Boom-Mic Guy.)

ASSISTANT: *(Shouts in Boom-Mic Guy's ear.)* Hey!

BOOM-MIC GUY: *(Startled.)* Hot Pockets!

(Boom-Mic Guy resumes recording. Assistant exits.)

DIRECTOR: Very good. Places! *(Sits in the audience. Deaf Man runs on and goes CS. With film clapper in hand, he signs the title of the film, signals "Take 2," and exits. Shouts.)* Quiet on the set! Action!

[END OF FREEVIEW]