



WHAT DO WE DO?

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CHARACTERS:
STAGE MANAGER
LISA
CORY
WILSON
SHARON
JANICE

Five actors are backstage preparing to go onstage and perform their matinee performance; but before they've been called to "Places" by the Stage Manager on their dressing room intercoms, the Stage Manager suddenly runs backstage and knocks on each dressing room door. Each door opens and the Stage Manager yells out...

STAGE MANAGER: Where is your Equity Deputy?

LISA: *Lisa is dressed in a clown costume, big floppy shoes and all. Her face is covered in red, white and blue clown makeup.*

Why? What's wrong?

STAGE MANAGER: No time to answer any questions. Where is your Union Rep?
She SCREAMS!!

Equity Deputy...GET OUT HERE NOW!

Wilson opens his dressing room door and peeks his head out; he's dressed as a Priest.

WILSON: What in the world is the matter?

Is it time for places?

Why are you back here?

STAGE MANAGER: We've got a problem?

WILSON: What kind of problem?

Another actor dressed in a long pink chiffon evening gown, great makeup and a pink wig to match his ensemble, and four inch heels; opens his dressing room door and comes out.

CORY: My God, these heels are killing me!!!!

What's going on out here?

Is it time for places?

Is the intercom broke?

Why is Ms. Stage Manager back here?

Ah Oh...is something wrong?

Are the sound cues and lights messed up...AGAIN?

Help us Jesus!

STAGE MANAGER: No it's WORSE

CORY: WHAT CAN BE MORE DEVASTATING THAN MESSING UP MY ENTRANCE MS. THING?!!!!

PLEASE!

Two women dressed as twins; but look nothing alike come out of their dressing rooms and join Cory.

JANICE & SHARON: Why's everybody out here in the hall? Are we late for places?

STAGE MANAGER: Noooooooo! Listen up. You guys are going to have to take an Equity Union vote and you're going to have to do it fast and I mean REALLY fast!!!!

WILSON: Well as the Union Deputy, what seems to be the problem? Vote on what?

STAGE MANAGER: You guys are going to have to do an "Audience Vote" and you need to do it now

WILSON: What do you mean an audience vote?

OH NO...NOT AN "AUDIENCE VOTE"!!!!

JANICE & SHARON: OH NO...NOT AN AUDIENCE VOTE!!!!

LISA: Oh MY GOD...AN AUDIENCE VOTE!!!!

CORY: Will SOMEBODY please tell me what the hell is an AUDIENCE VOTE...cause these heels are kicking my ASS!

WILSON: SHUT THE HELL UP CORY...DON'T NOBODY CARE ABOUT YOUR DAMM FEET! This is serious.

CORY: Well excuse me Father...with your non-acting ass!

JANICE & SHARON: OOOOO! Did he just go there? SNAP!!

CORY: I'm go SNAP both of your TWIN faces if you don't get out my business!

STAGE MANAGER: LISTEN!!! You don't have time for this foolishness. You've gotta vote and you've got do it fast so the House Manager can make the announcement.

LISA: The last time I was in a show and we had to do an Audience Vote, it was soooooo sad. I mean think of the money that's involved.

The tickets to see our show start at \$100 not to mention, they probably brought those \$40 drinks in the lobby while waiting, and chit chatting with...

OH MY GOD!

Who would they have to chit chat with?

Oh this is BAD!

STAGE MANAGER: Exactly my point. So go vote and I'll come back in 5.

JANICE & SHARON: Five?

STAGE MANAGER: Yes Five! So VOTE!

WILSON: OK...hey but wait you didn't tell us how many there are.

STAGE MANAGER: Three

LISA, JANICE & SHARON: THREE?

CORY: Three what? What in the hell are you all talking about? Three what? Just tell me if my spotlight is working tonight. The last 3 nights, those light cues were dreadful baby and I will not work onstage doing my monologue in the DARK! No! Not tonight. Not this Dazzling Queen...and my feet hurt too?!!!!

The Stage Manager ignores Cory and briskly walks away.

Go on walk away. But I bet those lights and sound cues better be working tonight or I'm gonna be on somebody's ASS. ***Softly mumbling under his breath...***walking away from me when I'm talking to you.

Now yelling loud!!

...Ms. Thing, I will take one of these shoes off and beat you like the MAN that I am!

Walking away from me...HA!

Don't let me read your ASS before a performance Missy!

WILSON: OK people we only have a few minutes so let's get to it. DAMMMMM 3.

CORY: Will somebody PLEASE tell me why we're voting, five minutes before I have to make my entrance?

LISA: When the cast is bigger than the audience, the actors have to take a vote before going onstage to decide if they're going to perform.

CORY: Are you trying to tell me that there are only THREE PEOPLE out there waiting to see ME?!

WILSON,LISA, JANICE & SHARON: YES!

CORY: OH HELL NO!

We better go and grab some people off the streets or something.

I'm not looking this FABULOUS for THREE people!

Have you lost your minds?

HELLLLLL TO THE NOOOOOOO!

WILSON: Well we know where He/She stands. What about you two?

LISA: This is a hard one, because I keep thinking about the money they've already spent to see us. We can't just "not go on" because there are only 3 people in the house.

CORY: YES WE CAN!

WILSON: So Lisa do you vote YES for doing the show?

Lisa looks around at the faces of the other actors, then suddenly speaks.

Yes.

I vote to do the show.

Think of it as doing a rehearsal run-thru with a "small" audience.

CORY: You mean a "tiny" audience!

This is BROADWAY PEOPLE!!!!

Whoever heard of doing a show on Broadway with an audience of THREE!

Definitely NOT ME BABY!

I'm going back in this dressing room and I'm taking off Ms. Chanel, Ms. Tina Turner Wig and these heels for the dead.

Mother will NOT be performing tonight.

Let me get my things and get me a cocktail and a joint too!

Cory walks back to his dressing room still talking.

Ya'll will not work my nerves tonight.

THREE?

Oh HELL NO!

Just give the children their money back and tell them to go with God.

They all ignore Cory as he slams his dressing room door behind him.

WILSON: OK, so that's one yes and one no.

I agree with Lisa, we should still go on.

Yes this is Broadway, but that's exactly why we should do it...because it is BROADWAY.

Think of all the hard work we've had to go thru to get here.

Look at all the shows that have closed because producers are losing money.

Think of what it was like to see them take the Chandelier down from “Phantom of the Opera” and load it on that truck NEVER to be seen again on Broadway after 35 years.

The longest running show on Broadway and now...*He tries to keep from crying*...it's gone.

So many young performers will never get to see it, unless they do a revival somewhere in Wisconsin or on a High School stage someplace in Indiana.

Three people came to see OUR show.

They probably aren't New Yorkers and maybe they just flew in for the weekend to see a Broadway show.

They got a fancy room at a nice hotel, had a great meal before walking over here to the theater and now...

Janice and Sharon are now in tears; both wiping their tears at the same time. Wilson looks over at them.

Well ladies it's now up to you.

You two have the deciding vote.

JANICE: *With tears streaming down her face.*

No.

WILSON: That's Two No's and Two Yes's.

Sharon?

What will it be?

Will there be a performance for three or will we go home and watch a Netflix movie?

SHARON: Well there is a writer's strike right now and who knows what's going to happen with Theater; we could be next...

Sharon takes a beat which seems like forever.

I Say...let's give me what they came here for...A SHOW!

WILSON: *Tears are now streaming down his face; but he manages a prideful smile.
He YELLS!*

Cory DON'T you take those heels off.

PLACES EVERYONE!!!

BLACKOUT