

The musical
THEATRE CAMP

Adapted by Kids Acting Workshop

CAST:

JOAN RUBINSKY (FOUNDER).....SASHA PYSARIEVA
AVIS KLOBUCHAR (Head of drama)POLINA ZHYLA
REBECCA-DIANE(Head of music)..ADRIANA OGANESIAN/REBECCA KEVLY
GLENN WINTHROP (Technical Director).....DAVID KEVLY
TROY RUBINSKY (New Owner).....ILLIA / OLEKSII KODATSKYI
RITA DOHEN (Camp Manager)...LIZA KAZAKOVA / ADRIANA OGANESIAN
JANET WALCH (Lied on resume)...NICOLE MADELEINE / ESMA GÖKNAR
CLIVE DEWITT (Head of dance)...DASHA LEVY / NICOLE MADELEINE
GIGI CHARBONIER (Costume Designer).....MASHA LIATAVSKA
CHRISTOPHER (Camper with broken arm).....ARKADII OGANESIAN
MACKENZIE (Camper, longest note)..ESMA GÖKNAR / LIZA KAZAKOVA
SEBASTIAN (Talented camper).....MARTIN ANTONENTS
DEVON (Camper, does taekwondo).....OLEKSII / ILLIA KODATSKYI
DARLA (Camper, too professional)...REBECCA KEVLY / DASHA LEVY
EMMA (A-student camper).....MILENA KOMLEVA
ABBY (Camper, chose camp over shiva session)....EVA ROMANOVA
CAROLINE KRAUSS (Rep from Camp Lakeside)...VERONIKA GUSLITSER
CHANTAL (Camper, shy and innocent).....POLINA ZAVIALOVA
ALAN PARK (Aspiring Agent).....MAKSIM DENISIUK
LILY (Camper who talks poetically).....ELZA KEROS
GEMMA (Camper who knows a lot).....EMMA ANTONENTS
CLARISSA (Camper who read War and Peace)...VARVARA SAVLOKHOVA
LEONARD (Camper who is into stage managing)..ARTEM IUROVSKIKH
DYLAN (Camper, working actor).....ZANDER KEROS
RICHARD (Camper who's into pantomime)..GABRIEL JVARSHVILI
POPPY (Camper who booked a commercial)....KATHERINE THOMPSON

ROXY (Smart and observant camper).....ROKSANA KODATSKYI
 TINA (Camper who is on her voice rest).....ARINA BYSHOVETS
 LADY (Hospital patient).....TIFFANI ANN MILLS

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Curtains are drawn. Bittersweet piano music playing, in a spotlight, Joan seated center stage like the heart of the room. Around her, little kids appear in separate pools of light, each performing fragments of plays and musicals. They are adorable, awkward, earnest, and just amateur enough to be completely charming.

JOAN

There's nothing like seeing a child on stage for the first time. They get up there, the lights hit, and suddenly, the whole world opens up. Theater for children, it's unbelievable what they learn. They learn to improvise, dance, sing, work with each other, and some of them really need it, they really do. That's why I built this camp. I wanted to make a place where anyone is free to be themselves. But keeping the camp open is a year-round job. That's why we spend the whole spring on the road, raising money, recruiting young talent. And, you know, we're theater people, so.
(CHUCKLES)
We know how to work a crowd.

The music kicks. The lights widen. The whole stage comes alive.

"NOT MUCH ROOM" Song starts.

The number should feel like a beautiful, panicked machine. Everyone is selling camp while barely holding it together.

ALL

Being at camp for a whole summer
(summer)
What it can do for a child. Whether you're first comer or master of drama. Our program is finely refined. We've got acting and dancing and singing and fencing. Improv and audition technique. Stage combat, and workshop of human enhancing. All this eighty hours a week, but...
We don't have much room left. We don't have much room. We don't have. No, we have a tiny wiggle room left. At AdirondACTS camp

JOAN
If you register today!

GLENN
"Joan Rubinsky - AdirondACTS camp
founder"

ALL
If your son needs a place to go.
And process his trauma. We found
lotta star campers at this school.
Every single summer

RITA
(dramatically)
Every single summer!

EMMA
"Rita Cohen - camp manager"

RITA
(on the phone)
I know Willow was freaked out by
the bedbugs, tell her they're gone.
Yes, we can accommodate gluten-
free, dairy-free, and fame-free.
(beat)
No, we cannot "guarantee Broadway."

ALL
We're so behind. We're so behind.
We're so behind. We're so behind.
We have to raise more money. We
have to get them signed. Before the
parents change their mind

RITA
Please just keep in mind

ALL
We don't have much room left. We
don't have much room. We don't
have. No, we have a tiny wiggle
room left. At AdirondACTS camp

CHOIR #1
We don't have much room

CHOIR #2
Left!

CHOIR #1 (CONT'D)
We don't have much room

CHOIR #2 (CONT'D)
Right!

ALL
 We don't have much room. No, we
 have a tiny wiggle room at
 AdirondACTS

CHRISTOPHER
 Camp!

CHOIR #1
 Scholarship?

CHOIR #2
 No!

CHOIR #1 (CONT'D)
 Bedbugs?

CHOIR #2 (CONT'D)
 Already gone!

CHOIR #1 (CONT'D)
 Meisner?

CHOIR #2 (CONT'D)
 What's that?

CHOIR #1 (CONT'D)
 Is it safe?

JOAN
 It's art!

RITA
 I was thinking we could give Leo a
 lead

JOAN
 Leo?!

CHOIR #1
 Leo?!

CHOIR #2
 Leo Leo?!

JOAN
 My ears will bleed

ALL
 He's tone-deaf and a snitch. But
 his parents are rich

JOAN
 Oh, come on. You know we don't..

ALL
 ...do things that way

JOAN
 It's always about the talent - that
 is the aim
 (pause)
 How rich?

CHOIR #1

How rich?

CHOIR #2

So rich!

ALL

We don't have much room left. We don't have much room. We don't have. No, we have a little bit of wiggle room left

CHOIR #1

For one more

CHOIR #2

One more

CHOIR #3

One more

ALL

Future star!
At AdirondACTS camp

The strobes intensify. The room reaches its peak as Joan drops on the ground. The music cuts out like someone yanked the plug. Everyone freezes and gasps

RITA

Oh, my God! Joan! Joan! This is...
Somebody help me! Somebody help me.
She's not breathing. This is not
part of the show. I need help!

ALAN

Joan Rubinsky suffered a seizure from the strobe light. It was the first musical-related injury in the history of Passaic County.

SEBASTIAN

Joan is now in a coma. In her absence the camp will be run by her son - Troy Rubinsky - business vlogger

Blackout.

TRANSITION TO TROY-JAN

Troy appears mid-vlog, framed way too close. He's performative, and visibly addicted to his own camera angle.

TROY

What's up, Troy-jans? It's your boy, Troy. Just right off the bat, wanna keep it real with you guys, feeling a little exposed without my ring light. But you know what? We still out here. As you guys know, I don't usually like to talk about my... (CLEARS THROAT) To be honest, I've been going through some low-key personal stuff lately and I just feel obligated to let you guys know that. Long story short, theater gave my mom a coma. She's down for the count for... (INHALES DEEPLY) we really don't know how long. Unfortunately, that's just kinda how comas go. But fear not, fam. Even though I never really vibed with my mom's camp and spent my summers doing dope stuff with my friends, I happen to be a financial guru and world-renowned business mentor. Yeah, I do that kind of stuff. Your boy has the BDE. That's right. The business development expertise - to hold down the fort. Over the next three weeks, I'm gonna give you an inside look at how I can take a business from lame... to lit.

(he backs up and bumps
into Glenn)

Let's build.(GASPS) Oh, my God,
there's a person.

GLENN

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I was in here fixing the lights, and then you came in and I panicked and stayed. I'm Glenn. I'm the technical director.

MACKENZIE

Glenn Winthrop - 3rd generation
stage manager

TROY

How you doing?

GLENN

Not bad, except the fact that
Joan..you know

TROY

Yeah...

GLENN

I heard that you'll be in charge in the meantime and while you're here can I run a few things by you, only if it's a good time

TROY

Yeah, totally. Go ahead

GLENN

So, the most pressing matters are in the main stage. Right now, the cyclorama is buckling. It needs to be re-anchored. Uh, we're gonna need to prioritize the remaining equipment for the musicals, which means the straight plays are gonna have to be acoustic. Uh, which is actually how they do it on Broadway

TROY

Can I just cut you off? Real quick. It seems like you've got a pretty good handle on this...

GLENN

Uh-huh

TROY

So I'm just gonna take "understanding a word you're saying" off my list and let you take it from here

GLENN

Okay

TROY

Quick question, though, what's a straight play?

GLENN

Well, there are musicals, and then there are straight plays.

TROY

Oh, cool!

ROXY
Arrival day!

TRANSITION TO ARRIVAL DAY

Music bursts in. Kids pour onto camp grounds with duffels, garment bags, giant water bottles, dance shoes clipped to backpacks, and the energy of people arriving at the center of their universe. Some shriek and hug. Some immediately begin ranking each other's summer glow-ups. One kid (Poppy) is already stretching. Another (Tina) is in vocal rest and somehow makes that everyone's problem. Rita stands in the middle of the storm with a clipboard and a smile that says she has done this a thousand times.

RITA
Right here! Over here! Hi
everybody! Welcome back!

Kids cheer

RITA (CONT'D)
If you happen to be twins please
don't switch your shirts, I get too
confused

LILY
We definitely have to bunk together

GEMMA
Absolutely! I'll take the top

AVIS
Oh God! (GROANS) I've been here 10
minutes and it's unbearable

REBECCA-DIANE
Oh my god!

They hug

CHRISTOPHER
Avis Klobuchar - head of drama.

ABBY
Rebecca-Diane - head of music
theory.

CHRISTOPHER
They're best friends who attended
AdirondACTS camp for 11 years!

ABBY

After graduation, they've been teaching at the camp.

AVIS

He's, like, wandering about. He has no idea where he is, what he's doing.

REBECCA-DIANE

He can't see?

AVIS

No, he only talks to his camera. He's vlogging...

REBECCA-DIANE

Oh my god!

AVIS

The least creative person I've ever met, and I've yet to speak to the guy. And half the staff has been cut. They're not even coming back.

REBECCA-DIANE

We need a coup.

AVIS

Well, there's not even enough of us to have a coup now.

REBECCA-DIANE

Joan wouldn't even want it

AVIS

We really have to hold this place down artistically. I can't believe she's not here

REBECCA-DIANE

Me neither!

The kids gather in loose clusters, pretending to be casual while fully clocking one another. Every sentence is either a flex, a wound, or both. This scene should move like verbal jazz - fast, overly sincere, and absurdly self-aware.

SEBASTIAN

All I was doing was blowing the roof off of our performance. Then I look over to my house seats and there's Joan, convulsing.

CHRISTOPHER

What?!

SEBASTIAN

It was frightening. I obviously stayed in character.

RICHARD

That can't be real!

CLARISSA

I read War and Peace twice, once in English once in Russian

GEMMA

So how do you like Tolstoy's writing?

CLARISSA

I'd say for that era it's not that bad

DYLAN

I got a call back for a Feature but then my mom twisted her ankle so she couldn't drive me there

POPPY

Oh no, I'm so sorry! I booked a national commercial - thanks for asking!

DYLAN

I knew you'd break through one day!

RICHARD

I took pantomime classes and now I can understand Chaplin's influence in a modern cinematography

TINA

Interesting! Sorry I can't speak much, I'm on my voice rest

EMMA

As I'm auditioning I'm realizing that I can't cry on demand, even though it's never been a problem for me. So now I know my blockage and this is going to be my intention to work on this semester

ABBY

Yeah, I need to work on surrender
and Stanislavsky technique

DEVON

Still struggling with cold reading,
like how do you stay in the moment
while searching for your lines
while listening to your scene
partner, while hitting the mark and
also act?

CHANTAL

It'll come to you! Just trust the
process!

CHRISTOPHER

My dad reads the news out loud
almost every day and this energy
and information is so heavy for me.
Why can't he understand that I'm an
empath. It's my tool. Just be
considerate

ALAN

I eventually fired my manager. He
said I'm "a niche.". His loss. Now
I represent myself

DARLA

Hope your iMDB ratings won't drop
significantly

Troy comes to a mic. Announcement time.

TROY

All right. Let's take a knee with
the talking, fam. Listen up! Keep
it down. Fam? Squad? Gang? Maybe,
uh, zip it? Everybody. Can we just
get you guys to...

Kids fully ignore him. Avis comes to the mic and sings,
obviously it's their tradition

AVIS

(SINGING) Oh, what a beautiful

ALL

(SINGING) Morning!

Everyone now pays attention. Silence!

TROY
 Dope. That was dope. Whaddup,
 AdirondACTS? (IMITATES FANFARE)
 Um...You guys know Joan, right?

All cheer

AVIS
 (chanting)
 Joan! Joan! Joan! Joan!

TROY
 Yeah, um, so she's not here. Um,
 you know, which we're all very sad
 about. But don't worry. I'm her
 son. Troy! Um...Don't worry, guys.
 I just wanna reassure you this will
 be a normal summer. You can check
 out my website www.troy....

Gigi comes in. Rather rudely interrupting Troy

TROY (CONT'D)
 Oh yeah, go ahead!

GIGI
 (to Troy)
 We're good. Thanks so much.
 (to all)
 Hi, guys!

Everyone bursts. Total celebrity energy

CLARISSA
 We love you Gigi!

ALAN
 Gigi Charbonnier - costume designer

GIGI
 So a few reminders. I just need to
 know all of your updated sizes by
 tomorrow. Also, sad news, I will
 not be doing piercings anymore in
 the hut. Yeah. Because there's a
 narc amongst us. Um, Gemma has
 narced. It's totally fine. Uh,
 yeah. Okay, I love you guys.

Avis and Rebecca-Diane come to the mic. Everyone cheers even
 harder. Troy's confused.

AVIS

As you all know, I'm Avis
Klobuchar, head of drama.

REBECCA-DIANE

Rebecca-Diane, head of music
theory.

AVIS

We are now going to announce, as we
do every summer..

BOTH

This session's productions. Five
Six, Seven, Eight

They start stomp and clap rhythmically, everyone picks it up

REBECCA-DIANE

There once was a story. 'Bout a
girl named Lisa

AVIS

She wanted to perform. But she
didn't have her visa

BOTH

Sorry about your visa, Lisa. Five,
six, seven, eight. Lisa! Lisa!
Lisa! Visa! In the land of Andrew
Lloyd where the felines sing and
dance. Whisker faced in unitards.
You can join their feral prance.
Cats immersive. An original piece
And it's fully brand new. And it's
fresh from our hearts. Written just
for you. But you've gotta be good,
yeah. You've gotta be great. You've
gotta be the crme de la crme. Of
the place

DYLAN

Every year Avis and Rebecca-Diane
write, compose and direct an
original musical - the premier
production of the summer

LILY

Here's some previous productions:

MACKENZIE

"Blackmail & Botox". Don't give her
anymore lip

RICHARD

"The Briefcase, The Door and The Salad"

CHANTAL

"A Hannukkah Divorce"

AVIS

This summer it's a story...

REBECCA-DIANE

About a woman in her glory.

AVIS

The founding of a space...

REBECCA-DIANE

That has become our favorite place.

AVIS

A woman who all in this room deeply love

REBECCA-DIANE

And she's looking down, not quite from above.

AVIS

Joan can...

REBECCA-DIANE

Joan will...

AVIS

Joan here? (SNAPPING FINGERS)

Glenn rushes to get the sign

BOTH

Joan, Still!

Everyone cheers

MACKENZIE

They have yet to begin writing the show!

EMMA

To cut costs, Troy fired several longtime teachers and looked for someone who could replace them all

CHRISTOPHER

Only one person applied. Her name
is Janet Walch..and she definitely
lied on her resume

TRANSITION TO INTERVIEW

Janet is improvising in real time. And tries to blend in.
Troy is impressed by literally everything. Janet realizes
this almost immediately and keeps going.

TROY

Your resume is absolutely stacked.

JANET

Thank you.

TROY

Yeah. How did you learn stage
combat?

JANET

Oh! Oh, man. It's hard to even say
'cause I've been doing it for so
long.

TROY

Totally.

JANET

Yeah.

TROY

How about accent work?

JANET

(IN A NON-EXISTING ACCENT) Oh. You
no worry. I can do it, don't worry.

TROY

That's really neat. How about
horseback riding? Jousting? Is that
like with the...?

JANET

(IN NORMAL VOICE) Yeah. That is
with those. Yeah.

TROY

And then when did you learn how to
juggle?

JANET

Well, um... Oh, there was a fire at my house. And that's sort of how I dealt with the trauma.

TROY

Wow! You're definitely overqualified and we...I would love to have in our camp

JANET

Oh! Thanks! Yeah..I'm gonna say.."Yes"!

TRANSITION TO AUDITION

RITA

Audition time!

The audition room feels sacred, cruel, and completely overblown. Every teacher is trying to project warmth while radiating judgment.

Audition Song

CLIVE

Wow! Yes. Progressions across the floor. Very nice, both of you, yes. Front. Higher. Higher. Ah! Ah! Listen, these are some Cassie battements. You're doing a little cheater flick.

ALAN

Clive DeWitt - Head of dance

DARLA

"I am running late for my niece's christening."

MACKENZIE

"I don't want to find another therapist, David."

LEONARD

"I have spent my whole life being told to shrink, and tonight I will not."

EMMA

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

AVIS

Welcome, group two of auditioners.

CLIVE

I know that this is an incredibly stressful process and it kinda feels like life and death but..

GIGI

It's designed to feel that way

REBECCA-DIANE

I know it's been a long day for you guys, but...

AVIS

If you drop a line, or a note is a little off-key, you crack or something, just, what does that say about you?

REBECCA-DIANE

Mmm-hmm

GLENN

Break a leg to you all

TROY

Yo. Sorry I'm late.

REBECCA-DIANE

I don't think you were... Oh. What is he doing here? Did you call him?

GIGI

Do I look like I lost my mind?

RITA

Emma, 10 years old, has a goldfish named Johnny. And she's gonna kick us off with I Dreamed a Dream from Les Mis

AVIS

Oh, you know what? That's a good song choice for her.

Emma walks in, nervous but confident

REBECCA-DIANE

Whenever you're ready

Emma clears her throat

RITA
And music please!

I Dreamed A Dream starts

EMMA
(singing)
I dreamed a dream in time gone by.
When hope was high and life worth
living. I dreamed that love would
never die. I dreamed that God would
be forgiving. But the tigers come
at night with their voices soft as
thunder. As they tear your hope
apart. And they turn your dream to
shame...

AVIS
Thank you! That is enough..

RITA
Sebastian, 8 years old, prepared a
rendition of "No Place Like London"
from Sweeny Todd

SEBASTIAN
(singing)
There's a hole in the world like a
great black pit. And the vermin of
the world inhabit it. And its
morals aren't worth what a pig
could spit. And it goes by the name
of London. But not for long

CLIVE
Oh, look at him

AVIS
I know

GIGI
He's giving 110%

RITA
Darla, 12, is 2,073 on the IMDb
Star Meter

GIGI
It says you're allergic to
polyester, why?

No response

DARLA

What if when he sees me. I like him
and he knows it. What if he opens
up a door. And I can't close it?
What happens then? If when he holds
me. My heart is set in motion. I'm
not prepared for that. I'm scared
of breaking open

AVIS

(whispering)

This is an example of a kid who
started working way too young

TROY

You got snacks?

GIGI

No, I don't have anything

RITA

Christopher, 9 years old, 2 weeks
ago broke his arm but quote
"Nothing can break his dreams".

CHRISTOPHER

Which of the Pickwick triplets did
it? Who of the crew could commit
this crime? Might a little brat
make a mommy go splat? It's a story
pretty gory for a nursery rhyme.
Which of the Pickwick triplets did
it? Which of the spawn had the
brawn to kill? Will a baby get
tried for matricide? Coochie-
coochie-coo, time for you or you or
you to admit it. So quick as a whip
gotta pick which Pickwick triplet
did it....Um, that rhythm was
wrong. Can we do that again?

REBECCA-DIANE

Actually there's no need...I think
we heard..

AVIS

Yes... Absolutely. Thank you!

Troy is so disengaged he's nearly asleep

RITA

Mackenzie, 9 years old. Legally
blonde. That's it, no more notes

MACKENZIE

No, no, I can't wait, I will be there at 8. When they unlock the door. I am so much better. I am so much better. I am so much better than before!

RITA

Devon, 13, he has a green belt in taekwondo

DEVON

(singing)

You know, I think that I'm better now. Better now. You only say that 'cause I'm not around. Not around. You know I never meant to let you down. Let you down. Would've gave you anything. Would've gave you everything

Troy hears something he's familiar with. Gets up and sings along

BOTH

(singing)

You know, I think that I'm better now. Better now. You only say that 'cause I'm not around. Not around. You know I never meant to let you down. Let you down. Would've gave you anything. Would've gave you everything. Oooo!

TROY

That's what's up, dawg. Finally.

AVIS

Can you clear now, please? Thank you.

TROY

That was bussin'

AVIS

It's very inappropriate to give feedback during the audition

REBECCA-DIANE

Please don't internalize that

CLIVE

Yeah..It's Devon?

DEVON

Yeah

GIGI

Your first summer?

DEVON

Here?

REBECCA-DIANE

Yeah!

TROY

Do you know any other Post songs that you could like, rattle off the dome, like maybe Wow or Congratulations...or the one from the Spider-Verse soundtrack?

REBECCA-DIANE

I think it's enough Devon, thanks. Let's move on

RITA

Abby, 8, chose this session over sitting shiva for her cousin

CLIVE

Okay, putting the work first

As Abby walks in and is about to sing, another woman walks in and interrupts

CAROLINE

Oh, uh, excuse me, I just need a second

(to Abby)

That was beautiful

RITA

Ma'am, you can't be back here

CAROLINE

I'm sorry. Um...Hi. My name's Caroline Krauss. I'm a rep from Camp Lakeside

DARLA

Lakeside Camp is the pricey neighboring camp where each kid gets a personalized iPad and an offshore account

AVIS

Okay, well, whatever it is you're selling, we don't want any

CAROLINE

Oh, I was actually here to introduce myself to the, uh, new boss. Is there... Is Troy here?

TROY

Yes, it's me..

CAROLINE

Can I have a quick word with you?

TROY

Yes..

(pause)

Like now?

CAROLINE

Uh huh

He stands up. Long pause

REBECCA-DIANE

Here?

CAROLINE

Uh huh

REBECCA-DIANE

Oh, she wants to do it here

AVIS

Okay, let's take 10 everybody

Everyone leaves devastated that the audition process was interrupted, especially Abby

ABBY

(to Caroline)

I was warming up my vocal cords for 45 minutes. If I don't make the cut that's on you! Both of you!

(threatening gesture)

After everyone left

CAROLINE

I am so sorry to hear about your mom. My entire team at Barnswell Capital is sending healing thoughts

TROY
Wait, Barnswell Capital? Like the
Barnswell Capital?

CAROLINE
Yeah

TROY
Whoa..Your work is so inspiring. I
mean, the Gentri-vacation Project.

CAROLINE
I have to say Gentri-vacation was
my brainchild

TROY
Wow!

CAROLINE TROY (CONT'D)
You know You know, um

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry

TROY
You go

CAROLINE
I was just gonna say that you seem
to know a lot about business

TROY
I'm a bit of a money man myself.
You know, I've been trying to bring
some of my en-Troy-preneurship to
the AdirondACTS

CAROLINE
That's funny. That's catchy, en-
Troy.

TROY
My name's Troy.

CAROLINE
I know. I understood it completely
the first time I heard it

TROY
Yeah

CAROLINE
That's kind of what we're doing
with Lakeside Camp

TROY

Yeah?

CAROLINE

Yeah, we recently acquired it so I'm doing kind of a complete overhaul of the management structure

TROY

Wow

CAROLINE

I think it's commendable what you're doing here. Taking on the burden of your mother's condition

TROY

Yeah

CAROLINE

And her struggling business. That's gotta be so much weight on your shoulders

TROY

Yes, it is

Glenn overhears the conversation and realizes Caroline is trying to manipulate Troy. Thinking fast, he grabs a ladder and creates a fake work emergency in the exact spot where they're talking, making it nearly impossible for them to continue.

GLENN

Excuse me. So sorry. This is an active work zone. I'm gonna need you to vacate the area

CAROLINE

Uh, just one moment. Troy, I think this could be an exciting opportunity for the both of us.

TROY

Wow..Yeah

GLENN

You know what? I'm gonna need this exact space to get up really high for some work

CAROLINE

Look, Troy, I don't need to tell you that the bank has filed a notice of default

TROY

What?

Glenn is in shock, but acts like there's no problem

CAROLINE

And it's not news to you, of course, that they're weeks away from foreclosing on this place

TROY

No, that's definitely not news to me

CAROLINE

Listen, I think I can help you get out of this jam. I know I speak on behalf of my entire board of directors when I say that Barnswell Capital would love to get into bed with AdirondACTS

TROY

Okay

CAROLINE

Sleep on it. I'll come back later. I got your back

Caroline leaves. The audition resumes

GLENN

(to Troy)

I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt that conversation. That was very out of character for me. A little brazen...

TROY

Hey, you can't tell anyone about this foreclosure thing, okay? It's between me and you.

GLENN

Uh, yeah. Uh, our little secret.
But I do think you should know,
Barnswell Capital, they're not
people that we should be getting
into bed with. Lakeside is the
enemy

Everyone gets back

AVIS

Abby, please! Whenever you're
ready! Use this challenge to your
advantage

Defying Gravity starts

ABBY

(singing)

Tell them how I am defying gravity
I'm flying high, defying gravity
And soon I'll match them in
renown...

GLENN

They've been trying to get this
land for a very long time, and I
think Joan's success is,
in large part, due to the fact
that she has leaned on us,
AdirondACTS family, and your mother
used to say, "We're theater people.
"We know how to turn cardboard into
gold."

ABBY

(singing)

...And nobody in all of Oz
No Wizard that there is or was
Is ever gonna bring me down! Bring
me down!

Lights shut off

ABBY (CONT'D)

What?

REBECCA-DIANE

Oh my god!
(calling)
Troy?

ABBY

You know what, you're not ruining
my final note...

(wicked popular ending)

Ooooooooooooo!

Board applaudes

AVIS

Atta girl!

TROY

I really need to start reading the
mail

Blackout.

TRANSITION TO WE'RE THE WITCHES

Flashlights light the kids' faces from below. The chant feels
half summer-camp ritual, half coven.

ALL

Peters, Foster, Streisand, LuPone.
Give us a role we can make our own.
Audra McDonald, Idina Menzel. We
are the witches, and this is our
spell

Chita Rivera, Liza, Elaine
If we don't get leads, we'll summon
the rain

Barbra, Sondheim, Prince, Fosse
Give us a role that's main-
character glossy

Bette Midler, Baranski, Streep
If I'm "Ensemble," I'm going to
weep

We are the witches, we chant with
our breath-

If you double-cast us, who do you
impress?

Dear Stanislavski we beg of you
No one desires to be "Tree Number
Two".

Casting board, casting board -
we're so stressed. We manifest,
that we did our best. So post the
list...and bless this mess. Can't you
see how we're obsessed

The staff is sitting around the table with candles lit,
deciding who and what roles they're gonna cast. They're
surrounded by a board with headshots. The room feels
secretive and chaotic.

The kids outside wait like their entire lives depend on it. Rebecca-Diane channeling Joan should walk the line between spiritual ceremony and total camp nonsense.

RITA

Move on. We're gonna move on

GIGI

Okay

RITA

Okay. What about her?

REBECCA-DIANE

I think she's good..I like her

TROY

She killed it!

GLENN

She's very talented

CLIVE

No! No! She can't move. I'm sorry but it's a hard "no" for me..How do you want me to handle her? It'll take years before she can move cohesively with an ensemble

AVIS

How can we talk about "her" if we didn't even pick a lead

GIGI

Do you think you could channel her for us?

AVIS

Just try. I know you don't like to do it on command, but maybe Joan has some wisdom to offer in this moment

CLIVE

Here in this situation room...Please do it!

RITA

Oh, I would love to...Oh, I wanna talk to her. I have so many things to tell her

Rebecca-Diane starts channeling Joan, her eyes are rolled she makes humming sounds

ALL

Joan! Joan! Are you there?

RITA
Are you here Joan?

TROY
(standing up)
Guys, real quick

CLIVE
Joan, speak to us.

TROY
I'm gonna head out just 'cause the
candles and kids thing is making me
feel a little bit weird.

AVIS
We don't have that much time to
begin with

ALL
Thank you!

GIGI
That's fine. Please.

Troy eventually leaves

AVIS
Oh, my God!

CLIVE
Can we get back to the business at
hand?

AVIS
Can we open up the discussion in
terms of leads? I'm just gonna
throw a name out. Chantal.

CLIVE
Chantal. Yes, Chantal. It's exactly
what I was thinking. Chantal.

RITA
Chantal! Chantal!

GIGI
Chantal it is!

RITA (CONT'D)
Wait..Which one is it?

Rita moves the picture from the board to a lead actors
section

CLIVE
Her. Yes. Yes!

RITA
She's going here?!

REBECCA-DIANE

I'm just worried she doesn't have...No, don't place her there! I'm worried she doesn't have enough experience to play it. Obviously, everyone on this board is very young, but Chantal seems like a very fragile and innocent one...

I agree...

AVIS

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)
...the minute that she steps into a room

GIGI

I don't wanna see Chantal in a feather

AVIS

I hate to admit that it's a great point

RITA

Okay, let's just table the meek ones

CLIVE

Well, can't we get her there?

GIGI

Get her there? How do we get her there?

REBECCA-DIANE

Get her there? What do you want us to do?

CLIVE

I don't know how. You're the acting teachers. Get her there

AVIS

It's impossible

RITA

What do we do with Sebastian?

CLIVE

Oh, he's good!

AVIS

He's already taken

CLIVE

What'cha mean? I have no one decent for choreo. You took them all

REBECCA-DIANE

Listen..You take Emma, we'll take Sebastian. Hmmm?

CLIVE

Alright! Now we have a deal.

REBECCA-DIANE

Darla is definitely Joan

GIGI

You can have Darla

AVIS

I'm sorry. For what?

REBECCA-DIANE

To play Joan. Grown Joan.

AVIS

She's not even on my list.

REBECCA-DIANE

She's obviously the best one.

AVIS

Joan is the most organic and warm person that I know. It emanates from her and Darla, it's sort of like, put on and then another layer, put on and then another layer, put on... Like all of the work she's done...

REBECCA-DIANE

I find her so free....Just sit with it for a second.

AVIS (CONT'D)

All the sets she's been on just reek on her. She smells like Disney and Netflix

Avis come to Darla's picture and slowly moves to a lead roles section

AVIS (CONT'D)

Ugh...Please don't disappoint me!

TRANSITION TO CAST LIST

The board leaves. Glenn and Leonard are fixing the breakers

GLENN

Okay. Where do you think this one goes? Well, it looks like it was some kind of short. Did you check the...

LEONARD
Breakers? Yeah, I killed them
already.

Glenn attaches his mechanism, electric beep heard, Glenn
beautifully vocalizes

LEONARD (CONT'D)
Wow, that's really pretty, Glenn.

Lights are finally on

RITA
Campers, the cast lists are up.

ALL CLAMORING EXCITEDLY

ALL
Oh, my God! Oh, my God! Oh, my God!

Rushing towards the cast list chaotically

SEBASTIAN
Out of the way!

LILY
Let me see!

TINA
Little person coming through..Pick
me up!

GEMMA
Am I going to be a cat? Is it a
metaphor?

CLARISSA
What? No way!

DYLAN
I can't believe it

Excitement through the roof

GEMMA
I'm so proud of you!

RICHARD
Oh my god... they *understood* me.

DARLA
Thank you!

Alan (aspiring agent) on the phone

ALAN

You've got to hear her sing, Marty. She just booked the title role in Joan, Still...and I'm this close to signing her. She's the whole package.

ANGRY MOM (V.O.)

(on the phone)

My daughter is a genius

TROY

(stressed)

I hear you loud and clear. Believe me, you're not the only one who's upset. I've been getting a lot of calls.

ANGRY MOM (V.O.)

(on the phone)

How dare you do this to my daughter? I'm seriously going to do something if my daughter is not the lead by tomorrow.

TROY

Ma'am, again, I was not involved in the casting decision. I will be sure to pass that on. But in the meantime, if you wanna bribe me..I am very open to...

DARLA

Troy, right?

ANGRY MOM (V.O.)

(on the phone)

Are you listening to me?

TROY

Hold on one second. Hi, yes.

DARLA

Hi. I'm Darla.

TROY

Hi Darla

DARLA

I just wanna thank you for entrusting me to inhabit your mother in Joan, Still.

TROY

Wasn't me who made the decision,
but of course.

DARLA

I'd love to have a sit-down. Go
over her mannerisms, tics,
favorite foods and traumas.

TROY

Right on. Um...

DARLA

Do you happen to have her dream
journal?

TROY

Dream journal. Um, you might have
to come back.

RITA

Troy, all the freezers were out
last night, so the meat turned. So
what do we serve for lunch?

DARLA

I'll come back later.

TROY

(flapping lips)
Ugh...

RITA

Have a big breakfast.

TROY

Rita....

TRANSITION TO CLASSES

CLIVE

Class, to dance is the highest
expression of human existence.

AVIS

Acting is remembering and then
choosing to forget.

REBECCA-DIANE

Music is the closest thing we have
to the other side

Janet makes ridiculous movements with the mask,
awkward..looks like a robot dance maybe..hard to tell

JANET

Mask work

GIGI

So, I'm gonna be teaching you guys a little fashion history and we're gonna really look closely at the period costuming.

(showing painting #1)

I see...clavicle realness. Showing off the clav. You need to know when to use a clavicle, it's once a week, write this down

(showing painting #2)

What do we think of this one? Do we like it?

ALL

Yes!

GIGI

Correct! This is a Coachella vibe. We love it!

(snaps then shows painting #3)

What about this one?

ALL

Yes!

GIGI

Incorrect! I'm hating everything about this except for the peekaboo sleeve. Write this down!

AVIS

Characterization. Let's say it.

ALL

Cha-ra-cte-riz-ation!

AVIS

Very good! It's time to dive in to our first exercise. Somebody wants to maybe give it a shot?

Darla raises her hand very desperately, it's hard to not notice it.

AVIS (CONT'D)

Anybody. Nobody?

Darla is the only one with her hand raised

AVIS (CONT'D)

Darla, why don't you come up here and demonstrate with me? So Darla is going to say just a basic fact about me, anything that she observes. Just anything that comes to mind when you look at me. No wrong answers. Just throw something out.

DARLA

You're an acting teacher

AVIS

Okay. I'm gonna stop you right there. So that's actually wildly opinionated. That was a really simplistic way of looking at it. I am a performer first and then an acting teacher. Write this down

Rebecca-Diane plays a whimsical melody on the flute, then lowers it and lets the final note dissolve into silence.

REBECCA-DIANE

Sing that back to me

Kids attempt to sing but it's just a cacophony

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

That's enough for now..Now we're gonna do a little bit of an exercise to just strengthen our mouths

ALL

I was with Al Gore by the old cheese store. And he brought his own bag from the ocean floor. Wolf Blitzer has a blister on his upper lip. And a slippery zipper on his weatherproof ship

JANET

I need 4 volunteers

Some kids raise their hands

JANET (CONT'D)

Even if you're wearing a mask, I don't want you hiding behind it. Here's your scene. Let's throw out some ideas. You're a family of influencers.

(MORE)

JANET (CONT'D)

The mom is the grocery store manager. The dad is a basketball player. The kids are depressed. And if that's not enough, all your names start with the same letter. Go.

Kids in masks pantomime

JANET (CONT'D)

Oh, nice. Now, your show's canceled! Your show's canceled!

Kids dramatically act

JANET (CONT'D)

It's back..Nice! You killed it

GLENN

Wanting to learn about stagecraft is an act of nobility. You know, even if it's just because dance was full. Something that we like to dig into here is the art of the spotlight.

Glenn moves through the stage, left and right. Leonard moves the spotlight following Glenn

LEONARD

No offense, but this is really easy. Can you make it harder?

GLENN

Okay

Music starts playing, Glenn creates big contemporary moves, at some point Glenn carries away

LEONARD

Whoa, that was amazing.

GLENN

You know, if there was a real dancer on stage, that would be...that would be different. Better, probably...Let's take a break.

POPPY

The Musical "Joan, Still!". Writing session

TRANSITION TO WRITING SESSION

Avis sits at the piano. Rebecca-Diane stands beside her.
They're deep in a creative flow.

AVIS
So we have..
(playing piano)
You never..

REBECCA-DIANE
Listen to me..

AVIS
Yes! God. That's good.

Avis passionately writes it down in a notebook full of
sketches and notes

REBECCA-DIANE
And then she goes..
(singing)
"Daddy"

AVIS
Yeah!

REBECCA-DIANE
I want her to say that loudly.
Write that down.

AVIS
Mmm-hmm. Like guttural. That's very
Joan. A guttural "Daddy."

AVIS (CONT'D)
I'm liking it so far. It would be
great to go into the first
rehearsal with like, three or four
songs.

REBECCA-DIANE
Mmmmm...For Joan's song at Studio
54, I've been thinking...

Rebecca-Diane scattling

AVIS
Lower now

Both scattling

AVIS (CONT'D)
Okay. That's good
(writing it down)
(MORE)

AVIS (CONT'D)

What are we doing for, in the Wall
Street piece? Maybe something
like...

(singing)

Selling the stock. Buying the stock

(exclaiming)

It's tap!

REBECCA-DIANE

It's tap

AVIS

It's tap!

Avis starts playing piano, both grooving

REBECCA-DIANE

Stock things...Bonds and
selling. I work on Wall
Street

AVIS (CONT'D)

Like stocks and
bonds..Stocks...Stocks..

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

Gorgeous

AVIS

Okay, that's almost done..

(writing it down)

I don't know when I'm gonna be able
- to really get to the finale.

REBECCA-DIANE

Yeah, yeah, I got it.

AVIS

You can take that?

REBECCA-DIANE

Yeah, I got it.

AVIS

So, I'm writing, Rebecca-diane-
Diane...finale.

REBECCA-DIANE

It's for her. It's all for her.

AVIS

It's for her.

They both warmly hug

AVIS (CONT'D)

Are you coming to the fire pit
after?

REBECCA-DIANE

Oof..You know what? I just can't. I can't come tonight. I'm having insane creative inspiration. It's just coming out of me at all ends.

AVIS

No. Rebecca, Rebecca. I'm not going to the staff hang without you. I'm gonna get stuck listening to an endless Clive's stories...Please!

REBECCA-DIANE

Okay, I'll think about it. I think they're here for the rehearsal

TRANSITION TO REHEARSAL #1

GEMMA

First rehearsal of Joan, Still. 3 weeks before opening night

Kids stream in with duffels, garment bags, water bottles. Someone is already stretching

DARLA

Well, it makes sense. I've been taking tap since I was two.

CHRISTOPHER

Oh my gosh

ABBY

I'm so nervous. I usually bomb all table reads. But I decided to break this pattern once and for all

EMMA

I never memorize my lines. I like to keep it spontaneous.

MACKENZIE

Mhm...it should feel raw and organic..What? I don't hear you

Tina has a "I'm on my vocal rest" sign around her neck

CHANTAL

I watched three documentaries last night about Joan of Arc for research.

ROXY

That's not the same Joan.

AVIS

Performers, attention. Welcome to the first rehearsal of Joan, Still.

Cheering

AVIS (CONT'D)

I'm not gonna sugarcoat it. Emotionally, physically and spiritually, this is our most complicated piece we've ever tried to do.

CLIVE

Most ambitious. Now, we only have three weeks to create a masterpiece.

GIGI

It's on you now. It's up to you. So that's on your shoulders as well as Joan's well-being and her legacy. All on you.

JANET

Yup!

REBECCA-DIANE

But you so deserve it on every level.

GLENN

We truly believe in you!

TROY

You're my fam..Yo!

AVIS

Please stop..

REBECCA-DIANE

You guys are so talented, so unbelievable. This will break you. This will fully destroy you.

ALL TEACHERS

Congratulations on being the most talented kids at camp.

Cheering

REBECCA-DIANE

Here are your scripts, you have to break down all scenes by tomorrow

AVIS

And memorize all lines within 48
hours

CLIVE

We'll start blocking it all early
in the morning

REBECCA-DIANE

For now open the page 164 and
repeat after me

"Mi Mi Mi" transition

TRANSITION TO STAFF HANG

Staff hang. Eating pizza, drinking sodas

CLIVE

(loudly laughs)

So I'm doing this big solo right
and after a triple pirouette I do
this deep bow and realize that my
costume is inside out and on top of
that half of my pants ripped, of
course I didn't give it away but
still I had no idea how this
happened

Clive and Janet howl with laughter. Around them, the rest of
the staff wear the exhausted expressions of people hearing
this story for the four-thousandth time.

GIGI

Uh..Let's do a toast! Shall we, a
toast to Joan?

CLIVE

Praise be.

REBECCA-DIANE

I can feel that her spirit is with
us right now.

GIGI

Yes. She's here

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

She's here! She's here!

GIGI (CONT'D)

I have a little story for us. So I
was a camper here and Joan said to
me, she looked me in the eyes, she
said, "You're untalented. "You
can't dance. You can't sing.

(MORE)

GIGI (CONT'D)

"You can't act. "You're very bad at this"

AVIS

Mhm

GIGI

"But you look amazing. "Your skin is glowing and your outfit is unbelievable." And she was right. Ever since I dedicated myself fully into fashion

GLENN

And you're so good at it!

AVIS

Yes, you are

CLIVE

Absolutely!

AVIS (CONT'D)

Why don't we sing a song?...Rebecca-diane

REBECCA-DIANE

Hmm...Let me..What about this?

"By the fire" songs starts. Rebecca-Diane plays her autoharp

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

My friends, my friends by the fire with my friends. Having fun, having fun with my friends

Everyone joins, sings alone, harmonizing, except Janet.

ALL

My friends, my friends by the fire with my friends. Having fun, having fun with my friends

AVIS

Gorgeous.

CLIVE

Thank you, Rebecca-diane.

JANET

I just feel like this mood is getting kind of like, sad. You know what I mean? Let's get crunk a little.

CLIVE

Janet. What are you doing here at the camp?

JANET

Oh, I mean, like, what are any of us doing here at the camp?

CLIVE

No, no, no. What are you doing?

REBECCA-DIANE

I just wanna say your energy is so chaotic.

JANET

I don't think so.

REBECCA-DIANE

And I actually do some energy healing and any time you wanna talk outside class, I'm really happy to sit down with you.

JANET

I'm chilling. You know what I mean?

REBECCA-DIANE

Mmm-hmm.

JANET

I don't like this type of, um, voice.

REBECCA-DIANE

This is my voice.

JANET

No, I think it sounded different three seconds ago.

REBECCA-DIANE

No, that's how I talk...It's okay..I see you and not gonna hold any grudge

AVIS

Okay, let's...
 (trying to change the
 subject)
 (MORE)

AVIS (CONT'D)

Me and Rebecca-diane at one time were going to pursue an education in the theater and we both actually auditioned together for a little-known institution called Juilliard. We were in the waiting room, you know. I had my monologue all prepared. I was doing "Gallop Apace," Juliet. She had Romeo in the tomb.

Rebecca-Diane tries to add to the story, but Avis steamrolls right over her.

REBECCA-DIANE

And then...

AVIS

Gerald walked into the waiting room. Gerald '08.

REBECCA-DIANE

Gerald '08 walked in.

AVIS

Just to catch you up, Janet, we had a torrid relationship. Lot of, like, will they, won't they. The camp was all abuzz about it. It was on everybody's lips. And so he really threw my pH balance, like, way off. And Rebecca could feel it, too, because we kind of share a soul. And we are linked artistically, emotionally...

REBECCA-DIANE

Completely. We are one.

JANET

You're codependent?

AVIS

Well, no, I would say that we're dependent on each other.

Janet shakes her head

AVIS (CONT'D)

So, anyways, we were inches from a callback, slipped from our hands.

REBECCA-DIANE

It didn't happen.

It did to her, but she never went there for Avis

AVIS

It didn't go our way.

REBECCA-DIANE

No!

AVIS (CONT'D)

We both bombed. Boooooombed

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

Yeah, we've always wanted to do a one-gender production of Romeo and Juliet

JANET

Why don't you do it?

REBECCA-DIANE

Well, I would love to do it with you. And I've been working really hard and taking...

AVIS

I mean, you know, the absolute goal at the end of the day is, of course, to perform, but I don't think we're quite at that place.

Phone rings

GIGI

Are you gonna get it or..

TROY

Yup. Sure

He comes to the phone

CARL (V.O.)

(on the phone)

Hi, Mr. Rubinsky, this is Carl from Warwick Bank. If you do not make a payment on your mortgage this week, we will initiate foreclosure proceedings. Please take action to avoid repossession of your camp.

TROY

Ah, yikes!

(pulls up his cell)

Hey Siri, what is "repossession"?

SIRI

"Repossession" means the action of retaking possession of something.

(MORE)

SIRI (CONT'D)

In particular, when a buyer
defaults on payments.

TROY

Whoa

TRANSITION TO BEDTIME STORY #1

Rita walks in. The kids settle with the instant, sacred focus that only appears at bedtime in summer camp. Some are already cocooned under blankets. Some lean forward on their elbows, glowing with anticipation. They are ready.

RITA

At camp, we have a tradition. Every night, a staff member or counselor is gonna come in here and do a show for you. Tonight was supposed to be Joan's night, but Joan isn't here. So tonight, I am going to take her place and read you a special bedtime story

She opens an oversized book, all kids are extremely excited, some hug, some are under the blanket with only face exposed, prepared for the "ghost" story

RITA (CONT'D)

(like a fairytale)

Once upon a time, in a town where even the grocery store had a board full of audition notices, there lived a girl named Jessamyn. Everyone called her Jess, except Jess herself – because Jessamyn felt more like her true name. She was an aspiring actress, but she's never booked any role yet. Every night, she practiced in front of her mirror with a hairbrush microphone and she was fully committed to her characters.

EMMA

She's just like us

RITA

She practiced her slate: "Hi, my name is Jessamyn...". She practiced her smile: not too big, not too small. She practiced her tears: one tear, then two.

(MORE)

RITA (CONT'D)

Her mother told her to "just be yourself." But Jessamyn knew, in theatre, "be yourself" is sometimes the hardest role of all.

Kids laugh

RITA (CONT'D)

And then, one day, a letter slipped under a door, that made her sit straight up in bed: EQUITY OPEN CALL.

Kids gasp with excitement

RITA (CONT'D)

Not a workshop. Not a class. Not a student film or another unpaid gig for great exposure. A real open call. "Today," she whispered, "I'll get a yes." She was so excited to be at this Equity open call. She'd been waiting for hours and hours. She could hear people singing on the other side of the door. And then finally, it was her turn. But when she walked in the room, the production turned her away because she was non-union. The end.

All kids are devastated

Oh no!
CHRISTOPHER

ABBY
I feel so bad for her

TINA
Can we hear one more story?

LILY
Pretty please!

RITA
I'm afraid it's too late, we have a tight schedule tomorrow. Good night!

ALL
Good Night Rita!

TRANSITION TO CAFETERIA

Kids eat lunch, talking within small groups. Troy walks in

TROY
Oh, what a beautiful..

ALL
(not too excited)
...morning

Troy then bumps into Glenn

TROY
Oh. Hey, sorry. Are you...

GLENN
Sorry. No, it was completely my
fault. You're fine.

TROY
Hey, uh, do you wanna have lunch
with me? By the way, thanks for not
telling anyone about the
foreclosure. I really appreciate
that. I don't know if I can do
this, man. I have no idea how my
mom. kept this place afloat. I
mean, the bank keeps calling every
day. Plus, Tim keeps complaining
about being woken up by the kids'
singing. My Airbnb bunk mate. This
guy named Tim. That guy.

There's a random guy sitting with the kids having lunch

GLENN
Hey!

TROY
I really can't afford a bad review
right now. I swear, dude, I can
usually get down with any vibe. But
these kids, man. They just don't
wanna meet me halfway. Every time I
come up with a plan, they call me
the Music Man. I don't even know
what that is.

GLENN
Well, it's a musical.

TROY
Everything's a freaking musical
here, man.

GLENN

Well, yeah, it is. 'Cause it's sort of their entire lives. Like those kids. That's actually last year's cast of Rent. It was a very formative production. It's all about family. It's all about community

TROY

Okay, see, that's...that's helpful.

GLENN

Good

TROY

What about them?

GLENN

Those are Fosse kids. If they snap at you, just know that they're not trying to be demanding. It's just part of the vocabulary. These kids are smart. If you need their help, you just have to sort of meet them on their level.

Bell rings, everyone rushes

GLENN (CONT'D)

I have to go teach a class..We'll get back to it..I promise

TROY

Peace!

Clive and group of dancing kids walk in

CLIVE

And starfish, starfish, starfish, and starfish. Jiggle like a jackal. Jiggle like a jackal. You need to know that only 3% of people make it. The rest of them end up in a mental facility or on a go-go box in Hell's Kitchen.

TRANSITION TO ACTING CLASS

Avis and kids follow him, she gives them books

AVIS

Let's just get a few more selections today from my collected original works, as we do every year. You two, page 45...Action

CHRISTOPHER

(passionately, over dramatic)

That's a low blow, Eileen. And don't pretend my IBS isn't part of why we broke up in the first place

MACKENZIE

It's got nothing to do with your IBS, Roger.

AVIS

Cut, cut...I want you to live a little bit more with the reality of having IBS and what that might do to your character. Because I'm not really feeling the detail of the IBS.

CHRISTOPHER

Got it!

AVIS

Go practice...Next...Ah Darla..page I don't know...81

DARLA

I want to live mother!

AVIS

Uhh..Let's try that again

DARLA

I want to live mother!!

AVIS

Okay, okay..Nothing's changed..Let's just try to throw some different spices in there. A little bit of pain, a little bit of stepfather

DARLA

Got it. "So hand me my darn lipstick. And let me live."

It was actually very good

AVIS

Good...Mostly a lot better. Thank you, Darla. Take a seat.

TRANSITION TO JANET'S CLASS

JANET

Okay. Today's a new thing. I'm teaching, um
(looking in her notebook)
stage combat. What is it? What is it?

EMMA

It's the art of surprise. It pushes the envelope of what theater can be.

JANET

Absolutely. But also what do we think it is?

LILY

It causes our heart to skip a beat, but safely.

JANET

Does anybody have an answer that's like, not poetry? Maybe? You know what I mean? Like a legal definition of what it is.

LEONARD

It's basically like teaching us how to fight.

JANET

Oh...I can do that

TRANSITION TO MUSIC CLASS

Rebecca-Diane walks in and kids form a circle around her, they pace around

REBECCA-DIANE

We are starting our past lives seminar.

All start humming ominously

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

You!...You were a nurse in World war II.

(MORE)

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry. (STUTTERS) I'll be
back. I just have to take this.

ALL
It's all good!/Take your time!

Rebecca-Diane left but we can still hear her

REBECCA-DIANE (O.S.)
Hello? Hi. Yes, I can be available
tonight.

ABBY
Rebecca-Diane hasn't had an
audition in 3 years. At this point,
she'll take any opportunity over
this.

CHRISTOPHER
Meanwhile, desperate for funds,
Troy devised a plan to raise money
and meet the campers on their level

MACKENZIE
He just needs to recruit some of
them to help

TRANSITION TO IMMERSIVE DINNER

Troy has gathered campers and dressed them like tiny high-end waiters: white button-downs, black pants, bow ties, gloves. They look elegant and far too committed. He pitches the concept, the kids, of course, immediately understand the assignment too well. As the dinner begins, the number should start polished and stylized – then drift, scene by scene, into chaos. Not messy chaos. Intentional, unnerving, theatrical chaos.

TROY
All right, all-stars. Whoa! Look at
this turnout.

Abby raises her hand

TROY (CONT'D)
Uh..yes!

ABBY
Are we doing a cabaret?

TROY
Caba-what?

MACKENZIE

I think it's a night of scene work.

TROY

That's totally what this is. It's a scene of night work. And here's the scene: You guys are the staff of a fine dining establishment. So anything those guys in there order, you say, "Yes," and then you bring it to them.

SEBASTIAN

Like an improv exercise.

EMMA

Can we make up our own characters?

CHRISTOPHER

And do accents?

TROY

Yeah..sure

GEMMA

My name is gonna be Persephone

Group of important CEOs, investors and presidents sit around the table

PRESIDENT

Let's just get together here, Rotarians...and kick Oklahoma City's fundraising

DEVON

This group is full of presidents and CEO's and very important dudes with money

PRESIDENT

Shall we do that?

CEO

Cheers!

ALL

Cheers!

INVESTOR

We're here thanks to Troy Rubinsky.

TROY

We're happy to have you guys
(gestures to kids to start
serving)

TRUSTEE

Thanks so much.

PRESIDENT

Thank you! And I guess we're gonna
get served by the campers here,
which I was not aware of.

Song "Immersive Theatre" starts

The board members sit expecting a fundraiser dinner. Instead,
they get an avant-garde dining experience run by children who
interpret every request as an invitation to deepen the bit.

KIDS

Spoons...knives...forks
Clink Clink!
Appetizers. Soup. First course
Your appetite rises. Of course

CEO

Is there a dressing?

KIDS

We will be addressing
to Chef, just eat it dry

DARLA

By the way, I like your tie

KIDS

What a responsibility
To make them love our world of
fantasy
Let's add pretentious ingredients
After all it's their first
immersive theatre experience
Clink! Clink!
Plates...Tablecloths...Olive
oil....
Clink! Clink!

TROY

I think it's going pretty good. The
kids are getting real into it.

GLENN

Your mom knows what she's talking
about. We help our own.

CAROLINE & CEO
Do you have any salt?

CHOIR #1
Let me check if we have any soy

PRESIDENT
My food is cold

CHOIR #2
It's part of the process

TRUSTEE
This bread seems old

CHOIR #2
It's the color of sauces

CHOIR #1
Can I offer you a roll?

INVESTOR
No!

CHOIR #2
Or a tale 'bout how my sister fell
in this enormous hole?

CHOIR #1
Would you like anything for
dessert?

CHOIR #2
Or hear the passage from Sir
Francis Kurt?

KIDS
I hope you're enjoying your meal
There are children for whom this
food is unreal
It was a pleasure serving you
Tips are included for the party of
two
Thank you for visiting the
restaurant "Joan!"

BOARD
We just want to go home!

TROY
Are they getting too into it?

KIDS
 Clink! Clink! Clink! Clink!
 Bon Appetite!

Blackout

Avis walks in, humming a song, looking at her notebook.

AVIS
 (to cell voice memo)
 Ooh. Reminder. Pay rent to
 mom. Remember to check in with
 Rebecca about the finale. Papier
 mâché nose if budget allows

RITA
 (offstage)
 Avis!
 (runs in)
 Avis! Rebecca-Diane missed her
 nighttime performance

AVIS
 That doesn't sound like Rebecca

RITA
 Okay, but kids are craving a
 performance. And I mentally can't
 do it twice in a row

AVIS
 Okay. Fine. I'll be there in a sec

TRANSITION TO PRESIDENT/TROY TROUBLE

PRESIDENT
 Troy, listen to me. This has
 lasting effects, okay? One guy had
 sort of a Vietnam flashback and you
 had kids serving..That's gotta be
 illegal. It was interesting, but
 no.

TROY
 It was a bit. She was doing...

PRESIDENT
 No. But let's settle on 40 bucks.

TROY
 Mmm-hmm.

PRESIDENT

Troy, please. You let me down. This did not work out.

President leaves

TROY

Yeah. Okay. Um...

TRANSITION TO BEDTIME STORY #2

AVIS

Well, as we all know by now, our bedtime performer is missing in action. Uh, I really apologize. Waiting for entertainment that's expected is a painful experience. This is very impromptu, so I didn't really have anything prepared, but..."Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. Wait. The peppers were pickled when he picked them? Then Peter didn't pick peppers— Peter picked pre-picked peppers. Which means Peter picked a picture of picking. A performance of a peck. A pick of a prank. A pasteurized pepper myth. So ask yourself — Did Peter pick...or did Peter present? Peter Piper picked a priority

(oh, that's deep. She thinks)

And what was that priority that Peter Piper picked? Not popularity. Not perfect posture. Not principal parts. Not prestige. Not a "please clap" plan. He picked presence. He picked practice. He picked patience. He picked people. He picked "partner" over "power". He picked "play" over "prove". He picked "process" over "product". He picked "pause" over "push". Family. Friends. Connection. He picked a life."

All kids loudly applaud. They loved it.

TRANSITION TO ALAN & RITA

Rita's desk has become Alan's agency headquarters. Alan sits in her chair in an oversized blazer, fully running a business. He is on the phone with the confidence of a child who has mistaken ambition for jurisdiction.

ALAN

Mikey

(laughter)

Yup! I'm still this close to signing Darla. That's adorable and yeah I'm building her a career arc. She'll become legend...No, I'm not "too young." Look at Timothée.

Rita enters holding a clipboard, and the look of someone who has already solved three emergencies today

RITA

Alan?!

ALAN

(holding a hand up)

I'm in the middle of a conversation.

RITA

You're supposed to be at dance class. Come on. Let's go.

Alan covers the mic dramatically like he's protecting trade secrets.

ALAN

Ugh. Jeez. Fine.

He gets up, but tricks her. Rita leaves

ALAN (CONT'D)

Keep..keep going. I even told her..that she would get top billing

Rita comes back

RITA

Alan!! Off the phone.

ALAN

Just one second.

Rita steps closer. Quiet. Controlled.

RITA

No seconds. Let's go.

ALAN

Mikey I'm being threatened by
administration..hold my place in
the market..I'll call you back...

Rita reaches over and clicks the phone off with one clean
motion. Silence. Alan gasps like she unplugged his life
support.

ALAN (CONT'D)

You can't just...that was a client!
He has connections.

RITA

Dance. Class. Now.

ALAN

Fine. But just so you know...

RITA

Walking..

TRANSITION TO TEAR STICK

Avis and Rebecca-Diane rehearse with the lead cast

ROXY

Joan, Still! Rehearsals. One week
to opening night.

Mid performance. Very dramatic.

DEVON

I don't even recognize you. Where
is my little Joan gone?

MACKENZIE

I'm still me, Tata.

DEVON

No, your face is a new face.

MACKENZIE

It's called rouge, Tata.

DEVON

The cheeks of a hussy.

Avis looks at Rebecca-Diane. It's not working

REBECCA-DIANE

Yeah..yeah

AVIS

Let's hold. Let's hold.

REBECCA-DIANE

Devon, you are on the stage, but
your partner is fully alone.

AVIS

And I think you really need to...I
think that ultimately, Devon, you
need to just kind of let in the
pain of being a father. Like we
need to feel that pain.

DEVON

(CHUCKLES NERVOUSLY,
STUTTERS)

But I'm not a father. I don't know
how to do that.

AVIS

Neither am I..Did Julianne Moore
really have dementia?

Devon is confused. He doesn't know who she is. He looks at
Mackenzie. She helps him and shakes her head "No, she didn't"

AVIS (CONT'D)

Do the connection exercise. And
then we'll try it again.

REBECCA-DIANE

Deliver. Thank you for all you're
doing.

MACKENZIE

Thank YOU!

While they're working on connection exercise (holding hands
and stare at each other without blinking), Avis confronts
Rebecca-Diane

AVIS

Aren't you gonna say something?

REBECCA-DIANE

Oh...

AVIS

You missed your bedtime
performance. That's so unlike you.
What happened?

REBECCA-DIANE

I'm so sorry. I was just finishing the finale and I got distracted...

AVIS

Yeah, I'm sure... This finale, it's like this is repeated. It's like, I love you, but, we're getting towards crunch time, okay? And you have other responsibilities which I know you know.

REBECCA-DIANE

I'm just playing catch up.

AVIS

Okay, but just I need my gal with me, so...

REBECCA-DIANE

I got you

AVIS

Okay!
(to kids)
That's enough. And Action!

MACKENZIE

(extremely dramatic)
I'm still me, Tata.

DEVON

(over the top)
No. Using your little hands to write letters to the devil and never once to shape pierogi.

Oh yeah! They're connected now. It shows

MACKENZIE

Just because dumplings aren't my priority anymore doesn't mean any...

DEVON

You never once sent a suitor home to your dying Tata. This is not the Joan that I know.

MACKENZIE

(starts crying)
You know what, Tata? You're right.
(MORE)

MACKENZIE (CONT'D)

I decide who Joan is, and I may not
be who Joan was, but, Tata, I am
Joan, still!

Everyone applauds

AVIS

That got..

AVIS (CONT'D)

Better!

REBECCA-DIANE

Better!

AVIS (CONT'D)

That got better!

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

That got better!

AVIS (CONT'D)

Very good. Devon, the accent's all
over the place, but it's much
better.

REBECCA-DIANE

Yeah. Mackenzie, extraordinary.

Kids run to Mackenzie and Devon to congratulate

CHRISTOPHER

Mac. That was so good.

MACKENZIE

Thank you!

SEBASTIAN

Amazing! You killed it!

Rebecca-Diane notices something suspicious

REBECCA-DIANE

(aggressive)

Stop!

She whispers to Avis

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

She's using!

They both climb over the table in the most ridiculous and
urgent way. Now standing right before Mackenzie, who looks
guilty!

AVIS

Lift up your hands.

Slowly she lifts her hands, crying. Rebecca-Diane and Avis
lean in, sniff her palms

EMMA

She wouldn't!

REBECCA-DIANE & AVIS

T-E-A-R stick

MACKENZIE

It's just chapstick, I swear

REBECCA-DIANE

Give it to me!

Mackenzie hands it over

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

Oh my God!

Rebecca applies it to her eyes to check the legitimate substance

AVIS

Mackenzie, I'm not mad. I'm just furious. Your tears should come from within, from the story, from the words on the page, not from some emotional grenade that you smuggled in.

DEVON

What's a "tear stick"?

DARLA

It's a mentholated eyeliner that helps you cry

AVIS

This is an insult to the material. Okay?

REBECCA-DIANE

(screaming and crying now)

Joan is screaming and furious at you. Because tear sticks are doping for actors. Do you wanna be the Lance Armstrong of theater?

MACKENZIE

(terrified)

No!

REBECCA-DIANE

Get off the stick.
(kneels down, snot coming
down her nose)
(MORE)

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)
 GET OFF THE STICK!
 (pleading)

She throws it away

AVIS
 One day it's tear stick. The next
 you're calling for line and pretty
 soon your understudy's on eight
 times a week in Weehawken or God
 knows where. Okay? It's a slip-ry,
 slip-ry slope.

REBECCA-DIANE
 (still very emotional)
 Devon, I'm so sorry.

DEVON
 (very confused by what
 this fuzz is all about)
 Really, it's fine.

REBECCA-DIANE
 (to Mackenzie)
 Tell him you're sorry.

MACKENZIE
 I'm sorry, Devon.

DEVON
 It's really fine.

REBECCA-DIANE
 I choose to forgive.

AVIS
 But we don't forget.

REBECCA-DIANE
 But until the end, the law can
 forgive.

AVIS
 But without ever forgetting.

Everyone calms down but the energy is still tense

CLARISSA
 Now we're transitioning to annual
 mixer with Camp Lakeside

Music starts. Everyone's partying, except Lakeside kids who
 sit off to the side staring at their iPads.

CHRISTOPHER

Hi! Welcome to AdirondACTS. You guys having fun? Enjoying the party? Yeah?

They fully ignore him. Abby comes in furious and slaps Christopher hard

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)

Oh, my God, Abby, why would you do that?

ABBY

You piss me off, like, a lot.

Janet comes in, clapping. Abby and Christopher bow

JANET

Whoop! Let's go. Stage combat.

CAROLINE

(rushes in)

You think this is fun and games? Hitting?

JANET

It's not funny

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

No. It's not.

JANET (CONT'D)

You're right. It's art. Grow up!

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Excuse me?

JANET (CONT'D)

Let's go!

Avis is looking for Rebecca-Diane, she's nowhere to be found.

AVIS

Hey! Have you seen Rebecca-Diane? Is she out there on the back?

SEBASTIAN

No!

AVIS

No? Alright. Enjoy!
(to herself)
Where is she?

SEBASTIAN

For the last ten years, Avis and Rebecca-Diane previewed their original musical at the mixer

TROY

(by DJ stand)

Yo, what up, AdirondACTS? Welcome, Lakeside. Just want you to know this is not a free event for you. Okay? Unless you're verified. Thanks for coming out. Man, this is a dream show for me. I know this one's a theater camp classic, so thought I'd put a little twist on it.

Broadway and electrical mash up starts. Everyone starts dancing except Lakesiders

TROY (CONT'D)

Send my regards to Broadway! Put 'em up! Put 'em up! Put 'em up! That's what's up!

Troy sees Avis and rushes towards her

TROY (CONT'D)

Yo! I know you're busy, so I don't wanna take too much of your time, but the vibes are pretty good in there, huh?

AVIS

(still worried about Rebecca)

Uh, sure.

TROY

That was me DJing.

AVIS

I saw

TROY

So I know, you know, the Rotary Club thing didn't really go to plan.

AVIS

You took a lot of my kids out of rehearsal for that.

TROY

I get that and I'm sorry, and I'm still perfecting the formula here, but I've recently had, like, a surge of ideas, you know, that would bring some additional revenue. You know, one of 'em is, like, maybe we send the kids into the city to do, like, singing telegrams.

AVIS

(frustrating)

Okay. Incredibly dangerous.

TROY

Maybe we do like remote students.

AVIS

(very frustrating)
But, okay. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

TROY (CONT'D)

Maybe, maybe...

AVIS (CONT'D)

(angry)

We don't need any of these ideas, okay, Troy? We don't need any of these ideas.

Troy is really trying. We feel sympathy for him now. Avis is being very aggressive, but we know that's because Rebecca-Diane didn't show up. Again!

TROY

Yeah...

AVIS

(manipulative)

Your mother managed to keep this place running in the face of a lot of financial trouble and never once did she compromise the artistic vision to save money. Okay?

TROY

Right. (STUTTERS) You know, that's kind of what I'm trying to get after.

AVIS

Yes. No, no, no. I understand. I understand that. But what you don't understand is the importance of what we do here, okay?

(MORE)

AVIS (CONT'D)

This place is for people who need it, okay? People who aren't accepted anywhere else. You are not one of those people, Troy. You are not one of us.

Ouch! Kind of hypocritical, isn't it?

"You're Not One Of Us" Dramatic Troy's solo starts

TROY

(singing)

"You're not one of us", they told me. This just sucks. If you asked me

AVIS

(interrupting)

What are you doing? What are you doing? You can't do that! You don't get to have these dramatic oversentimental solo parts, you're not of us.

Avis leaves. Troy is hurt. Some kids are hugging. Avis sees that on the way out

AVIS (CONT'D)

Be sure to cherish these relationships, okay? 'Cause they're gone in a flash. Just wanted you to know that.

Troy comes to Caroline. He's fed up. He tried to make it work, but whatever dignity he has left is finally kicking in.

TROY

Mrs. Krauss.

CAROLINE

Oh! Hi!

TROY

Dope that you made it.

CAROLINE

I'm happy to be here.

TROY

Yeah

CAROLINE

Yeah

TROY

So, um, things have taken a bit of a turn here and I've been thinking about the offer.

CAROLINE

Me too...A lot.

TROY

Yeah. Um...I just feel like it would be a, you know, lucrative and mutually beneficial partnership. Like for the both of us though.

CAROLINE

Wow. Well, that's great.

TROY

So, like, does the offer still stand?

CAROLINE

Yes, Troy. We would love to work with you.

TROY

Wow

CAROLINE

Yeah

TROY

Nice

CAROLINE

I have to say I'm super excited to work with someone who knows the TUVs of deal making.

TROY

Did you just say the TUVs?

CAROLINE

(unsure)
Trust. You won't regret it.
And vibes

TROY (CONT'D)

(stoked)
Trust. You won't regret it.
And vibes

TROY (CONT'D)

You've been watching my vlogs?

CAROLINE

Religiously

TROY

Stop

CAROLINE

The GoPro loves you.

TROY

It's kind of loud in here, do you
want to talk business
somewhere...not here?

CAROLINE

Sure

Devon walks in holding a football. A wave of horrified gasps
ripples through the room. How could he?

MACKENZIE

Devon! What's in your hands?

DEVON

It's not what it looks like

ABBY

You did not!

DARLA

I was rooting for you! We were all
rooting for you!

CHRISTOPHER

What the heck is this, Devon?

DEVON

They were saying no one at theater
camp could play football. I'm just
proving to them that I could.

MACKENZIE

We were supposed to be manifesting.
It's a full moon.

EMMA

I just can't with this

They all leave, each needing a little space to process their
feelings, unpack their triggers, and, most likely, journal.

LEONARD

Tech week! That means that the
performance is a few days away.
Tech week is very important!

(pause)

I'm gonna go get ready!

RITA

Welcome to Tech Week, campers.
Performances are just a few days
away, so let's stay focused on
bringing those shows to life. And
if you have any issues, you look
for Glenn. I'm sure he'll have time
to help you.

Glenn stands in the middle of it all, fixing a set piece
while calmly responding to the radio.

AVIS

Glenn!

GLENN

Go for Glenn

AVIS

The props need to be redone.
They're too small

GLENN

On it

SEBASTIAN

Glenn, where's our bush? I have
rehearsal in 5

GLENN

Coming right up!

ROXY

Glenn!

DYLAN

Glenn, where's my treasure chest?

TINA

Glenn!

ALAN

There's a leak in a lobby. Can you
get on that? Glenn?

GLENN

Just a moment

CLIVE

Glenn, we're missing a kin's cave.
I need him to rehearse with it.

GLENN

Uh huh

RITA

Glenn, the smoke machine is out of control. I need your help. There are some weird buttons

It gets pretty smoky!

LILY

Glenn!

GEMMA

Glenn!

Everyone starts chanting, "Glenn! Glenn! Glenn!" He collapses. A beat. Then abruptly pops back up.

AVIS

(over radio)

Glenn?

GLENN

Go for Glenn!

TINA

3 days before opening night!

Tech rehearsal. Avis and Rebecca-Diane are working with Darla

AVIS

Darla, can you just move a little bit to your right? Just scooch the... Yes, bring the bassinet. That's right.

Darla moves

REBECCA-DIANE

See? And I think it should just be a little bit to the left. I think it just doesn't make sense.

Darla moves back

AVIS

Darla, step to the right.

She moves again

REBECCA-DIANE

No, I think we had discussed that everything would be on the left for this number, so let's just...

AVIS

(interrupting rudly)
We're gonna go ahead and put it
where we...Darla, this is your
director speaking. You're gonna go
ahead and move to the right with
the bassinet.

And again

REBECCA-DIANE

Co-director here as well. And
just move on over to the left
and get too far on that side
so we can't quite bring you
back.

AVIS (CONT'D)

Joan's whole world has been
established stage right. So
you're gonna take two steps
to the right. That's where we
always play her hero moments.
Now cheat out. Cheat out.

Rebecca finally comes closer to Avis

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

(whispering to Avis)
Why are you acting like this?

AVIS

(whispering too)
I'm just a little bit tired of co-
directing with a ghost.

REBECCA-DIANE

Well, I'm not a ghost. I am a human
person that is alive. I am here. I
care about this show.

AVIS

Do you? I wouldn't have any idea.
You've been completely absent since
the beginning of the session, okay?
And I need to run my rehearsal now.
So, thank you.
(to Darla)
Darla, let's just run the song,
okay? You're fine right there.
Music, please.

Avis overpowered the conversation. Nothing new. Rebecca steps
away. Defeated. Music starts

DARLA

Thought my dreaming was done. All I
needed was one. Revelation to show
me my boy. That my life had truly
begun. So I offer the sun.
Salutation Hello to my Troy.

(MORE)

DARLA (CONT'D)

I will build this theatrical place.
Giving children a safe, loving
space. It will grow from the magic
and grace. That I see in your face

Mid-song, Troy walks in and hears the song about him. He starts to tear up as the reality of what he's done hits him. He betrayed his own mother's creation

TROY

Rebecca-Diane. Rebecca-Diane, can I
talk to you?

REBECCA-DIANE

No, I'm in the middle of tech

TROY

Just...

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

Troy..

TROY (CONT'D)

Just real quick. Real quick.

DARLA

(keep singing)

Know your dream's never done.
You're my moon and my sun. My
foundation, my beautiful Troy

They go on a side. Avis isn't happy about Rebecca leaving again.

TROY

Hey. Look. I'm sorry for even
asking. I feel really weird even
bringing this up.

REBECCA-DIANE

I don't have time. We're in the
middle of tech week.

TROY

No, I get that.

REBECCA-DIANE

So just tell me what's up.

TROY

I get that. I just...Do you think
you could give my mom a message for
me?

REBECCA-DIANE

Yes. Sure. I'll give your mom a
message.

She leaves

TROY

No, no, no. Please. It's really important.

REBECCA-DIANE

I hear that

TROY (CONT'D)

Really important

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

I just don't have time.

TROY

Just tell her I need her help. Say, "Troy needs your help."

REBECCA-DIANE

I don't choose when she comes inside of me.

TROY

Okay, but can you just try?
(screams into Rebecca's chest)
Mom, please!

REBECCA-DIANE

What are you doing?

TROY

You said she was in you.

REBECCA-DIANE

She's not in my chest!!

TROY

I'm not that...I'm not... That's not...Tell her it's important. Just tell her...Please tell her it's important. Tell her it's really important.

REBECCA-DIANE

Okay. Okay, I'm gonna...All right.

TROY (CONT'D)

I just need to talk to her.

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

Okay

TROY

Okay

Rebecca-Diane pretends to channel a spirit. Eyes are rolled. Arms are raised. Distorted "Joan-like" voice

REBECCA-DIANE

Troy.

TROY

Mom?

REBECCA-DIANE

It's your mom.

TROY

Mom. Thank God. It's so good to hear your voice.

Rebecca grans his hands now. Rocking from side to side. CH-AN-ELLING

TROY (CONT'D)

I know it's been a minute since we've chatted. Um...I miss you. Kind of a lot. You know, I'm sorry for not trying harder to understand what you were doing here with this place and this camp. I was a kid, you know. I just wanted to go to sleepovers at Dakota's house and set cool away messages and make my Sims have parties until they can't anymore...

REBECCA-DIANE

(one eye open)

Troy, you said there was something that you actually needed.

TROY

You're right. I always do this.

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

And it was urgent.

TROY (CONT'D)

Look, I should have tried harder to understand what you were doing here. Because, you know, I get it. These people are really weird. Especially Rebecca-Diane.

She opens one eye. "What?"

TROY (CONT'D)

But they're wonderful. Look, I messed up, Mom. Okay? And I'm really sorry, and I hope you forgive me. And I really need your advice right now, but I'm sorry I sold the camp.

Rebecca fully opens her eyes now. "WHAT???"

TROY (CONT'D)

Hey!

AVIS (O.S.)

Rebecca-Diane?

TROY

What'd my mom say? What the...

AVIS (O.S.)

Rebecca-Diane, we are at a standstill.

She comes back

REBECCA-DIANE

Yes?

AVIS

Welcome back. Uh, we need to see the finale now.

REBECCA-DIANE

Yeah

AVIS

We're out of time. So we need to hear it.

REBECCA-DIANE

Let's do the finale tomorrow. Sounds good?

AVIS

Okay, well, tomorrow's our only chance to run the entire show. So I at least need to hear it musically, so I can block something, and these kids can start to learn it. Because tomorrow they have to run it top to bottom and then perform it. So let's hear the finale song, please.

REBECCA-DIANE

It's just so unfortunate, because we do not have the track, so that we don't have any way to play the song.

AVIS

So you can just sing it for us.

REBECCA-DIANE

I've lost my voice.

AVIS

Okay, well... You're gonna have to find it again. And we have this.

(pulls autoharp)

So you can just play it yourself for us. Okay? You love this. There you go. Who's excited to hear the finale?

Everyone cheers

AVIS (CONT'D)

And what is it called?

It's obvious Rebecca-Diane hasn't written the finale. She turns away, buying time as she desperately tries to think.

REBECCA-DIANE

It's called...

(thinking)

"Camp."

AVIS

Hm..That's original.

Slight giggle amongst campers. Rebecca turns back. Sees Emma with apple juice

REBECCA-DIANE

(poorly sings)

Girl with an open Snapple

Sees Richard looking down. She creates it on a spot

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

A boy who's looking down. We all come here for. Summertime. Camp. Isn't home. But isn't it? In a way. It kind of is. Oh, it. Kind of is

All listen and seem confused. Is there something about this song at all?

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

Let's raise a toast. But in the glass isn't alcohol. It's something more profound than alcohol. It's truth. Drums, boom, boom, boom.

(IMITATES DRUMS PLAYING) Flute.

(IMITATES FLUTE PLAYING)

(MORE)

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

Sustained.

(RESUMES FLUTE PLAYING)

(SINGING)

All coming together for. Boom.

Three polite claps. Avis lifts her hand as "Stop"

AVIS

What was that?

REBECCA-DIANE

It was the finale

AVIS

You're telling me that's something that you wrote before just now? That's the song that you needed time away from meaningful traditions, missing time with the kids, ruining the process of creating this piece together because you've been running off working on the finale. It was that? Rebecca, I'm not an idiot, okay? You made that up. So I'm just trying to understand what you thought we were gonna do today. You were just gonna have these kids have no ending to the show? You said, "I got the finale. I can do it." So I trusted you like I always do. What have you been doing all this time?

REBECCA-DIANE

I got a job, okay?

AVIS

What, like you're tutoring kids in singing? What are you talking about?

REBECCA-DIANE

I just signed a two-year contract with Duchess Cruises. I'm a featured soloist in Cole Porter on the Waves. So yeah, I've been a little distracted.

AVIS

Sorry, you're taking a performance job? Since when are you taking performance jobs?

REBECCA-DIANE

Because I wanna be a performer!

AVIS

Okay, I thought we were both just teachers aspiring to be performers.

REBECCA-DIANE

When is that gonna happen? I wanna perform.

AVIS

Well, that's great. I just wish maybe you'd told me. I always thought maybe we'd make that decision together like we do most things.

REBECCA-DIANE

It's impossible to tell you anything because you interrupt everything that I say...

AVIS (CONT'D)

(interrupts)
That's not true. I do not interrupt everything that you say, Rebecca. I'm just trying to share my feelings with you...

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

Every single thing that I...that I have for 15 years. Every single thing that I...

AVIS (CONT'D)

That's not true, Rebecca.

Pause. Rebecca tries again

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

Everything that I say. I am unable to...

AVIS (CONT'D)

That's not true, Rebecca. That is not true.

AVIS (CONT'D)

How could you do this to me?

REBECCA-DIANE

You? This has nothing to do with you.

AVIS

Exactly. Why would you do something that has nothing to do with me?

REBECCA-DIANE

Let that statement just sit in the space.

AVIS

It looks great. I stand by it. I mean... (STUTTERS) What? I don't understand what you're getting at.

REBECCA-DIANE

I just want something else. That should be okay.

AVIS (CONT'D)

That's really nice for you, Rebecca, but you shouldn't leave the best kids in the camp in the lurch with no show to perform.

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

Okay, I've...

AVIS

That was selfish. I make sacrifices for them. Because they're talented and they deserve it. I sacrifice everything else in my life for this job and for them. What do you sacrifice?

REBECCA-DIANE

I got a callback for Juilliard. And I didn't go because I wanted to be here with you.

AVIS

You've just kinda been lying to me for like, 10 years.

(beat)

I'm happy for you, Rebecca. I'm thrilled for you. I think it's great that you've left these kids with no show and all for a cruise. A non-narrative piece on a cruise.

Caroline walks in with Troy trailing behind her, guilty and uneasy. She immediately starts giving orders to the construction crew.

AVIS (CONT'D)

Excuse me. Hi

CAROLINE

Um... Guys, this is a teardown. Um, can we get this up? Can we see what's under here? Yeah, we're gonna tear the...

TROY

Maybe don't. Maybe...

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

...the place down.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Let's see what's under here.

TROY

Do we need to do this? Let's talk this out first. I don't think we need to do that.

REBECCA-DIANE

Sorry, we're in the middle of rehearsal.

CAROLINE

Hi. We're in the middle of something too. Hi.

EMMA

Troy, what's going on?

TROY

No, it...Everything's fine, guys. Everything is gonna be okay.

CHRISTOPHER

It doesn't look okay.

EMMA

No, it's not.

CLARISSA

No, it's not.

SEBASTIAN

What are they doing?

All kids start panicking and screaming

CAROLINE

Listen, I know this place meant a lot to you. But I do hope you'll consider joining the Lakeside family next summer.

Some start crying

LILY

Nooooo!

LEONARD

What does that mean?

DARLA

Not happening lady!

DEVON

Troy, you sold the camp to
Lakeside?

TROY

It's more of a partnership.

CAROLINE

Demolition is next week.

TROY

Just stop. Please, stop.

MACKENZIE

Next week? Tell them...

CHRISTOPHER

Can she be gone now?

ALAN

Please. Nobody wants you here.

ABBY

Get her and her knockoff Chanel bag
out of here.

TROY

It will be okay.

CAROLINE

Let's check the bathrooms

All teachers leave

DARLA

I know we're all scared right now
and we don't know if the show's
happening.

MACKENZIE

They're going to put the Lakeside
kids in all the shows now

ALAN

Hey, guys. Rumors are rumors. This
could be our last week here. Maybe
ever.

ABBY

So let's make our mark while we
can. We don't know what's gonna
happen.

DARLA

But as Joan always says, summers come and go. But what happens on this stage, that's eternal.

DYLAN

Oh-oh. I guess our parents are arriving for our performance weekend

TRANSITION TO HOW TO SAVE THE CAMP

TROY

My guy, massive news. I think I figured out how to save the camp.

GLENN

How?

TROY

So I was going over the deal that I signed, like all last night and this morning and I noticed they only take possession of the camp if the bank forecloses. Caroline just assumed that we would fail. But the truth is we still can come up with the money to hold off the bank.

GLENN

And how do you expect us to find this money, Troy?

TROY

That is where the en-Troy-preneurship comes in.

GLENN

Right

TROY

I sent out an email blast to my ride or dies, the Founding Ballers, and I invited them to the show. Right? These guys are like primo business influencers, Glenn. So if they come here, and they see our little freaky-deakies in action, crushing Joan, Still, they'll have to invest. They'll be emptying their pockets.

GLENN

Yeah, no, they sound, uh, extremely legit.

TROY

Yeah

GLENN

Um, and I think it's nice that you wanna do this for the camp and for your mom, but we don't have any creative visionaries left. Okay?

TROY

What are you talking about? Yes, we do.

GLENN

No! Avis and Rebecca-Diane left. The show is dead in the water.

TROY

We have you, Glenn. Show everyone how much they've been underestimating you. Finish the job. C'mon!

POPPY

24 hours later. The show day!

Backstage, just before the show, the air is thick with nerves.

TROY

I just wanna say thank you all for all your hard work in the last 24 hours. I look around and I see a lot of prepared faces. I'd say no pressure, but... it's a little bit of pressure. You know? Gigi, you got anything?

GIGI

Um, I would like to say that I was very angry with you guys a couple hours ago. Uh, but I'm over it.

CLIVE

Remember, no one's gonna look at your feet. Just keep smiling and deliver. All right, guys. Put your hands in. Come on.

ALAN
One, two, three! Joan, Still!

MACKENZIE
Let's do this!

Alan comes to Janet

ALAN
You're a liar. I know your secret

JANET
Excuse me?

ALAN
You lied on your resume. But you
are a very good liar. I think you'd
make a fantastic agent. I'm trying
to get my company off the ground.
Think about it.
(hands a business card)
I'm always here.

Lights go off. The show is about to begin. Troy on a mic

TROY
Good evening, AdirondACTS. Special
shout-out to my crew, Founding
Ballers. Thanks for coming out. As
most of you know, my name is Troy,
and I've been blessed with having
an amazing mother. A woman...all of
you know and love. Unfortunately,
she is unable to be with us
tonight. So we've decided to bring
the show to her via a live feed.

Sebastian and Christopher bring the white-screen cloth and
stretch it. There's a live streaming of Joan in a coma

TROY (CONT'D)
Give it up for Joan!

Applause

RITA
Oh my god! She really looks good. I
think she's lost weight.

TROY

Our kids have worked their little
butts off all summer to do my mom's
story justice and to hopefully
bring you the best night of your
lives. Are you ready?

All cheering

TROY (CONT'D)

This one's for you, Mom. Let's blow
the roof off that ICU!

CAROLINE

I don't think this show is gonna
work out. TBH

RITA

Shhh!

Avis slips in quietly and watches from the corner. A
silhouette appears on the screen as the musical begins. The
cast, dressed in 1960s period costumes, transforms into the
people and moments that shaped Joan's life.

ALL

Joan am. Joan now. Joan does
somehow. Joan did. Joan will. Joan
can. Joan still

CHRISTOPHER

Tonight we take you to the start of
our great founder's beating heart.
Our tale begins in '63. A young
girl and her father flee. Though
planes could fly and girls could
vote, for some reason, they took a
boat.

ALL

America. America. We're sailing to
America. In 1963

GLENN

Oh, my little Joan, come. Look at
the horizon. Think of all the
possibilities that await you.

"Women Cannot Read" songs starts

GLENN (CONT'D)

In America. Enlightened nation.
Where even women get education.
(MORE)

GLENN (CONT'D)

From clean to cook, every skill you need. Don't fret, I'll tell the recipes. 'Cause women cannot read.

ALL

Hey! Women cannot read. Women cannot read

GLENN

A, B, C, D, she don't know 'cause

ALL

Women cannot read

DARLA

Tata! I know you were among the wisest men back in Susnovietz. Admired by the Jews, even respected by the Soviets. I trust your understanding of the workings of the world. But I see somebody reading and I think that it's a girl?!

GLENN

In America, romantic nation. Men will be fighting for your adoration. You choose who you want, love can take the lead. As long as he is Jewish, also Polish, also on my list, a list that I'll recite to you 'cause women cannot read

ALL

Oh, women cannot read. Women cannot read. A-B-C-D, we don't know. 'Cause women cannot read

DARLA

Tata, there's nothing more romantic than my dad picking my mate for me. Of course I love it when you swear you'll come on every date with me. But even if in Poland girls take pride in being meek, in New York there's a religion called the Feminine Mystique. I remember Mama lit the room up like a lighthouse in a fog. When she raised her voice to sing and pray in synagogue. Tata, in America, could I make noise like Mama did? Could I become a banker or a doctor or a drama kid?

DARLA (CONT'D)
 Okay, I know there's something better. Than to cook and do the cleaning. But I look at every letter. And I wanna know its meaning. I'm wrestling with these words. That I'm an inch away from knowing. My eyes are moving back and forth. The sense of it is growing

GLENN
 In America. Enlightened nation. Where even women get education. From clean to cook, every skill you need.

DARLA (CONT'D)
 (STUTTERS)
 J...J...Jifka was shot!

She shows the newspaper that JFK was shot. She can sort of read

ALL
 Maybe she can read!

GLENN
 No way!

ALL
 Maybe she can read!

GLENN
 That's luck. A, B, C, D, she can't know!

ALL
 Or maybe she can read!

DARLA
 It's New York Harbor, look. That statue holds a book. It's A-M-E-R-I-C-A- See, Tata, I can read

ALAN
 So Joan broke up with her boyfriend and she used her diploma to get a job as a mailroom clerk at the New York Stock Exchange.

"Wall Street Noise" begins. The kids tear across the stage in a panic, creating a whirlwind of Wall Street chaos.

DEVON
 If I'm not making money, then I'm losing money.
 (MORE)

DEVON (CONT'D)

If I'm losing money, you're losing
your job and you're all fired!

ABBY

Miss? Are you lost?

DARLA

Oh, I'm just looking for the
mailroom. I'm Joan

ABBY

Ah..The new blood

DARLA

From my corner in the mailroom.
Under the ground I hear

ALL

The Wall Street noise!

DARLA

It's a beautiful sound. Sorting
letters, getting older. Makin'
minimum pay. While the brokers get
richer. I could listen all day

CHRISTOPHER, ALAN, SEBASTIAN, LEONARD,
DYLAN

When you buy, it's the feeling. Of
a-jumpin' to the ceiling

ALL

Buy the stock. Buy the stock. Buy
the stock

CHRISTOPHER

Then break time, boys.

DARLA

Will I ever be part of the Wall
Street noise?

ALL

When you sell you're clappin',
careful, anything can happen. Sell!
Sell! Sell!

DARLA

They got the platinum boys that you
need to find the beat of The Wall
Street

ALL

Oh yeah! You need to find the beat
of Wall Street

ALL (CONT'D)

It's a shimmy in the shoulders.
When you talk to the shareholders.
Hey! Shareholders. Hey!
Shareholders. Hey!

DARLA

Guiltless greed is one of life's
great joys. Maybe someday I'll
stomp. In the Wall Street. Noise

ABBY

(spoken, screaming)

It's the stock market crash of
1973. None of the stockbrokers have
come into work today because they
feel like it's all their fault. Is
anyone, anyone in tune with the
rhythm of money?

DARLA

Um..I am

ALL

Joan?!

EMMA

What do you know about The Wall
Street Noise?

DARLA

Watch me! Buy the stock! Buy the
stock! Buy the stock! Buy the
stock!

ALL

Oh My god!

MACKENZIE

She just sold the bear market into
a dividend

DARLA

Buy, sell the stock. Buy, sell the
stock. Buy, sell the stock. Buy,
sell the stock.

CHRISTOPHER, ALAN, SEBASTIAN, LEONARD,
DYLAN

Goodbye, stagflation!

DARLA (CONT'D)

Extra, extra, read all about it.
Tata's gone, how will I live
without him? When you're lost to
the city, feeling lonely low.
There's a door on Fifty-Fourth
Street to a starry studio

ALL

Dark room, bright lights. Debbie
Harry wearing tights. Pink drinks,
high heels. David Geffen eating
meals. Friends and strangers and
big chandeliers. Got no home to go
to

DARLA

So I'm staying here

ALL

Live it up. Like there's no
tomorrow. Give it up. To the groovy
disco glittery light. Live it up.
'Cause if there's no tomorrow.
We're dancing for endorphins.
'Cause we're Broadway baby orphans
tonight

EMMA

And just like that, Joan forgot all
about the loss of her father. She
immersed herself in the world of

ALL

Studio 54

CHRISTOPHER

Wow, you have incredible moves!
What's your name?

DARLA

I'm Joan, you seem a little young
to be in here

CHRISTOPHER

If I'm old enough to star in a
Broadway show, I'm old enough to
party. Eight shows a week is really
exhausting, you know?

ALL

Live it up

DARLA

Don't you have school tomorrow?

ALL

Give it up

DARLA

Suddenly the disco doesn't feel
right

ALL

Clears away. The cobwebs and the
sorrow

DARLA

Someone's gotta save ya from
degenerate behavior tonight. Quick,
give me your hand little girl, I'll
save you!

CHRISTOPHER

But I'm an artiste, and artistes
don't need saving

DARLA

Sometimes they do

CHRISTOPHER

Wow, Joan, you were right, I guess
I did need your help

DARLA

Talent is a gift, and you have to
protect yours

CHRISTOPHER

Oh gosh, you really are inspiring.
Have you ever considered becoming a
teacher?

DARLA

I'll make it through tomorrow. I'll
quit my job tomorrow. These
children matter to me. So I'll
apply to SUNY tonight

Applause

AVIS

(to herself)

Jesus, she's good!

Kids roll the bassinet. "Son Salutation" starts

DARLA

Thought my dreaming was done. All I
needed was one revelation. To show
me my boy. That my life hadn't
truly begun. Now I offer this son
salutation. Hello to my Troy

(picking up a baby)

I will build this theatrical place.
Giving children a safe, loving
space. It will grow from the magic
and grace. That I see in your face

ALL

No, your dream's never done. You're
my moon and my sun. My foundation,
my beautiful boy. Now my life's
really truly begun. So I offer this
son salutation, my beautiful Troy

DARLA

And I'll tell you each morning.
That you are my favorite

ALL

Boy!

SEBASTIAN

And finally, after selling her
father's beloved pierogi recipe for
a small fortune, Joan purchased a
beautiful plot of land located
right in the middle of the
Adirondack Mountains.

DARLA

This land is beautiful. And the
stage could go here. And all the
children looking for somewhere to
belong. I can almost see them.

EMMA

A girl with an open Snapple

ALAN

A boy who's looking down

CHRISTOPHER

All the faces and the memories

SEBASTIAN & DYLAN

That we have from right now

GLENN

Raise a glass for everyone that
will come through these halls

DARLA

But in the glass isn't alcohol.
It's something more profound! And
the halls aren't halls at all, of
course. They're trees, and lakes,
and birds

CHOIR #1

We all fly. We all fly

CHOIR #2

To find the place we can
belong. To find the place we
can call home

GLENN

Camp isn't home. But is it, kind
of? Kind of it is, I think it kind
of is

GLENN & DARLA (CONT'D)

Camp isn't home. But is it, kind
of? I think it kind of is

MACKENZIE

Where every kid picked last in gym.
Finally makes the team

DEVON

Where square pegs find their holes.
And outcasts find their dreams

GIRLS

It's a melting pot where belting
girls

BOYS

And boys in tiny shorts

ALL

Come to find forever friendships.
Just four hours from New York

CHOIR #1

We all fly. We all fly

CHOIR #2

To find the place we can
belong. To find the place we
can call home

ALL

A place we can call Joan! Camp
isn't home! But is it, kind of?
Kind of, it is, I think it kind of
is. I think it kind of is.

(MORE)

ALL (CONT'D)

Camp isn't home!. Camp isn't home!
But is it, kind of? I think it kind
of is. We all fly. We all fly. We
all fly. We all fly.

CHRISTOPHER

Camp taught me that my words are
powerful

EMMA

Without camp, I would've never
known I could sing a high F above
middle C.

ABBY

At camp, I learned that you don't
have to be pretty to be talented.
It's just a bonus.

DEVON

At camp, I learned to live in my
truth as a heterosexual man.

Avis sees Rebecca-Diane on the other side of the stage. They
lock eyes, smile, and run into each other's arms, hugging
tightly – all the tension finally giving way to love, relief,
and complete understanding.

AVIS

I'm sorry

REBECCA-DIANE

I'm sorry

AVIS

You finished the song. It's so
beautiful.

REBECCA-DIANE

I did it for you.

AVIS

You should do whatever you wanna do
and pursue your dreams, okay? I'm
going to stay here. If there is a
here, I belong here.

REBECCA-DIANE

Well, I'll come back all the time.

AVIS

Promise?

REBECCA-DIANE

I promise. You're not getting rid of me.

ALL

Camp isn't home! But is it, kind of? Kind of, it is, I think it kind of is. I think it kind of is. Camp isn't home! Camp isn't home! But is it, kind of? I think it kind of is. Joan Still!

TROY

The Founding Ballers loved the show, but they have no money and actually are under investigation

AVIS

Caroline was ready for demolition, until Tim, Troy's Airbnb guest, made a sizable donation, holding off the foreclosure

REBECCA-DIANE

The show spoke to him as he also worked on Wall Street

GLENN

Rebecca-Diane's cruise was a success. Until she set the ship on fire during a seance.

JANET

Avis is focused more than ever on teaching.

MACKENZIE

I hope I see you next summer. Thanks for being so hard on me. I know it was for a good reason.

AVIS

Harness this pain and use it in the future, okay?

RITA

Troy is busy raising money for the camp. He's shopping around his book proposal "You Can't Spell Community Without Coma"

On a screen behind, Joan wakes up

ALL
She's awake!!

But wait. It's a different lady

LADY
I have no idea what this was, who
set this up, why I'm watching this,
but what a pleasure! What a thrill!
What talent!

TROY
Uh, must have set it up in the
wrong room. Yeah that was bad

LADY
You lifted my spirits, kids. And
Joan, what a woman she is. But
Joan, Still, right? That is
something to celebrate. I can't
wait to see you on Broadway. You
kids are wonderful. You're all
going to be big, big stars!

TROY
Joan, Still right?!

On a screen. Joan wakes up in panic.

JOAN
Don't let Troy run the camp!

LADY
Oh, you're up, huh? I just saw a
whole show about your life. The
kids did an amazing job. (SINGING)
Camp isn't home Oh, what a song.
You slept through it. I watched it.

JOAN
Well, um, do you know why I'm here?

LADY
No.

All bow as the musical motif returns. Once the stage has
emptied, Rebecca-Diane sits center stage with her autoharp
and offers the audience a final goodbye song.

REBECCA-DIANE
Bye Bye! Bye Bye! We're done. The
ghosts of our past selves are done.
We are gone, we are gone. We are
now new people.
(MORE)

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

We are now new people. We are now
the children of the plants.

The curtains begin to close. Rebecca-Diane pops her head back out, unwilling to let the moment end just yet.

REBECCA-DIANE (CONT'D)

Thank you guys so much for coming.
We'll see you at the next
performance next week. Or tomorrow.
I don't remember. Bye!

Someone drags her back in. The show is officially over!