

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Putting Back The Fest

by Michael Jeffery

EXTRACT

© 1996 Michael Jeffery



This script is distributed by The Australian Script Centre
77 Salamanca Place Hobart 7004 Tasmania Australia
email admin@ozscript.org
www.ozscript.org
ph +61 3 6223 4675
fax +61 3 6223 4678

[OUR SCENE IS THAT OF A MODEST THEATRE. THE SET CONSISTS OF A BANNER STRETCHED ACROSS THE STAGE. THE SIGN READS: 'PUTTING THE FEST. BACK INTO FESTIVAL.' IN FRONT OF THIS SIGN TO THE RIGHT; DOWN STAGE RIGHT, IS AN AWARDS TABLE LADEN WITH TROPHIES, PREFERABLY OF THE 'DRAMA MASKS' VARIETY.

IT IS THE FINAL NIGHT OF AN AMATEUR ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL. ALL THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE GATHERED TO HEAR THE ADJUDICATOR'S FINAL REMARKS. TWO FESTIVAL WORKERS BUMBLE ONTO THE STAGE]

FIRST FESTIVAL WORKER:

Welcome back everybody, and welcome to this the final adjudication and, and, summery-ation of this year's One Act Amateur, One Act, Dramatics, Amateur Performing Arts Festival.

SECOND FESTIVAL WORKER:

And now to perform his final adjudication, and final remarks about this year's festival, would you please welcome up to the stage our esteemed adjudicator, Mister Alexander Kin...

[AN OFF-STAGE FESTIVAL WORKER CLEARS HIS/HER THROAT AND PLONKS RAFFLE PARAPHERNALIA UP ON THE STAGE]

FIRST FESTIVAL WORKER:

You forgot the raffle dear.

SECOND FESTIVAL WORKER:

Oh yes, the raffle. Thank you to all you nice people who bought tickets. We, as you probably know, we have been having our raffle in order to raise money.

FIRST FESTIVAL WORKER:

You see, we're trying to improve the 'technicals' of our little theatrette. We're hoping to purchase a sound system [SLIGHT PAUSE] WITH speakers.

SECOND FESTIVAL WORKER:

We thank you all for your participation, and the lucky winner, who will receive this lovely bottle of champers...

FIRST FESTIVAL WORKER:

And this [PAUSE] interesting bark painting...

SECOND FESTIVAL WORKER:

Is none other than ticket [DRAWS] pink B 39. Pink B 39? They haven't rushed off home have they?

FIRST FESTIVAL WORKER:

I think the names are on the back dear.

SECOND FESTIVAL WORKER:

The names are on the... [TURNS THE RAFFLE TICKET OVER] Oh yes, so they are. Ticket B 39 - Ms Debbie King.

[AN EXCITED DEBBIE KING MAKES HER WAY UP TO THE STAGE]

FIRST FESTIVAL WORKER:

Ah, Debbie, here you are - the champagne, and the, ah, painting.

DEBBIE:

Right, well I'd just like to say...

FIRST FESTIVAL WORKER:

We don't really have time for that, but thank you Debbie.

[AUDIENCE ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLAUD, DEBBIE IS USHERED OFF]

FIRST FESTIVAL WORKER:

Right, well NOW it's time for the final adjudications and final summations of this year's amateur performing arts festival.

SECOND FESTIVAL WORKER:

So if you'd please join with us now in welcoming up to the stage, our esteemed adjudicator,

BOTH FESTIVAL WORKERS:

Mister Alexander Kindade.

[THE FESTIVAL WORKERS INDICATE THAT ALEXANDER IS ABOUT TO ENTER FROM STAGE RIGHT. THE AUDIENCE APPLAUDS.]

AFTER SUFFICIENT TIME TO 'DRINK IN' THIS ADULATION, ON WALKS THE ADJUDICATOR; THE FLAMBOYANT ALEXANDER KINKADE, FROM STAGE LEFT.

ALEXANDER FAKES SURPRISE AT THE AUDIENCE'S ENTHUSIASTIC REACTION. THROUGHOUT THE PLAY, HIS JOVIAL EXTERIOR HIDES DEEPER INNER CONFLICT.]

MISTER ALEXANDER KINKADE:

[HALF UNDER HIS BREATH:] Oh no. For me? Oh, you're too kind, really! Please don't.
[THE APPLAUSE DIES DOWN]

[ALEXANDER GOES TO SHAKE THE HAND OF THE FIRST FESTIVAL WORKER. UNFORTUNATELY, THE FIRST FESTIVAL WORKER DROPS HIS/HER PAPERS WHEN GOING TO SHAKE ALEXANDER'S HAND.]

BUSINESS AS THE WORKERS REPEATEDLY GO TO PICK UP THEIR PAPERS AND SHAKE ALEXANDER'S HAND.

BUSINESS AS SECOND FESTIVAL WORKER'S SPECTACLES FALL TO THE FLOOR AS HE/SHE BENDS DOWN TO PICK UP PAPERS.

THE WORKERS THEN GO TO EXIT STAGE RIGHT BEFORE STOPPING, AND GOING TO EXIT STAGE LEFT - WALKING IN FRONT OF ALEXANDER.