

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



Luckytown

by Brett Heath

EXTRACT

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LUCKYTOWN
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AS AUDIENCE ENTER AUDITORIUM, RUSSIAN MUSIC AND METRONOME FX ARE PLAYING, BOUNCING FROM FRONT TO BACK OF ROOM. THERE IS NO LIGHT ON STAGE, ONLY DIM AUDIENCE LIGHTING. THE SET COMPRISES OF A SINGLE IRON BED, A CHAIR, A SMALL RISER DOWNSTAGE.

AS AUDITORIUM LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK, WE HEAR FROM UNDER THE TAUGHT SHEET THAT LAYS OVER THE BEDHEAD AND FOOTHEAD A SNORE. EIGHT DISTINCTIVE SNORES ARE HEARD AS THE FAINTEST OF LIGHT IS BROUGHT UP ONTO THE BED BEFORE 5 LOUD BOAT HORNS, EDITED TOGETHER AND PERSPECTIVELY TREATED, ARE HEARD. THIS STARTLES OUR HERO UNDER THE SHEET, SO MUCH SO THAT HE SITS BOLT UPRIGHT AND SCREAMS OUT IN HIS EASTERN EUROPEAN ACCENT-

Is it time, Mischa is it time, is it time Mischa, is it time,
time, time, time....

BY THIS STAGE THE HORNS HAVE CEASED AND OUR HERO'S VOICE TRAILS OFF INTO THE SILENCE. HE IS LEFT SITTING UPRIGHT, COVERED IN THE SHEET. HE TURNS ON A SMALL TORCH AND LOOKS AT HIS WATCH. HE LAYS BACK DOWN.

It is nearly time, nearly time, and for this I cannot rest, cannot rest, for inside my head all I can hear is a constant tick tock, tick tock, tick tock. I think that I am so beside myself that I will be walking like a crab. But you know Mischa sometimes, sometimes I feel so happy, yes happy that we are to be here that I want to sing, sing, sing to all the angels in all of the heavens. What's that Mischa, you, ..you want me to sing, to sing! But of course Mischa, of course I will sing....

going down to lucky town, down to lucky town
I'm going to lose these blues I've found
down in lucky town.

Can you believe it Mischa? We are actually going, we are actually on our way to..but wait Mischa, but wait.. perhaps,..perhaps then this is just a dream, a dream Mischa, a dream...If this is the case I am thinking then that you will have to pinch me just to make it sure that I am not dreaming one of those dreams that when you wake up you want to dive straight back into that dream. Will you do that for me Mischa? Good, this is good, thank you OUCH!, Mischa, that hurt, I wasn't ready for the pinch yet but,..but I'm still here, you are still here, we are still here!!!!

VERY QUICKLY THE COVERS ARE PULLED BACK AND DARIUS SITS UP AND SLOWLY SPINS AROUND TO SIT ON THE EDGE OF THE BED. HE STRETCHES IN A MALADROIT FASHION.

LFX- MAIN WASH AND WINDOW GOBO

HE LOOKS OVER TOWARDS THE SMALL RISER WHICH IS THE WINDOW AREA.

Mischa, I have to peer out of the window one more time so that I can make double double sure that...well, that our boat has not sunk. Why would it be sinking now? (He thinks) Well Mischa,

there could be a secret army of daydream police who can tap into your awake dreamings, and then hijack them as a way of bringing your feet back down to this earth just so that you may live in your own mortal slime just that little bit longer. That is why I have to peer out the window.

So Mischa, you want to look one more time with me?yes, lets. I tell you what, I give you race, I give you race to window and the winner can...can look out window first, okeedokey? OK, OK, here we go then, boy oh boy, now I am really excited now. I just hope I don't crash through window and plummet to my death. That would be very sad...and very embarrassing. But I am sure that it will not happen...I hope.

OK, here we go now, are you ready,
THEY LINE UP FOR THE RACE
Ok, ready, setty, ...bang!

SFX 1- UNTOUCHABLES MUSIC STARTS.

DARIUS STARTS RUNNING IN SLOW MOTION TOWARDS THE WINDOW. HE HOLDS MISCHA IN ONE HAND AS IF HE IS RUNNING NEXT TO HIM. THE LEAD CHANGES A FEW TIMES DURING THE RACE.

Come on Mischa, come on...faster, faster... Hang on Mischa, wait up for me, wait up for me. It is neck and neck, neck and neck, neck and neck...and...yes!- The winner is Mischa, Mischa. How do you do it Mischa, how is it possible that you could beat me here?...considering that my legs are made of muscle, blood and bone and yours are made from cotton wadding? Ahhh!, only joking Mischa, only joking. You got there first because you are as happy as what I am in that we will be sailing to Lucky Town in approximately...37 minutes. Are you ready for your winners prize...here goes.. 1...2..3..up!

HE THRUSTS MISCHA UP INTO THE AIR LIKE A PERISCOPE.

Can you see the boat Mischa, can you see the boat?

PAUSE

Mischa, can you see the boat?

PAUSE

I said Mischa can you see the boat?

PAUSE

Mmm, I think it is time for me to have a sticky bo-peep.

it...yes you can, you
can...quick, quick, let me have another sticky bo beep.

DARIUS LAUNCHES HIMSELF ONTO THE RISER AND INTO THE WINDOW LIGHT
(THAT HAS BEEN BOXED TO LOOK LIKE A WINDOW)

Look at all those boats Mischa..look.. Oh look Mischa, look, look... you see there, that is where Ivan will be giving us the signal from. Remember three flashes yes, all clear, one flash no. I think three shall become my lucky number. ...can you see our boat Mischa, do you remember which boat it is?? I wonder...is it the one with the red stripe running down the side?...noooo! Is it the one with the orange stripe running down the side...nnooooo! Is it the one with the blue and yellow wavy stripes running down