

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



In a Mosh Pit no one can Hear you Scream

by David Brown

EXTRACT

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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

In a mosh pit no one can hear you scream.

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This play was commissioned by the Queensland Arts Council in 2002. It was produced in Newcastle by Dog Day Moon Project and toured Queensland High Schools throughout 2003

Characters

SAM **a large dark uni student, 18 years**

LEXI **a diminutive uni student, 18 years**

Enter Sam

Sam, 18, is in his first year at Uni. He is a large guy

He is reading a sheet of paper with names of songs printed on it. There is a small amount of sound equipment including a microphone and small PA.

Near Sam is a CD player and a pile of CDs

He presses play and a hard core electro-dance-trance drum beat pounds out

Sam tests the recording and playback equipment. Throughout the play, Sam will record sounds and words and play the recordings back to create a sound loop with instrumental backing

The drum beat is still pounding out – Sam starts getting into the music

He picks up the mic and raps - "here is the news", "you are not what I think you are", "welcome to the war, the war against terror", "you cannot see the enemy", "I am not what you think I am", "there is a message in everything", "the news of the world is not what you think it is", "we are all boat people"

Sam also has with him a bag full of textbooks and a poster canister

Sam's shirt is noticeably ripped – a ripped pocket

Sam stops the music

SAM (into mic) Thank you and good night!

He puts down the mic

No it's not the end. It's just the beginning! What did you think of my beats? Did you like that? I love music

See all these CDs. These are Lexi's. She's a friend

he looks through CDs

Dance, dance trance, techno trance, techno electro dance, thrash, trash, metal, hardcore, tribal beats, vital beats, dead beats, acid electro pop, Brit pop, hip hop, snap, crackle and pop, grunge, garage, Mariah Carey...

Mariah Carey?

He tosses that CD into the bin

I'm not in a band or a DJ or anything, just like music – love playing around with sounds and saying stuff about the way I'm feeling and I'm kind of angry at the moment. Have you noticed? Aarrgghh! Nuh, it's cool, I'm not going to kill anyone. Yet.

I'm Sam and welcome to my world. Sorry if I'm a bit hyped but I think I'm about to be arrested. Not for anything serious. Just for... for being a monster!

That reminds me

He goes to his CDs and picks one out

Got to record this. For a friend

He plays/records the CD 'Monsters' by Something for Kate

Yeah, so (referring to himself and the set) this is pretty trippy – that I can talk to you. But trust me, you won't get hurt. This (indicating set) is my head space

(referring to CD) I'm not sure I like this song – 'Monsters'

He stops the CD

I hate that word. No. I **really, really** hate that word

he takes out a dictionary

(reads) Monster

A legendary animal. Huge, enormous, monstrous

Sam records his voice

he screams into the mic

A Monster is not real

You make your monster!

he stops recording

(as Elephant man) "I am not a monster" – Elephant Man said that. You seen that movie? I love movies. That's what I'm studying – film

I want to make films and you're part of this... this... well, it's not a film, this isn't even a script. If this was a script I'd be a character in a play. I'm not, right?

You can see that I'm real, right? This is my life. And there are no scripts anyway! I'm making it up as I go along – except for this bit – this bit is the introduction. Where was I?

I want to make films. Not monster films. No way! I had such a bad time with that word – monster. Last year, in high school. It was woeful

"I am not a monster!" They turned me into a monster. I was like smashing up the place. (does Frankenstein impersonation)
Kill, crush, destroy!

I don't even look like a monster

I'm big. So what?

I could punch the crap out of them. Ha! To stop being a monster I had to act like one – and they never saw the funny side

Not that there's anything funny about punching someone's head in and you wouldn't even think about punching someone's head in, would you?

But if you did, and you wouldn't. But if you thought you might. But you won't. But if you felt that you wanted to. But you couldn't, because you won't, because you don't, but if you did..

Sam picks up the poster canister and uses it like a sword

(elephant man) I'm not an animal! (Frankenstein) Kill, crush, destroy! I am not an animal!! Kill, crush, destroy!

He swings the canister wildly – acting like a monster

Who made me Monster?

I am not an animal! Kill, crush, destroy!

Lexi, 18, enters

Lexi holds some flyers

She has been running

Lexi is excited

LEXI Did it work? Did you put up my posters and...

Lexi looks at Sam who holds an unusual stance

What the hell are you doing?!

SAM Just... um... just hold that thought

Lexi freezes

SAM (referring to the frozen Lexi) Cool trick, eh?

Now, because this is the intro – here's the run-down. That's Lexi

We went to high school together last year where I got bagged severely and Lexi was my only friend really and she's running for the Student Union here at uni

And I was doing some work for her to get elected and... it all went a bit pear-shaped. Very pear-shaped actually

Lexi paid me to make some posters for her to get elected. I'm good at graphics – Photoshop, Quark, and I did the posters and there was something else...

Oh, yeah. I'm about to get arrested

Lexi resumes action

LEXI Did it work? Did you put up the posters and did they do the thing with my name?

SAM Um

LEXI Sam, did it work?

SAM Yeah, I think so

LEXI Well, did it?!

SAM Yeah, yeah, it did

Lexi notices the poster pack