

THEATRE MOM

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THEATRE MOM

Synopsis

An impresario offers a Stage Mom a sure-fire way to get her son into a production.

THEATRE MOM

Cast of Characters

RIP.....man; middle-aged

SUE.....woman; late 30's

Scene

An office or conference room.

Time

The present.

SETTING

RIP and SUE are conferring in some part of a theater: office, green room, prop room.

AT RISE

Discover SUE, pacing up and down.

THEATRE MOM

(We hear, off stage, a young boy reciting "To be or not to be, that is the question." This can be on a tape, of course. RIP enters and speaks to the voice.)

RIP

That's very good, Danny. Now, I'm just going to talk with your mom for a while so you take a break. Ah, Mrs. Gordon. Your boy has just read for us. And he's good; he's very good. A very impressive audition, especially for one so young.

SUE

Oh, I'm so glad. He's only six but he's been wanting to act---he's been acting---since he was two.

RIP

As I said, he's good. But, we get many talented---very talented---youngsters in here. Every day, almost. It's hard, it's very hard, to determine just who should get cast. And who shouldn't.

SUE

I see. Well, we always knew it was a tough business. If he gets in the play; that's wonderful. If not, we can live with it.

RIP

Now, that sounds like you're giving up hope! I wouldn't want you to do that, Mrs. G. There may be, there just may be, a way we can be certain that Danny gets a part.

SUE

Oh? Just how....

RIP

Let me explain. Let me give you some examples. Our theater is woefully underfunded. Various parents have been good enough to make contributions for our daily expenses.

SUE

I'm sorry; I couldn't do that. I'm a divorced mother of three. We're not hurting financially but don't have any funds left over for something like this.

RIP

No, of course not. I just mentioned that as **one** way which an actor can be assured of a role. Please understand; any offer we make---any suggestion we make---is solely to try to find a slot for a talented, a very talented, youngster. I'm sure that you do want to give Danny every chance to develop his gift---his god given talent.

SUE

Oh, yes; certainly. I probably shouldn't tell you this, but Danny is my favorite.

RIP

Ah, that's no secret, Mrs. G. I could tell that, as soon as you walked in. In fact, I can't recall a mother coming in with a child who **wasn't** her favorite. Nothing to be ashamed of; not at all; quite natural. So---as he is your favorite, we both know you want him to live his dream.

SUE

You do put that well. Yes; I want him to have his dream. I married far too young; any dreams I had are in ashes. But, my Danny, I do want him to have that chance.

RIP

Well, so do I; so do I. Now, as I was saying---there are different ways that parents can contribute. Your financial position is such that anything of that nature is out of the question. But....

SUE

Yes?

RIP

Well, we have parents who build sets. Who run our lights and sound systems. I wonder if you....

SUE

Gee; no, I'm sorry. I'm no good with things like that. I could sell tickets! Or take tickets! Show people to their seats. You know; be an usher.

RIP

Well, that's very kind of you, but, no. We have volunteers constantly available for those tasks. People do that, just to see the plays. No; for something as significant as getting an actual part in a production---for that, we'd need a larger, a different, contribution.

SUE

What did you have in mind?

RIP

Perhaps you can think of some way we can make his dream come true.

(RIP takes a step or two toward exit.)

You're an extremely attractive woman, Debbie.

BLACKOUT