

Flamboyant Man in the Rain

From the collection "Ducks at Thirty-Five
Thousand and Other Plays"

by
Richard T. Young

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ABOUT THIS COLLECTION

This play involves a woman and man who are strangers to each other until happenstance causes them to meet in a confined space. Through self-disclosure their lives touch and perhaps change. In this play the stage "gimmick" of being able to hear the characters thoughts as well as their spoken words is used. Although the theme is on the serious side there is much humor. "Flamboyant Man in the Rain" features a cartoon show writer who is getting bad reviews and an about-to-be-fired hair dresser are in the same taxi cab in the middle of a rain storm. After initial-humorous-hostilities toward each other they realize their plights may have much in common. From the collection "Ducks at Thirty-Five Thousand and Other Plays"

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2m 2w.)

JOE - Mid thirties, give or take five years.

SALLY - Early twenties.

JOE'S THOUGHT

SALLY'S THOUGHT

PRODUCTION NOTES FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

It's possible to do the play with a cast of two and produce the "thoughts" via tape, but I think you would lose a great deal of impact in the process. I think it is best if the "thoughts" are seen in silhouette only. They should move, and react normally but their faces should be in the dark.

Mime is very important to the action. Non-existing windows are rolled down, doors are opened etc. Precision is the key. All in-hand props should be real.

The profanity, although mild and appropriate, should be considered carefully before it is included. It may be cut, or replaced with more mild expletives at the discretion of the director.

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(LIGHTS come up simultaneously on JOE and SALLY. They are at extreme stage right and left. The lights also come up on the JOE'S THOUGHT and SALLY'S THOUGHT. The thoughts are in the same position as they were in scene one. Joe is dressed in a business suit, trench coat and hat. Sally has a sort of high fashion punk look. We can hear the sounds of rain through out this scene. Joe has a paper folded so he can look at one particular section intently. He is reading from the paper, with controlled anger.)

JOE'S THOUGHT: The Flamboyant Man show has all the charm of a...

JOE: Dead frog!

SALLY'S THOUGHT: I told her a blue rinse wouldn't work, and now she has ...

SALLY: Green hair.

JOE: Dead frog!

JOE'S THOUGHT and SALLY'S THOUGHT: It's Monday, it's raining, I'm late for work, I can't find a cab and...

(The following two lines are said simultaneously.)

JOE: The critics are picking on me!

SALLY: I am getting blamed for green hair.

JOE'S THOUGHT: What business do they have reviewing a cartoon show?

SALLY'S THOUGHT: A seventy six year old woman shouldn't have blue highlights. Why do I have to do the head of a millionaire? Just because she owns the shop doesn't mean she has to have her hair done there.

JOE'S THOUGHT: I write cartoons for eight years, and suddenly they are the experts.

SALLY'S THOUGHT: Her head is so chemicaled to death she's lucky to have hair at all. Maybe when you have that much money you start to look like it, and the first thing to go is the hair.

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JOE'S THOUGHT: Since when does a child psychologist know the difference between a good cartoon and a bad one.

SALLY'S THOUGHT: No one would do their own surgery, but everyone thinks they can do their own hair.

JOE'S THOUGHT: Psychologists only see the perverts. I don't write for perverts, I write for normal kids.

SALLY'S THOUGHT: Last month she wanted curls, and now she wants blue highlights. Maybe I'll get lucky and next month she'll just go bald.

(The following lines are said simultaneously.)

JOE'S THOUGHT: The Flamboyant Man Hour clearly has the charm of a

JOE: dead frog.

SALLY'S THOUGHT: I told her a blue rinse wouldn't work, and now she has

SALLY: green hair.

BOTH: Taxi!

(They BOTH run to center stage, where the light has come up on the back seat of a taxi. They shield themselves from the rain as they run to it, and don't see each other until they are both completely inside.)

JOE: Excuse me, but this is my taxi!

SALLY: Oh really, then your name must be "Checker." If it isn't, then I saw this cab first and I need to get where I am going fast.

JOE: What do you mean, "you saw it first?" I've been waiting out in this rain for twenty minutes, and this is the first cab I've seen.

SALLY: Then you must be blind 'cause gillions of cabs go by here every second.

JOE: Look lady I ... *(To the unseen driver.)* just a minute cabbie, we've got a territorial dispute to settle here.

SALLY: There isn't any dispute! *(To unseen cabbie.)* Just tell this clown to get out so I can get to work before I lose my job altogether.

JOE: Right, and my boss won't care if I come in a half hour late.

(The next two lines are simultaneous.)

SALLY: I really don't care about your problems. I have enough of my own. How many people you know are facing the wrath of a green haired millionaire. Now will you please get out of this cab so I can get to work!

JOE: My boss is unhappy enough with me as it is. I've been writing cartoons for eight years, but suddenly I'm no good because of one lousy review in the paper. You can get out now, or you can come with me.

BOTH: Driver, take me to the Helmut building! *(They are BOTH quiet for a moment while that sinks in.)*

SALLY: Well, that works out rather nicely.

JOE: Certainly does. It's fortunate for you that you are going the same place I am.

SALLY: Fortunate for me?

JOE: Yes, given the circumstances I'll let you come along.

SALLY: You'll let me come along?

JOE: Why not, since you are going to the same place I am.

SALLY: I am being allowed to go with you?

JOE: That's right.

SALLY: My how nice for me.

SALLY'S THOUGHT: I get to ride with a jerk.

JOE: Exactly!

SALLY: That means I save cab fare for the day.

JOE: What.

SALLY: Seems plain to me. If I am with you, then you are the one who hired the cab and I am a guest.

SALLY'S THOUGHT: *(Little kid like.)* Ha, ha-ha, ha, ha!

JOE: We are sharing this cab and you pay half.

SALLY: Then I am not with you, and there is nothing fortunate about our going to the same place, because if we weren't you'd still be out there in the rain.

End of Freeview

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