

Waiting for April

A Ten Minute Tragicomedy
for Five Characters

By Scott Kaiser



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Scott@ScottKaiserShakespeare.com

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THE CHARACTERS

Stage Manager

Pozzo

Didi

Gogo

Director

Lights up.

An empty theatre space. A ghost light burns at center stage.

The STAGE MANAGER enters, moves the ghost light off the stage, and begins to set up for rehearsal.

POZZO enters, drinking a large coffee.

DIDI enters, running his lines in his head.

GOGO enters, stuffing his face with a sandwich.

Finally, the DIRECTOR enters. He is visibly agitated by something. No one dares to say anything. He moves to the director's table and begins the rehearsal...

DIRECTOR

Let's go.

STAGE MANAGER

We can't.

DIRECTOR

Why not?

STAGE MANAGER

April's not here yet.

(Pause.)

DIRECTOR

Where is she?

DIDI

On her way probably.

DIRECTOR

Did she call?

STAGE MANAGER

No, I don't think so.

(Pause.)

DIRECTOR

Damn.

(Pause.)

GOGO

She's never late.

DIRECTOR

I know, I know.

DIDI

She'll be here.

(Silence.)

STAGE MANAGER

So, uh...

DIRECTOR

Well, let's get started without her.

DIDI

From?

DIRECTOR

Let's work the "adieu" section.

POZZO

Which one?

DIRECTOR

Act one.

POZZO

Okay.

GOGO

Where?

DIDI

Just after the Lucky bit.

STAGE MANAGER

(Checking the promptbook) Then adieu?

DIRECTOR

Fine.

GOGO

Where's April?

STAGE MANAGER

We don't know.

GOGO

No, I mean, where is she onstage?

STAGE MANAGER

(Searching the promptbook) Oh, um, let's see...I think...

POZZO

(Pointing) She's there.

GOGO

So, I'm in the wrong...

DIRECTOR

No, Gogo, your right.

GOGO

Right here?

DIRECTOR

No, stage right a bit.

GOGO

Oh yeah. Okay.

(GOGO moves stage left.)

DIRECTOR

Your other right.

GOGO

Right. Sorry. *(Pause.)* I just need to know where she is.

DIRECTOR

Listen, will you call April?

STAGE MANAGER

Oh, yeah. Sure.

(The STAGE MANAGER pulls out a cellphone.)

DIRECTOR

Okay?

POZZO

Yes.

DIRECTOR

Dive in.

GOGO

Then adieu. *(Pronounced "ah-doo")*

POZZO

Adieu. *(Pronounced "ah-dee-yuh")*

DIDI

Adieu. *(Pronounced "ah-dee-yoo")*

GOGO

Adieu.

POZZO

Shit.

GOGO

What?

DIRECTOR

Wait, wait, wait. *(Pause.)* Didn't we just work this, folks?

GOGO

Uh, I'm sorry, I...

DIDI

I think it goes...

POZZO

It goes Gogo, Pozzo...

DIRECTOR

...Gogo, Pozzo, Didi, Pozzo.

GOGO
Adieu, Adieu, Adieu, Adieu?

DIRECTOR
Bingo.

DIDI
Got it?

GOGO
Yuh.

DIRECTOR
Back it up.

POZZO
Okay?

DIRECTOR
Here we go.

GOGO
Then adieu.

POZZO
Adieu.

DIDI
Adieu.

POZZO
Adieu.

(Silence.)

STAGE MANAGER
(Breaking the silence.) Uh...

DIRECTOR
Damn!

STAGE MANAGER
Sorry, I didn't...

DIRECTOR
What, what, what?

STAGE MANAGER

There's no answer.

(A pause.)

DIRECTOR

(Concerned) Did you ask upstairs?

STAGE MANAGER

Well, no...I was...

DIRECTOR

Ask.

STAGE MANAGER

Okay.

(The STAGE MANAGER exits.)

DIRECTOR

Okay, let's go.

GOGO

We can't.

DIRECTOR

Why not?

GOGO

We're waiting for April.

POZZO

Har-dee-har.

DIDI

She'll be here.

DIRECTOR

Same section. Go go go.

GOGO

Then adieu.

POZZO

Adieu.

DIDI

Adieu.

POZZO

Adieu.

(Long silence. No one moves.)

GOGO

Line?

POZZO

Shit.

DIRECTOR

No one's on book.

GOGO

Is it my line?

POZZO

(Prompting DIDI) Adieu.

DIDI

(To POZZO) It's not your line.

POZZO

I know that.

DIRECTOR

(To the cosmos) Where is she?

POZZO

(To DIDI) It's your line.

DIDI

It's not my line.

GOGO

Did we change this?

DIRECTOR

Same as yesterday.

GOGO

Then where's April?

DIDI

Lucky's there.

GOGO

Isn't she here?

POZZO

Not at the moment.

GOGO

I'm totally lost.

POZZO

No shit.

GOGO

So it's my line?

DIDI

Yes.

POZZO

No.

DIDI

(To Pozzo) Yes. (To Gogo) Adieu.

(Pause.)

GOGO

Is that the line, or the cue?

DIRECTOR

Wait...

POZZO

Didi says it...

DIRECTOR

Wait a minute...

DIDI

It's not my line...

POZZO

Fine, fine...

DIRECTOR

Wait, wait, wait!

(Silence. No one moves.)

It's Gogo, Pozzo, Didi, Pozzo. Silence. Then, Didi, Pozzo, Gogo.

GOGO

Adieu, Adieu, Adieu, Adieu. Silence. Adieu, Adieu, Adieu?

DIRECTOR

Yes.

DIDI

(Realizing his error) Oh.

POZZO

Hmmph.

GOGO

And April's here?

DIRECTOR

Right. Got it?

GOGO

Yuh, I think so.

DIRECTOR

Good. Go go go.

DIDI

From?

DIRECTOR

The top.

GOGO
Then adieu.

POZZO
Adieu.

DIDI
Adieu.

POZZO
Adieu.

(Silence.)

DIDI
Adieu.

POZZO
Adieu.

GOGO
Adieu.

(Silence.)

DIRECTOR
(Encouraged) Fine...continue...

POZZO
I don't seem to be able to...*(long hesitation)*...to depart.

GOGO
Such is life.

DIRECTOR
Stop.

(Silence.)

GOGO
What?

DIRECTOR
We jumped.

DIDI
What?

DIRECTOR
And thank you.

POZZO
Shit.

GOGO
And thank you?

DIRECTOR
And thank you, goddamn it!

POZZO
This is absurd.

GOGO
Where the hell is April?

POZZO
At the end of her rope.

GOGO
No, I mean, where is she?

DIDI
She'll be here.

DIRECTOR
Let's go!

(The STAGE MANAGER enters, and stands motionless, visibly shaken by something. Silence.)

Did you find her? *(Pause.)* Is she coming?

(Silence. No one moves.)

STAGE MANAGER
No. *(Holding back tears.)* She's gone.

(Long silence. No one moves.)

DIRECTOR

Gone?

DIDI

No...

POZZO

But...

POZZO

Shit...

(Silence. No one moves.)

STAGE MANAGER

What do we do now?

DIRECTOR

I don't know.

(Silence.)

GOGO

Let's go.

DIRECTOR

We can't.

DIDI

Why not?

DIRECTOR

We're waiting for April.

(They do not move. Slow fade to black.)

END OF PLAY