

# The King Comes Here Tonight

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*A bare stage.*

*Suddenly an ACTOR rushes in from the audience. He looks about happily then starts ostentatiously doing vocal and physical warm ups.*

*Pause.*

*The DIRECTOR enters.*

DIRECTOR

Can I help you?

ACTOR

I'm here!

DIRECTOR

Yes you are...

*(Beat)*

Can I help you?

ACTOR

Ready to act! Let's do this!

DIRECTOR

Are you here to audition?

*(Beat)*

Is your name on the list?

ACTOR

No.

DIRECTOR

No?

ACTOR

I'm here to act! To create! To share my gift with the world. Hit me! Lets rock!

DIRECTOR

Huh?

ACTOR

I am MacBATH!

DIRECTOR

Who?

ACTOR

MacBATH! To be or not to be, that is the....something, something, something..

*Pause.*

DIRECTOR

It's MacBeth.

ACTOR

What?

DIRECTOR

It's MacBeth.

ACTOR

Since when?

DIRECTOR

Ah...1606 actually. About 411 years ago.

ACTOR

Huh. I never heard that. MacBeth you say? Fine. I'll accept that.

DIRECTOR

Oh, good.

*(Beat)*

Let's review, shall we? The play is called MacBeth not MacBATH. And the part has been cast.

ACTOR

What?

DIRECTOR

The part has been cast.

ACTOR

I haven't even given my speech yet! "To be or ah....something something...oranges...something."

DIRECTOR

Get off the stage please. Now.

ACTOR

Well...what else go got?

DIRECTOR

Got?

ACTOR

Yeah, I could play a chick. Like they did in the old days, right?

DIRECTOR

No...

ACTOR

*(In a high squeaky voice)*

O, what a noble mind is here ...sorta...upset and stuff...

DIRECTOR

That is from Hamlet.

ACTOR

But it's some girl right? I could do that.

DIRECTOR

Get off. Get off my stage.

ACTOR

Now, hold on. I can also ride a horse and then get off and look all brave. Or tough. Brave and tough! Look...

*The ACTOR gallops in a circle around the stage a la Monty Python then dismounts, swaggers downstage center and places his hands on his hips.*

ACTOR

Forsooth!

DIRECTOR

What?

ACTOR

Forsooth! It's my favorite Shakespeare line. Also when I can't remember a line, I just say that. Forsooth!

DIRECTOR

I am losing the will to live...

*(Pause)*

Look the role of MacBeth is already cast. Lady MacBeth is already cast. ALL the parts have been...

*(Beat. Listening to someone offstage)*

What...what?

*(Beat)*

Our stage manager informs me we do, in fact, have a few roles left...

ACTOR

Great. What?

DIRECTOR

Servants and a Messenger.

ACTOR

Oh.

DIRECTOR

But the Messenger has a line...

ACTOR

Oh? A good one? Like...

DIRECTOR

It's a line.

ACTOR

Ok. I'm ready. I'll try it.

DIRECTOR

Alright...you come in from upstage left, see Lady MacBeth, cross down to her and say "The King..."

ACTOR

What's my motivation?

DIRECTOR

Uh...you are a servant and you have something she needs to know. And its important. So the line is "The King comes..."

ACTOR

What about my costume? Will I have a nice outfit? I'm partial to blue. My eyes are blue and I want them to pop so....

DIRECTOR

What?

ACTOR

I want to be pretty.

DIRECTOR

Oh god...

*(Beat)*

Look, listen...I need you to listen. Can you listen? Please god...

ACTOR

Sure. Shoot.

DIRECTOR

You have to tell Lady MacBeth that the king is coming. It's important to the story...

ACTOR

Why?

DIRECTOR

Have you read the play?

ACTOR

Why would I do that?

DIRECTOR

Look! All you need to say is “The King comes here tonight!” Do you think you can manage that? Seriously.

ACTOR

What are you all huffy about? You know I don’t think you are a very good director...

DIRECTOR

Really? Really?! Well sir, the feeling is...

ACTOR

Don’t you say it!

DIRECTOR

Why not?

ACTOR

Cause, cause you’ll hurt my feelings. I’m sensitive. I’m an artist, you know.

*Beat.*

DIRECTOR

*(Slowly as if beaten down)*

The line is “The King comes here tonight.” Do you think you could possibly manage saying that?

ACTOR

Sure.

DIRECTOR

OK.

ACTOR

Watch an actor prepare!

*The ACTOR dashes about the stage making dramatic faces and poses as he say the lines below.*

ACTOR (cont'd)

THE King comes here tonight! The KING comes here tonight! The King COMES here tonight! The King comes HERE tonight! The King comes here TONIGHT!

*(Beat)*

I am ready!

DIRECTOR

Ok..... Exit up stage left, come in when I say ready, cross downstage and say your line.

ACTOR

Let's do this!

*The ACTOR exits with a flourish.*

*Beat.*

DIRECTOR

Ready...action!

*The ACTOR enters, gallops in a circle around the stage a la Monty Python then dismounts, swaggers downstage center and places his hands on his hips.*

ACTOR

The King..the King..he...the King...

*(Beat)*

Forsooth!

DIRECTOR

ARRRRGGGGHHHH!

ACTOR

So I got the part?

*Blackout.*



