Exit

By Nicolás R. Hewgley and Michael Goldman
SYNOPSIS: A bear, currently in the profession of acting, tells the tale of how he got there.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE:

BEN: A bear, 25 years of age. Has been working for a while but has decided to have a change of careers.

SETTING: Under the Stage of Shakespeare’s Globe.
(Lights up on center stage. BEN, standing in preparation to enter, is nervous and excited. People walk back and forth in hushed but quick movements so as to not make noise. BEN finally can’t hold it in any longer and begins speaking in a hushed voice.)

BEN: Ya know, I never asked for this. I’m serious! Look, when I told myself that I wanted a fresh new environment, a new place to start working, new people to see, I didn’t think I’d be here. Of all the places I could’ve gone, I never thought that I would go from the countryside to acting at the Globe for the big man himself. For a man of his renown, you expect someone more...arrogant. But he’s not that high and mighty, he’s just like Elizabeth!

Seems like yesterday when his assistant contacted me and asked me to do this role. I had been doing this gig at a local pit, entertaining the crowds and basking in the popularity, when I got a message saying that William Shakespeare wanted me - (aside) yes, ME - for a potential acting role for a new play he was performing. Obviously I was speechless for a few days; the most I could do was grunt at people to communicate! (beat) But there I was, sitting in his office, looking at the man behind the desk. He said that I’d have a very minor role in some play about winter, one that wouldn’t take long to do each night. I’d be able to continue my other job and get paid for both, something I found very promising. The role was simple – I’d only have to chase this guy off stage after he put an object down. I thought “pssh, how hard could that be?”

I aced it during the first rehearsal. I actually scared the shit out of the actor, Anthony. No literally. Will – (aside) (excited) I can call him that now! – made us take a twenty minute break so we could clean up the stage. (beat) But since then, Anthony and I have gotten along flawlessly. We actually go out and get dinner sometimes after the show; he usually orders the vegetarian option while I get the filet mignon. The whole cast is actually great; they’ve welcomed me and taught me some great lessons…albeit through extreme circumstances. Maybe I can continue my new acting career after this show…wouldn’t it be awesome to have a major dramatic role someday?

(A person wearing black clothing appears and gives BEN the signal to standby without making any noise and being very cautious. They then exit as silently as possible while BEN continues.)

Well there’s my cue! I’d better get ready to give the crowd a great scare. (Does a few jumps and movement warmups) Funny thing, no one ever sees it coming. I mean they reference the wilderness and bears before I arrive, but the fact that I show up and actually chase someone
off still scares many people. Hopefully, it doesn’t hurt my chances of continuing to act…I’m different off-stage. But as the big man says, “the show must go on,” and I hope you enjoy the rest of it.

(BEN, prideful in his ability to win over the crowd, exits and roars. Lights fade out. Many screams and gasps are heard while a man is heard running off stage with large stomps after him.)

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