

ROLE - Cliff/Harry - Male around the age of 30

The actor plays 2 roles, father in Act I and son in Act II. Cliff - (Father) is in his 40's, has English accent, very charming. He will dance a tango with the Doctor and Jacqui. Harry - (Son) is mid 20's, and is on a journey of healing as he comes to terms with his mother's cancer.

Please select two sections of text from the Scenes below (you do not need to do the whole scene). If you do not have a partner to read please just pick a longer monologue. If possible demonstrate the role of both Cliff and Harry.

If you have trouble sending a link you can also email your video to drillhalltheatre@gmail.com

EXCERPT SCENE 2 - STAR CROSSED

JACQUI: So which way do you look at it Cliff? Where am I?

CLIFF: Right here, with me.

JACQUI: I mean where am I in your sky?

CLIFF: Hmm, well that depends, I suppose. Where am I in your sky?

JACQUI moves closer. She touches his face.

JACQUI: You are the sun.

CLIFF: Then you are my moon.

They kiss.

JACQUI: But the moon does not revolve around the sun, it orbits the earth.

CLIFF: Indeed.

JACQUI: So who is the Earth, in your sky?

CLIFF: JACQUI - I don't want to talk about this now.

JACQUI: It's just hard, I want you, all of you, I don't want to be hidden away. Never allowed to see you in the light of day. A secret.

CLIFF: Well if you do love me, as you say, then you must accept all of it. The family, the wife, and our agreement around that.

JACQUI: But we made those agreements before I knew what this could be, what we could share, and now I want more. The moon changes its mind, you know. And my moon is full and ripe, and wants to bask in the sun's glory.

CLIFF: You can, you are. I will not be swayed. The moon can pull the tides, but the sun's pull on the earth is what keeps it in orbit. I have made my promises, and I have broken many. But some are unbreakable. Please JACQUI, don't ask me again. This is all I have to offer. The nights, the stars, a piece of my heart, a season, not a lifetime.

JACQUI: Ok, I have a season to convince you then. I do love a good challenge.

They laugh, and come back together, and look towards the sky.

CLIFF: Can you see the Lyre?

JACQUI: Not really.

CLIFF: Can you see that bright star there, that's Vega.

JACQUI: The one with a kind of blue tinge?

CLIFF: Yes, some consider her the most important star in our sky, after the sun of course. She's actually over twice the size of the Sun and was the Northern Pole star. You see while the other stars move through the night, she is so close to the pole that she stays true. And she forms the top of the lyre, that's why they often refer to her as the Harp star. Because she is the Eagle sent by Zeus to return the lyre.

JACQUI: The lyre belonged to Orpheus, right.

CLIFF: You have been paying attention! Yes, a very tragic love story. Orpheus the great poet and musician wants to reclaim his beloved wife Eurydice who had passed away.

JACQUI: How did she die?

CLIFF: Snake bite. You see Eurydice was a nymph of great beauty, coveted by all who laid eyes on her. But when she heard Orpheus play the lyre she fell madly in love with him. On their wedding night, another suitor, Aristaeus tried to steal Eurydice away, and so she ran away with Orpheus following, and in the dark forest encountered the serpent whose venom took her life.

JACQUI: Tragedy.

CLIFF: Unfortunately, it gets worse. Devastated by her death, Orpheus took his Lyre to the Underworld to claim her back. He sang so sweetly and sincerely that even the ghosts wept, and he was granted his prayer for Eurydice to be returned to him, he had been given a second chance, all he had to do was lead her out of the Underworld, without looking back. And only when they had both returned could he gaze into her eyes.

JACQUI: Seems simple enough.

CLIFF: So he thought. He led his wife on the long ascension to the world of the living, with determination and will he only looked forward, never back. His excitement grew as he saw the light ahead, but when the light touched his face, and he turned to embrace his beloved he realised his mistake, only he was standing in the world of the living but Eurydice was still in the dark world of the dead. And she was taken by Hermes back to the Underworld.

JACQUI: So why didn't he just go back.

CLIFF: Because you can only enter the Underworld once, when you are living. And so he played a mourning song with his lyre, calling for death so he could be reunited with Eurydice forever. But even when he did meet his death, where he was torn apart by beasts, his head was kept among the living people to sing forever, enchanting the world with his melodies, and his lyre was cast into the sky.

JACQUI: So they were never together again?

CLIFF: Not even in the underworld.

JACQUI takes CLIFF's hand in hers. Entangles herself.

JACQUI: So I've decided I don't want to be your moon.

CLIFF: No?

JACQUI: No! Because the moon orbits the earth. And the earth orbits the sun. The moon and sun do not orbit each other.

CLIFF: True.

JACQUI: I want to be Vega. If she is as powerful as the sun, then that's where I want to rest in your sky.

CLIFF: Vega it is then.

LIGHTS DOWN.

EXCERPT SCENE 9 - UNDER THE JACARANDA

HARRY: I wish it hadn't fallen on my shoulders. I wish that there was someone there to help you, and me. I wish I had more than half a person to parent me. I'm sorry I just can't hold any of it in anymore.

JACQUI: Half a person. I was there Harry. Every day. I don't know what more I could have given. High expectations mean the fall back to earth will be harder.

HARRY: I just wanted common decency. For you to show up when I needed you to. Not just physically. I hate to say this, but it's like your head was there, your body was there, and your heart was missing. And all I wanted was your heart Mum. Is that too much for a little boy to ask? I wasn't reaching for the stars. I was reaching for you.

JACQUI: I'm sorry.

HARRY: Well where is it?

JACQUI: Where's what?

HARRY: Your heart.

JACQUI: I gave it to someone. And they never returned it. Perhaps they did and it got lost in the mail.

They laugh.

HARRY: Who?

JACQUI: I can't. I can't.

HARRY: It's now or never Mum.

JACQUI: It was a great love, but it wasn't enough. I wasn't enough.

HARRY: It's my father. The one you gave your heart too.

JACQUI: Indeed.

HARRY: Can you tell me about him?

JACQUI: It hurts to even think of him. I already have a sore head, adding in a sore heart on top of this is too much to bear.

HARRY rises, infuriated.

HARRY: Are you trying to torture me? It's a birth rite! To know who your parents are. To know your ancestors. Your bloodline. Where you come from. It's cruel to keep this from me. You are a nasty woman. Selfish. Mean. Cold.

JACQUI: Enough Harry!

HARRY: Tell me NOW!