Don Zolidis
donzolidis@gmail.com

Citizen Crane

A comedy

By Don Zolidis

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Cast of Characters

VERNON TRIUMPH, a genius, also probably a little crazy, (he/him)
NAUTIKA, Vernon's best friend. A bit of a cynic. (any)
YULIA, nerdy, awkward, desperately in love with Vernon. (she/her)
DRE, a true believer. The person who makes it all happen. (any)

The Actors:

MRS. GABLE, a Science Teacher.

BERT, a custodian

GAMERS – Ella (cameraperson), Norv
CHOIR KIDS – Jasmine,
DEBATE TEAM – Jonas, Samara, Amina
WEIRD KIDS – Lilith, Eddie
VOLLEYBALL TEAM – Audrey

Roles in the Film:

THOMAS TERWILIGER – played by Vernon
UNCLE JOHN – played by Jasmine (she/her)
AUNT MERLE – played by Lilith
CHAMPY TWOMBLEY – played by Jonas
CARA JEAN WALKER – played by Audrey
DR. ARTEMIS – played by Bert
THE RADIOACTIVE CRANE – played by Eddie
DEBORAH WALKER (MISS MANTIS SHRIMP) – played by Mrs. Gable
THE STABBERER (played by Amina – or another actor)
ROAD RAGE (played by Samara – or another actor)
401-K (played by Norv)
EXTRAS – Samara, Amina and others
INNOCENT BYSTANDERS

ALISTAIR MOON, Vernon's rival

Casting: Any of the characters can be any race or ethnicity. Most of them could be any gender, although there are a few where gender matters (Jasmine). If you decide to use a different gender for a character, please change pronouns accordingly.

Getting a larger cast: There are any number of extras or additional cast members that could be included. Dre could have a few helpers if absolutely necessary (but those helpers should be the same people every time) – The roles of The Stabberer, Road Rage, and 401-K could be unique and not played by Amina, Samara, and Norv.

Citizen Crane was first performed on October 18th, 2022 at North Oaks Middle School in Haltom City, TX. It was directed by Trevin McLaughlin and the original cast was as follows:

Vernon Triumph/Thomas "The Crane" Terwilliger	Garrett Hilbert
Nautika	Emma Plunkett
Yulia	Addyson Mills
Dre	Heidy ocasio
Mrs. Gable/Dr. Deborah "Miss Mantis Shrimp" Walker	Rove Brackett
Bert/Dr. Artemis	Lars Lanier
Audrey/Cara Jean walker	Madilyn Young
Alistair Moon	Carissiah Lira
Jasmine/Uncle John	Marjane Batista
Lilith/Aunt Merle	Maiya Jennings
Ella	Lily Papagno
Eddie	Leo Rubin
JOnas/Champ Twombley	Elijah Saucedo
Samara/Featured Extra	Gabriana DeJesus
Amina/Featured Extra	Juliet Berry
The Stabberer	Morgan Lane
Road Rage	Natalie Baxter
401K	Bree Kracht
Innocent Bystander 1	AJ Viers
Innocent Bystander 2	Nevaeh Garcia-Hill
Innocent Bystander 3	Brylee michlitsch
Innocent Bystander 4	London Espitia
Alistair's Assistant	Easton Mills
Ella's Camera Crew (boom Mic)	Jason Scott
Ella's Camera Crew (cables)	Malachi Soria

Extras

Addison Moore	Dylan Riker
Kylee Eastman	Adrianna Bramlett
Nikya Brown	Abigail Bramlett

Student Assistant Director	Mikaylah McIntyre
Stage managers	Juliana Ensinia
	Kayden Lewis

The set of Vernon Triumph's masterpiece, THE CRANE MAN.

Three people, DRE, YULIA, and NAUTIKA address the audience from different parts of the stage.

DRE

What's the first word I think of when you say Vernon Triumph? Visionary.

YULIA

Genius.

NAUTIKA

Madman.

Short pause

Criminal mastermind. Sociopath. Nutjob. Weirdo.

DRE

Nautika?

NAUTIKA

Friend.

Short pause.

Madman friend. Criminal mastermind friend.

DRE

You don't meet many people like him in your life. Thankfully.

YULIA

He flew too high. Like Icarus. Before he fell. Maybe what he wanted… maybe it isn't meant for high school students – or mortals. Maybe it's only for the Gods. But before the end, he *soared*. It's like they always say: shoot for the stars, even if you fall, you land on the moon.

NAUTIKA

Sociopath friend. Nutjob friend. Weirdo friend.

DRE

It started in Chemistry class. It started with me.

Dre sits in a desk as MRS. GABLE enters, teaching at an imaginary white board.

MRS. GABLE

So a covalent bond is when two atoms share an electron. Questions?

She calls on an imaginary hand.

Yes, Kenzie. It's when two atoms share an electron. Yes. Like I just said.

She takes another question.

Yes this will be on the test, Darnell.

Takes another question.

Sam, I just said what a covalent bond was. I literally just stood here and said it multiple times. That's all I've been doing for the past five minutes. It's when two atoms *share*. An electron. That's what it is. That's it. Covalent bond.

She looks to another imaginary hand.

I swear that if this is one more question about a covalent bond I will set this entire classroom on fire.

DRE

It was a typical day. And then Vernon walked in.

VERNON TRIUMPH steps in – he's not dressed like a typical high school kid. Vest. Suspenders. Maybe a sportcoat. Probably a pocket watch. He doesn't sit.

MRS. GABLE

Vernon – you're late. Take a seat please.

VERNON

I never sit.
Dre – It's time. Get your things.

DRE

Uh… Time to do what?

VERNON

I'll explain everything in time. Come with me.

MRS. GABLE

Uh hi – I'm your teacher, Mrs. Gable, maybe you remember me? Why don't you park your keister in a seat and join us for class?

Vernon chuckles.

VERNON

Mrs. Gable. I appreciate the sentiment, but my goals far exceed what can be learned in this "class." Just as a covalent bond involves two atoms sharing an electron, I require Dre.

MRS. GABLE

How did you know that?

VERNON

I know many things. Come, Dre, history awaits. Take my hand.

DRE

We're going to History class?

VERNON

No we're going to make history. Take my hand.

DRE
Kinda weird. I'm sort of a germaphobe these days.

VERNON
All right fine just follow me.

MRS. GABLE
Remember to get your homework done!
Vernon chuckles.

VERNON
Where we're going, there is no homework.
Vernon and Dre exit.
Mrs. Gable takes a question.

MRS. GABLE
Yes, Paul? A covalent bond? It's when two atoms… share…
Mrs. Gable has a bit of a breakdown.
Teacher's gonna need a little break.

YULIA *(to the audience)*
When he asked me, I was ready.
Yulia writes in her diary.
Dear Diary, how can I get him to notice me? If only -
Vernon approaches her, Dre in tow.

VERNON
Yulia?
She slams her diary shut.

YULIA
Yes!

VERNON
I haven't told you what we're doing –

YULIA
And I am IN. Whatever you need. I just want to add that I am not in love with you.

VERNON
Oh okay –

YULIA
But hypothetically, if I was in love with you, how would you respond to that? Don't answer that it was just a rhetorical question! Ha ha ha ha ha. I'm fine I'm really fine. It's all good okay let's do this! Ha ha ha. Not in love.

VERNON

Great.

He walks off –

YULIA *(to herself)*

Stupid stupid stupid you're losing it stop it keep it together you can do this you can do this ha ha ha ha.

Takes a deep breath.

Well thank goodness that wasn't awkward.

Nautika addresses the audience.

NAUTIKA *(to the audience)*

And when he came for me –

Nautika is playing a video game – perhaps a VR headset?

Vernon takes a half-step in. Dre and Yulia follow.

NO. Not doing it, you're crazy.

VERNON

I need you.

NAUTIKA

No you don't, you need cultists who follow your every word.

YULIA

Yep!

VERNON

We can't do this without you.

NAUTIKA

You can't do it *with* me, and I don't even know what you're trying to do.

VERNON

All will be made clear.

NAUTIKA

I don't care. Whatever it is, it's insane.

VERNON

Of course it's insane. Sanity is a construction of those who lack imagination.

NAUTIKA

See that's something a cult leader would say – which is why I'm not going with you.

VERNON

Remember when we were seven? And you promised to have my back forever and ever because I gave you that Pilplup Pokemon card? I'm calling in that favor.

Nautika sets the video game down.

NAUTIKA

All right, dang it.

DRE *(to the audience)*

It didn't take long. Soon he had half the school swept up in it.

People begin assembling upstage to listen to Vernon's presentation as Dre mentions them.

The gamers, the choir kids, the debate team, the weird kids who hung out behind the school because they didn't have anything else to do – half the volleyball team – one of the custodians…

BERT, the custodian, wanders in, and sits.

Vernon laid out his vision.

Vernon finishes part of his presentation silently.

JONAS

So we're making a movie?

VERNON

A *movie*? No. Commercial hacks make "movies." We are making a *film*. A work of art. You will be my hands. And eyes. And teeth.

JONAS

So is it a movie or not a movie?

VERNON

It is a *film*. Allow me to tell you a story from my childhood. As a child, I was sickly. I didn't play stickball with the rest of you, or whatever you were doing in the outside world. I stayed inside, and I watched Netflix. Continuously. I was the youngest of five children and my parents had given up monitoring screen time. So I never stopped. I never slept. I didn't even eat much. And then one day… my parents got Disney Plus. And then I watched all of those movies too. My *education*? My education occurred on a streaming service, that's where my *education* came from.

JONAS

What's the… film… about?

Vernon chuckles.

VERNON

Oh you'll see. Dre? My Vision Board, if you will.

DRE

Uh okay um hold on –

*Dre starts up the vision board – A projection screen lowers slowly.**

**If you do not have a projection screen, you can use a series of white boards.*
Vernon continues his presentation while the screen comes down. He's very practiced.

VERNON

When James Cameron released the first *Avatar* it made some people depressed. Why? Because life on the imaginary planet Pandora was better than life on Earth. The colors were crisper. The animals were more adorable. The plants were more violent. Aliens were blue and were more attractive than you.

JASMINE

So we're making a sci-fi movie?

VERNON

No. We are making a film that is better than real life. After the film, I want people to look at their kids and feel sad. Glory, friends. We are on a mission of glory. Behold my vision board.

The vision board happens – a short slideshow of completely incongruous nonsense – extremely emotional music plays during the slideshow (Carmina Burana, or Beethoven's 5th symphony or something similar)

-Kittens with laser beams
-nuclear explosion
-a 1950's style nuclear family
-a baby sloth
-another baby sloth
-a baby sloth with laser beams coming out of its eyes
-Nixon holding up his victory sign
-The ocean
-miss Piggy
-heaven
-another explosion
-heaven again

VERNON

Clear? Dre?

Dre makes the screen retract. (or puts the white boards away)

Questions?

Haltingly, just about everyone raises their hand.

JASMINE

So… what is the – film – about?

VERNON

Did you not just watch the slideshow?

JASMINE

Yeah, but um…

VERNON

And from that extremely clear slideshow, you couldn't tell what the film was *about?*

JASMINE

Exploding sloths?

Vernon shakes his head sadly.

VERNON

That's a metaphor.

JASMINE

Oh.

NAUTIKA

It's a superhero movie.

VERNON

Film.

NAUTIKA

Movie.

VERNON

Film!

Stare down.

NAUTIKA

What is the difference between a film and a movie?

YULIA *(cutting in)*

I've read the script it's amazing! It's really great – it's um… there's this guy who gets like superpowers because he gets bit by like a radioactive crane – and then he becomes like a bird right but also a person – like a bird person? Like a superhero bird person. And he doesn't want to be a superhero but like DESTINY IS CALLING HIM – and then there's this tragic love story and –

VERNON

It's okay, Yulia.

YULIA

I just really like it. You're amazing.

VERNON

Thank you.

YULIA

Skipping Forward

VERNON

I saw that!

Vernon exits
Yulia hands a script to Audrey.

YULIA

Okay so Vernon has selected you to play the part of Cara Jean Walker who is his um… love interest in the movie.

AUDREY

Oh that's so great I'm really excited for this opportunity so -

YULIA *(cutting her off)*

If you can't do it you can just say so and I'll fill in.

AUDREY

No I love challenges!

YULIA

It's a really difficult part. A lot of lines. Probably a lot of mental anguish that goes along with it. I wouldn't be surprised if you need a lot of therapy afterwards.

AUDREY

Wonderful! I am all about taking a difficult situation and making it work. If life gives you lemons, you make lemonade!

YULIA

Okay. Great. Wonderful. Awesome. Oh and um Vernon said he wanted you to play Cara Jean like she was um… raised in the woods by like demons – forest demons –

AUDREY

Really?

YULIA

Yeah um – the forest demons they just shout all the time and have like crazy eyes – like they bug out their eyes like this –

AUDREY

Is that in the script?

YULIA

No it's implied.

Audrey bugs her eyes out.

AUDREY

Like this?

YULIA

Good, good. But also open your mouth and try to look more hideous. Try again.

Audrey opens her mouth, bugs her eyes out, looks hideous.

Yeah. Perfect. That's what Vernon wants. You'll be great.

Scene change.

NAUTIKA speaks to the audience as they set up for the opening shot. People are putting on costumes.

NAUTIKA *(to the audience)*

I'm not a negative person. But when I'm on board a train that is hurtling at three hundred miles per hour towards a radioactive crater, I'm gonna say something.

She looks at the script as Vernon comes back in, dressed in the role of Thomas Terwilliger.

This script is trash.

VERNON

The script is a blueprint –

NAUTIKA

The blueprint is trash.

VERNON

Think of it like a leaping off point –

NAUTIKA

To our deaths.

VERNON

We'll be fine. Dre, are we ready for the first scene?

Dre is dragging all the furniture on by themselves.

DRE

A little help actually I'm doing this all by myself.

VERNON

You're doing great!

ALISTAIR MOON enters, he's dressed very similarly to Vernon. Probably wears a bow tie and vest.

ALISTAIR

Well well well, what have we here?

VERNON

Alistair Moon. My arch-nemesis. You're underfoot again I see. Like a rash.

ALISTAIR

Oh I will always be underfoot, Vernon Triumph - the school's most notorious washed up artist. The scuttlebutt around the school is you're making some kind of movie.

VERNON

You scuttle your butt out of here you squirrel.

ALISTAIR

Oh I will. I'll scuttle my butt wherever I want.

Alistair looks over the set.

Your set looks pedestrian.

VERNON

Your set looks pedestrian.

Alistair chuckles.

ALISTAIR

So clever. Well, I have other things to attend to – like my own film. Ta-ta.

Alistair saunters off.

VERNON

I better not see you here again you doughnut!

Vernon fumes.

YULIA

He's just jealous. Let's keep going.

From the opposite side of the stage, LILITH enters, getting ready as Aunt Merle.

LILITH

Why am I old?

VERNON

What?

LILITH

WHY AM I OLD?

VERNON

You're playing Aunt Merle – who is the feisty guardian of our hero – you and your husband, Uncle John

Jasmine enters, with a fake beard, playing the role of Uncle John.

JASMINE

Am I supposed to be a boy?

VERNON

You're a man.

JASMINE

Ughgh.

VERNON

There weren't enough boys to go around –

JASMINE

Why can't we just be like two cool ladies?

LILITH

Yeah? Ooh and let's say I'm a witch! Think about it – Let's say I have an evil grimoire of spells and I cast a spell to summon a radioactive crane because –

VERNON

NO. Dre how is that set coming?

DRE

Would be coming together faster if I had any help.

VERNON

Good to know!

Nobody helps Dre. Vernon turns to Jasmine and Lilith.

You are playing Uncle John – who's a salt-of-the-earth old timer, and you are a sweet wonderful old lady –

LILITH

Can I at least be obsessed with spiders?

VERNON

No.

LILITH

Or skulls?

VERNON

No you are a sweet lady. Just do the parts as written!

JASMINE

Yeah but a bunch of my lines are like, `ad lib here' – I don't even know what "ad lib" means –

VERNON

It means you make it up as you go.

NAUTIKA
Why not just write them actual non-garbage lines?

VERNON
Why don't you take your negativity cloud and go to negativity land?

LILITH
That sounds amazing.
Dre finishes setting everything up.

VERNON
All right Dre let's go. We haven't got all day.

DRE
Places!
Lilith, Vernon, and Jasmine find their marks.
Are you ready, Ella?

ELLA
Hold on.
Vernon turns his back and Ella does a little TikTok dance for the camera and stops 2 seconds in when Vernon turns back around.
Yup!

DRE
Okay, and… action!
Dre snaps the clapboard.
Jasmine and Lilith sit on the couch.

AUNT MERLE
Thomas! Get ready for school, please!

UNCLE JOHN *(fake man voice, not unlike Wilford Brimley)*
That boy is never ready on time.
He calls out
Tommy! Let's go! Daylight is burnin!

AUNT MERLE
You're too hard on that boy.

UNCLE JOHN
You know what I was doing when I was his age? I worked at the library. Learning the value of an honest day's labor. Not gallivanting around doing the TikToks or the Tweeters like kids these days. We didn't have a trophy for participation in my day. Our parents didn't even watch us. Most of us died. But those that survived, learned how to take care of ourselves.

VERNON

CUT! I need more old-timey wisdom in that. Kids these days, right? Terrible.

JASMINE

I feel stupid.

VERNON

You look great.

NAUTIKA

Does she, though?

VERNON

She looks great!

LILITH

What does Aunt Merle see in Uncle John? Cause like, from where I'm sitting, there's no passion here.

VERNON

You're old people! Generation X! There's no passion!

LILITH

Sad.

VERNON

Yeah. You are. All you do is grumble and make pronouncements about how much better music was in your day when MTV played music videos – Let's take it back!

DRE

And… action!

Dre claps the clapboard.

AUNT MERLE

Thomas! Get ready for school please!

UNCLE JOHN

That boy is never ready on time!

He calls out

Tommy! Let's go! Daylight is burnin! You're slower than a turtle's farts!

Aunt Merle shakes her head wistfully.

AUNT MERLE

You're too hard on the boy, John. That's why I don't love you anymore.

VERNON

Whoa! CUT!

LILITH

I don't! He's gross. Look at his fake beard! Why would I love that?

JASMINE

Obviously Uncle John is wearing a fake beard because his wife demanded it!

LILITH

Oh I demanded it, did I?

JASMINE

She can't accept that he doesn't have luscious facial hair! So she makes him wear a fake beard like a sasquatch!

LILITH

I would prefer a sasquatch to a boring old man who talks about turtle farts!

VERNON

Guys. You love each other –

LILITH

Nope –

VERNON

You love each other and this is the FIRST scene of the movie, so we need to keep going. Dre?

DRE

And… action!

Claps the clapboard.

AUNT MERLE

You're too hard on that boy, John. Remember, his parents died in a tragic and mysterious accident and we had to take him in. Now that he's fifteen years old we're going to have trouble paying for college because you can't grow a real beard and I spend most of my days relating background information.

UNCLE JOHN

Don't talk about my beard, Merle. I wear this beard for *you!* Now where is that boy? Tommy! You're slower than a sloth riding on top of another sloth!

AUNT MERLE

Every time you mention sloths I think about divorce.

Vernon darts in, grabbing a backpack, as Tommy.

TOMMY

Morning Uncle John, Aunt Merle, gotta run!
Grabs some food, tries to eat it.

AUNT MERLE
Slow down, Tommy! You only live once. And then you die.

UNCLE JOHN
Slow down? If he was any slower, he'd be going backwards.

AUNT MERLE
Now you stop right there. Let me look at you.

TOMMY
Oh Aunt Merle –

AUNT MERLE
Quiet.
She examines him.
We may not know what fate has in store for us, but we can be sure that misery and agony will come to us in equal measure. All is dust. All is ruin.

VERNON
CUT!

LILITH
I feel like Aunt Merle wants to prepare him for a life of suffering.

VERNON
Um… a little dark.

LILITH
Oh Aunt Merle is *dark*. She has seen some stuff. I've been doing work on her backstory. She used to be an assassin for the CIA. She poisoned people.

VERNON
No she did not –

JASMINE
Ooh – what if we were both secret assassins for the CIA? And now we're living undercover and I'm pretending to be a man because I'm wearing a stupid fake beard?

VERNON
You know what? We're moving on. Dre? Set up for the school hallway scene.
Jasmine and Lilith protest as Dre starts lugging scenery again.
We'll fix it in post-production, no worries. Off off off off off
Vernon shoos them off-stage.

I need my extras for this next scene!

Nautika gathers the extras – Samara, and Amina (and anyone else).

NAUTIKA

All right in this scene we're in a hallway. At school. Pretend to be normal kids.

VERNON

And then, when I cue you, you all part – and standing there… is Cara Jean.

Audrey enters, dressed as Cara Jean. Yulia whispers something to her and she nods.

Dre drags in a bank of lockers on side of the set.

NAUTIKA

What do you mean they part?

VERNON

They part.

NAUTIKA

Why do they part?

VERNON

Because they do and it's a cool effect.

NAUTIKA

So people, standing in a normal hallway, just move aside like robots?

VERNON

They part because I told them to part.

Dre drags in a second bank of lockers opposite the first bank.

NAUTIKA

Oh okay that makes a lot of sense. Well done.

To the extras

You part. That's all you do. You have no free will.

VERNON

Dre why isn't the set ready yet?

DRE

Because I am one person! I am one single person! I can move one thing at a time!

VERNON

Great! Keep it up!

AMINA

So do I have like… lines?

NAUTIKA

Make something up.

AMINA

Cool.

SAMARA

Do I have lines?

VERNON

I don't care. I just need you to be an extra and then part.

Dre has the locker banks ready.

DRE

Places for the hallway scene!

The extras gather in the hallway. Audrey is beyond them.

VERNON

So once Audrey and Tommy are talking, we are going to walk down the hallway –

DRE

Wait, you're walking down the hallway? How are you walking down the hallway?

VERNON

We're going to move everything – the camera, the scenery, it's all going to travel with us.

ELLA

Um – Question –

VERNON

Let's go!

DRE

And… action!

Dre claps the clapboard.

The extras behave like normal high schoolers.

Except Amina. She approaches Samara.

AMINA

I heard you were talking trash about me.

SAMARA

I'll talk about whoever I want.

AMINA

Oh yeah? Let's go, trollop. Let's go!

SAMARA

I'm not scared of you! I'll mess you up!

VERNON

CUT! You're the extras.

AMINA

Right. I'm being extra.

VERNON

No that's not – that's not what extra means.

SAMARA

That's exactly what extra means.
To Amina
That was amazing, by the way. You are killing it, girl.

AMINA

Just keeping it real.

VERNON

Girls? Just – no conflict, okay? Take it back.

DRE

Take two! And… action!
Dre claps the clapboard.
Amina and Samara are still extra.
Amina is highly emotional.

AMINA

I said, "Mama, don't you leave me, Mama!" And she stretched out her hand –

SAMARA

No!

AMINA

Yes! I took it! I looked into her eyes – I said, "I'm right here – as long as you need me"

SAMARA

Oh I've got so many feels right now! Oh the feels are happening!

AMINA

Let it out! Let it happen!
Amina and Samara have many, many feels.

Skipping Forward

VERNON

Let's take it back! Dre, get ready to move the scenery.

AMINA

So my character's name is Ohio – cause she's like O Hi oh! That's her nickname, right? And her Dad is like a steel worker with an extra thumb – they call him thumbs at the plants – cause he's got like bonus thumbs?

VERNON

Let's take it from after the extras part!

DRE

And… Action!

Claps the clapboard.

Again, Audrey stands with her eyes bugged out – scratching herself a little, and makes a low hooting noise.

Vernon runs in behind her, and bumps into her, drops his books.

TOMMY

Oop!

CARA JEAN

Tommy!

TOMMY

Didn't see you there, Cara Jean!

She helps him pick up his books.

She's bad at it.

Gotta get to Math class!

Cara Jean snorts and twitches.

CARA JEAN

I love math!

TOMMY

Yeah! It's my favorite class. I guess I'm a nerd.

CARA JEAN

Are you excited about the field trip to the lab today?

TOMMY

Sure thing!

Breaks character

That was terrible, sorry. Try again.

Back in character

Sure thing!

Out of character

Ugh. Come on, Vernon, you can do this. Desire and awkwardness in equal measure. The life of a modern teen, torn between the world of intellectual fulfillment and the yearning for love. Do it.

Back in character –

With incredible passion…

Sure. Thing.

CARA JEAN

I'm. Excited. Too.

She scratches her arm. Perhaps seductively.

TOMMY

Yes.

Cara Jeans bugs her eyes out and twitches.
Tommy responds by twitching back at her.
She twitches back.
He twitches back.
They have a moment.

YULIA

CUT!

VERNON

You can't call cut!

YULIA

That was awful. I didn't believe any of that.

VERNON

You're not the director!

YULIA

I am quality control and that was the opposite of quality.

DRE

We can take it back – do it over.

AUDREY

Sure. Let's do it again. I wouldn't mind looking into your eyes all day.

VERNON

That's not a bad idea –

YULIA

You know what, let's keep going. Moving on!

VERNON

Fine.

DRE

All right. And… Action!
Dre claps the clapboard.

TOMMY

Want to walk with me to class?

CARA JEAN

Sure.
They start to walk towards the camera.
Dre sprints and lifts one of the banks of lockers, trying to move it in time with them.
Ella backs up with the camera in hand as they move. It's not easy.

TOMMY

I've always been interested in science, actually.

CARA JEAN

My Mom is a scientist.

TOMMY

That's so cool! I would love to pick her brain sometime -

CARA JEAN

She's always working -
Scratch
Top secret government projects –

TOMMY

Wow.

DRE *(exhausted)*

CUT!

NAUTIKA

How come only one bank of lockers is moving?

DRE

Because I am a single human being.

ELLA

Can you walk slower please?

VERNON

Actually, we need to speed that up. Remember that Tommy is late for class.

NAUTIKA

Why are the lockers moving at all?

VERNON

To give the sensation of movement.

NAUTIKA

All right, but when you move, you move *past* things. If the lockers are moving at the same speed as the people, then it looks like they're standing still.

VERNON

You don't know how it works.

NAUTIKA

I've been moving, like, my entire life, I know how it works. You move *past* things when you move – look, watch me? Here I am – I am moving *past* the lockers –

VERNON

Why are you peeing on my vision?!

NAUTIKA

It doesn't make sense! You're moving –

VERNON

Every time you complain, we're just going to walk faster.

NAUTIKA

Okay, fine, walk faster then!

VERNON

We will! Back to original positions! And… action!

Vernon jumps back into character.

TOMMY

Want to walk with me to class? I'm late and I'm in a hurry.

CARA JEAN

Sure!

They start to walk quickly towards the camera.
Dre tries to move the locker bank as fast as they can.
Ella jogs backwards with the camera as quickly as she can.
When Tommy and Cara Jean cross one side of the stage they curve and reverse course. Dre and Ella try their best to keep up.

TOMMY
I've always been interested in science, actually.

CARA JEAN
My Mom is a scientist!
She scratches quickly

TOMMY
That's so cool! I would love to pick her brain sometime -

CARA JEAN
She's always working!
Scratch
Top secret government projects!

TOMMY
Wow.
Dre trips over something –
People help grab the scenery as it falls.

DRE
CUT! Please, for the love of mercy, cut!
Lights change.
The scenery gets set up for the lab. Nautika, Dre, and Yulia speak to the audience.

NAUTIKA *(to the audience)*
As the filming continued, I thought, there had to be one person on the Titanic who thought it was going to sink. Everyone else is blissfully ignorant and trusting and thinks everything is fine – and there was one person in the back, like "you know this is going to sink, right? Most people here are gonna die. I just want to put it down on the record that this is a terrible idea, we're doomed, and just about everyone is going to die screaming. Just an FYI."
Short pause
I bet nobody liked that person either.

DRE *(to the audience)*
I started making little hints that I needed some help. Every once in a while I would just collapse. Sometimes I'd make it look like I was bleeding, and crying, and then I would fall over. See if anyone would volunteer to help me.
Short pause
I might have to fake losing an arm.

YULIA *(to the audience)*
I shouldn't have poisoned Audrey's drink. That was bad. I regret that. I also regret that it didn't seem to stop her.
Bert enters, dressed as Dr. Artemis, a scientist.

BERT

I'm a little nervous.

VERNON

You're going to be brilliant. This is your moment. Icon status. Legend. Do it.

BERT

That's a lot of pressure.

VERNON

Greatness carries its own pressure.

Bert stares off into space.

BERT

Greatness. Yes. I shall become great.

VERNON

Is the radioactive crane ready?

EDDIE, a weird kid, enters, with a scale model construction crane.

EDDIE

Ready to go, boss!

VERNON

What is that?

EDDIE

It's a radioactive crane. See I painted it a little bit.

VERNON

That's a construction crane.

EDDIE

Right.

VERNON

How am I going to get bitten by a radioactive construction crane?

EDDIE

Well I figured if you look at it right, it's got like a mouth.

VERNON

It doesn't have a mouth!

EDDIE

I mean I thought it was a little weird to be honest.

VERNON

It's a whooping crane! It's a BIRD! I get wings! I FLY! I have bird powers! I don't have construction crane powers!

EDDIE

I thought it was a metaphor.

VERNON

It's not a metaphor, it's a BIRD!

DRE

Let's just make it work.

VERNON

How are we gonna make it work!?

NAUTIKA

I'm with Vernon. This is a disastrous failure and we should all quit.

VERNON

No one's quitting!

YULIA

What if we fixed it in post-production?

VERNON

How?!

YULIA

I don't know – it's post-production.

NAUTIKA

No one here even knows what that is.

YULIA

It's where things get fixed.

EDDIE

All right – solution – I glue some wings on the crane. So it's like a mutant hybrid construction crane slash bird crane. Cause it mutated. Because of the radiation.

Vernon puts his head in his hands.

NAUTIKA

Hey – if it makes you feel any better – everyone fails.

VERNON

Why would that make me feel better?

NAUTIKA

You're not alone. Did you know that one of the first rockets they tried to send to the moon exploded and rained down fiery debris? Maybe this is just the universe saying, "turn back now before you die."

VERNON

All right get the glue.

EDDIE

Sweet.

Eddie hustles off.

AMINA

So in this scene I'm thinking, what if somebody stole my man?

VERNON

What? No! You have no lines in this scene!

AMINA

I can do it silently. Watch. It's like telepathy.

She stares at Samara.

Samara stares back. Points to herself.

VERNON

Let's just run the scene please!

YULIA

Good idea. That's great. I really appreciate how you keep a firm grasp on the cast. I just wanted to let you know that your leadership is inspiring and –

VERNON

Places!

The extras, including JONAS (as Champ Twombley) take their positions.

Jonas, the actor, is not well-suited to play Champ, the star athlete.

DRE

And… action!

Dre claps the clapboard

CHAMP

Oh man this is so boring! A tour of an ultra high-tech laboratory with top secret experiments? NERD ALERT.

TOMMY
Well, Champ, maybe you would learn something if you listened –

CHAMP
Learning is boring and stupid. Like most teenagers, I already know everything! Just like I know that I'm gonna steal your girl, Terwilliger!
Champ looks over at Cara Jean
Cara Jean bugs her eyes out and scratches. Maybe hoots quietly.
For some reason.

TOMMY
Leave her alone, Champ.

CHAMP
What's the matter, loser? Afraid of Champ?! I'm gonna push you into a compost pile and use you to fertilize our school's organic farm!
Cut.

VERNON
You can't say cut.

JONAS
I feel like I'm a stereotype.

AUDREY
What if you bugged your eyes out and twitched?

JONAS
Ooooh. Instead of being like a jock bully, what if I was like an entomologist bully or something?

NAUTIKA
No. That's stupid.

VERNON
You are a minor antagonist in the film, just do your part –

JONAS
I think Champ is just really into entomology –

AUDREY
I don't even know what entomology is –

YULIA *(aside)*
Figures.

DRE

Bugs.

AUDREY

Ew.

JONAS

Insects, actually.

VERNON

Fine. Take it back.

DRE

And… action!

Dre claps the clapboard.

CHAMP

Oh man this is so enthralling! A tour of an ultra high-tech laboratory with top secret experiments? JOY ALERT.

TOMMY

Um, well, that's great, Champ –

CHAMP

What's the matter, Terwilliger? Having trouble comprehending the mysteries of recombinant DNA? Loser!

TOMMY

That's enough, Champ –

CHAMP

I'm gonna steal your girl just like an aphid uses pheromones to seduce an alpha queen from another colony! While you just sit there in a larval mucus sack waiting to develop a chitinous exoskeleton! Excuse me while I spray marking musk from my leg holes!

Champ mimes spraying musk from his leg-holes.

Cara Jean stares, bug-eyed, and scratches herself.

DR. ARTEMIS (Bert) sweeps in.

DR. ARTEMIS

Welcome, children! I AM DOCTOR ARTEMIS!

He waits for applause – some of them applaud him.

Yes. That's right. Applaud. I'm here today to talk to you about SCIENCE in this SCIENCE PLACE! Look around you! WITNESS the SCIENCE! Please do not touch the science as it is deadly.

TOMMY

Oh man I'm really curious.

CARA JEAN

Be careful, Tommy. My Mom works in this lab – she tells me that it's pretty intense. In fact, some of those chemicals explain why I look like this.

TOMMY

I'm sure there's nothing dangerous here.

DR. ARTEMIS

I'm sure you have questions! I shall answer them because I am a doctor! DOCTOR ARTEMIS! YES!

DRE

And… go… radioactive crane. Cue the music.

Ominous music plays

Eddie returns, with the winged construction crane.

It descends on Tommy.

EDDIE

Whoop whoop whoop whoop BITE!

TOMMY

Ow!

CARA JEAN

What happened?

TOMMY

Just uh…

He looks at the flying construction crane flying away.

A crane. I feel dizzy…

Ella rushes over to him, and spins with the camera facing outward as Tommy stumbles around.

DR. ARTEMIS

Without science, the sun would EXPLODE!

Tommy collapses.

DRE

And Cut!

Vernon pops up.

BERT

How was that? I feel like I need to go bigger. Like I need more levels.

Skipping Forward

DR. WALKER

I'm here to shut you down, Artemis! This madness has gone on long enough! We're pulling your funding.

DR. ARTEMIS

How DARE you! Do you know anything about the mantis shrimp, Dr. Walker?

DR. WALKER

I don't need to know anything about the mantis shrimp to know what you're doing is dangerous and unethical!

DR. ARTEMIS

The mantis shrimp is beautiful, but be not fooled, it is DEADLY.

Dr. Artemis takes one of the shrimp out of shrimp cocktail and demonstrates.

Do you know how they kill their prey?

DR. WALKER

I don't want to know!

DR. ARTEMIS

The forelimbs of the mantis shrimp are SPRING-LOADED, ha ha ha! Which is a fact. When the mantis shrimp sights its prey, it SNAPS its arms with such force that the water around it VAPORIZES! This is called supercavitation!

DR. WALKER

Don't you talk to me about supercavitation you monster!

DR. ARTEMIS

Oh, nature has many monsters, my dear doctor! The poor victim is DISMEMBERED by the force of the blow! And now, Doctor Walker, the mantis shrimp shall dismember YOU!

VERNON

Cue the lights!

Dre runs to cue the lights.

DRE

Cuing the lights!

Dr. Artemis advances on Dr. Walker with the shrimp in hand – he wiggles its little limbs.

DR. ARTEMIS

Pew pew pew pew!

VERNON

Go!

The lights go in and out.
Thunder. Lightning.

The lights go out completely.

DR. ARTEMIS

What is this?! What is happening? Noooooooo!

DR. WALKER

AAAAAAAAAAAH!

She collapses.

AAAH… HA HA HA HA HA HA!

DR. ARTEMIS

My Gosh, what have I done? WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

DR. WALKER

HA HA HA HA HA!

VERNON

Cut!

The lights come back on.

Sally, Bert –

BERT

That was phenomenal.

MRS. GABLE

That was a rush! Whew! I'm never teaching again!

She high-fives someone.

VERNON

That was about a nine. I want you to take it to eleven. Tap into your reserves of evil.

MRS. GABLE

I can do that.

VERNON

Imagine your students.

MRS. GABLE

Yes.

VERNON

More evil!

MRS. GABLE

Group projects for everyone! Homework over vacation! Test on Monday!

BERT

YES.

MRS. GABLE

OH YEAH.
They stretch out, shake their limbs –
I feel so alive!

VERNON

Let's go from the scream into the evil laughter. And punch it. I want this to sing.

MRS. GABLE

You got it.

DRE

And… action!
Dre claps the clapboard.
Lights go out.

DR. ARTEMIS

What is this?! WHAT IS HAPPENING?! NOOOOO!

DR. WALKER

AAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRGGGGH!
She collapses.
AAAH… HA HA HA HA HA HA!

DR. ARTEMIS

My Gosh, what have I done? WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

DR. WALKER

HA HA HA HA HA! HEE HEE HEEE HEE HEE!

DR. ARTEMIS

NOOOOOOO!

DR. WALKER

AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HOO HOO HOO!

DR. ARTEMIS

OH GOSH NO OH NO OH NO!

DR. WALKER
AHA HA HA HAHAH AHHAHAHAH!

VERNON
Cut!
They are completely out of breath.

YULIA *(to the audience)*
It was the first time I liked school. I mean, we weren't going to classes any more, so that made it better.

NAUTIKA *(to the audience)*
The movie kept going. The iceberg drew nearer.

DRE *(to the audience)*
The doctor said I had four ulcers. I didn't even know you could get four ulcers.
Dre starts setting up Tommy's bedroom, moving furniture.

VERNON
Okay in this scene Tommy is discovering his powers. Ella, you're going to spin the camera around me on the ground. Everyone else, you are the voices in Tommy's head when he gets his super crane hearing.

NAUTIKA
Do cranes even have super hearing?

VERNON
They can hear things.

NAUTIKA
I don't even know that a crane can fly.

VERNON
They FLY. They are birds!

ELLA
Not all birds fly. Like an emu.

NAUTIKA
What if you got bitten by an emu?

VERNON
We already did the scene! It's a crane! I get crane powers!

NAUTIKA
Cranes are like spindly and clumsy and eat bugs, right? They're endangered for a reason. Cause they're pathetic.

VERNON
I get crane powers! Flight! Super hearing! Super senses! Insulation against cold weather!

NAUTIKA
I mean if a crane had actual super hearing they wouldn't be endangered. They'd hear it coming.

EDDIE
If you got bit by a construction crane, you could stretch.

VERNON
We're doing the scene as written!

ELLA
Okay.
Dre finishes setting everything up.

VERNON
Let's go, Dre!
Dre sits heavily on the ground, feeling their ulcers.

DRE
Hold on, I just gotta push down the pain of my ulcers.
Dre pushes them down one by one, grimacing.
And… Action!
Dre claps the clapboard.

TOMMY
Oh… I feel so weird…
Tommy clutches his head
He stumbles around.
What's wrong with me?
Ella begins circling him.

DRE
And cue voices.

EVERYONE *(overlapping mumur)*
I want you to get milk from the store –
Hey would you like a sample of this perfume –
Get your paper here! Get your paper here!
Free ice cream made with boysenberries? Count me in!
Does this wallet belong to anyone?

You're the worst boyfriend ever.
I'm thinking of swimming to Australia.

TOMMY

Ah my head! Get out of my head! It's like I have incredibly good hearing just like a whooping crane!

Ella circles faster and faster.

Aaaaaghgghghgh!

EVERYONE *(overlapping murmur)*

That's when the aliens took me.
So I said, "I don't care if you are Kendall Jenner"
Are you going to pay for that?
Stop thief!
Stop thief! Stop thief! Stop thief!

TOMMY

Arrrhrrhrhgg! I feel like a crane! Aaarrrhg!

Ella circles really fast –
Tommy collapses on the ground.
Ella circles right above his head.
Eddie enters, with the wings.
Music happens.
Ella tries to back up, but is so dizzy she's about to fall, Dre catches her.

Tommy gets on his hands and knees.

TOMMY

Oh my back! I feel like…

Eddie makes the wings sprout from his back.

EDDIE

Splorcchchch! Rippp!

TOMMY

Arrrrrrrghg!

DRE

And cut!

Ella throws up.

VERNON

Can we do that again but faster?

ELLA

…no

NAUTIKA
Hey Vernon – we've been out of school for like nine days straight and we're like four scenes into this movie – at this rate we're not going to school for the entire year.

VERNON
Correct. What is more important? School or *life?*

NAUTIKA
I'm not sure this movie is life.

DRE
I feel like it's taking my life.

VERNON
Yes. Excellent. That's how it should feel. Art demands something of you. It takes like a ravenous hydra, biting and eating and sucking the marrow from your bones. Yes.

NAUTIKA
Maybe we could speed up the marrow sucking?

VERNON
It's unwise to goose a hydra. But yes we will speed up. I need the crane costume! Let's go to the crime-stopping montage! I need my extra slash criminals! Dre if you could set up the next three scenes that would be great.

Vernon gets dressed in his crime-fighting crane costume.
Norv, Amina, and Samara enter, dressed as criminals. They are extra.
Dre lugs furniture around to create three separate scenes.

YULIA
Okay do y'all have your criminal backgrounds?

AMINA
I am about violence. I cut someone for talking crap about me. Also, I stab people. Also, I rob banks in my spare time. I just walk in like, `who's gonna stop me from robbing this bank?' That's what I thought. Gimme that money. I call myself The Stabberer.

YULIA
Okay.

SAMARA
I drive in the bike lane.

YULIA
Um…

SAMARA

Also, I ride in the carpool lane when I only have one person in the car. But like I have a dummy that I put in the seat next to me – but the dummy is made of explosives. So sometimes I just throw the dummy out of the car and it explodes in the bike lane. I am known as Road Rage.

NORV

Tax Evasion. I deduct meal expenses on my business travels even though I get a per diem from my job. Plus, I got my cat a social security number and claim him as a dependent. Also, I call people and tell them their car warranties are expiring. Every day. Several hundred times per day. My handle is 401 – K!

YULIA

Perfect. Okay in the montage –

NAUTIKA

Wait a minute –

YULIA

Stop criticizing everything! It's fine! They're criminals they don't need to make sense! Just stop it! Stop your stupid blathering nonsense and let us make this film!

NAUTIKA

Ok.

YULIA

In the montage, you are going to be committing your crimes and the Crane Man is going to fight you. When you hear the boop from this booper we switch scenes.

NAUTIKA

Can't we just film each scene separately and then cut it together in post-production?

YULIA

NO!

Vernon comes out dressed in the Crane Man costume. He has wings – a beak, and looks utterly amazing.

VERNON

Ready?

Dre collapses.

Dre you can rest when you're dead. Let's keep going.

Dre crawls towards the clapboard.

ELLA

Ready!

DRE

And….. …. …. Action.

Dre collapses again.

Ella rushes to the side of the stage with Amina, the site of a bank. 2 INNOCENT BYSTANDERS cower.

AMINA

Everybody put your money in the sack and nobody give me any lip! You've all been robbed by… *THE STABBERER!*

She gestures wildly with her knife.

INNOCENT BYSTANDER 1

Help! Somebody help me! I'm an innocent bystander!

INNOCENT BYSTANDER 2

Somebody help me first! I'm more innocent than that innocent bystander!

INNOCENT BYSTANDER 1

The heck you are!

INNOCENT BYSTANDER 2

I know what you did last summer!

INNOCENT BYSTANDER 1

Oh wait that's right!

AMINA

Less talking and more forking over cash! Unless you want to learn why they call me… *THE STABBERER!*

INNOCENT BYSTANDER 2

I think it's pretty obvious why you're called the Stabberer.

INNOCENT BYSTANDER 1

Yeah no real surprise there.

(Tommy) The CRANE MAN leaps in.

THE CRANE MAN

Ca-CAW!

AMINA

What is this?!

THE CRANE MAN

Your worst nightmare! If you're afraid of birds! WHOOP-WHOOP!

The Crane Man attacks – Amina parries –

Yulia clicks the BOOPER.
Ella jumps to put her camera on Samara (ROAD RAGE), who is driving in a fake car with a dummy next to her.

SAMARA

Your stick figure family decal on your back window enrages me! Die, foolish cretin!
She grabs the dummy and throws it from her car.
INNOCENT BYSTANDERS 3 and 4 (or you can have them played by 1 and 2 rushing to the other location)

INNOCENT BYSTANDER 3

Honey look out!

INNOCENT BYSTANDER 4

Don't tell me how to drive, woman!
The dummy hits them.

INNOCENT BYSTANDER 3

AAAAAH!

INNOCENT BYSTANDER 4

Whoops.

SAMARA

Now to make this a more explosive situation! Ha ha ha ha!
The Crane Man leaps in.

THE CRANE MAN

Not so fast! WHOOP-WHOOP!

SAMARA

Oh man I hit a bird.

THE CRANE MAN

And now the bird is going to hit you!
BOOP.
Ella runs over to where Norv waits.
Norv sits at a desk and calls from a phone.

NORV

Yes, hello, we're contacting you because your car warranty is about to expire –
The Crane Man runs in, slaps the phone out of his hand and smashes everything –

DRE

Switch!
Ella runs back to the first scene.

AMINA

Where'd you learn those moves?!

Crane Man runs over, they do three fight moves –
BOOP.
Back to the second scene

SAMARA

Time to flip the bird!

More fighting.
BOOP.
Back to the third scene

NORV

Aaaaah!

Crane Man just kicks him on the ground –
BOOP.
Back to the first scene

CRANE MAN

Crane kick!

He does a crane kick and knocks out Amina.
BOOP.
Runs over to the second scene.

Time to Whoop your butt!

Crane kicks Samara.
BOOP.
Runs over to the third scene.

Double crane kick!

DRE

And cut!

Everyone takes a breath.

NAUTIKA *(to the audience)*

At night, I had nightmares about the movie set. Then I realized I was awake. And we were still there.

DRE *(to the audience)*

My doctor said I had the body of a sixty-two year old man with emphysema.

YULIA *(to the audience)*

Today he smiled at me. In my general direction, but I'm pretty sure it was at me. Either that or he had an itch near his nose. It's only a matter of time. He will be mine. Or he will be no one's.

Short pause

I realize that sounds incriminating. Um… just forget that part.

Lights up on the rest of the set.
Dre is setting up a dining room scene.
Vernon is still wearing his wings.

VERNON
Okay in this scene Cara Jean has invited Tommy over for dinner to meet her mother. Romance, but also drama.

He drapes a large grey raincoat over his wings.

NAUTIKA
I guess no one's going to notice that you're wearing a giant coat over your wings. Fine. Okay.

Yulia intercepts Audrey and takes her aside.

YULIA
Hey.

AUDREY
Thank you so much for your help with my character! It was invaluable.

YULIA
Right right great awesome – um, Vernon gave me some new ideas for your character.

AUDREY
Yes! I love it. I am a sponge.

YULIA
Okay, uh, so I think it's important to remember that Cara Jean has been near a lot of explosions lately and her eardrums have probably ruptured.

AUDREY
Really?

YULIA
Oh sure. Definitely. And it's caused her to also have anger issues. Remember – you're hideous, you can't hear, and you're quick to anger. You'll do great!

NAUTIKA
Can we get on with this please? Dre, are we ready?

DRE *(exhausted)*
What?

NAUTIKA
Are we ready?

DRE

Sure. Places! And… action!
Dre claps the clapboard
Cara Jean is setting the table.

CARA JEAN
THANKS FOR COMING OVER.

TOMMY
No problem.

CARA JEAN
WHAT?
She bugs her eyes out.

TOMMY
I said no problem.

CARA JEAN
WHAT?

TOMMY
No problem!

CARA JEAN
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? ARE YOU COLD? CAN I TAKE OFF YOUR COAT?!
She reaches for his coat

TOMMY
No thanks! Ha ha ha it's cold – on my back.
He moves away from her.

CARA JEAN
WHY ARE YOU MOVING AWAY FROM ME?!

VERNON
Cut.
Yulia darts in.

YULIA
If it's not working with her I'm sure we can find a replacement standing right next to you looking exactly like me.

VERNON
No it's just – Why are you doing that?

AUDREY

I think Cara Jean has been near a lot of explosions. She's damaged.

VERNON

I love it.

AUDREY

Yes!

VERNON

Symbolism!

AUDREY

Exactly!

VERNON

Think about it! Imagine the trauma of the ordinary citizens in any superhero movie! It must be incredible! And now, with this idea, we bring it home. Brilliant.

AUDREY

Thank you.

VERNON

You know I… sometimes I get so caught up in the whole "I'm a genius" thing that I don't realize that there are other people with good ideas too. I could use someone like that by my side. A partner.

Yulia coughs horribly nearby.

Someone to share with –

Yulia coughs louder, has a fit –

Are you okay?

YULIA

It's cool I'm just having a brain embolism.

NAUTIKA

It's called an aneurysm, actually.

YULIA

NO ONE LIKES CONSTANT CRITICISM, NAUTIKA.

NAUTIKA

Get it right and I won't have anything to criticize.

VERNON

Let's keep going, okay?

Turns back to Audrey –

Audrey, I've been looking so long for a special someone.

Yulia has another brain embolism or aneurysm.
It could be you.

AUDREY
Vernon, I respect the art too much to get involved in any personal entanglements.

VERNON
Yes. Right.

YULIA
Thank you. Oh I feel better.

NAUTIKA
Can we get on with it please?

VERNON
Oh. Sorry. From the entrance of Dr. Walker!

DRE
And… action!
Mrs. Gable enters as Dr. Walker – She is wearing – possibly two grey rain coats – over her Mantis Shrimp costume. She carries a plate with clams on it.

DR. WALKER
Oh there you are! I'm so glad you invited your special friend over for dinner!

CARA JEAN
MOM YOU'RE EMBARASSING ME!

DR. WALKER
So who's this cutie?

CARA JEAN
MOOOMMMMMMMM.

End of Excerpt
To purchase this play or read it in its entirety, visit www.yourstagepartners.com