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Stage Parents

A comedy in one-act

By Don Zolidis

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Stage Parents by Don Zolidis
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One-act Comedy

2w, 2m, 6 any gender

A lot goes into putting on a play, but learning lines and hanging lights are a picnic compared to the drama that comes with stage parents. Of course, you have no idea what that's like in your theatre program. But as opening night for Ms. Robin's production of Medea approaches, she must try to lead the student cast through rehearsal while fending off stage parents of all stripes: from the backseat directors trying to take over, to the amateur documentarians who can't let a move go unrecorded, to the overzealous guardians of the concession stand. The parents step into the spotlight they crave for their precious progeny in this spirited, tongue-in-cheek comedy.

Cast of Characters

THEATRE TEACHER – can be played by the actual theatre teacher
STUDENTS 1 AND 2 – doublecast with the "parents" below.

MS. ROBIN – the theatre teacher

The actors:

BRYN: playing the role of Nurse
CARTER: playing the role of Tutor
EMILY: playing the role of Medea
CHANCE: playing the role of Chorus Leader
JAXSON: playing the role of Chorus Member
KHALEESI: playing the role of Chorus Member
JESSALYN: playing the role of Chorus Member
Other students maybe in the CHORUS as needed (Bailey, Taylor, etc..)

The parents:

CARTER'S MOM
JESSALYN'S MOM
JESSALYN'S DAD
BRYN'S MOM
TAYLOR'S MOM
EMILY'S MOM
EMILY'S DAD
CHANCE'S MOM
JAXSON'S DAD
KHALEESI'S MOM
KHALEESI'S DAD
BAILEY'S DAD

For a smaller cast: Most of the roles may be doublecast. The same 2 actors could play all the parents, or students in earlier roles could also play parents.

Cutting the show: For a shorter play, simply cut some of the numbered scenes.

Expanding the show: For a larger cast, add more Chorus members as necessary. If you want to create your own additional "parent" scene, feel free to do so, but please remember to keep the scenes to 2-3 minutes, and don't make the play too long. (No one gets upset that a play ends too early.)

On the gender of the students/parents: There's very little reason a role couldn't be played by someone of any gender. Change pronouns accordingly. (There could be 2 Moms, or 2 Dads of kids. Carter's Mom is probably the exception.)

The theatre.

The THEATRE TEACHER (this can be the actual theatre teacher, or a student dressed up like a theatre teacher) comes centerstage and speaks directly to the audience.

THEATRE TEACHER

Hey there. Thanks for coming to our show, Stage Parents. Um… before we begin, I want to make a disclaimer for all of the actual parents in the audience. You're going to see a few parents exhibiting poor behavior in this show – IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU. Seriously. Not at all. There is nothing specific in this play about any parent in the audience so this is not –

STUDENT enters wearing some of their parent's clothes.

STUDENT

Hey is it cool if I wear this outfit that my Mom wears all the time? I want to look just like her.

THEATRE TEACHER

Of course.

STUDENT exits.

Once again, this play is COMPLETELY FICTIONAL. We love our theatre parents and –

STUDENT 2 enters with hat.

STUDENT 2

Hey check it out I've got this hat my Dad wears all the time.

THEATRE TEACHER

Great.

STUDENT 2 exits.

Obviously, the playwright who wrote this play is a deranged maniac who has never met a group of wonderful, supportive parents like you –

MS. ROBIN enters, (if possible she is dressed EXACTLY like the THEATRE TEACHER)

Oh go get ready for your entrance.

MS. ROBIN

Yeah in just a sec, I want to study your movements a little more.

MS. ROBIN stands upstage of THEATRE TEACHER and mimes exactly what they're doing.

THEATRE TEACHER

Okay, to sum up, this isn't about you. You're all great. This is about some other parents at some other school, so it's okay to laugh at them. And please don't tell my principal about this play, thanks. And here we go!

The THEATRE TEACHER exits and the lights change to the play.

Rehearsals for a high school production of MEDEA are underway. The set is mostly finished. Unless otherwise noted, the students actors have their lines memorized and are in costume.

MS. ROBIN enters with the actors.

MS. ROBIN

Remember the show starts next Thursday. Call is five thirty. Can anyone tell me if you're allowed to eat dinner in costumes or not?

CHANCE

No!

MS. ROBIN

Thank you. Remember that, Bryn.

BRYN

Okay I only did that one time and that was it –

CARTER

And the other time.

BRYN

All right two times. That's it.

EMILY

I totally watched you eat pizza when –

BYRN

All right fine, lots of times.

1. **Carter's Mom**

MS. ROBIN

Let's go to where we stopped yesterday, act one, scene one – Nurse and Tutor you're on stage. Chorus you are watching from upstage. Medea get ready for your entrance.

The actors take their places as CARTER's MOM enters.

Remember your job is to set the scene for…

CARTER'S MOM sits downstage watching the action.

Excuse me?

CARTER'S MOM

Hi. I'm Carter's Mom. Hi Honey!

MS. ROBIN

Great um… what are you doing here?

CARTER'S MOM

Just here to watch rehearsal!

MS. ROBIN

Actually our performance isn't until next week so you're welcome to come to the performance then.

CARTER'S MOM

I'm gonna see all the performances.

MS. ROBIN

Right –

CARTER'S MOM

But I also want to watch the rehearsals.

She settles in. Takes out snacks.

MS. ROBIN

Rehearsals are closed.

CARTER'S MOM

Cause you got secrets? I get it. I won't tell anybody. Shhhh… My lips are sealed!

MS. ROBIN

No that's not the reason we just have closed rehearsals.

CARTER'S MOM

Oh.

MS. ROBIN

So you need to go.

CARTER'S MOM

I need to go because it's a closed rehearsal.

MS. ROBIN

Yeah.

CARTER'S MOM

You, a theatre teacher, are telling me, a mother, where I can and cannot be. That's what you're saying here.

MS. ROBIN

Right.

CARTER'S MOM

So, just so I understand this, you are telling a person who CREATED that child with nutrients from her own body – a person who vomited for thirty-nine consecutive days, you're telling me, the *mother,* who built that human being over there piece by piece for 41 weeks and then went into labor for 27 hours, enduring unimaginable pain and suffering, you are telling that person to get out. Good job, Mom. Great job creating this human, now wait outside in the car like a *father!*

MS. ROBIN

All right all right all right – if you can be silent –

CARTER'S MOM

You won't even know I'm here.

MS. ROBIN

You can watch for like a couple of minutes. *Quietly.*

CARTER'S MOM

I am a mouse.

MS. ROBIN

Fine.

CARTER'S MOM

Just gonna be over here recording, that's it.

MS. ROBIN

Please don't record.

CARTER'S MOM

Oh okay I see. You get to tell me how I can watch my own child.

MS. ROBIN turns her back on her and talks to CARTER and BRYN.

MS. ROBIN

All right. Carter? Bryn? Let's go from Nurse's line "But surely Jason."

BRYN

But surely Jason wouldn't let his children
Go into exile, even if he's squabbling
With their mother?

CARTER

Old devotions fade,
Pushed aside by new relationships.

CARTER'S MOM *(under her breath)*

Yes!

CARTER

Jason is no friend of people in this house.

CARTER'S MOM

That's right! You tell her, baby!

MS. ROBIN

Pause a sec. Um… hey, Carter's Mom – can you please not comment during the scene?

CARTER'S MOM

Oh I'm not supposed to comment?

MS. ROBIN

That's what `watch quietly' means.

CARTER'S MOM

Live theatre and the audience isn't supposed to make any noise ever for any reason. Got it. That's a little strange honestly. But I'm not the person with the theatre *(air quotes)* "degree".

MS. ROBIN

Keep going please.

BRYN

If we must add these brand-new troubles
To our old ones, before we've dealt with them,
Then we're finished.

CARTER

But listen – the time's not right –

CARTER'S MOM *(under her breath)*

Ooh that was *so good.*

CARTER

To let your mistress know about these things.

CARTER'S MOM *(under her breath)*

That's right!

CARTER

So keep quiet. Don't mention anything.

Skipping Forward

JESSALYN'S MOM

We're already discussing it, so you've already broken that rule. I guess your rules aren't that ironclad, are they?

JESSALYN'S DAD

Guess not!

JESSALYN'S MOM

Good one, honey.

MS. ROBIN

I'm not changing the casting of the show.

JESSALYN'S DAD

Jessalyn is in the Chorus. She's in the stupid Chorus!

MS. ROBIN

The chorus isn't stupid –

JESSALYN'S MOM

Don't talk to us like we're idiots. She says things in unison with about a million other mouth-breathers that can't tie their shoes.

MS. ROBIN

Well I mean that's –

JESSALYN'S MOM

She has been in the shows for three years now! THREE YEARS. And you do her like this? CHORUS?! I wouldn't put my dog in the Chorus!

MS. ROBIN

Dogs don't go in the chorus either –

JESSALYN'S MOM

And the girl you have playing Medea? PLEASE. She's the worst.

JESSALYN'S DAD

I hate her. I seriously hate her. When she's on stage I want to pull my eyeballs out.

MS. ROBIN

I'm not gonna discuss this.

JESSALYN'S MOM

So you don't care that you're setting Jessalyn's future on fire, then? After all she's done for you? After the hours she's spent doing your stupid theatre shows!

JESSALYN'S DAD

She played a CAT in one show. That's range!

MS. ROBIN

That was CATS – everyone played a cat.

JESSALYN'S DAD

She was the only one who actually made me believe she was a literal cat. When she did this –

He mimes licking his paw and stroking his ear very quickly.

That was STUNNING. She never even left character! We put a litter box in the house for her!

JESSALYN'S MOM

Todd.

JESSALYN'S DAD

Which she didn't use, but she thought about it. That's how far she went for your show!

MS. ROBIN

Great, but this is a different show –

JESSALYN'S MOM

Do you know what Chorus Member looks like on a college application? It means LOSER.

JESSALYN'S DAD

You just don't care that she won't get into college then, and it will all be your fault. You are taking a child, a *child,* and dumping their future in an incinerator with glee because you are a heartless DEMON PERSON.

MS. ROBIN

I'm not gonna be insulted by you. You need to go.

JESSALYN'S MOM

Todd. Do something!

JESSALYN'S DAD

All right that was out of line. I'm sorry. I'm very sorry. I'm sure there's a way Jessalyn can be Medea –

MS. ROBIN

No there isn't.

JESSALYN'S DAD

Maybe if you talked to my friend about it –
Takes a ten dollar bill out of his wallet, sings
ALEX-ANDER HAMILTON.
Takes another ten dollar bill out –
And his other friend –
ALEXANDER HAM-IL-TON.
And um…
Takes another bill out –
HERE COMES THE GENERAL!
GEORGE WASHINGTON!

MS. ROBIN
You're trying to bribe me into giving her the lead role?

JESSALYN'S MOM
Look, we're understanding, we know that a theatre teacher's salary is enough money to buy a cardboard box to live in – let's just come to an arrangement –

JESSALYN'S DAD
You ever wanted to buy a boat? We can buy you a boat.

JESSALYN'S MOM
She doesn't want a boat, Todd.

JESSALYN'S DAD
You don't know that.

JESSALYN'S MOM
A boat is a stupid bribe.

JESSALYN'S DAD
What if she liked boating?

JESSALYN'S MOM
Name one person in the theatre that wants a boat. They don't like boats.

JESSALYN'S DAD
That's a generalization. She could like fishing.

JESSALYN'S MOM *(to MS. ROBIN)*
Do you like fishing?

MS. ROBIN
No.

JESSALYN'S MOM

Thank you.

MS. ROBIN

Look I have to go back to rehearsal, I'm sorry Jessalyn didn't get the part, but I'm not changing it now…

She escorts them to the side of the stage.

for anything less than a really good bribe.

She pushes them off-stage and returns back to rehearsal.

3. Bryn's Mom

MS. ROBIN

Okay. Sorry about that. Where were we? Let's keep going.

BRYN and CARTER pick up Medea's "children." Two large crude dolls that they carry around or perhaps toss to each other. (From now on, the dolls will always be on stage.)

BRYN

Children, do you hear what sort of man
Your father is to you? My curse on him!
No. He is my master – but a bad man
To his own family. Of that's he guilty.

CARTER

What mortal man is not? Don't you know yet
All men love themselves more than their neighbors.

BRYN'S MOM enters, clapping.

BRYN'S MOM

Love it! I think there are a few things we need to work on there.

MS. ROBIN

Hi – This rehearsal is actually closed –

BRYN'S MOM

I completely support that decision. Good idea! All right kids, let's talk about that scene. Bryn… I think you need more rage. What if you made your face look like this?

BRYN'S MOM makes her face look angry.

MS. ROBIN

Hi are you Bryn's Mom –

BRYN'S MOM

Yes I am and I know what you're thinking – crazy parents coming in to tell you what to do. But I'm actually a director – did you see the community theatre production of Nunsense last year? I

worked on that. I've got so many ideas. And they're amazing. Let's keep going but let's take a second and stretch first. I also teach yoga so I know a lot of things about everything.

MS. ROBIN

Great, but –

BRYN'S MOM

All right reach for the sky everyone – feel your spine elongate – and one two three four five six seven eight – gooood – all right now roll down – Flop forward everyone – and breathe in… and out… and roll up slowly, I want you to feel every vertebrae in your back aligning… yes… right… good.

The kids do the stretch.

Good work, let's take it from Bryn's line!

MS. ROBIN

I'm actually the director –

BRYN

Don't worry Ms. Robin my Mom is super great at this.

MS. ROBIN

But –

BRYN'S MOM

Quiet on the set! Whenever you're ready, Bryn.

BRYN

Children, do you hear what sort of man
Your father is to you?

BRYN'S MOM

Okay, I see what you're doing and I hate most of it. You're better than this, Bryn. When you say "Children" I want you to mean it, all right? MEAN. IT. CHIL-DREN. Do it again.

BRYN

Children –

BRYN'S MOM

No.

BRYN

*Child*ren -

BRYN'S MOM

No!

BRYN

Chil*dren* -

BRYN'S MOM

Garbage! Who has been directing you?

BRYN

That lady.

BRYN'S MOM *(to MS. ROBIN)*

Can we talk for a minute?

MS. ROBIN

No.

BRYN'S MOM

I'm not understanding your entire "concept" here. Can you explain it for me?

MS. ROBIN

We're doing Medea.

BRYN'S MOM

Right, but I'm not seeing any of the emotional work you need to be doing. This is like a high school show.

MS. ROBIN

Can we just do the scene please?

BRYN

Children, do you hear what sort of man
Your father is to you?
She takes the puppet children and walks downstage with them.

BRYN'S MOM

I don't approve of that blocking at all. What's the justification for her moving there?

MS. ROBIN

She wants to move.

BRYN'S MOM

For no reason? She moves for no reason?

MS. ROBIN

Sometimes people *move*.

BRYN'S MOM

Not for no reason. We're not animals. We don't just run willy-nilly from room to room.

MS. ROBIN

Yeah that's really great advice. Tell you what, why don't you work with some of the actors outside in the parking lot?

BRYN'S MOM

In the parking lot?

MS. ROBIN

Yeah it's just outside that door.

BRYN'S MOM

Oh.

BRYN'S MOM exits. We hear her off-stage.

It's dark in here.

MS. ROBIN

Keep going. Just keep going. Keep going… All right lock the door kids!

We hear a door slam.

BRYN

Why did you do that?

MS. ROBIN

Sometimes people just do things for no reason.

Lights change.

4. Taylor's Mom

TAYLOR'S MOM enters.

TAYLOR'S MOM

Knock knock!

MS. ROBIN

I thought I locked the door.

TAYLOR'S MOM

I have a key, no worries. I'm Taylor's Mom.

MS. ROBIN

Great, um –

TAYLOR'S MOM
I wouldn't bother you but it's an emergency.

MS. ROBIN
Okay.

TAYLOR'S MOM
As you know, I am in charge of candy sales for the night of the performance.

MS. ROBIN
Oh I'm sorry I forgot.

TAYLOR'S MOM
It's been in each of the seven emails I've sent you.

MS. ROBIN
Right, right. So what is the crisis?

TAYLOR'S MOM
Emergency. Not a crisis. Let's get our terms right.

MS. ROBIN
Okay.

TAYLOR'S MOM
So I went to Costco to get the candy bars, and the Snickers, which I normally buy, are sold out. There are two options for replacing them: Mars Bars and Baby Ruth.

MS. ROBIN
Right.

TAYLOR'S MOM
You see the problem?

MS. ROBIN
There's no Snickers and those are terrible candy bars that no one likes.

TAYLOR'S MOM
Exactly! I knew you'd get it.

MS. ROBIN
Okay, well, get something else then.

TAYLOR'S MOM

That's your solution? Just get something else?

MS. ROBIN

Sure.

TAYLOR'S MOM *(laughs)*

Okay. Sure. Fine. Except there are about twenty different kinds of candy bars. How am I supposed to pick between them?

MS. ROBIN

Just pick one. I really have to get back to rehearsal.

TAYLOR'S MOM

Excuse me. This emergency is not solved.

MS. ROBIN

Just get a different candy bar.

TAYLOR'S MOM

Which one? You haven't given me any direction! You're supposed to be this great "director" and you're not giving me any direction at all!

MS. ROBIN

Just pick a candy bar, it doesn't matter.

TAYLOR'S MOM

It doesn't matter?! The selection of candy bars is everything!

MS. ROBIN

It's not that important.

TAYLOR'S MOM

WHOAH. First of all, the candy selection is THE FIRST THING an audience member sees on entering the theatre, okay? They walk into the theatre, they see the candy, and they make judgements about your silly little show! If I'm presenting a display of substandard, mediocre candy bars like Baby Ruth or Mars Bars, those people are gonna look at that, and TURN AROUND.

MS. ROBIN

THEN DON'T GET THEM!

TAYLOR'S MOM

WHY ARE YOU YELLING AT ME?! I'M THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN YOU AND OBLIVION!

Skipping Forward

Um… excuse me? Hi.

EMILY'S MOM and DAD ignore her and keep filming.

EMILY'S MOM

Why are we stopping?

MS. ROBIN

These are closed rehearsals, thank you. Closed.

EMILY'S MOM

Good idea. More authentic that way.

MS. ROBIN

Which means we can't have parents videotaping.

EMILY'S DAD

This is just for her video yearbook.

EMILY'S MOM

"A Year of Emily." It will be so special.

EMILY'S DAD

We cherish these memories. We watch them almost every night.

EMILY'S MOM

She's our angel. Hi honey!

EMILY doesn't react.

EMILY'S DAD

She thinks we're embarrassing her.

EMILY'S MOM

"Mom, stop videotaping me every day!" She's so silly. Some day she'll thank us for this exhaustive video account of her entire life.

EMILY'S DAD

I'm just waiting for the day she's gonna be like, "Dad, can I watch the video of me when I was six and watched television for two hours?" And I'll be like, oh I thought you didn't want us to record everything?

MS. ROBIN

We've actually had a lot of parent intrusions today –

EMILY'S MOM

Ohmygosh I can only imagine.

EMILY'S DAD

Other parents. They're dumb.

MS. ROBIN

So we're closing rehearsals to parents.

Pause.

EMILY'S MOM

I totally understand that. I don't want them in our videos either.

MS. ROBIN

So you need to go.

EMILY'S DAD

Can we film from the balcony? I've got a great zoom lens. It's perfect when she's hanging out with her friends and she doesn't think we're around.

MS. ROBIN

You can miss out on a few hours of her life.

EMILY'S MOM

Miss out?! We're gonna miss out?! Do you know how precious this time is with our babies?

MS. ROBIN

Okay –

EMILY'S MOM

Just yesterday she was only five thousand nine hundred and forty-two days old! Those are precious days! That's a day we'll never get back!

EMILY'S DAD

That was the day she first tried on a new pair of pants at the Mall.

EMILY'S MOM

THAT WAS A SPECIAL TIME. It's all going so fast!

EMILY'S DAD *(singing)*

CAT'S IN THE CRADLE WITH THE SILVER SPOON
LITTLE BOY BLUE AND THE MAN IN THE MOON –

MS. ROBIN

NO! No! Go home! Get your own lives! Binge watch a television show! Find something else to do with your time!

EMILY'S MOM and DAD are hurt.

EMILY'S MOM

Fine. We'll just miss this special day in her life then. It's just one day. Of many. Piling up. Like sands in the hourglass.

MS. ROBIN

Yup. Exactly like sands in the hourglass.

EMILY'S DAD

We got old, honey. So old.

EMILY'S MOM

I know. Let's go.

EMILY'S DAD

Yes let's go.

EMILY'S MOM

We can always watch the live feed from the app we installed on her phone.

They exit.

6. Chance's Mom

MS. ROBIN

Guys, can we take out our phones for a sec and all text our parents and tell them that the theatre is infected with diseases or something?

EMILY

That's only gonna make them show up quicker.

BRYN

My Mom actually smashed through a cement wall when she thought I was going to be exposed to lice.

MS. ROBIN

Darn it. Let's go to the entrance of the chorus then.

CHANCE and the other chorus members enter.

KHALEESI raises her hand.

Yes Khaleesi?

KHALEESI

So what is the chorus doing when Chance is talking?

MS. ROBIN

I want you guys to be listening and vigorously nodding, okay? Whatever you agree with, you nod.

KHALEESI

Gotcha.

MS. ROBIN

All right, take it away Chance.

CHANCE

I heard her voice, I heard the cries
of that sad lady here from Colchis.
Has she not calmed down yet? Old nurse, tell me.
I heard from some household servant in there
that she's been screaming. I find no pleasure
in this house's suffering. We've been friends.
CHANCE'S MOM enters.
Mom.

MS. ROBIN

How do you keep getting in?!

CHANCE'S MOM

I'd like to talk to you about the play.

MS. ROBIN

I'm sure you would but we are in the middle of rehearsal!

CHANCE'S MOM

Which has to stop!

MS. ROBIN

No it does not!

CHANCE'S MOM

You know I'm president of the PTA, right?

MS. ROBIN

Oh shoot.

CHANCE'S MOM

Exactly. And I'd like to talk to you about the content of this… *Medea.* Do you think this play is appropriate for our children?

MS. ROBIN

Look, Medea is a classic. It's part of culture, it's part of our heritage.

CHANCE'S MOM

Really? *Really?* And is part of our heritage *going to jail?*

MS. ROBIN

Um… what?

CHANCE'S MOM

I was curious about the show so I watched part of it last night – Medea goes to jail – and I have never seen a more obnoxious person in my life – she waves a gun around, she is sassy to the extreme, and I do believe that was a MAN dressed up LIKE A LADY. Unacceptable. Is that what you want from our children? For them to dress up like women, wave guns around, and then go to prison?! Not to mention her smart-talking ways and her back-talking shenanigans! I certainly don't want my Chance to dress in a muu-muu and be all sassy! Absolutely not! He doesn't even have the figure for it!

CHANCE

Mom!

CHANCE'S MOM

You don't, honey! Don't even pretend you can pull it off! Not with your hips! I'm going straight to the school board with this.

MS. ROBIN

You're thinking of a different Medea, trust me.

CHANCE'S MOM

Oh like I would trust a teacher who thought it was okay to do URINETOWN!

MS. ROBIN

There's nothing bad in that show!

CHANCE'S MOM

Listen to the title! URINE! We don't accept urine in this town!

CHANCE

It's like a natural bodily process!

CHANCE'S MOM

Not for you, it's not! Maybe for some other kids! They can go run around with their libertine parents talking about pee all day long for all I care, but not my baby! He's certainly not gonna learn about urine in school! That's a mystery between him and his parents.

CHANCE

I know what urine is Mom.

CHANCE'S MOM
HE'S ALREADY BEEN CORRUPTED!

MS. ROBIN
Hey – this is not that Medea! This is an ancient Greek play! It's two thousand six hundred years old. Written by Euripides.
She hands CHANCE'S MOM the script.

CHANCE'S MOM
He sounds foreign.

MS. ROBIN
Definitely. Ancient Greek.

CHANCE'S MOM
Oh. Ohhhhhhhhh.

MS. ROBIN
Nobody is sassy in this play at all.

CHANCE'S MOM
Oh my gosh. I feel so silly.

MS. ROBIN
It's an understandable mistake.

CHANCE'S MOM
Here I am coming in here all upset –

MS. ROBIN
There's no guns.

CHANCE'S MOM
What a relief. I'm sorry, I'll just get out of your hair.

MS. ROBIN
Thanks.
She starts to leave.

CHANCE
Yeah Mom there's nothing bad in this at all except for a husband who has an affair with another woman, and then his first wife is a powerful witch so she casts a curse on the new bride, burning

Skipping Forward

JAXSON'S DAD

No worries no worries I have written some new lines for this part of the play – Euripides, by the way, is totally dead and this play is public domain so we can do whatever we want with it. What-what.

Raises the roof. Then hands out new scripts to the kids on stage.

MS. ROBIN

I don't think we need extra lines.

JAXSON'S DAD

I'm not even charging don't worry. Let's go from O Zeus and Earth and Sun –

CHORUS (including JAXSON)

O Zeus and Earth and Sun –

JAXSON steps forward with his own script

JAXSON

Medea is taking getting dumped super rough.

KHALEESI

No doubt. What-what.

JAXSON

Like, chill, all right?

KHALEESI

Seriously. Just cause your murdered your little brother for him, doesn't make Jason "the one."

JAXSON's DAD laughs at his own joke louder than anyone else.

JAXSON'S DAD

That is hilarious! That is some funny stuff!

MS. ROBIN

It's not really supposed to be a comedy.

JAXSON'S DAD

Which is what makes it so funny. Trust me, I'm a professional. I am a very very funny person. Right Jaxson?

JAXSON

Um…

JAXSON'S DAD

He loves me. He totally does. All right let's do the next part please!

CHORUS *(in unison, including JAXSON)*

Do you hear how this young wife
Sings out her misery?
She should just get over it.
Like seriously lady there are other dudes in Greece.
I know this one guy who's way hot.

JAXSON'S DAD

Ha!

MS. ROBIN

That's not the direction we're going for!

JAXSON'S DAD

Sometimes I make the best discoveries when I'm just thrown from the track, you know? Like, oh my gosh I didn't even know this play needed a puppy in it, but boom, here's a puppy.

CHORUS *(in unison, including JAXSON)*

Medea should just get a puppy. That will make things better.
How about a big floofdog? I love floofdogs.
They're nice to pet.
Where was I? Oh yes
Death comes from us all.

JAXSON'S DAD

Genius.
He applauds.
Now in this next section –

MS. ROBIN

HOLD ON STOP STOP STOP STOP STOP STOP STOP –

JAXSON'S DAD

Did I do something?

MS. ROBIN

This is my show.

JAXSON'S DAD

I think it's all of our's show –

MS. ROBIN *(interrupting)*

NO IT'S NOT! It's my show! My Show! Not yours!

JAXSON'S DAD

Oh. Okay. I didn't realize you were like that.

MS. ROBIN

I'm not like anything I'm just trying to direct this stupid play!

JAXSON'S DAD

Which would be better if I added some lines to it!

MS. ROBIN

Are you Euripides?! Do you know how to write plays better than Euripides?!

JAXSON'S DAD

Sure.

MS. ROBIN

NO YOU DO NOT!

JAXSON'S DAD

You don't know that I'm very good!

MS. ROBIN

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT EURIPDIES!

JAXSON'S DAD

You don't appreciate my special genius!

MS. ROBIN

NO ONE DOES!

JAXSON'S DAD

Jaxson does!

JAXSON

What?

He coughs.

JAXSON'S DAD

When I wrote that script for your video project in kindergarten, what did you tell me?

JAXSON

Um…

JAXSON'S DAD

`Thanks Daddy. This is the best play ever.' Boom! Boom in all your faces!

JAXSON

Oh. Um… I was just trying to spare your feelings. I didn't think it was that good, actually.

JAXSON'S DAD

Oh. Oh I see.

He's shaken.

I guess I should go then. I'll take my scripts with me – don't want any of you stealing them to make your own movies or whatever, even though they're probably not that good, but whatever –

He takes scripts back from the actors sadly.

I'll just… go back to my job as a real estate agent… put my dreams in the garbage disposal where they belong…

He heads out.

JAXSON

Hey Dad?

JAXSON'S DAD

Yes son?

JAXSON

Picasso wasn't appreciated in his lifetime either.

JAXSON'S DAD *(hopeful0*

Yeah?

JAXSON

Which is why he died penniless and alone.

Lights shift.

8. Khaleesi's Mom and Dad

Back to rehearsal.

EMILY enters as MEDEA.

EMILY

O great Themis and noble Artemis,
Do you see what I am having to endure,
When I'm the one who bound that cursed man,
My husband, with strong promises to me?

KHALEESI'S MOM and DAD, clapping.

KHALEESI'S MOM

Good job! I love it!

MS. ROBIN

Hi hi hi okay we haven't been able to get anything done today -

KHALEESI'S DAD

Well you are in luck, because we're here now! Anything you need, we can do it. We are SUPER HELPFUL.

He high-fives KHALEESI'S MOM.

KHALEESI'S MOM

Nicely said, honey.

KHALEESI'S DAD

Thank you.

MS. ROBIN

Right now I just need parents to wait outside for when the kids are done –

KHALEESI'S MOM

But I thought you might want to see the costume designs I did for the show.

MS. ROBIN

What costume designs?

KHALEESI'S MOM

I figured you needed them.

KHALEESI'S DAD

She STEPPED UP. Most parents, when they see those emails begging for help, they just pretend they get caught in the bulk mail folder, but NOT US. WE ARE VOLUNTEERS.

MS. ROBIN

I didn't actually ask for costume designs.

KHALEESI'S MOM

I know. Sometimes I think of the emotional labor women need to do – always asking for things – it's like, `didn't you know to empty the dishwasher? Do I have to tell you to empty the dishwasher? There are dishes in it. They're clean! Just empty it!' It's like living with a child YOU'RE A CHILD!

KHALEESI'S DAD

Guilty as charged!

End of Excerpt.
To purchase this play, visit www.concordtheatricals.com