

ALL THE WORLD'S END STAGE

Written by

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Note: where dialogue is in inverted commas "thusly",
it is a quote from the play *Waiting for Godot*.

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INT. BACKSTAGE - AFTERNOON

There is a knock at the door. MARA, 30s, clipboard in hand, opens the door and in steps ARTHUR, 42, suave but sad.

MARA

You came!

Arthur strides through the backstage maze with Mara in tow.

ARTHUR

Six weeks of rehearsals, of course
I came.

MARA

I thought... your husband?

ARTHUR

We spoke on the phone. "Nothing
else to be done." Is everyone here?

MARA

Of course not. But Jerry is.

ARTHUR

That'll do then. Might as well do
the show, even if it's just for us.

She leaves him at the dressing room. Arthur starts to strip. JERRY is already there: half dressed, 50s, ebullient.

JERRY

"At this place, at this moment of
time, all mankind is us, whether we
like it or not. Let us make the
most of it, before it is too late!"

ARTHUR

Well said, but it's a line from Act
2 that's sticking in my mind. "In
an instant, all will vanish."

INT. WINGS - LATER

Arthur and Jerry are in linen suits, Mara wears a headset.

ARTHUR

Any sign of our esteemed director?

MARA

Gone to the zoo.

JERRY

Said he wanted to be with the penguins. We didn't ask why.

Arthur chuckles to himself, mirthlessly.

ARTHUR

Haven't felt this nervous about a first night since my very *first*.

MARA

You both understand the changes?

JERRY

Only as far as Lucky's entrance.

Mara just looks at him. Arthur nods his head sadly. Jerry gets it -- they won't make it further than that...

JERRY (CONT'D)

For the record, I'm glad I get to go this way. This stage. This team. This play. It's an honour.

MARA

Break a leg.

Jerry takes a breath, assumes the character of Estragon and ambles onto the brightly lit stage.

INT. THEATRE STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Jerry enters, sits down on a bench, and pulls off his boot.

JERRY/DIDI

"Nothing to be done."

Arthur limps on behind him, and hesitates for a moment when he sees: the stalls are packed. He smiles for the first time, genuinely touched that the audience came. He carries on.

ARTHUR/GOGO (O.C.)

"I'm beginning to come round to that opinion. All my life I've tried to put it from me, saying Vladimir, be reasonable, you haven't yet tried everything..."

The audience CHUCKLES. Arthur continues from the book, as distant rumbling rapidly shakes the image apart.

FADE OUT