

THE COMPETITION REHEARSAL

This play is free to download and perform. The only condition is that you must email Alex at abroun@bigpond.net.au and let him know **where and when you produced his script**, listing the **director, cast and theatre**. If you have any production photos send them along as well and they may just end up on this website.

a short play

by

Alex Broun and the Short+Sweet Script Development Group (Bobbi-lea Dionysius, Ingrid Gang, Justyna Kiczor, Kate Prestt, Daphne Quah, Janeen Sonsie, Lara Woolf)

Email: abroun@bigpond.net.au

www.alexbroun.com

Alex Broun ©

Characters

SUE

JENNIFER

NATALIE

RICARDO

PAULA

MARY

ROBBIE

Setting

The studio of a rundown Salsa School

Time

Night

SALSA: Competition

Dance Studio

SUE is taking JENNIFER, NATALIE. RICARDO and PAULA through some dance steps.

SUE: So arms up and
 Hand in on One
 Then two
 Three four five six
 Got it ? Okay.
 One two three four five six

PAULA: Are you sure that's alright ? It's looks like the Nazi salute.

SUE: Not to the audience.

NATALIE: I think it's good. At least it's something.

SUE: Okay and then we do the rum -

JENNIFER: How does that go again ?

SUE SHOWS HER.

SUE: Okay, shall we do all that ?

JENNIFER: Where from ?

NATALIE: Let's go from the arms.

JENNIFER: Could we go from the start. I really need all -

SUE: No problem.
 And from the top.
 One two three four
 Two two three four
 Three two three four
 Four two three four

And rueda

JENNIFER: How does that go again ?

SUE DEMONSTRATES

JENNIFER FOLLOWS

SUE: And then arms in and
 One two three four five six
 And turn

EVERYONE FINISHES.

SUE: Excellent. Are you alright Jennifer ?

JENNIFER: No I'm not.

PAULA: Just watch Ricardo.

JENNIFER: I can't see Ricardo. He's on my left.

NATALIE: You're just a beat behind.

JENNIFER: Am I ?

NATALIE: A half step.

JENNIFER: Thanks for pointing that out Natalie.

NATALIE: It's just that if you're –

JENNIFER: I understand. I'm just trying to learn the moves.

SUE: One more time. From the top. And
 One two three
 One two three
 One two three
 And rueda

ROBBIE ENTERS SHE WATCHES FOR A MOMENT.

ROBBIE: I see you've started without me

PAULA: We're just getting in some extra rehearsals.

ROBBIE: And who organised this extra rehearsal?

NATALIE: Sue's worked out some hand movements.

ROBBIE: I was going to show those to you tonight

NATALIE: Well, we can show you what we've done and if you don't like it you can-

ROBBIE: Of course. Well, away you go then.

SUE: Okay, everybody ready. And

One two three -four

Two two three four

Three two three four

Four two three four

And rueda

And then arms in and

One two three four five six

And turn

THEY DO THE ROUTINE. JENNIFER STILL STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP.

ROBBIE: Great. For a start I have actually choreographed the hand moves so they are salsa moves not a mix between Bollywood and "Walk like an Egyptian".

NATALIE: Did you like the rueda?

ROBBIE: Rueda is a style of dance not a move

SUE: I was just trying to Help.

ROBBIE: Which I appreciate Sue but I do actually know what I am doing

SUE: I wasn't implying that you don't.

NATALIE: Would like to show us the hand moves then and we -

ROBBIE: I will. Just as soon as everyone's here.

NATALIE: You can show us and then we'll show them. That will make use of the time.

JENNIFER: Robbie - I need as much practice as I can get.

ROBBIE: I know Jennifer.

MARY ENTERS.

PAULA: Hi Mary.

ROBBIE: Join us Mary. Sue's just been showing everyone how to do the Mummy dance.

SUE: That's unfair.

NATALIE: Shall we start then.

ROBBIE: We'll start as soon as Sasha arrives

MARY: Um, Sasha's not coming.

ROBBIE: Not coming? But this is our last rehearsal. The competition is on this Saturday.

MARY: I know but she's not coming.

ROBBIE: Well when is she coming? How's she going to learn the hand moves I'm just about to teach everyone?

MARY: Sasha's pulled out.

PAULA: Of what ? The competition or the class ?

MARY: Both. She's dropped out of both.

ROBBIE: But I don't understand. The competition's this - ... and she was doing so well.

MARY: Not according to some people.

ROBBIE: Which people? (BEAT) Mary, I want to know why? We're a team.

MARY: (LOOKING AT SUE) Well...

SUE: Not looking at anybody impartial.

ROBBIE: Sue? Is it Sue?

SUE: Is that what you're saying Mary ?

MARY: Well you know Sue. Did you talk to Sasha or not ?

SUE: I just rang her.

ROBBIE: And?

NATALIE: I think Sue's actually been really encouraging and supportive.

ROBBIE: Sue - what did you say to Sasha?

SUE: I just offered to help her go through the steps.

MARY: Who said she needed help ?

SUE: Because we're in a competition and she's having trouble.

NATALIE: She's falling behind.

ROBBIE: Who said she's falling behind?

JENNIFER: Sasha was actually doing really well.

SUE: I offered to spend extra time with her to actually go through the steps.

MARY: That's not exactly what you said.

ROBBIE: Sue, what did you actually say ? Mary?

MARY: Well, you know ... she called her a "duck"

ROBBIE: A duck? Sue did you -

SUE: I was talking about duck. As in the movie - duck.

MARY: No you called her a "duck". A "waddling duck".

PAULA: Is that an insult ?

SUE: It was a joke?

MARY: Very funny.

JENNIFER: Mary, that's just how Sue is. If you can't handle it then -

MARY: You were laughing at her.

SUE: I wasn't laughing. I just made the comment.

MARY: It was mean. Sue is very mean.

NATALIE: Sasha's just being oversensitive.

MARY: No she's not.

ROBBIE: Well so what if she is. In her opinion she's upset. And now the team is one person short - the last week before -

PAULA: Let's call her. Sue can apologise.

MARY: Sue is the last person Sasha wants

ROBBIE: Then I'll call her. I'll get her to come back.

MARY: She's not coming back. We've been talking about this the whole week.
She won't come back.

ROBBIE: Well what do we do then? We're one dancer short.

SUE: We're not one dancer short.

ROBBIE: Sue - Sasha has left. We're one dancer short.

SUE: We only need five.

ROBBIE: What ?

SUE: For the contest. It's a minimum of five dancers. So -

MARY: What are you actually saying ?

SUE: Sasha has gone and if there's nothing we can do then we've just got to get on with it. We only have tonight to work out all the hand moves.

MARY: You really don't care do you ?

SUE: Of course I care. But what can I do. I didn't mean to upset her.

NATALIE: She does care.

MARY: All you care about is the competition. Competition. Blah blah blah.
This class used to be fun. It used to be -

NATALIE: It still is.

MARY: All I ever hear now is the competition.

NATALIE: It will be fun when we win.

- PAULA: Can we stop arguing and just get on with rehearsals ?
- ROBBIE: It does get like this before a performance. We're all on edge. We're all stressed. We're all worried about how we are going to go in the competition.
- PAULA: Shall we do what Paula says and just get on with the rehearsal then ?
- ROBBIE: Well if there really isn't anything we can do to get Sasha back then we are just going to have to. I'm very upset. I'm very disappointed. We are a team. We've worked really hard. Now we're going to have to re-work distances and -
- JENNIFER: I'm sorry but I just need to say that if Sasha's dropped out and she was much better than me at this routine and -
- MARY: And I feel really uncomfortable because Sasha's my best friend and I'm only here because I don't want to disappoint everyone but really my allegiance to her is far stronger than -
- NATALIE: That's okay.
- ROBBIE: Natalie - what are you getting at?
- SUE: We only need five and if Mary and Jennifer wants to pull out too. That's okay.
- ROBBIE: Excuse me Sue. Who's class is this?
- SUE: Well you're obviously not taking charge. Come on. (HOLDING UP HAND) Everyone who's in say 'I', everyone who's not then go.
- ROBBIE: No wait a second. Stop. Sue 0 we cannot let half the class walk away because you've upset them.

NATALIE: Why not?

SUE: I haven't upset them. They've upset themselves.

ROBBIE: You are destroying this team. We've all been working towards this for three months - we've been rehearsing so hard - and now you're destroying everything two days before we go on.

NATALIE: You wanted to win.

ROBBIE: Yes I want to win.

SUE: Good. So let's get on with it.

ROBBIE: Exactly. Let's get on with it. As a team.

NATALIE: But if they don't want to be here.

ROBBIE: Natalie -

NATALIE: Those who want to - stay and win - and those who don't will just lower the morale.

ROBBIE: We can't just disband at this stage.

SUE: We're not saying disband. Some people are just saying they're feeling uncomfortable and if they don't want to stay then they don't have to.

ROBBIE: Sue -

SUE: Just ask them because we're running out of time: (TO MARY) 'Do you want to be here ?' (TO JENNIFER) Do you want to be here ?

There you go - so the five who want to dance - dance. The rest - go.

ROBBIE: Sue. We're a team. Don't tell everyone to leave if they feel uncomfortable because you're the one who's made them feel that way and if it wasn't for you everyone one would be feeling comfortable.

SUE: And if wasn't for me you'd lose as well -

ROBBIE: Shut up !

PAULA: Why don't we ask Ricardo ?

JENNIFER: What ?

PAULA: He's the best dancer. Let's ask him what we should do.

SUE: Okay. Sure.

ROBBIE: Alright Ricardo. What do you think we should do?

BEAT.

RICARDO: Ricardo just wants to dance.

NATALIE: Exactly. So who wants to stay and dance ?

ROBBIE: Let's not ask that question. Please do not ask that question.

SUE: Why not?

ROBBIE: Listen Sue - you actually are the problem here so if you want people to start going - then why don't you just go?

BEAT.

SUE: You know, sure - if I'm such a discomfort to people here then-you're right. I'm the odd one out.

PAULA: No Sue-

JENNIFER: After all that. I thought it was resolved.

SUE: I feel uncomfortable now and no-one gives a shit about how I feel. And you know what ? I only need five people to enter this competition -

ROBBIE: Sue, you may not have noticed but you're four dancers short.

NATALIE: (JOINING SUE) Three.

ROBBIE: Well fine - good luck finding three more dancers in two days.

SUE: Ricardo - are you in ?

ROBBIE: You stay away from him.

SUE: No. It's up to him. You want to stay and dance with these losers or you want to come and win with us ?

NATALIE: It's your call Ricardo.

ROBBIE: Ricardo, you can't. We've been learning this routine for months. You can't just -

PAULA: Robbie - let Ricardo answer.

BEAT.

RICARDO: Ricardo just wants to dance.

ROBBIE: There you go.

RICARDO: With them.

RICARDO JOINS SUE AND NATALIE.

ROBBIE: Ricardo.

SUE: See you on Saturday night. We'll be the one with the trophy.

SUE, NATALIE AND RICARDO EXIT.

ROBBIE: Oh shit.

PAULA: What do we do now ?

JENNIFER: We don't even have enough to enter. We need five.

PAULA: Maybe Sasha will come back now Sue's -

ROBBIE: Oh shit.

JENNIFER: Why don't you call her Mary ? See if she will.

MARY: Okay. (SHE GOES TO HER BAG)

PAULA: We've got five again Robbie.

BEAT.

JENNIFER: Robbie.

ROBBIE: That's great.

PAULA: Shall we work out some hand moves then ?

PAULA STARTS DOING THE BOLLYWOOD MOVES AGAIN.

ROBBIE: Oh shit.

PAULA: Robbie, shall I start rehearsing again?

ROBBIE: Do what you like darling. You're all dreadful. Without Ricardo, we're stuffed.

BLACKOUT.