



MENTAL
BY
KEITH BADHAM

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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Mental

By Keith Badham

Cast List

Lucretia
Policeman
Mother
Will
Samuels
Sarah
Journalist 1
Journalist 2
Journalist 3
Modern Will
Girl 1
Girl2
Girl 3
Girl 4
Girl 5
Girl 6
Old Sarah
Old Will
Leonard
Alfred
George
Lewis
Old Man
Old Woman
Narrator
Phipps
Keeper
Newscaster
Old Judge
Judge
Nettie
Victoria
Hope
Charity
Gerald
Voices 1 to 10

Scene One

The play opens with a group of actors carrying a girl over their shoulders to a chair placed up-stage on a platform. She is handcuffed to the chair. A smaller group of actors go to Stage Right and sit at a table, one being a doctor, and two other being a husband and wife. On Stage Left we have several actors sitting at a table, holding a conference.

All groups movements are to be choreographed to appropriate music, which should be ethereal. The movements should be fluid, and of a dream like quality.

The music stops as the girl is left alone.

She screams, for an uncomfortably long time, and then stops and stares at the audience

Lucretia – (Ranting and shouting) What are you looking at? Keep away from me you scum. You think it's funny do you? I'll show you funny when I get out of here. *(she spits at them)*

(She comes out of character) Welcome to Bedlam. A hospital for the disturbed of mind. It's been here forever, and I reckon it'll last forever. They reckon that there's been thousands....hundreds of thousands of "lunatics" through these doors. You're probably related to one. What? You don't like being called a lunatic?

Scene Two

Police – Well I hope we don't see a repeat of this. You have been extremely fortunate to get away with a caution this time, but I'm afraid there will be a prosecution if it happens again

Mother – Yes officer, We understand officer, it won't happen again will it Will?

Will – No. I suppose so

Mother – No...it WONT happen again

Will – OK

Police – Look, we all lose it occasionally. Just try to talk to someone, we can all go a little bit mad at times.

Mother – We will Officer, I promise...Why did you do it Will...I want to understand?

Scene Three

Samuels – And so ends the Last Will and Testament of Charles Wolsey.

Will – And he left me everything?

Samuels – It would appear that way sir yes.

Sarah – Oh Will, I am sorry for your loss, it is never easy to lose a Father, God rest his soul. We must rejoice though my darling, this gives our unborn child a future Will. We can be secure.

Will – Samuels? Was the money left only to me?

Samuels – Yes Sir

Will – Directly to me in name?

Samuels – Yes Sir

Will – You will forgive me Sarah, but the money is for me, not for the bastard.

Sarah – Will, we can be married, before I start to show

Will – You can have a cash sum. Not too much mind. Enough to hold your tongue and feed the bastard. Samuels see to it that the whore gets One hundred

Sarah – No Will, have you lost your mind?

Will – Get out!

Scene Four

Journalists surround a table

One – So whats the angle then?

Two – Well he's a nutter isn't he?

Three – Well that goes without saying. You just need to read his texts

One – But he got left loads of money. He had everything. The world at his feet. What did he have to go loopy about?

Two – It doesn't work like that does it?

Three – Mental...no other word for him

Two – You cant say that though can you?

Three – Why not? He was sectioned. He'll never come back from this

One – Look....I don't give a shit about his future. I need a headline!

Two - We need to look back at what caused it

Three – What caused it? He’s just a fruitcake...had all that cash and blew it

Two – No....there’s more to it than that....look at the Father

Scene Five

Modern Will surrounded by Girls and other hangers on

1. Will lend us a tenner
2. Will, any chance of a loan
3. Will I’ll look really pretty in this
4. Will, I can get something for you
5. Will, just a score till the end of the week
6. Will, I’ve got into trouble

Sarah – Will....She needs new shoes

Will – Oh piss off....you only want me for my money

Sarah – Look Will, I know you miss your Dad

Will – You know nothing! I hated the tight fisted old bastard

Sarah – You don’t mean that

Will – Look, he weren’t all there, I’m glad he’s dead

Scene Six

Lucretia – People were sent to Bedlam for any number of reasons

1. Having an affair
2. Holding a religious belief
3. Disagreeing with the King
4. Eating disorders
5. Novel Reading
6. Mental Excitement
7. Laziness

8. Deranged Masturbation

Lucretia: Why am I here?