



## RIGHT FOR THE PART

By John Busser

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ACTOR:  
DIRECTOR:

Cast of Characters  
Male, any age  
M/F, Any age

Place  
A Theater Stage

Time  
Early evening

## RIGHT FOR THE PART

*At lights up, the stage is bare. From the audience, the DIRECTOR, sitting and holding a clipboard, waits a beat, then yells...*

**DIRECTOR**

Next!

*The ACTOR walks on. He carries a number of pages with him.*

**ACTOR**

*(Nervous)* Thank you. Uh, my name is...

**DIRECTOR**

I already have your resume and headshot right here. We can just begin. Do you have any questions before we start?

**ACTOR**

No.

**DIRECTOR**

Alright then, whenever you're ready.

*The ACTOR looks down at the pages. He hesitates and looks back up.*

**ACTOR**

Uh, actually I do, have a question. Just one.

**DIRECTOR**

Yes?

**ACTOR**

The, uh, girl outside. She gave me all these sides to look at.

**DIRECTOR**

Yes?

**ACTOR**

Um, I didn't have a chance to look at these. I'm not sure... none of these are marked. Character-wise. They don't say who I should read. She didn't tell me who I'm reading for.

**DIRECTOR**

You're reading for me.

**ACTOR**

No, no. I get that. I meant, I don't know what character you see me as for this. Who am I?

**DIRECTOR**

You figure it out. I need *you* to make a choice.

**ACTOR**

A... a choice?

**DIRECTOR**

That's what actors do, don't they? They make choices.

**ACTOR**

Yes but if I don't... know... who I'm...

**DIRECTOR**

Who do you see your self as?

**ACTOR**

Who do... what?

**DIRECTOR**

You read the sides?

**ACTOR**

Uh, no, not really. I just got here and...

**DIRECTOR**

You *are* an actor?

**ACTOR**

I like to think so.

**DIRECTOR**

I don't need you to think. I need you to do.

**ACTOR**

Do... what?

**DIRECTOR**

Act.

*The ACTOR looks dumbfounded. A moment passes.*

**DIRECTOR**

Now.

*The ACTOR is still dumbfounded. Finally, he MAKES A CHOICE.*

**ACTOR**

Okay, I'm reading for uh, (*checks the script*) Tony, the, uh, drug dealer.

**DIRECTOR**

Hmmph.

**ACTOR**

*(Hearing this)* .....Um, should I *not* read Tony?

**DIRECTOR**

I didn't say that.

**ACTOR**

No, but you made a noise. You went... "Hmmp". You know, like you were surprised I picked Tony.

**DIRECTOR**

I didn't see you as Tony.

**ACTOR**

Oh! Okay. That's fine. I can skip Tony. I just did as you asked.

**DIRECTOR**

I didn't ask you to read Tony.

**ACTOR**

I know you didn't. You asked me to make a choice.

**DIRECTOR**

Yes I did.

**ACTOR**

And that's the choice I made.

**DIRECTOR**

That's a choice, all right.

**ACTOR**

... Um, is there something wrong with my choice?

**DIRECTOR**

You know, actors make all kinds of choices. Right choices. Wrong choices... well, I guess there really aren't any other kinds of choices. So actors make one of those two kinds. And *you* certainly made one.

**ACTOR**

It doesn't sound like I made the right one.

**DIRECTOR**

Are you doubting your choice? That's not the kind of thing a good actor does.

**ACTOR**

Oh, do you think I'm a good actor?

**DIRECTOR**

I said a good actor doesn't doubt his or her choices... You are.

**ACTOR**

Good?

**DIRECTOR**

Doubting.

**ACTOR**

*(Confused but determined)* Okay, you know what? I'm going to read Tony.

**DIRECTOR**

Really?

**ACTOR**

*(He stares at the DIRECTOR for a long beat)* ... Sh-Should I not?

**DIRECTOR**

Did I tell you not to?

**ACTOR**

*(More confused)* No, but... I'm not sure if that's what you want.

**DIRECTOR**

You're doubting your choice again. That's an interesting choice.

**ACTOR**

Doubting a choice is a choice? I didn't make that choice.

**DIRECTOR**

You haven't made any choice yet.

**ACTOR**

*(Temper rising)* Apparently I made the wrong choice.

**DIRECTOR**

Reading for Tony? I agree. Let's move on. *(Yelling to offstage)* NEXT!

**ACTOR**

NO! Wait! *(He holds up his hands toward the offstage area as if to stop anyone entering from the wings)* Give me a minute. I'm still acting up here.

**DIRECTOR**

You were? I'm sorry. Do you want to try acting again? But slower this time, so I don't miss it.

**ACTOR**

I haven't started yet.

**DIRECTOR**

So you have pacing issues. Good to know. *(He writes something on the audition form)*

**ACTOR**

Look, I'm going to read *(Looks at the sides again)* McGinty, the Irish cop.

**DIRECTOR**

McGinty?