

DUET SCENE – JOSIE AND PETE

Play	<i>Somewhere, Nowhere</i> by Lindsay Price
Stats	Comedy, Simple Set, Two Acts
Casting	3M+13W, Expandable to 5M+15W+7 Either
Description	Josie and Pete are on the roof of the school for very different reasons.
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JOSIE enters through the doorway. She's holding a small paper lunch bag. She is not expecting to see anyone, so when she sees PETE she gives a small scream, which causes PETE to give a big scream.

JOSIE: Ah!

PETE: AGH!

JOSIE: What are you doing?

PETE: Don't do that!

JOSIE: What are you doing?

PETE: You shouldn't sneak up on people on rooftops.

JOSIE: What are you doing on the roof?

PETE: What are you doing on the roof?

JOSIE: I asked you first.

PETE: You're not supposed to be up here.

JOSIE: And you are?

PETE: What are you doing?

JOSIE: I am carrying a fairly obvious paper bag, which looks like it holds a fairly obvious lunch. On opening said obvious paper bag it will be revealed that... *(she opens the bag)* Yes, indeed. There's lunch in there. We can go even further to say that

the lunch itself is a rather obvious peanut butter and jam sandwich on whole wheat bread. Although the jam is boysenberry, which could be seen as an unexpected and way out there choice. That's how I roll. You, on the other hand, are covered in egg cartons. The burden of answering the "What are you doing" question clearly falls to you.

PETE: You're the new girl.

JOSIE: Or Josie. I go by either as far as names go. It must get pretty complicated around here if more than one new girl arrives. Do you alternate? Sammy gets "The New Girl" on Mondays, Wednesdays and alternate Fridays?

PETE: What's wrong with you?

JOSIE: You're asking me what's wrong? Me: Lunch. You: Egg cartons.

PETE: You do not have a sunny personality.

JOSIE: I'll take lack of sun over woo woo any day.

PETE: What is woo woo?

JOSIE: Woo woo is what happens when you duct tape egg cartons to your body.

PETE: Oh. *(realizing)* Hey! I am not woo woo.

JOSIE: You're Pete.

Continued Over...

PETE: I am.

JOSIE: Hooray. I'm going to eat my lunch. She sits and starts unwrapping her sandwich.

PETE: Why are you eating on the roof?

JOSIE: It's quiet. Usually. I thought no one else knew about this door being unlocked.

PETE: Don't you want to eat with other people?

JOSIE: Why do you care where I eat?

PETE: I asked you first.

JOSIE: And the gentleman gets a ribbon for 'first question.' Why are you covered in egg cartons?

PETE: Why are you answering a question with a question?

JOSIE: I don't feel like answering yours.

PETE: Oh.

JOSIE: Except... *(she takes a bite of her sandwich and looks at PETE)* I may have to kill a couple of cats on this one. I kinda want to know what you're doing.

PETE: You'll think I'm crazy.

JOSIE: Too late.

PETE: I am not woo woo!

JOSIE: Said the man in the egg carton suit.

PETE: What'll you do if I don't tell?

JOSIE: Run down to the office and say there's a crazy guy on the roof.

PETE: You can't!

JOSIE: Dude you are so woo woo you can't even see it.

PETE: You can't turn me in. That's not fair. *(he starts to pace)* I knew I should have done this earlier. I could have been in forth period. *(he stops and stares at JOSIE)* Look. My entire future is riding on these next few moments and if you stop me, you'll be totally responsible for ruining my life.

JOSIE: This would be the part where you tell me *(really draw out the why)* whyyyyyyyyyyy.

PETE: *(cutting her off)* Fine. *(he takes a deep breath)* I applied to my dream school to get my dream job and *(not happy)* I got accepted.

JOSIE: Which in the non-egg carton world would be cause for celebration.

PETE: They were supposed to turn me down! I only applied because I was sure they'd reject me. They weren't supposed to say yes.

JOSIE: Why?

PETE: Because now I have to go. I can't turn down my dream school and my dream job. That's crazy!

JOSIE: Among other things.

PETE: And I want to go. It's an amazing program with the best reviews ever. They only select a handful of students each year, which means they think I'm special. Me. Do you know how exciting that is? I'm freaking out!

JOSIE: I'm confused. You want something. You got it. You're glad you got it. Wait, what's your dream school and your dream job?

PETE: It doesn't matter.

JOSIE: It'll help the story.

PETE: I got accepted into the computer animation program at Chapman. With the possibility of a Pixar internship.

JOSIE: That's big.

PETE: I know. I have to go.

JOSIE: So go.

PETE: I can't.

JOSIE: Why not?

PETE: What if I fail? What if I think I'm good and they think I'm good but really I'm no good? What if I crash and burn?

JOSIE: So don't go.

Continued Next...

PETE: Are you out of your mind? I can't stay here. I mean, it's fine here, I like it here but there's nothing for me. I want to be out there, not here. Here is okay for some people, a lot of people, but I really, really, really, want my life to be about there.

JOSIE: So go.

PETE: I can't!

JOSIE: No kidding.

PETE: I know everyone here. I know people, they know me, the mailman says hi. The mailman at Chapman is not going to say hi. The mailman at Chapman is not going to know my birthday. The mailman at Chapman—

JOSIE: Or mail woman...

PETE: See? I'm screwing up already. What if it's a woman, and I say, "Hello, Mr. Mailman" and she spits at me?

JOSIE: If you can't tell a women from a man you really are screwed.

PETE: If I were caught in a bear trap in the middle of the woods, someone from Brayton would notice me missing, form a task force, and I wouldn't have to die in a bear trap in the woods. I have no guarantee of that at Chapman.

JOSIE: Do they have many bears at Chapman? Or here?

PETE: You're making fun of me.

JOSIE: Oh absolutely. So, you can't go. You can't stay. And you've decided to end it all in an egg carton swan dive?

PETE: No!

JOSIE: Sorry, sorry...

PETE: That's a terrible thing to say.

JOSIE: I jumped ahead in the story. Please, continue.

PETE: So, I have some other things I'm afraid of.

JOSIE: Naturally.

PETE: And I thought if I could conquer those fears, then something like 'going away to school' will seem trite and tiny and wee. There's no way I'd be able to stay at home. Off I'll go to Chapman with a song in my heart. Problem solved.

JOSIE: Right. And what are the fears that have lead you to being covered in egg cartons?

PETE: Heights and falling.

JOSIE: What?

PETE: It's not woo woo.

JOSIE: Jumping off the roof of the school is the definition of woo woo!

PETE: Fall off. I'm going to fall off. Big difference.

JOSIE: Here's the roof, there's the ground. And how are egg cartons going to save you from at the very least enduring severe physical damage?

PETE: It's not just egg cartons. I'm going to fill them with shaving cream.

JOSIE: Of course you are.

PETE: And there's a couple of gym mats on the ground covered with empty cardboard boxes which will break my fall. It'll be fine. That's what Jim says.

JOSIE: Jim? Jim Hill? You're kidding me, right?

PETE: No...

JOSIE: He's your falling expert? The guy giggling about tuna in the ventilation ducts this morning? This is his idea?

PETE: Yes. Well, no. He told me about it, he doesn't know I'm doing it.

JOSIE: You have got to be kidding.

PETE: It'll work. Jim saw it on The Discovery Channel. They wouldn't steer somebody wrong on Discovery.

JOSIE: It's egg cartons and shaving cream.

PETE: It has to work. This is my time, I can feel it. I'm ready to take the next step. I'm ready to shed my skin, move forward, move away, take control

Continued Over...

of my life. I can do it! I know I can!

JOSIE: It's too late to run for valedictorian. Tyler Tews has it all sewn up.

PETE: Tyler wouldn't be doing this. He's not afraid of anything.

JOSIE: Pete, you can't think this is a good idea.

PETE: It sounded like a good idea.

JOSIE: Egg cartons. Shaving cream. Cardboard boxes and a couple of gym mats?

PETE: That makes it sound like less than a good idea.

JOSIE: There's got to be another way to kick your butt out of this town. I'll even volunteer. I'll come to your house, drag you out of bed and kick your butt all the way to Chapman.

PETE: You don't even know me.

JOSIE: You don't know me either. We're even.

PETE: Do you really hate being called the new girl?

JOSIE: It's better than "Parents Gone to Jail Girl." Love that one. At least I can have a fun with it. Depending on who you talk to, my parents either shishkabobed our dog, stole The Empire State Building, or put Kool-Aid in the water supply. *(she sighs at the stupidity of man)* It's the little things...

PETE: Did your parents really do something bad?

JOSIE: Yes. They duct taped yogurt containers to their body and fell off the Brooklyn Bridge.

PETE: They did? *(realizing)* Hey...

JOSIE: Couldn't resist.

PETE: I won't call you the new girl ever again. Josie.

JOSIE: I won't call you woo woo. Unless you do this falling thing. Then I won't have a choice.