

Friend of Yours?
by Justin Street

Drama Troupe B (ages 6-21, four or more actors with flexible casting and flexible gender roles ages)

CHARACTERS:

SHADRACH (HANANIA)

MESCHACH (MISHAEL)

ABEDNEGO (AZARIAH)

STRANGER*

*STRANGER can be broken up into separate roles, as needed - STRANGER 1, STRANGER 2, etc. The idea then being that instead of being visited by an angel, they are visited by a small host

LIGHTS UP on SHAD, MESCH, and ABED, as they are inside of a jail cell. SHAD is sitting down on the floor, playing (or pretending to play) a harmonica. MESCH is pacing, not frantically, but for something to do. ABED is sitting on a bench (or chair), looking off into distance.

MESCH

What time do you think it is?

SHAD

No idea.

ABED

Should be pretty close to sunrise. It's starting to get light.

MESCH

Do you think they'll hit us or anything?

SHAD

No idea.

ABED

Does it matter?

MESCH

Well, yea. I'd rather not get beaten up, thank you.

STRANGER walking in, unnoticed.

STRANGER

You nervous?

SHAD, MESCH, and ABED are startled. SHAD and ABED jump up.

SHAD

Whoa!

ABED

Not cool!

STRANGER

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scare you.

MESCH

Ok, you didn't *scare* us. You just...

ABED

We didn't see you, is all.

SHAD

It's dark. We thought we were the only ones here.

STRANGER

Ah, I see. So you're not nervous?

SHAD, MESCH, and ABED look at each other, unsure.

SHAD

I mean...

MESCH

We're not... I don't know.

ABED

It's hard to say. I'm not sure how I feel exactly.

STRANGER

Makes sense. I mean, we're in a prison cell, which can be a confusing place.

How did I end up here? Where did it all go so wrong? How long am I going to be here?

SHAD, MESCH, and ABED laugh nervously.

MESCH

Oh, we know the answer to that last one.

SHAD

Not long at all. An hour, maybe.

ABED

Looking out the window

Maybe less. Old Nezzzy likes to get things going pretty early in the morning.

STRANGER

Old Nezzzy? You don't mean... the king do you?

SHAD

King Nebuchadnezzar, yes.

STRANGER

Ha! Old Nezzzy.

quietly

Say, you better not let the guards hear you say that. He wouldn't like that at all. He's quite vain, you know.

SHAD, MESCH, and ABED look at each other for a beat - then burst out laughing.

SHAD

You don't say!

MESCH

Thanks for the warning.

ABED

We'll be sure to keep that in mind.

STRANGER

Am I missing something?

SHAD

No, no. Sorry. It's just. We have a pretty good idea of how vain King Nebuchadnezzar is.

STRANGER

Wait a minute. You're not...

counts them

the three. The three who wouldn't bow.

SHAD

Shadrach.

MESCH

Meschach

ABED

And Abednego, at your service.

SHAD

Unless you need us to worship a dumb idol of yourself.

MESCH

Then you're out of luck!

ALL laugh

STRANGER

Hold on. So when you said you're only here for another hour - you mean, you're only *here* for another hour.

ABED

Maybe less.

STRANGER

Are you afraid?

ABED

I don't know what I feel. I've been trying to figure it out.

STRANGER

Do you regret it?

SHAD, MESCH, ABED

No. No way.

STRANGER

Even now?

SHAD

Do I wish I'd bowed to that stupid statue? No way.

MESCH

I wish they'd hurry up, to be honest. Get it over with.

STRANGER

What do you think's going to happen?

ABED

We don't really know, do we. Maybe it doesn't happen. Maybe the flames turn to bubbles. Maybe it's all over. We just don't know.

STRANGER

And you're okay with that?

MESCH

If it's this or turning my back on God?

They look at each other.

Yea, I'm okay with that.

STRANGER

Well. That's something you don't see every day.

SHAD

If you don't mind. We wanted to pray together before dawn.

SHAD, MESCH, and ABED kneel next to each other, facing ahead.

ABED

Maybe one last time.

They close their eyes.

STRANGER

quietly

Oh, I doubt that.

MESCH

looking back

What's that?

STRANGER

Nothing. I'll leave you brave souls to it.

MESCH goes back to praying.

Welp, Hanania, Mishael, Azariah - see you around.

STRANGER exits.

Beat

SHAD, MESCH, and ABED open their eyes wide in shock, look at each other, and

LIGHTS OUT