

Blocking Assignments

ACT THREE SCENE FIVE

GENERAL:

This scene is another composite main stage setting. There are sequential segments taking place in series across the entire stage area. There is a list of props and the visuals to go along with the scene. On the big screen there needs to be a series of visual images in sequence starting with the Salon, Diner, Alex's Office and Brian's Dining Room. Each visual is maintained throughout the entire segment. The seasonal tree is ever present.

ACTION:

The image of Bev's Salon is on screen. The scene opens with Bev sweeping up around her styling chair. Then she leans the broom against the trolley and arranges a few things. She picks up an Email from Kathryn and sits in the chair reading to herself. The cue for Kathryn to appear on the Readers Stage is when Bev picks up the Email from the trolley. The image 1a is on screen. Kathryn begins to read as soon as Bev is settled in her chair.

There are no planned special breaks or groupings in the Email message. This Email is intended to flow smoothly without pauses for reflection. The abbreviation LOL is to be read out as "laughing out loud" the tone for this Email is firm and focused. Particular attention is placed on "Merry Christmas" which should be spoken as if it were in person. The rest of the Email should be spoken without having to look at the Email page. The postscript is when Kathryn starts reading from the page again. This time the mood is particularly sombre. Particular attention and emphasis goes to "Makes me so mad" and the remainder of the postscript. Once again, the Email paper is lowered and the words "Love Kathryn" are spoken as if it were in person. Kathryn exits by the rear of the Readers Stage.

The image 1b is on screen. There are no plans special breaks or groupings for reading the diary. The script presents a monologue that reveals the character of the chaplain and the centrality of prayer and pastoral care in ministry. Above all it is a personal reflection and one that serves the particular purpose in converging faith, life and death in the pursuit of peace and justice. The chaplain exits by the rear of the Readers Stage.

The image 2 is on screen. The two patrons of the diner enter the stage at ramp D and are seated at the table. After conversing with each other they pick up their menus. This is the cue for Louise to enter at E carrying with her two glasses of water which she places on the table. She takes out her order pad and appears to be taking down the menu selections of both patrons. She continues to move about the table pointing out things on the menu and making small conversation. She also goes back and forth from the counter top which is located on the right side of the stage opposite the table. She maintains her presence by performing her functions as a waitress while the concurrent activities take place on the Readers Stage.

The image 2a is on screen. Cindy enters the Readers Stage with her small gift which she kneels down and places on the floor in front of her. She then stands up lifts her head up and blows a kiss as if to one of the stars in the sky. Cindy exits by the rear of the Readers Stage. Next, image 2b is on screen. The Commanding Officer enters the Readers Stage and flips open a cell phone to send a text message. This

message will later result in a phone call being made from the family. The Commanding Officer exits by the rear of the Readers Stage. Image 2c is on screen. The Cadpat soldier enters the Readers Stage carrying a Christmas package which is wrapped. The Cadpat soldier opens the package takes out the picture of a newborn child and the sound of a baby crying is heard in the background. The Cadpat soldier exits by the rear of the Readers Stage.

Image 3 is on the screen. Alex enters the stage of ramp B and sits behind his desk. He begins marking his papers but then reaches into his desk and takes out a small ring box, opens it so see the ring inside and proceeds to carefully wraps it up and sign the gift card which she places in an envelope and seals it.

Image 4 is on screen. Brian, his mom Karen and Jeffrey enter the stage at ramp D. They move forward to the right front corner of the stage and Brian begins his dialogue once they are there and altogether. Brian hands the picture to Jeffrey then he looks at his mom who listens to him further and then gives him a hug. When Brian turns to give Jeffrey a hug, Jeffrey instead hands over the keys to his vehicle and says "How would you like to drive us all to the church service?" then Jeffrey hugs Brian. Brian continues his dialogue with Jeffrey who concludes with his line "Let's go." The three players continue to remain on stage without further interaction.

Image 4a is on screen. The Commanding Officer re-enters the far left area of the Readers Stage. The CO is on the cell phone and takes the call facing toward stage left. The script calls for pauses when the caller is speaking from the other end of the line.

At the conclusion of the call the CO closes the phone and makes a full turn to the left facing toward stage right. Image 4b is on screen. The three soldiers: Cindy, Gary and the Tan Cadpat soldier enter the Readers Stage to the left of the CO. The CO continues with the critical incident announcement. The last line spoken in English "we continue to move forward with our mission" ends Act Three. These words prompt the players on stage to exit accordingly as do the soldiers on the Readers Stage. This time the image on the screen remains until all the stage lights go black. The image goes black.

PROPS LIST:

Email for Bev

Broom

Chaplain's Diary

2 Menus on the Diner Table

Counter (cashier counter) draped with table cloth.

2 Glasses of Water back stage for Louise

One Order Pad for Louise in her apron pocket with a pen

Small gift for Cindy

Flip cell phone for the CO

Small wrapped gift with a picture of a newborn child

Soundtrack of a baby crying (recorded)

Mid Term papers on Alex's Desk

Small box (ring sized) and wrapping paper with tape and an enclosure card to sign

Pen

Wrapped family picture framed for Brian

Car keys for Jeffrey

The seasonal tree decorated for Christmas.

STAGE DIRECTOR NOTES:

Each player must know their entrance routes. At the end of the scene during the blackout the stage is cleared and the choir is assembled on stage.

COSTUMING:

All players are dressed for Christmas season. Bev wears her usual apron, Louise is in her uniform. Brian and family are well dressed for Church, Alex is wearing a tie. The Chaplain is dressed in a clerical shirt and collar, the soldiers are in Tan Cadpats

IMAGE SCREEN OPERATOR:

The sequence of images is dictated by the script interspersed with images reflecting the activities on the Readers Stage. The order is as follows:

1. Salon image
 - a. Afghanistan Christmas image clear starry night
 - b. Afghanistan Chapel image
2. Diner image
 - a. Small Christmas tree with gifts image
 - b. Portrait of the CO's family (with CO, husband, Sheila)
 - c. Portrait of new born child
3. Alex's Office image
4. Brian's Dining Room image
 - a. Portrait of the CO's family (cropped and enlarged showing Sheila)
 - b. Afghanistan landscape image

MAKEUP:

There are no special requirements for each of the players. Each of the players in the scene will be responsible for doing their own makeup under the direction of the Makeup Artist. No special attention is required for this scene. Attention should be paid to the fact that Brian and his family are going off to Church for a Christmas Eve service.

LIGHTING:

The sequence of lighting areas follows the script. There is always light on the Readers Stage as there is continuous activity there. The sequence on the main stage is as follows:

1. Front Centre Stage A (Bev)
2. Mid Centre Stage C (Louise)
3. Back Left Corner Stage B (Alex)
4. Front Right Corner Stage D (Brian)