

I'M NOT KEANU REEVES

By Christian Kiley

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ISBN 1-60003-456-X

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CHARACTERS

ACTOR	An unknown but talented actor looking for a break
DIRECTOR	A director who has always wanted to work with Keanu Reeves

PRODUCTION NOTES

This piece works well in competition rooms. ACTOR can walk into the actual room and DIRECTOR can be hiding with the lights off. This allows for a practical and yet dynamic use of space. DIRECTOR wore an “I Love Keanu Reeves” t-shirt and was a fanatical fan and ACTOR, in contrast, was quite normally dressed. ACTOR and DIRECTOR can be female or male.

“I’m Not Keanu Reeves” was developed at Etiwanda High School (Rancho Cucamonga, CA). Special thanks to Tabitha Lehouillier, Tiara Brooks, and Kalena Shook for their direction and insight.

“I’m Not Keanu Reeves” was performed with four casts at Etiwanda High School.

ACTOR - Nik Granados, Nathan Guerard, Mark Barcelona, Jonathan Greene

DIRECTOR - Ryan Granados, Matthew Tiacharoen, Keith Mertan, Kelli Haddock

Editing and Proofreading: Bill and Ellen Kiley

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An ACTOR enters a dark room. DIRECTOR is hiding.

ACTOR: Hello. I'm here for my audition. (*moves toward the front of the room*) Hello? (*looks around for a moment*) I must be in the wrong place.

(*ACTOR starts to exit. DIRECTOR jumps out from her/his hiding place.*)

DIRECTOR: Surprise! (*takes a picture with a big flash*) Got ya! Right? Right. I mean I . . . got . . . you! Plus this is the most important part of the audition. Your natural reaction in the moment. (*looking at the picture in the viewfinder*) I mean, look at yourself. You are an actor. You are . . . (*freezes*) Holy mother of a litter of Laurence Olivier puppies! I've got to turn on the lights. (*turns on the lights*) It is you! Wow! I mean, wow! This is an honor. Keanu Reeves auditioning for me. For my movie!

ACTOR: I'm not-

DIRECTOR: (*Extremely hurt*) You're not going to audition for me, for my film? (*Now building with anger*) Why would you come in here then with this whole "I'm here for my audition" routine?

ACTOR: I *am* here to audition.

DIRECTOR: Yes! This is like a dream, only better. We'll get to edit out the boring parts when . . . I mean if . . . but who are we kidding, when, you get the part.

ACTOR: I'm not Keanu Reeves.

DIRECTOR: Of course you're not! You're already in character. Look at you, immersed in this character, deeply imbedded in the character's psyche. You're a versatile genius!

ACTOR: The only thing Keanu Reeves has ever been deeply imbedded in is bed, and I heard he isn't even that convincing when he is sleeping. I heard he peeks.

DIRECTOR: You actually degrade yourself. That is true commitment to the character.

ACTOR: I am not Keanu Reeves.

DIRECTOR: I loved you in *Speed*. Like I really believed you could drive a bus. Isn't there like a special license you need for that? Now that's acting!

ACTOR: Actually, no. That is bus driving.

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DIRECTOR: And *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*. You traveled through time! Dude, dude . . . dude! That is some serious method work, to contradict the laws of nature and physics.

ACTOR: No.

DIRECTOR: How did you guys do that?

ACTOR: Do what? Make a cheesy movie?

DIRECTOR: Travel through time! Oh, I bet you took a class. Where did you study? London, New York . . .

ACTOR: Keanu was in a garage band. I think he studied breathing, mostly by doing it!

DIRECTOR: What was it like to fight Dracula?

ACTOR: I don't know, you'll have to ask Keanu Reeves.

DIRECTOR: You are so focused. I guess that's why you are a *professional* actor.

ACTOR: *I am a hungry* actor. Keanu Reeves is an international celebrity.

DIRECTOR: The separation between character and actor is brilliant!

ACTOR: (*hopeful*) Are you saying I am brilliant?

DIRECTOR: Yes, Keanu Reeves is brilliant.

ACTOR: I am not- (*composing herself/himself*) May I audition?

DIRECTOR: Could you do that trippy slow motion bullet-dodging thing you did in the Matrix?

ACTOR: No.

DIRECTOR: Yeah, I get it. Professional actors aren't show ponies.

Sorry, Mr. Reeves. Or can I call you . . . (*whispering it with a kind of twisted reverence*) Keanu.

ACTOR: May I audition please?

DIRECTOR: Your dedication to the craft is admirable, Keanu.

ACTOR: (*ready to explode*) I . . . am . . . (*holding it together*) ready to audition.

DIRECTOR: Keanu, you are a kindergarten teacher who is teaching the class how to read. But the version of "See Spot Run" that you are using actually contains subliminal portions of The Communist Manifesto. If you look at the pictures closely, one of Spot's spots actually looks like the profile of Karl Marx. I thought for an actor of your skill, Keanu, that kind of detail would be critical. You thrive on that. Right, Keanu?

ACTOR: Yes, thrive! I'm thriving over here. Just thriving!

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