

BUZZ (SAMPLE)

Written by

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PROJECTION: "BUT SOFT, METHINKS I SCENT THE MORNING AIR." ONE WEEK LATER. MARCH 1975.

PROJECTION fades.

BUZZ grabs a stack of her hand-written pages. Drops them on MENTOR's desk and moves into the scene.

BUZZ  
(in darkness) When you're ready.

Light pours on to the stage. She stands in light.

BUZZ (CONT'D)  
(in darkness) Brilliant. You are.  
Brilliant.

BOARD OPERATOR  
(off stage) Here we go.

Blackout. Tight spot light up.

BUZZ  
(in the spot light) From the beginning, please. Lead me in and out.

BUZZ walks into each cue as the stage is brought to life, light by light. She is inside the play; she is in Hamlet; she is Hamlet.

BUZZ (CONT'D)  
(under her breath)  
*Oh that this too too solid Flesh,  
would melt,  
Thaw, and resolve it selfe into a  
Dew:  
Or that the Euerlasting had not  
fixt  
His Cannon 'gainst Selfe-slaughter.*

Good. Give us a wash.

The lighting is adjusted.

BUZZ (CONT'D)  
Right. Right. Perfect. (under her breath) *O God, O God!  
How weary, stale, flat, and  
unprofitable  
Seemes to me all the vses of this  
world?*

The lights flicker; pop.

BOARD OPERATOR  
(off stage) Got it. Just a mo' -

BUZZ  
Can you fix it?

BOARD OPERATOR  
(off stage) Right as rain.

The lights flicker, then move with confidence.

BUZZ  
Give them to me again. From the  
top.  
(under her breath) ***Fie on't? Oh  
fie, fie, 'tis an vnweeded Garden  
That growes to Seed: Things rank,  
and grosse in Nature  
Possesse it meerely. That it should  
come to this:***

The lights stop on HAMLET holding a paper bag filled with  
sticky buns. He extends a hot cup of coffee.

HAMLET  
Yours.

BOARD OPERATOR  
(off stage) Holding!

BUZZ  
(taking coffee and bag) Thank you!

HAMLET  
Yup. And - (from his pocket, pulls  
a pack of cigarettes)

BUZZ  
Brilliant. Oh my GOD, you're  
brilliant.

HAMLET  
(from his pocket) And. Lighter.

BUZZ  
God, I love you.

BUZZ pulls out a cigarette. Offers one to HAMLET. They light;  
smoke. BUZZ pulls her chair downstage. HAMLET pulls another  
chair, joins her. They sit and stare into the audience.

BUZZ (CONT'D)  
Seven soliloquies.

HAMLET  
Right.

Long beat. BUZZ gazes across the audience. They smoke.

HAMLET (CONT'D)  
Buzz?

BUZZ  
What?

HAMLET  
What are we doing?

BUZZ closes her eyes.

BUZZ  
There's a crack in the ceiling  
there (she points).

HAMLET  
I don't -

BUZZ  
They've tried to fix it a thousand  
times.

HAMLET  
All right.

BUZZ  
The door creaks. Left side. The  
hinge is loose. And when the doors  
open at half two, the room is  
flooded with light. And there's a  
bench in the front row - (with  
closed eyes) - do you see it?

HAMLET  
(slowly closes his eyes) Creaks - when you sit on it.

BUZZ  
Yes and a groove in the floor  
before it. Put out three cigarettes  
there last week.

HAMLET

There's a nail on the entryway just off stage. I grab it before every entrance.

BUZZ

A nail?

HAMLET

What? Yes.

BUZZ

As you enter?

HAMLET

If I don't grab it before every entrance, I'm (quietly) not allowed to speak. (beat) And I have to wear the same socks.

BUZZ

What?

HAMLET

I have to wear the same socks. Six days before the opening. All six days including opening night. I have to wear the same socks.

Short beat.

BUZZ

House right, there's a woman who'll wonder where she's seen you.

HAMLET

(opens his eyes) What? Where?

BUZZ

She'll think she knows you because you look like the bloke on her corner. Sells her newspaper.

HAMLET

Newspaper? What?

BUZZ

House left a man in the back will remember his first play when he wore a ratty jumper. His family was poor, but he made something of himself. You'll remind him of how he felt when he first started.

(MORE)

BUZZ (CONT'D)

At the end of the show, he'll feel tears in his eyes and he'll laugh to himself thinking "bollocks".

HAMLET

...

BUZZ

Boy in the back will tell the lads at school that Hamlet looks like Freddie, his cousin. They'll laugh at him, but in the summer he'll decide he wants to be an actor. And much later, he'll tell someone about you. And this Hamlet. "I saw him once; he was a goodly King."

HAMLET

He was a man, take him for all in all:  
I shall not look vpon his like againe.

BUZZ

(opening her eyes) Remember me.

HAMLET

What?

BUZZ

You're doing Hamlet. Sticky bun?

She extends a bun. HAMLET laughs. Blackout. A clump of earth hits the stage.