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sizing him up

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by Michael Cheikin

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Production Information

Synopsis: SIZING HIM UP is a two character piece about the humanity of the disabled, and about language as action.

Actors: Two actors:  
2 Females, mid 20's - 30's

Set: None needed.

Running Time: Approximately 18 minutes.

Props: Two manual wheelchairs, one with leg rests (for PRISCILLA, and one without (for SALL)  
Pillow  
Towel



1 (THE LIGHTS RAPIDLY RISE, REVEALING  
2 PRISCILLA AND SALLY IN WHEELCHAIRS.  
3 THEY ARE FACING FORWARD, LOOKING  
4 OUT OVER THE AUDIENCE. EACH IS IN A  
5 AWKWARD POSE IN THEIR WHEELCHAIR--  
6 SALLY'S SPASTIC, AND PRISCILLA'S  
7 FLOPPY. PRISCILLA'S HEAD IS PROPPED  
8 UP ON ONE SIDE WITH A PILLOW. SALLY  
9 HAS A "DROOL TOWEL" ON HER SHOULDER,  
10 WHICH INTENTIONALLY BLENDS IN WITH  
11 HER PRETTY DRESS.)  
12  
13 (THEIR CHAIRS AND BODIES ARE  
14 POSITIONED IN SUCH A WAY THAT EYE  
15 CONTACT IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT  
16 EFFORT TO TURN, WHICH DOES OCCUR  
17 FROM TIME TO TIME, ESPECIALLY WHEN  
18 THEY LAUGH TOGETHER.  
19  
20 (SALLY'S LEGS KICK  
21 SPASTICALLY. ONE OF HER BRAKES  
22 ISN'T LOCKED, SO SHE MOVES IN A  
23 CIRCLE DURING THE COURSE OF THE  
24 PLAY. HER CHAIR DOESN'T HAVE LEG  
25 RESTS; PRISCILLA'S DOES.)  
26  
27 AS THE PLAY BEGINS, SALLY IS LOOKING  
28 AT SOMETHING AND LAUGHING.)  
29  
30 SALLY:  
31 (LOOKING AT SOMETHING AND LAUGHING) ...Hey ... floppy.  
32  
33 PRISCILLA:  
34 What, spazzy.  
35  
36 SALLY:  
37 ...Get ...that.  
38  
39 PRISCILLA:  
40 (PAUSE, STRAINING HER EYES) Let me focus. (KEEPS STRAINING.)  
41 Ohhh! (LAUGHS TOO)  
42  
43 SALLY:  
44 ...Big ...pecker.  
45  
46 PRISCILLA:  
47 Huge!  
48  
49 (PAUSE)  
50  
51 SALLY:  
52 ...How ...long?  
53  
54 PRISCILLA:  
55 At least eight inches!  
56  
57 SALLY:  
58 No!! ... Been ...here?

59  
60 PRISCILLA:  
61 Oh. Last week.  
62  
63 SALLY:  
64 What, what, what, happened?  
65  
66 PRISCILLA:  
67 Diving accident. Twenty four.  
68  
69 SALLY:  
70 ...Too ...bad. (LONG PAUSE) ...For him. (PAUSE) Good for us.  
71  
72 (PAUSE, THEN THEY BOTH LAUGH, EACH  
73 IN THEIR DISTORTED WAY.)  
74  
75 (LONG PAUSE. THEY WATCH HIM.)  
76  
77 SALLY:  
78 Eight!?  
79  
80 PRISCILLA:  
81 Maybe nine!  
82  
83 SALLY:  
84 How?  
85  
86 PRISCILLA:  
87 Automatic.  
88  
89 SALLY:  
90 But how?!  
91  
92 PRISCILLA:  
93 Biology.  
94  
95 SALLY:  
96 Oh!  
97  
98 (PAUSE)  
99  
100 PRISCILLA:  
101 His name is Peter.  
102  
103 SALLY:  
104 Peter. (PAUSE. LAUGHS:) Peter Pecker...  
105  
106 PRISCILLA:  
107 (LAUGHS:) ...picked a peck of pickled... (TAKES A BREATH) peckers.  
108  
109 (THEY LAUGH. PAUSE.)  
110  
111 PRISCILLA:  
112 Probably has a girlfriend.  
113  
114 SALLY:  
115 ...Not for long.  
116

117 PRISCILLA:  
118 You think she'll dump him?  
119  
120 SALLY:  
121 Sure. He's, he's one of, of us, now.  
122  
123 PRISCILLA:  
124 Yeah.  
125  
126 (PAUSE)  
127  
128 PRISCILLA:  
129 Good looking, too.  
130  
131 SALLY:  
132 Yeah.  
133  
134 (PAUSE. THEY WATCH SOMEONE WHEEL  
135 BY.)  
136  
137 SALLY:  
138 Hey.  
139  
140 PRISCILLA:  
141 What?  
142  
143 SALLY:  
144 Ever do, do, do, doit.  
145  
146 PRISCILLA:  
147 (SMILING) Spazzy!  
148  
149 SALLY:  
150 (SMILING TOO) What!?  
151  
152 PRISCILLA:  
153 You know.  
154  
155 SALLY:  
156 Well?  
157  
158 PRISCILLA:  
159 Once. In high school. Got drunk. He never called after.  
160  
161 SALLY:  
162 (TEASING) Ooooooooouuuuu.  
163  
164 (THEY BOTH LAUGH IN THEIR COMIC  
165 WAYS. THEY CALM.)  
166  
167 PRISCILLA:  
168 After I got M.S., no one wanted me.  
169  
170 (LONG PAUSE.)  
171  
172 PRISCILLA:  
173 Hey, Spazzy.  
174

175 SALLY:  
176 What?  
177  
178 PRISCILLA:  
179 What about you.  
180  
181 SALLY:  
182 I'm not telling.  
183  
184 PRISCILLA:  
185 What!?  
186  
187 SALLY:  
188 It's a secret.  
189  
190 PRISCILLA:  
191 (ANGRY) C.P. Sally! I told you!  
192  
193 SALLY:  
194 OK. (LOOKS AROUND, WHISPERS:) An aide.  
195  
196 PRISCILLA:  
197 Really? Here?  
198  
199 SALLY:  
200 Yeah.  
201  
202 PRISCILLA:  
203 (SHE LOOKS AROUND) Who?  
204  
205 SALLY:  
206 No. Before you. Jimmy.  
207  
208 PRISCILLA:  
209 Did he hurt you?  
210  
211 SALLY:  
212 Nooo. He liked me. Felt good. (SMILES.) Thought he gave me a  
213 seizure.  
214  
215 PRISCILLA:  
216 That was some seizure. (LAUGHS)  
217  
218 SALLY:  
219 Yeah! (LAUGHS TOO.)  
220  
221 (PAUSE. THEY BOTH LAUGH AGAIN.)  
222  
223 SALLY:  
224 Got fired.  
225  
226 (HER FACE TURNS SAD, SHE SOBS  
227 DISTORTEDLY, FOR A MOMENT, AS SHE  
228 REMEMBERS THE COURTSHIP, THE LOVE,  
229 THE INFATUATION, THE LOSS.)  
230  
231 PRISCILLA:  
232 (SYMPATHETIC, TRIES TO TOUCH HER) Ohhh.

233  
234 (LONG PAUSE)  
235  
236 PRISCILLA:  
237 Well, do you want him?  
238  
239 SALLY:  
240 (RECOVERING, DOESN'T UNDERSTAND) What?!  
241  
242 PRISCILLA:  
243 I said, do you want Peter?  
244  
245 SALLY:  
246 He wouldn't like me.  
247  
248 PRISCILLA:  
249 Yes he would. You're smart, and funny.  
250  
251 SALLY:  
252 No I'm not.  
253  
254 PRISCILLA:  
255 And you're pretty. And sexy.  
256  
257 SALLY:  
258 No, no I'm not.  
259  
260 PRISCILLA:  
261 Yes! (PAUSE) If only you didn't drool!  
262  
263 (THEY LAUGH.)  
264  
265 SALLY:  
266 (TEASING) What are you, a lesbo?!  
267  
268 PRISCILLA:  
269 No!  
270  
271 SALLY:  
272 I like men!  
273  
274 PRISCILLA:  
275 So do I!  
276  
277 SALLY:  
278 I like looking.  
279  
280 PRISCILLA:  
281 How about touching?  
282  
283 SALLY:  
284 Yeah!  
285 (PAUSE)  
286  
287 PRISCILLA:  
288 Sometimes, my brother brings me videos.  
289



290  
291 Really! Can I, I...?  
292  
293  
294 Sure!  
295  
296  
297 Where do you put your hands?  
298  
299  
300 You know.  
301  
302 (THEY LAUGH.)  
303  
304 PRISCILLA:  
305 [Once you see my brother's videos you'll put your hands there too!]  
306 Better than popcorn!  
307  
308 (THEY LAUGH.)  
309  
310 PRISCILLA:  
311 Know what I'd do to him?  
312  
313  
314 What?  
315  
316 PRISCILLA:  
317 First, I'd give him a massage. My shakes would turn him on.  
318  
319 (THEY LAUGH. A STAFF MEMBER WALKS  
320 BY (THIS SHOULD NOT BE PLAYED BY AN  
321 ACTOR, BUT INDICATED BY THEIR  
322 RESPONSES, AND EYE AND HEAD  
323 MOVEMENTS.)  
324  
325  
326 SALLY:  
327 Shhhh!  
328  
329 (THEY WATCH THE STAFF EXIT.)  
330  
331 SALLY:  
332 [Then what?  
333  
334 (THEY LAUGH AGAIN.)  
335  
336 PRISCILLA:  
337 Then, I'd kiss him everywhere.  
338  
339 SALLY:  
340 E-e-e-e-every?  
341  
342 PRISCILLA:  
343 Everywhere.]  
344  
345 (THEY LAUGH HARD. CALM. LONG  
346 PAUSE.)

347 PRISCILLA:  
348 What would you do?  
349  
350 SALLY:  
351 Me?  
352  
353 PRISCILLA:  
354 Yes, you.  
355  
356 (THEY BOTH LAUGH.)  
357  
358 SALLY:  
359 I'd u,u,u,use, my, my, my tongue.  
360  
361 (THEY LAUGH HARD.)  
362  
363 PRISCILLA:  
364 Gotta use what God gave you!  
365  
366 (THEY LAUGH. PAUSE.)  
367  
368 PRISCILLA:  
369 (SUDDENLY:) Look! Look who's after him.  
370  
371 SALLY:  
372 (SNARLING) Jenny!  
373  
374 PRISCILLA:  
375 She always does that.  
376  
377 SALLY:  
378 (SNEERS) Thinks she's so sexy.  
379  
380 PRISCILLA:  
381 Just because she can stand for a minute, she thinks she's hot shit.  
382  
383 SALLY:  
384 Yeah!  
385  
386 PRISCILLA:  
387 Quick! Let's run her over while she's still standing!  
388  
389 SALLY:  
390 (SMILES) Yeah! (PAUSE) Or get Jack to loosen her brakes!  
391  
392 PRISCILLA:  
393 ...Before she goes up the hill!  
394  
395 (THEY BOTH LAUGH.)  
396  
397 PRISCILLA:  
398 You should go after him!  
399  
400 SALLY:  
401 H-H-H-H-Who!?  
402  
403 PRISCILLA:  
404 You. You're more sexy than Jenny.

405  
406  
407 Me?  
408  
409  
410 Yes! You! (SNEERING AT JENNY) Look at that lipstick!  
411  
412 (THEY BOTH LAUGH AT HER.)  
413  
414  
415 Think I could?  
416  
417 PRISCILLA:  
418 Yes. Tell him about your tongue.  
419  
420 (THEY BOTH LAUGH.)  
421  
422 PRISCILLA:  
423 He'll like you.  
424  
425 SALLY:  
426 No!  
427  
428 PRISCILLA:  
429 Yes. Go ahead.  
430  
431 SALLY:  
432 Don't you, you, you wan-im?  
433  
434 PRISCILLA:  
435 You can have this one. I'll take the next.  
436  
437 SALLY:  
438 No!  
439  
440 PRISCILLA:  
441 Yes.  
442  
443 SALLY:  
444 Really?  
445  
446 PRISCILLA:  
447 Go get-- Peter Pecker. Really. Go get him.  
448  
449 SALLY:  
450 No! I can't.  
451  
452 PRISCILLA:  
453 DO it! (PAUSE) Before Jenny! (PAUSE) Hurry up!  
454  
455 SALLY:  
456 Maybe...  
457  
458 (BRIEF PAUSE. MUSIC SLOWLY RISES  
459 UP, AS SHE THINKS.)  
460  
461 ( A DETERMINED LOOK COMES OVER  
462 HER FACE. SHE WIPES HER FACE ONCE

463 MORE, BEFORE TAKING HER DROOL TOWEL  
464 OFF HER SHOULDER AND HIDING IT. SHE  
465 TAKES GREAT EFFORT TO UNLOCK THE ONE  
466 LOCKED BRAKE.)  
467  
468 (SHE BEGINS TO GO FORWARD, AND LOOKS  
469 ONE MORE TIME AT PRISCILLA.  
470  
471 (PRISCILLA GIVES HER A SHAKY "THUMBS  
472 UP".)  
473  
474 (SHE CONTINUES FORWARD, INTO THE  
475 DAWN, AS THE LIGHTS SLOWLY FADE  
476 OUT.)  
477  
478 (THE END.)  
479