



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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"HOMELESS FOR THE HOLIDAYS"

A PLAY IN ONE ACT

CAST

DARRYL.....
(REBELLIOUS YOUTH)
THOMAS.....
(DARRYL'S FRIEND)
POLICE OFFICER.....
BARNES.....
(HOMELESS WAR VETERAN)
SAM.....
(SHELTER VOLUNTEER)
MR. CORY.....
(SHELTER DIRECTOR)
KENNY.....
(SHELTER RESIDENT)

SCENE 1 DARRYL'S MOM'S CAR
SCENE 2 HOMELESS SHELTER
SCENE 3 DARRYL'S BEDROOM
SCENE 4 HOMELESS SHELTER



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



SCENE 1

(Setting--Darryl and Thomas sitting in car)

Darryl: Oh wee! Lord child, Thomas. Did you see the long legs on that female?

Thomas: Yeah, It'd take Santa Clause a minute to fill her stocking.

Darryl: Quit bogarting (hands him a joint)

Thomas: That's that Christmas tree bud, man. What you gonna give Shela this year.?

Darryl: Are you kidding. I'm gonna do like last year with my old girlfriend. Start an argument than kick her to the curb. Make it seem like it's all her fault. I don't have money to throwaway on gifts. I can barely support my bad habits. Pass the forty.

Thomas: I feel you. This whole Christmas thing is all about money anyways. Look over there. (man holding a sign--will work for food)

Darryl: Hey, you bum!! Get a life and quit begging, you freaking loser. You believe that guy. He needs to get his drunk butt a job. About that Christmas thing; I just don't get it; giving gifts, everyone acting like the pope, with their big cheesy grins, pass the forty, (almost spills) Watch out! You spill beer in my mama car and it won't be a roasted turkey for Christmas, it will be my butt. Keep it down. Keep it down!!!

(siren goes off)

Both: OH NO, man, its the police.

Darryl: I told you to keep it down. Hey where you going? Oh man!

(Thomas quickly jumps out of car.)

SCENE 2

(Setting--Homeless shelter)

Darryl: (takes off coat) I can't believe it. I have the worst luck in the world. It's Christmas time, all my buddies are out parting it up, and I'm stuck here at the homeless shelter, doing community service.

Sam: It might not be too bad. You might even have fun, here.

Darryl: Fun, have you lost your mind? What can be so fun about working in a homeless shelter during the holidays?

Sam: Don't it make you feel good to help people who are in need. Look on the bright side, it's only a few hours a day.

Darryl: No, I don't feel good about being forced to help losers and vagrants and there isn't a bright side. Besides this community service, I'm grounded; mom says no more free ride, and I have to get a job. I can't even drive her car anymore. On top of that, my partner Thomas has tickets to the biggest concert of the year and I'll be stuck in this hell hole.

Sam: At least you'll be able to stay out of trouble and come to the shelter's Christmas party.

Darryl: Whoop-tee-do!!! I get to ham it up with a bunch of low life winos and crazy crack-pots.

Sam: Hold up, Darryl, a lot of these people did not have much of a choice being here; others just made bad decisions. Alcoholism and drug addictions are a sickness. You're being unfair.

Darryl: Who said life was fair. Drop it. Anyways why are you here? What did you do to get community service?

Sam: Me? Nothing, I volunteered to come.

Darryl: What? Are you out of your mind. You're as nutty as these cats are.

Sam: Not nutty, blessed. God has given me soooo much! I just have to give back.

Darryl: Hold up man! Time out. I'm not here for a sermon; I'm just here to do my little work and break. Alright?

Sam: All right, but I'll be praying for you.

Darryl: Save your breath, Rev. Farwell, I can take care of myself. Why did the judge have to send me here of all places?

Sam: Seems to me you got off light. Maybe he felt like working here would teach you some valuable lessons about life and the less fortunate.

Darryl: Listen, hear that? That's a violin playing my favorite song. I could care less about these losers.

Sam: Lighten up, Darryl, It's Christmas.

Darryl: Just another day to me. Where is everyone anyways? I thought this place was filled with needy people.

Sam: Chill out, they're all at dinner. Here comes someone now Hey Mr. Cory. This here is Darryl. Come for his community service.

Mr. Cory: Splendid, we could use an extra hand around here.

Darryl: More like forced labor.

Mr. Cory: Better than spending Christmas behind bars, wouldn't you say, son? Sam, you know your way around, they need some help in the kitchen.

Sam: Sure, no problem. See you around Darryl.

Darryl: Let's hope not.

Mr. Cory: Darryl, I realize you don't want to be here, but the judge ordered it. I expect you to be here on time and unless the earth opens and swallows you, you will be here or I will turn you in, and you know what that means. No drugs, no alcohol, and no weapons or coming in high. I'm strict but I'm fair. Do a good job, and I can give you some extra hours here and there. Do you understand?

Darryl: Like crystal.

Mr. Cory: Without further a do, I need you to sweep the dorms. Don't forget to get under each bed.

Darryl: Your the boss (starts sweeping).....Hey, I need to sweep here.

Barns: What!

Darryl: I need to sweep under your bed.

Barn: No! What you need to do is stay the hell away from me!

Darryl: Woo horsy. (looks at him carefully)..... I know you, you're the bu--, I mean the guy with the "I'll work for food," sign.

Barn: Yeah, and your the dumb kid the police busted. Now you're the bum at the homeless shelter (laughs hysterically) Now get away from me!

(continues sweeping)

Darryl: That guy over there's one miserable dude.

Sam: Oh, him, That's Barns. He's a little out there. Fought in Vietnam. When he came back his wife had took the kids, everything and just split. Hasn't heard from since. He started drinking alot, quit caring and never recovered.

Darryl: That guy's a Vietnam vet? You've got to be kidding?

Sam: No really, he's even a decorated hero, pulled out 3 of his fellow soldiers, was wounded 4 times. He's sets off the metal detector every time he goes through our doors. The guy hates charity. The law picked

him up and gave him a choice; here or jail. If it wasn't for that he'd still be on the street in the cold. He's his own worst enemy.

Darryl: That's for sure.

Sam: You have to realize that Barns has never made a commitment to God, so the guilt is eating him up inside. Even for something that isn't his fault. We still to love him, have patience, and help him in his recovery.

Darryl: I don't think anyone can help that miserable dude

Sam: The 12 steps can.

Darryl: Don't start that again. (Sam just smiles)

Darryl: I figured he was just another bum.

Sam: (interrupting) a lazy bum begging for food? Listen Darryl, things aren't always what they seem. More than a few come from broken homes, others suffer from a sickness called alcoholism and addictions. Heck, some even have gambling problems. Each one of these people are in different stages of their recovery. The second says, "Come to believe that a power greater than could restore us to sanity. My greater power made a difference in my life. He can make one in Barns and yours too.....Hey, just an AA meeting, lets go!

Darryl: I have to finish up. I'm not into AA.

Sam: Mr. Cory won't mind. You are working by the hour, remember?

Darryl: Well, anything to get me out of work can't be all bad.

(choir sings first selection)

SCENE 3

(Darryl's house, Thomas looking in through the window)

Thomas: What's up, dog!

Darryl: What's up man. Keep it down. You know I'm grounded. I'm lucky my ma lets me out to pee.

Thomas: Let's go, I got two tickets to the concert and Nelly and Sebrina are waiting for you and yours truly. Get saddled up and lets hit the trail, cowboy.

Darryl: Nelly and Sebrina, are you kidding? I've been trying to get her for 6 months, but she's always got another dude hanging on her hip.

Thomas: Now's yours chance bro. I picked up a little something to kick the party off reez-ight. (waves little baggy)

Darryl: There's a problem.

Thomas: What?

Darryl: I have to go to the homeless shelter for community service, not to mention, mom dukes. (voice yells out)

Mom: Darryl, you got somebody in there, boy? Don't make me get up.

Darryl: No ma, I'm just reading. shhhhh

Thomas: Can in sick. Your mom will think your at work.

Darryl: Can't, Mr. Cory said unless then's some kind of natural disaster, I better be there or else.

Thomas: He's bluffing, we are talking about Nelly and Sebrina--the pancake twins.

Darryl: I know, I can't afford to chance it.

Thomas: You mean you'd rather hangout with the vagrants and walking thrift-shops and be sober all night, man are you crazy??!!

Darryl: Not all of them are bums. Remember that guy with the sign....”

Thomas: (interrupting) Stop, reality check, dude. Nelly, Sebrina, concert tickets, ride, blow, royal crown, only thing missing in this picture is me and you.

Darryl: I can't. It was the alcohol and drugs that got me in this fix to start with. I can't even remember half the things we do on that stuff. Last year when you and me went to Point Lake, and got ripped, what can you tell me?

Thomas: We got smashed.

Darryl: What else?

Thomas: Shane, fell in the fire and got burnt up. We had a good time.

Darryl: We had a good time but neither one of us can remember hardly anything cause we were too screwed up. I want memories to last, man.

Thomas: You are starting to sound like a saint. What are they to you out at that shelter? Darryl, Come back to us buddy--run towards the light, Darryl. (laughs)

Darryl: I'm my own man, they can't change me, you know I don't care about those bums. I just need to lay low and not push it.

Thomas: So be it. The great Darryl has spoken. Have fun at the helter skelter shelter. I can't say I'll be thinking about you. Well, I gotten run, duty calls and the love soldier has to do combat. But before I go, would you like a little blast from the past?

Darryl: Mr. Cory has already warned me not to come in high.

Thomas: How will he know?

Darryl: No thanks (Yelling)

Mom: Darryl, that better not be that Thomas I hear, boy!!!!!!

Darryl: No mamma, I was just singing.....Man, get out of here. (Thomas leaves)

SCENE 4

(SETTING HOMELESS SHELTER)

Darryl: I should have went to the concert with Thomas, I might still be able to make it. Hey mister you got the time?

Ken: (looks at watch, taps it) It's 7:20.

Darryl: That's a nice watch, where did you find it?

Ken: Find it? What do you mean where did I find it?

Darryl: I thought....

Ken: (interrupting) Guess you thought a guy like me couldn't of come by a nice watch, unless I found it or stolen it, right?

Darryl: I didn't mean to sound....

Ken: Let me finish. This watch belonged to my dad. He gave it to me years ago. It's the only thing I have left, since the disease started.

Darryl: (backs up and holds up hands) Hey look, it isn't contagious is it?

Ken: You don't know the half of it. Now listen. People like you don't know but you assume alot. You're quick to speak and slow to listen. I've heard what you said about us. Like you're so much better. I was just like you once. It could be you in prison or a homeless shelter.

Darryl: There's no way in hell.

Ken: Let me tell you a story: When my people passed away they left me everything; house, land, car, a nice bank account. You couldn't tell me anything. I partied like it was 1999. Women, trips to Vegas, shooting dope--Man everyone loved me. Within a year everything my people worked hard all their life was gone, and when the money disappeared so did all those friends. You got lucky.

Darryl: Lucky? Man I got busted.

Ken: Yeah, you got caught early. You have the opportunity to turn it all around. It took me losing everything I held precious in life to realize how utterly lost I was. I was looking for love in all the wrong places, looking for love in too many faces. But now, I have found a new life. The 3rd. step says, "We made a decision to turn our will and lives over to the care of God as we understand Him. Since working the steps I have a new life.

Darryl: A new life? You still have nothing.

Ken: There you go with all the answers, again. I have more now than I ever had, something drugs, sex and alcohol can't give me. It's serenity, brother. It calms the storms raging in my life, renewed my mind, and spirit. Since I've turned my life over to His will, things started happening, I've got strength to say no to drugs. I'm working now, putting my weight back on, and the friends I've made don't like me for what I can do for them, they like me for who I am. Next month, I'm moving out of the shelter, into my own place.

Darryl: That's great, man.

Ken: Don't patronize me, boy. When I look at you, I'm looking at a shell of my former self. I was you 10 years ago.

Darryl: You're crazy man. I'm nothing like you. I don't have any problems. I don't need any program.

Ken: You can deny yourself all you want, until it's too late. If a man don't know he has a problem then in his mind, he don't. You think you have trouble now, it's only the beginning. This is a wake-up call.

(setting- Darryl sitting down)

Sam: Hey Darryl!! You're missing all the fun.

Darryl: I'm just thinking, Sam.

Sam: Don't want to be around all the bums?

Darryl: It's not that. Those people aren't bums. They just.....I don't know.

Sam: Addictions come in many different disguises. Sex, love of money, drugs, alcohol and even so-called friends. Pride, anger, resentment, and loneliness can destroy a persons soul. Unless you have some kind of spiritual help, we're fighting a losing battle.

Darryl: Easy for you to say. You have everything I wasn't born with a silver spoon in my mouth.

Sam: And I was?

Darryl: Well, I assume.

Sam: Darryl, quit assuming things. Haven't you learned not all things are what they seem? You think I just come to volunteer my time just to be nice. No, I was born an orphan, in and out of foster homes all my life. You name it, I did it. I grew up hating the world and blaming God for everything that had ever happened to me. At 19, I was in a robbery. Things went seriously wrong and my partner was killed. I spent 14 years in prison. When I got to prison, I didn't slow down. I had so much hatred and rage. I was sitting in lock-up one day from stabbing another inmate. I was ate up with resentment and self-pity. I was tired of running. Life wasn't worth living any longer. Satan had stripped me of all hope. Right as I was preparing the sheet to hang myself with, an AA volunteer came to the cell. I'll never forget it. He had this glow all around him, like he hadn't a care in the world. At first, I was jealous, I didn't want anyone to be happy. He told me I could stop running. I tried everything else. That night I

admitted I needed help. An amazing thing happened; a blessed peace came over me like nothing I had ever felt before. I started reading the Big Book, praying to my higher power and going to the meeting. I started caring and realized that we are in a spiritual warfare. I'm doing good now. That's why I volunteer, to carry the message to the alcoholic that is still suffering. You can stop running too, if you want.

Darryl: Tell me more about this 12 step program.

(Sam pulls out the Big Book and starts to read)