



3-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a
Stage Partners play, free to read
in full at yourstagepartners.com.

How To Survive Being in a Shakespeare Play by Don Zolidis

1M, 3 any
Comedy

Stop Listening to Dudes

(HENRY V enters, in armor, with sword. He speaks in a very royal British/Shakespearean accent. His SOLDIERS, exhausted, bloody, and beat-up, limp on and gather around him.)

SOLDIER 1: Oh man. This war is going so badly.

SOLDIER 2: I don't care. I'll fight for Henry. He's my king! *(Growls, waves his sword around.)*

SOLDIER 3: Aye! For King and Country!

SOLDIER 1: Right. Sure. Definitely. Just um...his name is on the title of the play, right?

SOLDIER 2: This is the glorious History of Henry the Fifth. Grrr.

SOLDIER 1: And it doesn't say "tragedy" anywhere on there, so that means Henry lives and everyone else dies.

SOLDIER 2: I am happy to die for king and country! *HAPPY ABOUT IT! YES!* In fact, if I don't die today, I will be sorely disappointed. Oh to die in the company of this glorious king. Woo! England!

SOLDIER 3: YAAAAAASSS King!

SOLDIER 1: Huh. Question: *(Raises his hand.)* Can we get some additional soldiers please?

HENRY V: What's he that wishes so?

SOLDIER 1: *(Raises hand.)* Um...me? My name's Dave I signed up for this army by mistake. I was hoping to have an administrative role. The most violent thing I've ever done is soccer, or, in England, football.

HENRY V: *(Interrupting:)* If we are mark'd to die, we are enow
To do our country loss; and if to live,
The fewer men, the greater share of honour.
God's will! I pray thee, wish not one man more.

SOLDIER 1: I'm not sure this is sound military strategy—

HENRY V: O, do not wish one more!

SOLDIER 1: How 'bout like a thousand more? Or armored giant cats or something? We could ride them into battle.

HENRY V: Rather proclaim it,
That he which hath no stomach to this fight,
Let him depart;

Pg. 1 of 4



3-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a
Stage Partners play, free to read
in full at yourstagepartners.com.

SOLDIER 1: Ooh.

(He tries to leave, but the other SOLDIERS stop him. HENRY V is really getting into his inspirational speech now.)

HENRY V: We would not die in that man's company
That fears his fellowship to die with us.

OTHER SOLDIERS: *(Except SOLDIER 1.)* I heard that. Woop. Aye. *(Etc.)*

HENRY V: This day is called the feast of Crispian:
He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,
Will stand a tip-toe when the day is named,
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.

OTHER SOLDIERS: Yaasss! That's right. He speaks truth! *(Etc.)*

HENRY V: He that shall live this day, and see old age,
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours,
And say 'To-morrow is Saint Crispian:'
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars.
(HENRY shows his scars.)

SOLDIERS: Ooooooooooh.

HENRY V: And say 'These wounds I had on Crispin's day!'

OTHER SOLDIERS: Yes! Woo! Wooo!
(SOLDIER 1 raises his hand again.)

SOLDIER 1: So wait, our whole plan is 'chicks dig scars?'
(HENRY V strolls amongst his men, giving them an encouraging nod and a smile.)

HENRY V: And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,

SOLDIER 1: *(Underneath:)* Oh here we go.

HENRY V: But we in it shall be remember'd;
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;

SOLDIER 1: *(Underneath:)* We're still doing this speech then?

HENRY V: For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother.

(There's a lot of hugging. Someone tries to hug SOLDIER 1—)



3-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a
Stage Partners play, free to read
in full at yourstagepartners.com.

SOLDIER 1: *(Underneath:)* Question on that—would we be in line for an inheritance then if we're your brothers?

HENRY V: *(Ignoring him:)* This day shall gentle his condition:

And gentlemen in England now a-bed
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day!

(The other SOLDIERS CHEER and raises their swords, stamp their feet.)

SOLDIER 1: Um hi. Yes. I don't see a plan here. You've basically just said it's good to be outnumbered and we'll get cool scars from this. We're all gonna die is not a strategy!

SOLDIER 2: Then we all die TOGETHER!!! *(Cheers and whoops from everyone.)*

SOLDIER 1: Again, I signed up for an administrative position. I have excellent word processing skills, if we need any letters written up, or—do we need to coordinate lunch? I can coordinate lunch. That seems like a fine use for me—

HENRY V: Onward!

(HENRY V raises his sword and charges off-stage.)

(All the other SOLDIERS follow, except SOLDIER 1. He looks around.)

(Off-stage fighting sounds.)

SOLDIER 2: *(Overlapping, off-stage:)* AAAAAH OH NO MY ARM GOT CHOPPED OFF!

SOLDIER 3: *(Overlapping, off-stage:)* AHHHH MY FACE MY BEAUTIFUL FACE!

SOLDIER 2: *(Overlapping, off-stage:)* OH THIS WAS A BAD IDEA WE'RE DYING!

SOLDIER 3: *(Overlapping, off-stage:)* SO MUCH PAIN! THERE IS SO MUCH PAIN!

(HENRY V runs backs in, possibly drenched in blood.)

HENRY V: Once more into the breach!

SOLDIER 1: No thanks!

(HENRY V charges off again.)

SOLDIER 2: *(Off-stage:)* OH NO THIS HURTS EVEN MORE THAN LAST TIME!

SOLDIER 3: *(Off-stage:)* MOMMY!

SOLDIER 2: *(Off-stage:)* IF ONLY WE HAD ONE MORE SOLDIER THIS WOULD TURN THE TIDE OF BATTLE!



3-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a Stage Partners play, free to read in full at yourstagepartners.com.

SOLDIER 3: *(Off-stage:)* JUST ONE MORE DUDE! THAT WOULD DO IT! ONE SINGLE ADDITIONAL PERSON TO HELP WITH THIS SPECIFIC FIGHT RIGHT HERE!

(SOLDIER 1 looks around. There is no one else on stage.)

End of Scene.

HOW TO SURVIVE BEING IN A SHAKESPEARE PLAY by Don Zolidis

Length: 30-60 minutes

Cast Size: 10-50 actors (suggested casting: 5F, 5M, 10 any)

Genre: Comedy

Synopsis: Some day it's going to happen: You're going to find yourself on stage, wearing tights, and saying things in iambic pentameter. Face it, you're in a Shakespeare play, and that means it's a pretty good bet you're going to DIE. The Bard is out for blood, but this play is here to stop him! How could Romeo and Juliet survive? Julius Caesar? A nameless soldier in *Henry the Fifth*? What if King Lear had an emotional support llama and didn't need to make terrible mistakes? Join us in discovering how a dozen of Shakespeare's plays could've turned out differently! If only they listened...

Pg. 4 of 4