

SCENE 1

While the audience fills the room, we see tech crew and actors running around in a panic.

As the house lights turn off, Alex (dressed as a Texan plumber) and Simone step forward.

SIMONE: Hello everyone! Good evening-

ALEX: Hello-

IMSONE: I'm Simone, I'm Dissasubjugated Theatre's artistic director.

ALEX: Alex, associate artistic director.

SIMONE: Thank you so much for being here today-

ALEX: Yeah, yeah-

SIMONE: We are eternally grateful for your support-

ALEX: SO grateful-

SIMONE: Really grateful-

ALEX: Honestly!

SIMONE: We'd be nowhere without you-

ALEX: Yeah really-

SIMONE: So, you might be wondering-

ALEX: Truly nowhere-

SIMONE: Right-

ALEX: We'd still be doing community theatre in a church somewhere-

SIMONE: Haha, ha.

ALEX: And at least with a church we'd have more-

SIMONE: Anyway.

ALEX: Yes, yes, anyway.

SIMONE: Thank you for being here-

ALEX: Sorry.

SIMONE: -for our new project, *The Secret Garden*!

ALEX: Yessir!

SIMONE: You might be wondering what play you're about to see!

ALEX: Hell yeah!

SIMONE: Big secret!

ALEX: I'm wondering!

SIMONE: That's what we created *The Secret Garden* for!

ALEX: I'm kidding, I know what play we're doing.

SIMONE: To allow you to experience the inconceivable, and to renew your bond with the most ancient, most primordial, most visceral of human feelings; curiosity and the quest for knowledge.

ALEX: Damn.

SIMONE: We know everything these days! We understand everything! There are no more surprises, no more mysteries. We have forgotten the pleasure of adventuring into the unknown, in the undefinable, the unfathomable. We've got tiny computers in our pockets that tell us everything, all the time, information flooding our five senses 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

ALEX: She's good, eh?