

SUPERPOWER

A paranormal comedy

"Jackie Kennedy is to blame for everything that's wrong in this country. Candy wants to sack Paul. Can you believe it? Our first ever employee. Our last ever employee! Damned Jackie. It's all on Jackie Kennedy!"

SUPERPOWER is a fun-filled comedy full of references to 1970s horror movies, superhero comics, and Stephen King movies.

Through a crazy plot that is full of surprises, **SUPERPOWER** tells the story of a peculiar couple, whose strange (and paranormal) behavior causes havoc in a peaceful, small, North-American town and, in the process, unintentionally revolutionizes the world of publishing.

SUPERPOWER is a relaxed and politically-incorrect thriller to be enjoyed by anyone who fancies reading a frenetic tale packed with humor and suspense.

SUPERPOWER is an original playscript, written by Marc Egea.

KEY INFORMATION

Cast: 5 actors (4 male and 1 female)

When: Winter 1974

Where: A small town in the US, called Ellentown

Length: 80 minutes (approx.)

Interest: The play's most intriguing factor is the fact that the audience is kept in suspense until the very last minute. It also has its own particular theme, type of humor, and presentation on stage.

SINOPSIS

Jake and Candy Wallace's small publishing house receives an ultimatum from the bank: pay what they owe or they will be shut down. To pay the couple's debts, Jake makes the heroic decision to write a best-seller himself. The only problem is that Jake has never written anything in his life. Tensions grow between Jake and Candy and we discover the couple's most intimate and paranormal secrets.

LIKE A FILM

SUPERPOWER is split into short scenes that take place on stage without a break between them. **SUPER-POWER** clearly wants to be perceived as a movie. Producers are invited to use elements that are more characteristic of cinema, like sound effects, visual effects, and soundtracks. **SUPERPOWER** is a play... an uncomplicated yet entertaining production that will have audiences enthralled from the off.



CHARACTERS

JAKE: Male. Thirty years old+. Anxious and impulsive.

CANDY: Female. Younger than Jake. Frail looking.

BARMAN: Male. Older than Jake. Comes across as someone you can trust with your most intimate secrets.

PSYCHIATRIST: Male. Know-it-all. A bit crazy.

MAN IN THE CAP: Looks like a serial killer.

There are more characters that appear in the story (Jimmie, Paul, Billy Marron) but they are never seen on stage, so no actors are needed to interpret them.

STAGING

STAGE DESIGN

The play set in 1974, in a small town on the east coast of the United States, and is split between 5 locations:

1. The publishing house
2. The Wallace house
3. The bar
4. The psychiatrist's office
5. The park / mountainside / road

Unless the set can be changed quickly, we suggest that the 5 locations remain on stage at all times. That way, the action can move from one setting to the next. In the last third of the play, the action takes place in different places at the same time.

1. THE PUBLISHING HOUSE

Known as Candy Press. The publishing house consists of an office and a printing room, with an interlink-ing door. We only see the office, which also has a door to the street. The office is quite basic, with at least 2 tables with chairs, 2 typewriters, 1 telephone, 1 graph pinned on the wall (depicting the terrible financial situation the publishing house is in!). There is also a framed portrait photo of Candy.

2. THE WALLACE HOUSE

Lower-middle class house. We see the central space of the house, with an American kitchen and the living room. A corridor leads off to the bedrooms, which we cannot see. In the Wallace house there should be at least 1 outside door, 1 kitchen with an exterior window, 1 table and chair, 1 telephone and a sofa with a table lamp (later on in the play, Jake brings home one of the typewriters from the publish-ing house).

3. THE BAR

Bar de Larry. El típico bar americano de pueblo, ruidoso, con música. Vemos solamente la zona de la barra con sus taburetes.

4. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE

Small down-town psychiatrist's office. It has at least one couch, a record player, and a telephone.

5. THE PARK / MOUNTAIN/-SIDE / ROAD

The fifth and final location is a mountainside clearing that can be easily recognized by its lighting and sound. It is successively used as a solitary park, an idyllic spot on the mountain-side, and a bend on a winding mountain road. Best decorated with at least one functional accessory, the addition and removal of which does not affect the play's flow: streetlamp (in the park), tree trunks and/or rocks (at "Eagle Point"), and crash barrier (on the road).

Before the final bows end, this fifth location surprisingly becomes a beach for a short "post-credits scene".

SETTING

The lighting and sound are two important elements for **SUPERPOWER** on stage.

LIGHTING

The lighting used gives each location the right '**personality**'. It will also emphasize **special effects** (like Candy's supernatural powers over lightbulbs, the fire at the Wallace house, etc.).

SOUND

Sound is used in different ways throughout the play:

- 1) Some locations are identified by a characteristic sound. The noisy bar will be more realistic with chat-ting and music in the background, and the solitary road can be identified by the sound of crickets. Eagle Point on the mountainside can be identified through birdsong...
- 2) At times, the sound recreates certain effects: glass shattering, lightbulbs buzzing, chainsaws, cars, screeching brakes, etc.
- 3) In the booklet, one particular piece of music is specified: the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.
- 4) Background music can also be used to emphasize the tone of scenes or their emotional twists and turns (scary music, romantic music, etc.)... like in movies.

COSTUMES

The play takes place on several different days over several weeks. Usually, this would mean costumes needed changing to indicate different days. In some cases, this is not necessary, however:

- The psychiatrist and the barman wear “work uniform” so they can always wear the same clothes
- Candy is such a fan of Jackie Kennedy that she always wears a cheap imitation of Jackie’s famous pink suit.
- The guy in the cap always wears the same thing: the same red cap, coke-bottle glasses, and lumberjack shirt (in the flashback, though, his lumberjack shirt should be a different one to make the distinction in timeframes).



The only person who must change their clothing every day is Jake. He can just change his sweater or his most visible accessories.

Remember that the play takes place in winter. Characters must put coats on when they go outside, and they must arrive wearing them.

When Jake and Candy are at home they wear dressing gowns so these scenes differ visually from those that take place in the publishing house).

PROPS

All of the object and elements that appear on stage are typical of the 1970s. Some of the props that are relevant to the plot include:

ENVELOPES

A4 brown envelopes that are stamped and look like they have travelled. Inside are the typed manu-scripts that authors send to the publishing house for consideration.

NOVELS

These are piles of typed paper that have not been bound.

BOX WITH GUN INSIDE

An A4 cardboard document holder of similar size to the brown manuscript envelopes. It has a gun inside



Here's Johnny!



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