

A Monologue

From The Customer Is Always Wrong

A one act play.

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CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS WRONG

HERB, AN OLD MAN

JORDY, A TEENAGER, WORKING AT A MOVIE THEATRE

Jordy stands at the box office, waiting for a customer.  
HERB, an old man, walks in.

JORDY

Hello, and welcome to Cinema MoviePlex. Where movies come to live. How may I help you?

HERB

What?!

JORDY

Uh, I said welcome to cinema Movie -

HERB

No I heard what you said? I just didn't understand the second part. "Where movies come to live." What the hell does that mean?

JORDY

I... don't know. They make us say it.

HERB

Well you shouldn't. It's damn confusing.

JORDY

I agree. Sorry. What can I get you?

HERB

Well my hope was that you would sell me a ticket to a movie. But the way you're talking who the hell knows. Do you in fact show movies here?!

JORDY

We do. Yep. Just one?

HERB

Why just one? Maybe I'm here with a hot date.

JORDY

No of course.

HERB

Maybe my wife is buying popcorn... right over there.

JORDY

Absolutely, I didn't mean to assume, that uh...

HERB

Don't you see her there?

Jordy looks. Doesn't.

JORDY

Uh... I don't.

HERB

No. You don't! You know? Because she's dead!

JORDY

Oh my God.

HERB

Oh my God is right! Died three years ago. Struck my lightening at a pool party!

JORDY

I -

HERB

You know what the odds are of getting struck by lightening in your life time.

JORDY

I don't.

HERB

1 and 3,000.

JORDY

I... really?

HERB

I know. Lower than you'd think. So be mindful. Night swimming may sound like fun. But it won't be if your dead!

JORDY

I'm so sorry. I was... all I wanted to know was how many tickets you wanted.

HERB

Well now you know. One ticket. For one widower. Thank you very much.

JORDY

Yes, Okay. One ticket. And what will you be seeing.

HERB

Nothing about loved ones dying if you don't mind!

JORDY

Of course.

HERB

They just make me too sad. Remember how I told you about my wife.

JORDY

Uh... Yes. You mean just now?

HERB

Yes just now! Pay attention will you!

JORDY

Sorry! Okay, well... and I assume you won't want to see any movies about... lightening storms.

HERB

No that's fine. Lightning doesn't bother me.

Beat. Jordy's very confused.

JORDY

Uh. Okay.

HERB

I'm not a child! Why would I be afraid of lightening.

JORDY

I don't know. I just thought because... your wife... you know...

Beat. Herb just stares back at him.

JORDY

Never mind. Okay. So, what would you like to see?

HERB

Well what do you have?

JORDY

Uh, well, we have Hero Man 2.

HERB

Bleh. Hero Man.

JORDY

You're not a big fan of comic book movies I guess.

HERB

If I wanted to watch a cartoon, I'd wake up early on Saturday!

JORDY

I don't know what that means, but okay. No super hero movies. What about a comedy.

HERB

I like to laugh. As long as it's not too vulgar.

JORDY

Okay well -

HERB

And nothing with sex. Uh, the sex in movies these days. Keep it in the bedroom.

JORDY

Right well -

HERB

Also I don't want to see a fat guy fall down. Why is that funny? He should lose weight! Not be in a movie.

JORDY

Uh... well the comedies we have... well this one is about... uh, okay maybe not a comedy. They seem pretty vulgar. How about a like a horror movie.

HERB

Every day my life is a horror movie. No thank you.

JORDY

Okay, well we have a number of independent movies.

HERB

And by independent you mean cheap! Where the actors mumble and you can't understand anything.

JORDY

Well not necessarily.

HERB

Pass.

JORDY

But a number of them -

HERB

Pass!

Jordy is at his wits end.

JORDY

Well... then... the only thing I can offer you is a romantic comedy called Falling Next To You. It's supposed to be sweet but I'm sure you hate romantic comedies too so... I guess I've got nothing. Sorry.

HERB

Why wouldn't I like that?

JORDY

Because so far you hate everything.

HERB

It's about love. What's not to like. I assume the guy falls next to the girl. I could watch that.

Beat. Jordy shakes his head.

JORDY

All right, well... normally it's 15.50.

HERB

Uh! What am I buying a car?!

JORDY

But with matinee prices, and a senior discount... it comes to 8.25.

HERB

High way robbery. In my day I could see a movie for ten nickels.

JORDY

Well, I don't set the prices.

HERB

No, I guess you don't. But you should!

Herb stares at him. Jordy stares back.

HERB

All right fine. You win. Here ya go.

Herb gives Jordy money. He gives him the ticket.

JORDY

Enjoy the show.

Herb walks away. Jordy takes a breath. That was a lot.

Herb walks back onstage.

HERB

Sorry to bother you again. But how long is the picture.

JORDY

Um, 2 hours and 2 minutes.

HERB

No. I never watch a movie over 84 minutes. What else do you got?

Lights out!