

TICK, TICK... BOOM!

"I'm HIV-positive"

2 actors  
Man/Man

(Drama/LGBTQ+)

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Armando Di Lillo Acting Studio

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INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - DAY

JONATHAN, 29, storms in the office of his best friend MICHAEL, 29, after learning that no producer wants to work with him, although the presentation of his new musical was a success.

MICHAEL is on the phone.

MICHAEL

I think let's give it a minute and let's see what happens next week --

JONATHAN storms in.

JONATHAN

Hey, I need a job.

MICHAEL

(to the phone)

Can you hold on a second? --

JONATHAN

I'll apologize to the focus group lady. I will never say anything bad about marketing research ever again. I swear to God.

MICHAEL

(to the phone)

I'm gonna call you right back.

MICHAEL hangs up.

JONATHAN

I wanna do what you do. I wanna have what you have, I want the BMW, I want the door man, I want it, I want all of it. Okay?

MICHAEL

What's going on?

JONATHAN

Oh, it's good. It's good. I just - I just spent the last eight years killing myself on a musical that's never gonna happen.

MICHAEL

Uh, I find that very hard to believe. It was incredible this morning.

JONATHAN

Well... but not incredible enough. I can't do it again, Mike. I can't stomach five more years of waiting tables, five more years of writing things that no one will ever see while Broadway churns out mega-musicals without a hint of even the slightest thing original or - God forbid - something to actually say about the world!

MICHAEL

Are you done?

JONATHAN

No, actually --

MICHAEL

The presentation, Jon, it was amazing. It would be a tragedy to give up what you have.

JONATHAN

You did it.

MICHAEL

Please! I was a mediocre actor. Do you know how many mediocre actors there are in New York City? Do you know how many Jonathan Larsons there are? One.

JONATHAN

I can't keep waisting my time, Mike. I turn 30 in two days.

MICHAEL

And?

JONATHAN

And Steven Sondheim was 27 when he had his first show on Broadway.

MICHAEL

Well, guess what? You're not Stephen Sondheim. You're gonna have to wait a little bit longer --

JONATHAN

I'm not waiting anymore. I can't keep waiting. This is my life --

MICHAEL  
I understand.

JONATHAN  
No, you don't understand. I'm running  
out of time.

MICHAEL  
You are not running out of time.

JONATHAN  
You don't know anything about it.

MICHAEL  
I'm HIV-positive.

Beat.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)  
What?

Beat.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)  
How long have you known?

MICHAEL  
A few days.

Beat.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Who knows? I might get lucky. People  
do. Live a year, longer even. Anyway,  
I think I might know a thing or two  
about running out of time.

JONATHAN  
Why didn't you tell me sooner?

Beat.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)  
You tried?

A silence. Then, the OFFICE PHONE rings.

VOICE ON THE PHONE  
Jill Kramer returning, line 2.

MICHAEL  
I have to take that.

JONATHAN  
Mike, Mike --

MICHAEL  
I can't talk about this now, please.

MICHAEL picks up the phone.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Jill. Hey, it's Michael. Yeah, I just  
wanted to see how the Downy account  
was going.

JONATHAN leaves the room.