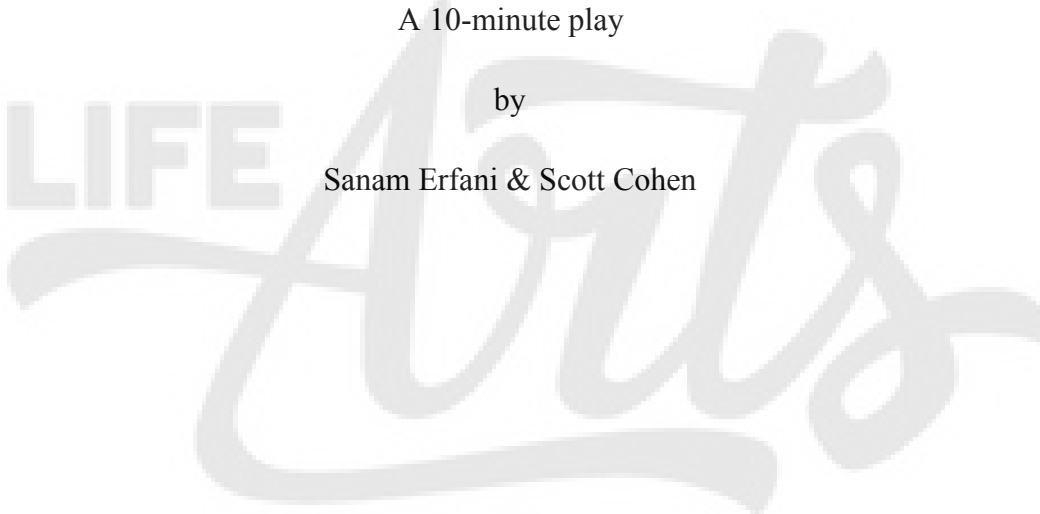


Polly

A 10-minute play

by

Sanam Erfani & Scott Cohen



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Cast of Characters

WILL: 18-40 years old

JANE: 18-40 years old

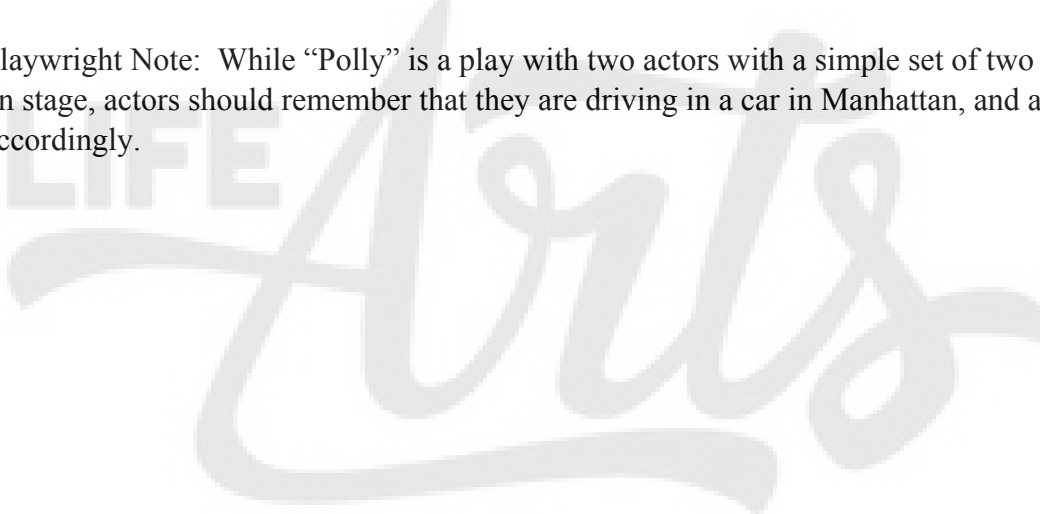
Place

New York City

Time

Late afternoon

Playwright Note: While “Polly” is a play with two actors with a simple set of two chairs on stage, actors should remember that they are driving in a car in Manhattan, and act accordingly.



“Polly”

A 10-Minute One Act Play.

Setting: Two chairs placed next to each other facing the audience, denoting a car driving in New York City.

At Rise: Will is seated in the driver’s side. We hear car horns and feel the energy of the New York City streets.

(SOUND: Traffic noises, car horns blaring)

WILL

Hey! *(Waves)* Come on in, Jane!

JANE

Hey! *(Sits in chair)*

WILL

Hi there, friend.

JANE

Thanks for the ride. This worked out so perfectly!

WILL

No problem. How’s it going? *(Drives away)*

JANE

Really, really great!

WILL

Really? That’s terrific! How’s the job search?

JANE

Amazing. I just came from an interview for this job in Brooklyn.

WILL

Great! Did ya get the gig?

JANE

Well, I mean, I like them.

WILL

(Slowly) Okay.

JANE

They really liked me.

WILL

Okay.

JANE

It seems like it's such a perfect match, you know?

WILL

Yes! (*High fives her, but Jane's heart isn't in it*) So when do you start?

JANE

I don't think I'll get it.

WILL

Why not?

JANE

Because I'm not poly.

WILL

Of course not. You're Jane! I already *know* a Polly.

JANE

No, no, you don't get it.

WILL

Sure I do. Polly. She's tall, she's good looking, long hair, a little Jappy...

JANE

No, Will, you don't understand what I mean.

WILL

Well, what do you mean?

JANE

Poly, as in Polyamorous!

WILL

Huh?

JANE

It's about relationships.

WILL

What about them?

JANE

Polyamorous. Relationships that involve more than two individuals at a time.

WILL

Ooooh!

JANE

Right. Okay.

WILL

You mean . . . a menagerie?

JANE

A what?

WILL

You know. You know.

JANE

No, I don't know.

WILL

You know.

JANE

What?

WILL

You know.

JANE

What?

WILL

It's ah. . . it's three people having sex. *(Will makes sexual gesture)*

JANE

(Laughs) Oh, no! What? Stop that! No, you mean a 'menage a trois'! Yes, that's three people having sex at one time. But this is polyamory. . . It's deep meaningful ongoing relationships with more than two individuals.

WILL

Do people really do that?

JANE

Oh yeah.

WILL

I mean, I barely have enough time and energy for one lover. Can't imagine trying to please two.

JANE

You'd be really surprised. It's more popular than you'd think.

WILL

Very 21st century. *(Beat)* Whatever turns you on, I guess.

JANE

Well, they kinda sorta implied that I would need to maybe be poly for this job.

WILL

All right, so what's the problem?

JANE

Will! Come on! You know me. I'm not gonna--

WILL

Yeah, but I mean, how are they gonna know? Just say you are Poly. What are they gonna do, check between the sheets?

JANE

The fact of the matter is that I have my pride and my dignity, and I'm just not looking to be poly.

WILL

Okay. So - - no job. *(Pause)*

JANE

But. . . They're really wonderful. I mean, other than the great job in Brooklyn, the organization has so much integrity, and we connected in the interview. And you know they even have vegan snacks. You should see: kale chips, hummus, and those KIND chocolate bars I love. So good!

WILL

Okay. All right. *(Beat)* Let me think. *(Beat)* Well, it's sex discrimination if they don't hire you because you won't sleep with a bunch of people.

JANE

So in order to get the job, you're suggesting that I hire an attorney, sue them for sex discrimination, hope to win the lawsuit, and then start working for a company that I just sued for sex discrimination?

WILL

Yes!

JANE

No! Will. I don't have a job. I'm totally broke. I don't have money to hire a lawyer. Plus, quite frankly, I'm just not interested in all of that negative energy. I really like this group.

WILL

OK. *(Beat)* Oh! I got it.

JANE

What?

WILL

You'll tell 'em you're already a poly.

JANE

But I'm not.

WILL

No, no, you are! You're three.

JANE

I'm free? *(Emphasis on the "F" in free)*

WILL

No, THREE. *(Slams on the brakes at stop light, both actors jerk forward a bit)*

JANE

What are you talking about?

WILL

You're already three people.

JANE

Oh, three! *(Beat)* You mean like me, myself, and I.

WILL

Yes. It's perfect.

JANE

Okay. So how do I explain that, though?

WILL

Look, you tell them you're already three people, so you can't have a relationship with another poly because, because, . . . the math doesn't add up.

JANE

What?!

WILL

Look, in a in a poly thing, like you'd be the third person, and then there would be two other people. But if you're already three people, and you try to mix your three with their two, well that's three plus two which is five, and everyone knows five is ahhh, a bad number!

JANE

Will, you're absolutely crazy.

WILL

No, no. Listen to me. This works.

JANE

Explain please.

WILL

Listen.

JANE

Okay.

WILL

Your personal poly is three--

JANE

Uh huh. . .

WILL

And you can't just mix your three with their two--

JANE

Okay.

WILL

Because that would be five. And everyone knows five is a bad number.

JANE

Five would make it an orgy.

WILL

Don't confuse things. Just say that five doesn't work because of the the math. Five is-- the Pentagon, and war. And a third bad thing. *(Beat)* Isn't five an evil number in some cultures?

JANE

Will, five is not the devil. I think you're thinking of six.

WILL

Are you sure?

JANE

Yes, I'm totally sure.

WILL

All right.

JANE

I'm about to prove you wrong. *(Typing on phone)*

WILL

All right.

JANE

Like I always do.

WILL

Okay.

JANE

You'll see -- Here, let me just look this up cause I'm kind of a numerology geek.. *(Types and looks at her phone, reading)* "666 has become one of the most widely recognized symbols for the Antichrist or, alternatively, the devil. The number 666 is purportedly used to invoke Satan."

WILL

Don't get lost in details. Five is the number for witches, pentagrams, and spells, and other bad stuff.

JANE

Wow! This sounds so weird, it just might work.

WILL

You should do it. You should call ‘em and say “as much as you’d like to be poly with their polys, you can’t be poly with their polys because the numbers just don’t add up.”

JANE

Okay. Right. So I say what? I’m already poly. I’m already three, so you should hire me?

WILL

That’s what I’m saying! *(Huge grin)*

JANE

Okay. Five is, you know, too many. Three is already a bit of a crowd, you know what I’m sayin’?

WILL

What do ya got to lose?

JANE

Okay. Okay. I’m going to text them. And see what happens. And what I have to lose is my reputation, but--

WILL

I was there that weekend in Colorado. You don’t have to worry about that.

JANE

Dude! I told you, we were not going to talk about that and you’re already talking about it. *(Will makes a gesture of zipping his mouth shut while Jane is typing into her phone.)* Yeah, mum’s the word. No mums for you. I’m not telling you anything anymore, or taking you on any more vacays. *(Beat)* Okay well I sent it.

WILL

Great. Well, it’s done.

JANE

Let’s just see what happens.

WILL

So other than the job search, how is life?

JANE

It’s going pretty well. Oh! You’ll never guess who I saw at the bodega the other day! *(SOUND: Ding) (Interrupted by incoming text.) (Beat)*

WILL

What? *(With urgency)* What is it?

JANE

(Reading phone) Oh my God! They want me!

WILL

Seriously?

JANE

Yes! Look look look! She wrote. . . wait you drive and I'll read. *(Looking at her phone. Reading)* "You're hired! You were the most qualified anyway. I'm tired of interviewing kooks and crazies. If you want the job, it's yours." Yes yes yes!!!

WILL

Yes! That's what I'm talking about! *(High five each other with vigor this time)*

JANE

Yes! Oh my God!!!

WILL

So when do you start?

JANE

Hold on there, Mister 'Fast Pants' *(Typing on her phone)* I am checking with her riiiiight now -- *(SOUND: Ding) (Interrupted by incoming text tone)* Oh!

WILL

That her again already?

JANE

Yes, she's so fast!

WILL

What'd she say?

JANE

She says, "You start next week!" And she says "We'll draft the offer letter later today and email it for your approval!!!"

WILL

All right!

JANE

Yahoo! An offer letter! Big money!

WILL

That's what I say! Congratulations, my friend. *(He reaches over and hugs Jane)* We should go and celebrate.

JANE

How about the Stonewall Inn?

WILL

You got it! *(Will starts singing "Just the Two of US" by Bill Withers, but changes the lyrics from two to three, and Jane joins in)*

WILL

Just the three of us. We can make it if we try.

WILL & JANE

Just the three of us. Building castles in the sky. Just the three of us. Me, myself, and I.

End of play.

LIFE

Arts