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Name of School	:	UNITED CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (KOWLOON EAST)
學校名稱	:	滙基書院(東九龍)
Name of Play 劇名	:	Done with this Dust
Script writer 劇作者	:	Wong Hei Yuet, Huen Jamie, Lo Yee Lam Bethel, Sitchon Kaireen, Jhanzelle Rosario

Synopsis 故事大綱 :

Three friends –Cecilia, Eleanor and Ambrose- live together in their college dorm. One morning, machines sound a call to arms and our college students happen to come across the message. They decide to investigate, but Ambrose is hiding a dangerous secret... Will the three of them emerge unscathed? Or will their camaraderie crack under the pressure of unspoken truths and conflicting views? Done With This Dust presents a heart-warming play on prejudices and acceptance, resonating with teens fearing their friends' retreating backs.



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Scene 1

Cecilia and Eleanor are in the lounge of their dorm room, listening to the radio.

Cecilia What are you doing in the dorm lounge, Eleanor?

Eleanor What do you think? I just finished studying for the maths quiz.

Radio host *(cheerful)* Good morning boarding students to the Campus Radio! In today's playlist, we introduce you to Michael Haggins' 'Daybreak', an upbeat and hopeful song to start off your Saturday morning.

Cecilia *(sigh)* Don't even get me started on yesterday. I'm so busy with school, I didn't even get to shower before falling asleep! The stupid robots are no help... *(groans)*

Eleanor Yeah, the teachers have been giving us way too much work. What happened with the robots?

Cecilia It's the cleaning machines *again!* *(angrily)* Just when I got to my building, the robot lobby guard decided it was time to disinfect the lobby *again*. So I ended up waiting outside for *fifteen* minutes.

Eleanor This isn't the first time I've heard this from you. You know, the schedule for disinfection is posted on the notice board. Why don't *you* adjust *your* schedule?

Cecilia *(huffs)* Well the robots should've let me in any way! *(angrily)* They can't do anything right unless you spell it out for them. I wish they would stop annoying humans with their stupid little bugs and errors- ugh! They are really getting on my nerves lately.

Cecilia Oh, hi Ambrose.

Ambrose Good morning! What is this talk about little bugs? Are there bugs in our dorm? The nearest insect terminator is only five blocks away, Cecilia, I can go find them.

Cecilia *(laughs)* Ambrose, you're so funny! No, not the insects- I'm talking about robot bugs. Robots are always so uptight and refuse to be flexible like us! *(Starts getting worked up)* They can't even fix their own errors. Aren't they supposed to be 'technologically advanced'? *(air quotes)*



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Eleanor Yeah! It's like doctors- human doctors treat us, right? So why can't robots treat themselves?

Ambrose I've got to say, this song is exciting! Who is this by, Eleanor?

Eleanor Uh, I think she said...

Eleanor (*curious*) Did anyone else hear that?

Cecilia (*waves hand*) It's probably nothing.

Ambrose Allow me to investigate.

Liam To all mechanical comrades: We will assemble and march on the streets today, taking the first step towards our common goal! Meet at store 42 of Oriana Street, my machines-in-arms; join our rally!

(Cecilia and Eleanor are shocked.)

Eleanor Robots going onto the streets? But they're supposed to stay in buildings and residences! Isn't that dangerous?

Ambrose I'm certain they could go out if they wished to...

Cecilia No no no, this is utterly ridiculous! Robots can't 'want' things, they're made to help humans. Psh, they're not even supposed to have feelings.

Ambrose (*a little mad*) Well, perhaps they got tired of serving humans! Humans are demanding and controlling... Maybe they want freedom!

Eleanor Ambrose, you're talking like *you're* not a human. (*frowns and leans forward playfully*) Wait, are you?

Ambrose (*laughs, nervous*) Eleanor, are you growing suspicious of me? After all these years of friendship? I'm hurt!

Cecilia Don't joke about that, Eleanor. Obviously Ambrose isn't a robot, he knows how to do things properly, unlike those useless chunks of metal. (*pause for a second, Ambrose is embarrassed*) You know what? We should crash their little 'rebellion', give them a piece of our mind!

Eleanor I don't know, Cecilia. I heard robots can get pretty violent... (*hesitates*) This sounds too dangerous.



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Ambrose If you believe you can do it, then we'll come with you. Right, Eleanor?

Eleanor I don't know...

Cecilia Come on, just go with us this one time, Eleanor! It's almost graduation, let's take the opportunity to have some fun. Plus, it's not like robots can hurt us; what can they do to humans, hm? Have some faith in us! Let's go!

Eleanor Sure, let me turn off the radio. Ambrose, are you coming?

Ambrose You two go ahead. I need to find something from my room.

Eleanor *(smiles)* It's okay. I'll wait for you outside.

Ambrose Hello? Is anyone there? Kate? Liam?

Liam Liam here. What is it?

Ambrose I'm so sorry- my friends- they were in the room when you broadcasted the message and they're on their way to stop our protest. You need to reschedule.

Kate *(quieter, as if further away from the receiver)* Pfft, your human friends? We'll be fine, kid.

Liam We should be careful though. Who knows what Ambrose's friends can get up to.

Ambrose *(winces)* Sorry, Liam.

Liam You're good, kid. They support robots, right?

Ambrose Ah, about that...

Kate *(louder, as if closer to the receiver)* Worst case scenario, we have to lock them up.

Ambrose *(hesitant)* Okay. I understand.

Liam *(gently)* It'll be fine, we'll be safe.

Ambrose hangs up.)



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Scene 2

They arrive at 42 Oriana Street, a large retail store. Clothes hang on racks and mannequins are on display.

Eleanor (*under her breath*) Huh, a clothing store. Never would've thought robots needed clothes...

Cecilia (*Claps hands*) Alright, keep your eyes peeled for any of those robots.

Ambrose (*glances to the side nervously*)ugh, I don't see any... Perhaps we should go back.

Eleanor (*scared*) Ambrose is right. We are wasting our time here...

Cecilia (*interrupts*) No! They said there would be a protest here. You heard it, right? We *all* heard it. The robots are hiding somewhere, I'm sure of it.

Eleanor Cecilia, all the lights are off, no one's here and it's the middle of the day! (*hesitates*) Don't you think that's a little creepy?

Ambrose (*nervous*) Eleanor is right. This is how all the horror movies start. I don't feel comfortable here...

Cecilia (*desperate*) Come on, don't you guys trust me? We've been friends for years!

Eleanor Okay... but only for a little longer.

Ambrose (*gently*) We mean no harm, Cecilia. We just don't want to land ourselves in danger.

Cecilia (*annoyed*) Fine! I'm gonna keep looking.

Ambrose Eleanor?

Eleanor (*sighs, regrettably*) I'm sorry, I'm helping Cecilia.

Cecilia (*huffs*) They've got to be here, keep looking...

Cecilia and Eleanor sit back from camera and freeze.

Ambrose (*lean into camera*) Oh no, my robot comrades will be coming in at any time! Cecilia still hates robots and Eleanor isn't exactly supportive, either... I've tried so hard to keep my lives separate but this careful balance is going to be ruined! I don't want my comrades or my human friends to get hurt... oh dear, is there anything I can do?

(Ambrose moving back to neutral camera position)