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Name of School : ST. MARK'S SCHOOL
學校名稱 : 聖馬可中學
Name of Play 劇名 : Life After Life
Script writer 劇作者 : Michelle Li (Tutor), Wong Cheuk Him, Mak Hoi Chun, Tsang Hui Wun, Lam Wing See, Or On Ki, Lau Sum Kiu, Hung Ko Chun (Student)

Synopsis 故事大綱 :

Imagine a world in which the government gets to allocate resources and decide everyone's fate. There is no poverty, no hunger, no war, and everything is perfectly balanced.

However, two dreamers have resolved to defy social conventions despite the seemingly formidable challenges ahead. They believe in their dreams and would realize them at all costs. But how far can they actually achieve in this 'perfect' society?

This is a piece that reflects our beliefs and prospects for our city. We hope that we will be heard in reality, with more individuals mustering up the courage to make a difference in changing the stereotype that is constantly ignored or condoned by the silent majority in this monotonous cycle.



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Scene 1

(Lights up; we see an art gallery. It is an exhibition titled 'Unknown Artist Series'. There are four paintings hanging on the walls. Guests are holding their champagne glasses and looking at the paintings.)

James: Jane, come on. Look at them, they are stunning.

Jane: See, I told you. You will enjoy this exhibition.

James: (laughs) It's quite unbelievable for me too. I thought my passion in visual arts died out after I quit, but it seems to be still there. (looks more closely at the painting) I wish these were done by me... See... The composition, the contrast, are just excellent.

Veronica: You talk like you know about visual arts.

James: Sis, how come you are here? I thought you'd be in court, defending lives.

Veronica: Thought you'd be in the hospital, saving lives. (beat) Jane invited me too.

Jane: Thanks for coming, and I have to say that James does know about visual arts. He got better grades than me in our visual arts A-levels.

James: (to Veronica) Call yourself a sister...

Veronica: Wow! Then why did you quit, my dear little brother?

James: I'm just good at theory and exams; it's not my thing.

Jane: See, you are still denying...

Veronica: Then what's your thing?

James: ... to earn a living.

(VERONICA laughs, JANE rolls her eyes.)

Veronica: Pathetic... but true.

Jane: I thought you had a better reason for choosing medicine over arts!

(PAYTON enters.)

James: (clears his throat) Ladies, let's take our seats, it looks like they're about to start.

(James, JANE, VERONICA sit down. PAYTON walks up to the stage.)



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- Payton: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this year's 'Unknown Artist Series' exhibition. Every year, our gallery searches for good quality artworks from around the world and exhibits them to collectors who truly appreciate the art itself. Since the identity of the artist will never be exposed, you will never know whether this is a new series by a famous artist or a debut from an art school fresh graduate. We hope that in this way, our guests will focus more on the works themselves, instead of the value associated with the fame of the artist.
- Guest 1: (shouts) Nice gimmick, Payton.
(Everyone in the gallery laughs.)
- Veronica: True, merchants nowadays are finding more ways to sell their trash.
- James: Really? I quite enjoy the idea.
- Payton: (laughs) Thank you, WilJames, is it?
(Guest 1 nods.)
- Payton: Looks like the gimmick is working; it's the sixth time that you've turned up here at our invitation. Thank you for your support.
(Everyone in the gallery laughs louder.)
- Payton: Alright, shall we get back to the artwork? The title of this series is (claps his hand, reveals the title) 'Against the Life Plan'.
(Gallery staff give out earphones.)
- Payton: Along with the paintings, the artist has also prepared something on the earphones for you. If you wish to know more, you can put them on.
(Everyone in the hall puts on their earphones. PAYTON signals to start.)
- V.O.: This is a world where jobs are distributed centrally by the government. Everyone receives their own Life Plan when they are born. And from that day onwards, you work towards one goal, the only goal that the government provides[^]. There is never a shortage of social occupations. Resources are perfectly distributed[^]. There is no poverty[^], no hunger[^], no war[^]. Society is full of peace and prosperity[^].

But then, one person decides they don't want to follow the Life Plan[^], and renounces the role they were assigned by the government[^]. However, this action has consequences. What is the cost of making your own decisions in life?



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(James is the last one standing. He tries to maintain his consciousness, but he fails and faints.)

(B/O, the siren effect enters.)



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SCENE 2

(Lights up, it's the hospital A&E. Nurses and medical staff are waiting for the patient to arrive)

Paging VO: Dr. James, Dr. James, please proceed to A&E ward 1, please proceed to A&E ward 1.

(James and Angel enter.)

James: Eunice/Nomi/Tim.

Nurse: Dr. James.

Angel: Any information on the patient's condition?

Nurse: 24-year-old female, household accident, second degree burns on hands and thighs, conscious, vital signs are stable.

James: Good, should be easy.

(Ambulance technician brings in JANE. She is in a wheelchair. Ambulance technician hands a clipboard to James.)

James: (takes a look at the clip board, starts taking out a torch) Alright, you are now in the A&E department of the National Hospital. What's your name?

Jane: James? Is that you?

James: Jane?

Jane: Oh! James, please help me. I don't want to talk to my manager!

(Payton pushes his way in.)

Nurse: Sir, you are not allowed to enter this area.

Payton: I'm her manager. I came here with her. I need to know about her condition.

Jane: Please James...

James: We will proceed to emergency treatment. Angel, please take care of the gentleman over there.

(Ambulance technician and James push Jane behind a curtain.)

Angel: Please sir... please sir. (shouts) Could you stop shouting? This is a hospital!

(Payton stops. Nurse exit.)

Angel: You'd better get out of here. There is a registration counter out there. Instead of shouting at the medical staff, please proceed to register for the patient. You are her manager, right?