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Revolution

By

BRETT NEVEU

Dramatic Publishing Company

Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

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(REVOLUTION)

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“*Revolution* was developed and first premiered at A Red Orchid Theatre in Chicago, Kirsten Fitzgerald, artistic director; Audrey Billings, managing director.”

Revolution had its world premier run at A Red Orchid Theatre (Chicago) from Sept. 7 to Nov. 5, 2023.

CAST:

PUFF Stephanie Shum
JAME..... Taylor Blim
GEORGIA..... Natalie West

PRODUCTION:

Director Travis A. Knight
Scenic Design..... Kotryna Hilko
Costume Design..... Myron Elliott
Lighting Design Erica Lauren Maholmes
Sound Design Eric Backus
Properties Design..... Julia Alvarez
Technical Director..... Tom Daniel
Stage Manager Danny Fender
Assistant Stage Manager..... Faith Locke
Production Manager..... Patrick Starnier
Assistant Director..... Maggie Perisho
Dramaturg Tanya Palmer
Assistant Dramaturg & Script Supervisor..... Peter Ruiz

Revolution

CHARACTERS

JAME (w): 27 years old.

PUFF (w): 26 years old.

GEORGIA (w): 55 years old.

PLACE: In the back service alley behind the hair salon Revolution Cuts, located at Southridge Mall in a small- to medium-sized town in southern Illinois.

TIME: Present.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Additional and/or missing punctuation, as well as dialogue containing uppercase words/phrases, are intentional as written. These changes to common structure are meant to evoke choices in emotional state, outward expression and character connections (or lack thereof).

The song *More Than Lucky* is written by Brett Neveu (lyrics) and Rich Sparks (music). Simplified charts and a recording of the song are available on Dramatic Publishing's website.

“To my young friends out there: life can be great, but not when you can’t see it. So, open your eyes to life: to see it in the vivid colors that God gave us as a precious gift to His children, to enjoy life to the fullest, and to make it count. Say yes to your life.”

—*Nancy Reagan*

Revolution

(Southridge Mall. An alley outside the back service entrance of Revolution Cuts. On the door to the service entrance is a sign that reads "REVOLUTION CUTS" in basic white lettering.

JAME and PUFF enter from the door; PUFF with a trash bag and appearing anxious. JAME inserts a floor brush between the door and the door frame to prop the door open as PUFF takes the trash offstage.)

JAME. No I mean I walked away like walked away and she shouts at me HEY WHERE ARE YOU GOING and I don't even turn around I don't even look so I thought maybe that's it but then I found out there was somebody who knew WHERE but ok

(Having disposed of the trash bag, PUFF returns.)

JAME *(cont'd)*. Whatever blah blah blah boring so what are you thinking?

PUFF. I hate planning stuff

JAME. That's not true you're ORGANIZED

PUFF. That's organizing not planning

JAME. Ok you don't have to plan it can be fully loose like maybe we'll do this or maybe we'll do that and we can see what Margo thinks or Joan?

PUFF. Joan?

JAME. Joan from the Keds

PUFF. From the before Keds or the after Keds with Sylvia?

JAME. The after Keds with Sylvia but not the before Keds with Tricia

PUFF. Oh so then no not Joan

JAME. Ok but then it just would be me just one person because I know you're going to say no to Margo too leaving just me and you

PUFF. I was thinking not doing anything at all

JAME. Come on you can't leave me out of your birthday birthdays are a main reason to do something fun so if you're not going to do anything then you're excluding me and if you don't want to plan something I can plan it

PUFF. I'm pretty much broke as usual

JAME. The point of celebrating your birthday is you don't have to pay

PUFF. Then who pays?

JAME. If you invite Joan and Margo

PUFF. OH THEY PAY I GET IT

JAME. You don't like to have fun

PUFF. What I LIKE TO HAVE FUN

JAME. What kind of time on Earth do you think you have left or do you think you're invincible?

PUFF. I know I'm not invincible you're blowing my whole birthday out of proportion

JAME. Celebrations are so rare nowadays

PUFF. You're making it into a big deal

JAME. Sorry it doesn't have to be a big deal

PUFF. You're making me anxious

JAME. Shoot I'm sorry I was just giving you a hard time

PUFF. I know I only so but if have anxiety about plans then how will I do ever all the new Revolution job stuff?

JAME. Your Revolution job stuff is organizing you're good at that doing no pressure so let's also make your birthday no pressure

PUFF. Right it need not be PRESSURE

JAME. We'll do whatever you want don't be overwhelmed

PUFF. But I don't want the end result of us being indecisive to end up being my birthday I want to do SOMETHING and it will make me less anxious if I organize it

JAME. ORGANIZATION is not INDECISION

PUFF. How about Rainforest Cafe?

JAME. Wow ok amazing idea

PUFF. I mean not food just going to the bar

JAME. WHY have we never thought of that before?

PUFF. That's the reason I'd thought we might do it because we had never thought of it before

JAME. I LOVE THAT GREAT IDEA! Plus GIANT FAKE SNAKES

PUFF. Plus GIANT FAKE PARROTS

JAME. Plus GIANT FAKE RAINFOREST SOUNDS

PUFF. What if it's terrible there?

JAME. NO LET'S DO IT NO MATTER WHAT EVEN IF IT'S TERRIBLE BUT it's going to be fun or wait not fun because you said you don't like fun you hate fun so I hope we have a fully boring time

PUFF. I never said I hate fun and I know I need to make an effort to hang out with new people

JAME. NO you were right when you said before it would be better if it's just you and me going and LOOK Rainforest Cafe is so close it's right over there

PUFF. In the part of the mall WAYYYYYYYYYY OVER THERE

JAME. A long walk so very far away like three hundred feet

PUFF. Will you carry me as a birthday present?

JAME. I would but you're so old now and so you're very heavy everyone takes on additional gravity with every year everybody knows that

PUFF. Like a cake like layers of cake and with each layer the cake gets heavier but instead of layers of cake it's time piling on top of itself more and more years adding onto the previous year forming the tallest and biggest cake and if we go to the Rainforest Cafe then I'm thinking I should take myself off the shift schedule for tomorrow

JAME. You scheduled yourself to work tomorrow?

PUFF. Didn't you see my name on the schedule?

JAME. No I only looked for my name

PUFF. You know I always schedule us together

JAME. Wait you ALWAYS SCHEDULE US TOGETHER?

PUFF. OH MY GOD YOU KNOW THAT

JAME. OF COURSE I KNOW THAT but WHY might I ask would you SCHEDULE YOURSELF TO WORK TOMORROW because when I looked at the schedule and I saw that you didn't schedule me for tomorrow I assumed you didn't schedule yourself because WHY WOULD YOU SCHEDULE YOURSELF TOMORROW BECAUSE TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY

PUFF. I didn't schedule you because I knew you'd be hung over ok?

JAME. But then you scheduled yourself anyway you actually hate fun so much that you CURSED YOURSELF TO FAILURE

PUFF. I DON'T HATE FUN SO MUCH and I DIDN'T CURSE MYSELF

JAME. Since you've CURSED YOURSELF with working tomorrow I'm now coming into work tomorrow too for moral support or physical support or mental support for your EXPECTED AND WORTHWHILE HANGOVER AS WELL AS MY OWN EXPECTED WORTHWHILE HANGOVER

PUFF. I don't want special treatment

JAME. I'm just sucking up to the new boss

PUFF. YOU ARE IT'S OBVIOUS

JAME. IS IT WORKING?

PUFF. IT IS WORKING you are now EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

JAME. Such a pushover my new boss

PUFF. Do you think the drinks at Rainforest Cafe are expensive?

JAME. God they better not be but let's just go over there and find out

PUFF. If they are then what?

JAME. Then we'll hit The Fogcutter as usual

PUFF. WE ALWAYS HIT THE FOGCUTTER

JAM. That's why I said AS USUAL but tonight THE FOGCUTTER is purely SECOND CHOICE

PUFF. Or how about instead we just stay right here?

JAME. You really weren't joking about maybe not wanting to do anything

PUFF. Staying here isn't not doing anything it's just doing what we were doing already besides I don't want to spend a bunch of money and I don't want to make it a big deal and full confession I really don't want to get up off my butt

JAME. Oh good because I don't want to GET OFF MY BUTT EITHER

PUFF. I KNEW IT we could hang out here and decide later if we want to go to Rainforest Cafe and while we think about it you could just drive to Linden Liquors and get us two six packs

JAME. I CAN FULLY DO THAT

PUFF. You really like this wayward plan better than going to The Rainforest Cafe?

JAME. YES I really like this wayward plan better than going to The Rainforest Cafe and then regarding the two six-packs at Linden's Liquors I'll buy

PUFF. You weren't going to buy my drinks at Rainforest Cafe?

JAME. In reality I would have bought you your first drink for sure but then you would have demanded to buy the second round and then we'd go back and forth and back and forth until it ends up probably a two million dollar tab

PUFF. You want some cash for Linden's?

JAME. No I'm paying for the six-packs

PUFF. But you know I still might want to go to Rainforest Cafe later

JAME. YES I KNOW but I'll run to Linden's right now and get us two six-packs and then we can have a few beers out here and then you can see how you feel after that if you still want to go to Rainforest Cafe

PUFF. GREAT

JAME. You want some snacks or anything some chippies or tortilla chips and salsa?

PUFF. YES

JAME. Anything specific you want?

PUFF. You know what I like THANK YOU

JAME. YOU'RE WELCOME

PUFF. I FULLY LOVE THIS PLAN

JAME. ME TOO HAPPY BIRTHDAY

(GEORGIA enters.)

GEORGIA. What are you two doing out here just hanging out after work?

JAME. Hey hi how are you

GEORGIA. Good hi

JAME. Today is her birthday

GEORGIA. Oh no! Really? Happy birthday

PUFF. Thank you

GEORGIA. I was walking to my car and saw you two out here are you celebrating out here or are you doing something big after work where are you going?

JAME. We were just talking about what we might do or where we might go or how we might celebrate

GEORGIA. What did you decide?

PUFF. She's going to Linden Liquors and getting us some beer then we were going to decide

JAME. We were actually thinking maybe going to the bar at the Rainforest Cafe

GEORGIA. Oh that's so funny going to the bar at the Rainforest Cafe I actually sometimes get a drink there after work

JAME. Oh wow you do?

GEORGIA. Sometimes YEAH

PUFF. Aren't the drinks expensive?

GEORGIA. Depends on how many drinks you end up buying or what you end up drinking I love to order the Cheetah Rita it's let me see if I can remember what's in a Cheetah Rita it's Cuervo Silver tequila and Grand Marnier and sweet and sour with a lime wedge and you actually get to keep the glass it comes in

PUFF. That sounds perfect for a birthday getting to keep the glass

GEORGIA. I have a whole set and by whole set I mean I have like nine glasses

JAME. Maybe it might be worth it to go to Rainforest Cafe later then?

PUFF. What are you doing right now?

GEORGIA. Oh I was heading home

PUFF. Will you stay and have a beer with us?

GEORGIA. Roughing it out in the alley for your birthday? Ok

PUFF. She's going to Linden Liquors for some beer what would you want?

GEORGIA. Oh wow I'll have some cider if they have some any cider would be fine can I give you some money?

JAME. No I got it it's on me for BIRTHDAY REASONS

GEORGIA. Are you sure?

JAME. Yeah and I was grabbing some snacks too

GEORGIA. Oh wait I've got some food in my car hold on don't leave yet I'll be right back!

(GEORGIA exits.)

PUFF. I forgot all about her

JAME. Me too I forgot she worked at Ross's I think we met her in the mall in line for coffee once when was that?

PUFF. I wonder what food she has in her car?

JAME. Food that's been in her car all day long?

PUFF. Is it ok I invited her to hang out?

JAME. Yes

PUFF. Yes?

JAME. YES

JAME. Should I head to Linden's now or wait?

PUFF. No wait for her to come back I don't want to be in the alley all alone so scary

JAME. Without your alley palley?

PUFF. Sitting on the concrete in the alley without my alley palley would be wahhhh

JAME. You'd be the sad alley palley galley

PUFF. Wahh hey can we still smoke weed out here?

JAME. Why couldn't we?

PUFF. We haven't smoked weed out here in a very very long time

JAME. That's because I stopped buying weed

PUFF. Are you saying we just smoked YOUR weed?

JAME. Are you saying we smoked YOUR weed?

PUFF. We smoked my weed too didn't we?

JAME. YOU NEVER HAD ANY WEED

PUFF. Weeeeee that's so ridiculous we say weed why do we say weed?

JAME. Because WE LOVE TO SAY WEED

PUFF & JAME. WEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEED

JAME. Maybe that's what she's actually getting out of her car a giant ball of WEED

PUFF. A GIANT BALL OF FANCY BIRTHDAY WEED

JAME. Like an actual BOWLING BALL-SIZED BALL of FANCY BIRTHDAY WEED

PUFF. WRAPPED IN ALUMINUM FOIL

JAME. WRAPPED IN A GIANT LAYER OF ALUMINUM FOIL

PUFF. Everybody has so much weed nowadays anyhow and yeah maybe we didn't want to be part of the boring societal norms in today's WORLD or was weed maybe making us feel DUMB?

JAME. Who said weed was making us feel dumb?

PUFF. YES YES YESSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS SSSS SS

JAME. OK ALL THAT and then I'll get beer and cider too

PUFF. Maybe instead then get three packs of cider instead of three packs of beer it would make my birthday more fancy

JAME. I'm not that big into cider

PUFF. Then ok get two packs of cider and one pack of beer

JAME. No I can get all cider if you want I can be big into cider I also want your birthday to be fancy especially now that there's all these freaking HAM D'OEUVRES

GEORGIA. Cider is the champagne of beers

JAME. Technically speaking Miller High Life is the champagne of beers

GEORGIA. YOU'RE RIGHT

PUFF. Hey how about you pick up a six of Miller High Life then?

JAME. Two packs of ciders and one pack of Miller High Life so freaking SMART

GEORGIA. GOOD THINKING PERFECT

PUFF. That's so much stuff to get let me give you some money

JAME. No way it's your birthday plus you're pretty much broke

PUFF. SO ARE PRETTY MUCH YOU

GEORGIA. I can give you some money

PUFF. You don't have to!

GEORGIA. Here's TWENTY DOLLARS

JAME. NOT TWENDY DOLLERS

PUFF. TWENDY DOLLERS IS WAY TOO MUCH like a ten is fine

GEORGIA (*removes money from her purse*). NO NO here TAKE TWENTY because celebrations are so rare nowadays

JAME. OH MY LORD I just said THAT SAME THING A MINUTE AGO