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*Dramatic Publishing*

# Victor Hugo In Rehearsal

by  
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(VICTOR HUGO – IN REHEARSAL)

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# VICTOR HUGO - IN REHEARSAL

A Play in One Act  
For a Cast of Eight\*

## CHARACTERS

DIRECTOR . . . . . of the play in rehearsal  
THERESE . . . . . high school student, actor in play  
SERGEANT . . . . . another  
JEAN VALJEAN . . . . . another  
MLLE. BAPTISTINE . . . . . another  
BISHOP . . . . . another  
MME. JENRETTE . . . . . another  
MME. MAGLIORE . . . . . another

\*Five female, three male; or four female, four male.  
(Role of DIRECTOR can be either female or male)

TIME: The present

PLACE: A "rehearsal area"

## VICTOR HUGO - IN REHEARSAL

SCENE: *A stage or a rehearsal space. Some folding chairs are scattered about. Table DC.*

AT RISE: *Voices from offstage L.*

DIRECTOR *(off)*. We're wasting time. Come on, come on. Let's get started.

THERESE *(off)*. What's the rush?

SERGEANT *(off)*. We've got another week of rehearsals.

DIRECTOR *(off)*. Every moment counts.

*(DIRECTOR enters. She's an energetic teen-ager, with a "no-nonsense" attitude. She carries a play script. Pencil behind one ear. Crosses C.)*

DIRECTOR. I'm waiting.

*(SERGEANT, THERESE, MME JENRETTE, MME MAGLIORE enter from L. MME BAPTISTINE enters from R.)*

DIRECTOR *(looks about)*. Valjean? Jean Valjean?

*(VALJEAN enters R.)*

VALJEAN. Yo!

DIRECTOR. All here? Good.

MME BAPTISTINE. We're not all here.

DIRECTOR. Who's missing?

OTHERS. The Bishop.

DIRECTOR (*yells*). I need the Bishop!

(*BISHOP runs in from R, finishing an apple.*)

BISHOP. Sorry. (*Holds up apple.*) I didn't have time for lunch.

DIRECTOR. Pay attention. We've got the use of the hall for about half an hour. After that, they kick us out.

MME. JENRETTE. Who's coming in?

DIRECTOR. Who knows? Everybody got his lines?

OTHERS. Uh-huh. Oh, yeah. Sure thing.

DIRECTOR. Let's begin.

VALJEAN (*hand up*). Question?

DIRECTOR. I'm listening.

VALJEAN. This character I'm playing...

DIRECTOR. Jean Valjean.

VALJEAN. Yeah. I'm not sure I understand him.

DIRECTOR. That again.

MME. MAGLIORE. Didn't you read the book yet?

VALJEAN. *Les Miserables*? Are you kidding? It's got more pages than the telephone directory.

DIRECTOR (*impatient*). What's the question?

VALJEAN. How can a guy be sent to prison for stealing a loaf of bread?

DIRECTOR. That was the law.

MME. BAPTISTINE. Hard to believe.

VALJEAN. I can't relate. I need more time.

DIRECTOR. That's why we're having this rehearsal. Play contest is one week off.

THERESE (*to VALJEAN*). If you don't believe in your character how can you expect the audience to?

MME. MAGLIORE. That's right.

DIRECTOR. If you don't mind - I'm the director. (*Claps her hands.*) Let's move. (*Indicates L.*) Bed over here. (*SERGEANT and THERESE place three folding chairs side by side to simulate a "bed." DIRECTOR indicates.*) Table... right where it is. (*To BISHOP.*) Couple of chairs at table. (*BISHOP places*

*chairs at table.*) Jean Valjean, Mme. Magliore and Mme. Jenrette get ready for your entrances. (*MME. MAGLIORE, MME. JENRETTE and VALJEAN exit L.*) Others exit stage, please. (*OTHERS exit R. DIRECTOR sits in chair extreme DR.*) Remember - we're in nineteenth century France. That's what it'll say in the program. (*Announces.*) "An episode from Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables: The Candlesticks of the Sainly Bishop.*" (*Setting the "scene."*) The house lights will go down... the curtain... it's night. (*Looks DL, irritated.*) Oh, great. (*Yells off L.*) Is that what you're going to do when we present the play? (*Nothing.*) *Jean Valjean!*

(*VALJEAN ENTERS.*)

VALJEAN. Now what did I do?

DIRECTOR. It's what you didn't do! When the play begins you're discovered sleeping in the street.

VALJEAN. No.

DIRECTOR. No? What do you mean "no"?

(*THERESE enters.*)

THERESE (*to DIRECTOR*). Don't you remember? You changed that at the last rehearsal.

VALJEAN. I'm supposed to *walk* in with a sack over my shoulder.

DIRECTOR (*checks playbook, frowns*). You're right. Sorry. Let's go. Take it from the top. (*VALJEAN and THERESE exit.*)

(*BISHOP enters R.*)

BISHOP. You want to use the candlesticks?

DIRECTOR. Might as well. (*BISHOP exits.*)

(*VALJEAN enters DL on forestage, pretending to carry a sack over his shoulder. Very weary.*)