

## AIDAN AND LETIZIA AUDITION PIECE

It is nighttime. The Warburton's living room is swathed in a dim glow.

Unable to sleep, LETIZIA tiptoes to the sofa. Collapsing her head in her hands, she allows herself a sob. It's only then that she realises she's not alone, a whimpering coming from the corner of the room.

Hello?

The whimpering stops. Convinced she's imagined it, LETIZIA continues to sob.

The whimpering starts up again. This time, she gets up, shining her phone torch.

Hello?

Beneath the torchlight AIDAN is curled up in a ball, trembling and whimpering.

Signor Warburton?

As she draws nearer, it becomes clear he's having a night terror.

Aidan?

AIDAN

Hit the switch! Hit the switch! Someone hit the emergency switch! Fuck! Hit the switch!

LETIZIA

Mr Warburton?

AIDAN

I can't feel my leg. My leg! Fuck, there's no skin on it! My leg has no skin on it!

LETIZIA

Mr Warburton?

AIDAN

Help! Call an ambulance! Quick! Help! Call a fucking ambulance!

LETIZIA

Are you OK?

AIDAN slowly becomes aware of his surroundings, abject fear morphing into humiliation as he realises LETIZIA has witnessed him in this state.

AIDAN

Oh, hello.

LETIZIA

You're shaking.

AIDAN

Oh, it's...

LETIZIA

You're sweating.

AIDAN

(incoherent and fevered)

Nothing to see here. Just a... God! Just one of my sleepwalking episodes, sorry. Just a bad dream, sorry. I didn't mean to...

LETIZIA

What happened to your leg?

Immune to his deflections, LETIZIA waits for an explanation.

AIDAN

Oh, this old thing? It's not the sort of thing I talk about really. It's just...

AIDAN shirks a response.

LETIZIA

Did they hit the switch?

Realising that LETIZIA is not going to drop it, AIDAN steals himself.

AIDAN

I had a job at a glass making factory. It was the nightshift. Eighteen of us working on the production line. Your bog standard shift. Operating the same machines we did every day. My mate, Vinny, at the start of the line, and me and Tinker somewhere in the middle. These machines, they're massive. Floor to ceiling. Pipes, levers. Everything hissing and bleeping. It were Vinny that saw the leak first. Molten glass oozing out. 1,600 degrees Celsius. Hotter than lava. We had no idea there was oil on the floor.

A moment of SILENCE.

Course they tell you the protective clothing is fireproof. The gloves, the boots, the masks, but with flames ripping through you at a hundred miles an hour you don't stand a chance.

LETIZIA

It was too late to hit the switch?

AIDAN

It was too late for Vinnie, God rest his soul. I got to survive...

AIDAN falls apart.

He, he, he's got three kids. Three kids, all in primary school! The youngest an't spoken a word since we lost him. Little lad misses his dad so much he's lost for words... And his wife...

Grasping for logic to prevail, he exhales sharply.

It's difficult to make sense of life sometimes... It's the guilt that gets you. Guilt that I walked away and he... Guilt that gets in your bones... Sorry, I shouldn't be telling you this. Truth be told it's easier telling someone who hasn't the foggiest what I'm bleating on about. A nice little language barrier softens the blow though, dun't it?

LETIZIA

Sorry, I don't understand.

AIDAN

Come on, enough of my waffling. Let's get some rest. Big day at the planetarium tomorrow and you want to be on form for that!

FADE TO BLACK.