

AGATHA AND IRENE

PLAY: Agatha Rex
 GENRE: Comedy
 TIME: 4:00

DESCRIPTION

Agatha and Irene are ~~two friends~~^{friends}, Paul and Elliot, have been punished unevenly for the same crime: Paul is expelled, while Elliot receives an essay and a warning. Agatha tries to get her ~~friend~~^{friend} to help fight the principal, Dr. Creon, but Irene wants nothing to do with it.

ACTING HINTS

One of the best ways to create conflict is to throw two opposing personalities into a room and see what happens. Agatha and Irene are as far apart as two ~~people~~^{people} can be. This is probably one of the few times Agatha chooses to speak to Irene and viceversa.

Agatha feels that because she believes in doing the right thing, Irene should follow suit. Show Agatha's hurt and disbelief when Irene decisively walks away from helping.

Is Irene shallow and selfish? Does Agatha expect too much?

NOTE: Dr. Creon is also known as Cromagnon.

IRENE is stage left talking to friends. AGATHA enters, sees IRENE and crosses to her with determination.

AGATHA: Irene!

IRENE: *(not that happy)* Oh. Hi Agatha.

AGATHA: I need to talk to you.

She drags IRENE away.

IRENE: *(in a bright voice to her friends.)* Ok, like, see you later guys! *(in an annoyed voice to AGATHA)* It's all right; I wasn't doing anything important, drag me wherever.

AGATHA: Did you hear about Paul and Elliot?

IRENE: Yeah, like, that really sucks.

AGATHA AND IRENE

AGATHA: It more than sucks, Irene. It's completely unfair.

IRENE: Paul's been in trouble before, he should be used to it.

AGATHA: That's not the point.

IRENE: What do I care what the point is? All I know is that it isn't happening to me. Oh, I would just like die if I ever got expelled.

AGATHA: Irene.

IRENE: I mean, I wouldn't be able to show my face at all. Especially not after doing something so stupid like what they did.

AGATHA: Irene...

IRENE: I mean, if you're going to get expelled, it shouldn't be for something stupid, it should be for something really bad; something really despicable like cheating, or stealing, or running someone down in the parking lot, or...

AGATHA: IRENE! THAT IS NOT THE POINT!!!

IRENE: Well sorry. Excuse me for breathing.

AGATHA: Paul and Elliot did the exact same thing. They should be treated equally and it shouldn't matter that Paul's been in trouble more times than Elliot. *(IRENE looks blankly at AGATHA.)* Don't you agree? Don't you think they should both be treated the same?

IRENE: But if Elliot gets expelled he, like, won't be able to play basketball.

AGATHA: So what?

IRENE: So what? The team needs him! They'll lose the championship without him. He's like, their number one player, their ace in the hole, their...

AGATHA AND IRENE

AGATHA: And what about Paul?

IRENE: He doesn't play basketball.

AGATHA: Irene. This is really important.

IRENE: Why does Paul have to play basketball?

AGATHA: He -

IRENE: *(continuing from her previous line)* I mean, he couldn't really play if he tried. He isn't exactly the fittest person in the world. I personally think it's all the French fries he eats, it's completely gross. I mean the pimples alone are...

AGATHA: *(leaping in)* We have to help Paul, and it has nothing to do with basketball.

IRENE stares at AGATHA, folding her arms across her chest.

IRENE: Define help.

AGATHA: I don't know. I want to do something. I just don't know what it is yet. I want to make a stand, something. We have to show Cromagnon that he can't do this. He can't break his own rules, he can't...

IRENE: Whoa, whoa, whoa, what are you talking about?

AGATHA: Paul was trying to change and Dr. Creon walked all over him.

IRENE: You want to go against Dr. Creon?

AGATHA: I don't know. Maybe. Yes.

IRENE: *(trying to leave)* I am so out of here. Have a nice life.

AGATHA: Wait a second.

AGATHA AND IRENE

IRENE: Have you thought about this? Like, actually thought?

AGATHA: I'm working on my feet here, Irene. I don't know what I'm thinking.

IRENE: You'll probably get expelled too. You do realize that? Dr. Creon will toss you out of here like yesterday's trash!

AGATHA: I'm not afraid of him.

IRENE: Won't that like, completely destroy, pulverize, and annihilate your chances **of being student of the year!**

AGATHA: I never thought of that.

IRENE: Well???

AGATHA: Yeah I guess they won't give it to me if I get expelled.

IRENE: And it doesn't bother you that you're ruining your entire life?

AGATHA: It's not my entire life...

IRENE: Have you totally completely absolutely lost your mind!

AGATHA: Are you with me?

IRENE: Are you nuts?

AGATHA: I want you to help me. The more people we have, the better. The more -

IRENE: *(interrupting)* You want me to go against Dr. Creon? I don't think so.

AGATHA: What are you afraid of?

IRENE: Agatha. I have my whole high school life ahead of me. If I screw up now, that is going to ruin everything I do for the rest of my life. You want me to ruin my life over Paul and Elliot?

AGATHA AND IRENE

AGATHA: They're your brothers.

IRENE: They're pigs. I like, have trouble keeping my lunch down just thinking about them.

AGATHA: But...

IRENE: But nothing. I have to get back to my friends.

IRENE starts to leave. AGATHA calls after her.

AGATHA: It doesn't matter anyway. I don't want your help.

Something in AGATHA's voice stops IRENE. She turns back.

IRENE: I'm not going to tell anyone about what you're doing. Rumours spread too fast around here.

AGATHA: Go ahead. Say what you like. Tell the whole world.

IRENE: I can't believe you're being so stupid, Aggie. You'll like, be finished before you begin.

IRENE exits.

AGATHA: *(calling out after her)* Double traitor! I knew you wouldn't, like, help!

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DESCRIPTION

Two young women live in racially separated societies. There is a wall between the two towns. Circumstances in their respective homes have forced the girls over and up to the hills. This is the first time they have come into contact. They are initially frightened but curiosity gets the better of them.

ACTING HINTS

Decide on the dimensions of the wall between them. How high is it? Remember that the girls cannot see each other. Practice the scene using the wall. It will help you get into the habit of not locking eyes with your partner.

Another thing to keep in mind is that the situation, while beyond our reality, is very real for the two girls. There shouldn't be any tone-in-cheek lines in their dialogue.

TRUE and LEGIT both approach the wall carefully from their respective sides.

BOTH: I'm not afraid. I'm not afraid.

LEGIT: What happened on your side?

TRUE: I don't know. It just...

LEGIT: And then...

TRUE: Yes. What about yours?

LEGIT: Something. Don't know. Why did you come here?

TRUE: To get away.

LEGIT: So I wouldn't get sick.

TRUE: To be clean.

LEGIT: And breathe pure air.