

TOY PLANET

by

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DIALOGUE SAMPLE

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CHARACTERS

TOM, the younger brother. He is twenty at the start of the play. Contained, presentable. TOM is also legally blind. This means he can see the objects on stage, but must bring them close to his face to see any details.

DAN, the older brother. He is twenty-three at the start of the play. Outgoing, barely presentable.

TOM and DAN play all the other characters in the play. This is denoted by their name, followed by the name of the character they are playing.

SETTING

The play takes place in the theatre it is performed in. Although the two characters perform scenes stretching back to when they were children, there is never a "flashback" convention; they are always aware that they are in the theatre.

The set is a recreation of the family room of the house he and his brother grew up in. The entire stage is covered in toys, but there is an area set aside for "Toyland". It is made up of dressers, bookshelves, Styrofoam appliance bracers and plastic fortresses, made up as a city.

On one side of the stage, there are two life-size puppets to represent MOM and DAD. On the other side, there is another puppet for THE DOCTOR, and a chair.

ACT I

(As the audience enters, TOM sets up the stage for the performance. He appears to be a stagehand, not a performer.)

Before the house goes out, DAN comes on stage.)

DAN

Good evening everybody. Welcome to **[YOUR THEATRE HERE]**. Before we get started tonight, the Department of Fire has asked me to point out our lovely exits la, la, and la. In addition, I was also asked to mention that **[YOUR THEATRE HERE]** is selling advance tickets on its upcoming season which includes...

(He looks to the staff for help.)

DAN *(cont'd)*

What does the season include? Huh? Is there a season? If there's a season, you all should buy some tickets. I'd like to personally thank **[YOUR THEATRE HERE]** for facilitating this for Tom. If you have any questions, I'll be over there. And now, ladies and gentlemen, your host for the evening, Thomas Edward Trujillo!

(DAN sits to the side. TOM makes a signal to the booth. The "20th Century Fox" fanfare begins as the house and stage lights fade.)

The main theme of Star Wars begins. Lights up on TOM, with plastic glowing sword and plastic space helmet. He fights an invisible opponent, a kind of half-play-combat, half-dance. He then puts his fist to his lips and makes a "fanfare" noise.)

TOM

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have an announcement! Thank you for coming to my play this evening. Tonight we shall travel far back in time, to hear the story of the mysterious planet Toy and its strange creator. You shall hear of the daring-do of Luke Skywalker and Han Solo, of the ruthlessness of the Evil Emperor Illen, the wisdom of Professor Shogun, the antics of Spider-Clown, and the wonder of the mysterious Sun Ruby!

(MORE)

TOM (*cont'd*)

And, at the end of tonight's performance, I shall make an important announcement. If everything goes according to plan.

Now. First we must travel far back in time...to the Planet Toy, on the far frontier of Otherspace. How do we get to Toyland?

(He places a footstool, to create his spaceship. The following is acted out, with appropriate sound effects.)

TOM (*cont'd*)

First, hop inside your interstellar ship.

(He presses a button, and makes a "whoosh!" sound as the imaginary airlock opens. He steps inside his spaceship.)

TOM (*cont'd*)

Second, turn on the power.

(He throws several switches, then sits.)

TOM (*cont'd*)

Third, launch into outer space.

(He presses a throttle forward, and leans back from the inertia of takeoff.)

TOM (*cont'd*)

Fourth, find a black hole, quasar, or similar space phenomenon.

(He scans his star-charts.)

TOM (*cont'd*)

Fifth, circle it faster and faster until the stars disappear and you're traveling down a huge set of stairs, and down a long hallway with white pillars and photographs of your parents...twelve years, twelve years, twelve years!

(On the final line, he jumps on the stool. Musical crescendo from the opening of 2001 plays.)

Welcome to Planet Toy!

(MORE)

(The music fades.)

TOM *(cont'd)*

Planet Toy is the on the far frontier of Otherspace. These are the Chair Mountains, with their snow-covered peaks.

(He takes a white bed sheet and covers the chairs.)

TOM *(cont'd)*

This is the Oriental Valley, which is lush with exotic fruits.

(He makes monkey sounds.)

TOM *(cont'd)*

There is also the Tile Plains where mighty battles occur.

(He makes gun noises.)

TOM *(cont'd)*

And here is the Computer Temple, which can only be operated by the smartest people in Otherspace.

(He chants "Om".)

TOM *(cont'd)*

And here is the Sliding Glass door, which separates us from the Wasteland!

(He makes wind noises.)

TOM *(cont'd)*

And this is Blue Lake, where The Evil Emperor Illen dwells, as you shall hear soon.

The only city on Planet Toy is Toyland. Toyland is the city of Good Guys. Professor Shogun is their leader. Toyland is protected by a force field powered by generators buried miles underground. The force field is silver and it lights up at night and the ships fly in and out of little doors. Toyland is protected by its two greatest heroes: Han Solo, the cool and clever smuggler on the run, and Luke Skywalker, the farmboy learning to be a Jedi knight. The Emperor Illen and his vile hordes want to break through the force field so they can wreck everything, but the Heroes always stop him! Every morning they gather under the Announcement Tower, and sing their anthem.

(MORE)

*(Stands on the stool, now the
Announcement Tower, and sings:)*

TOM *(cont'd, sings:)*

*"This is our planet made of toys
Where Good Guys go escape the noise
And the Emperor Illen, he plots underground
To bring the force field of Toyland down."*

Then Professor Shogun rallies them with the Heroes' Battle Cry! "We will fight, I promise you! We will fight, I promise you!"

(He takes off his helmet.)

TOM *(cont'd)*

I have to make all of this clear because sometimes people don't understand me.

Meanwhile, on the far-off planet of Earth, there lived a family named the Trujillos. They lived in the great and beautiful city of Portland, Oregon. Portland was famous for its nature and its rain. The father was named William, and his back hurt him. The mother was named Linda, and she was legally blind, which meant she had only seven percent vision. They lived with their two sons: Daniel, the elder, and Thomas, the younger. Daniel was a writer and a director and an actor and could not make up his mind. Thomas is me. You may call me Thomas or Tom. Now, Thomas was also legally blind, and a strange person as you shall see, but without him there would be no Planet Toy. There would be no story.

One day, Thomas's brother Dan had been summoned to a great white hospital. There he sat before a terrifying and judgmental assembly:

(He indicates their respective puppets:)

His Mother, his Father, and a Doctor.

Now, in order to tell this part of the story, I will need to introduce all of you all to my big brother, Dan. We must cast a Summon Dan spell. I will need to put out a pint of coffee ice cream and a copy of Joseph Campbell's "The Power of Myth." I also will require the sound man to play some loud garage band music.

(MORE)

*(Garage band music plays over the
speakers.)*

TOM (*cont'd*)

Thank you. Now, everybody do this!

(He raises his hands in the Satan sign and bangs his head. When he has the audience banging as well, a light comes up on DAN. He waves. The music fades. TOM stares at DAN like he is an idiot.)

TOM (*cont'd*)

Will the sound man please play the loud garage band music again?

(The music plays again. TOM waves his arms and bangs his head furiously. DAN stands and waves again, then sits back down. TOM walks over to DAN and waves the Satan sign in DAN's face.)

DAN

Can you turn the music off, please? The music -- turn off the music!

(The music stops abruptly.)

DAN (*cont'd*)

What the fuck?

TOM

Shhhh. Please don't swear. You have been summoned.

DAN

Right. I've been *summoned*. Here I am! Thank you. Go on Tommy.

TOM

Please Dan, call me Thomas.

DAN

Right. Sorry. Tom.

TOM

Would you kindly stand on the stage?

(DAN rises and stands on the stage near his seat.)

What do you think of my stage?

DAN

It's cool. They really did up the place up. I want to point out, everybody, Tom rented this space himself. Hired the help himself. Flew out from Portland, spent all his data-entry money himself. He deserves a hand.

(He has the audience applaud TOM. TOM gives a courteous bow.)

DAN *(cont'd)*

All this stuff up here, I just want to play with it.

TOM

And my puppets?

DAN

You did a good job.

TOM

Will you do the story with me then?

DAN

I am doing the story with you.

TOM

I mean do it for real.

DAN

I quit acting a long time ago. I wanted to stop torturing the public. You, nice public. You look intelligent. You don't need that kind of pain. Look at this nice lady, Tom.

(TOM walks close to the person, leans over and peers at them.)

TOM

Yes. You do look intelligent. Please do not be startled by the way I look at you. It is merely because of my vision.

DAN

Yeah, Tom's legally blind -

TOM

The weird brother Thomas has only ten-percent normal vision.

DAN

So he sees only shapes and shadows.

TOM

Let us get back to doing our story.

DAN

I'll be right over here explaining things and helping you...

(He sits back down.)

DAN *(cont'd)*

I got to be straight with you. These autobiographical whimper-plays that are so big right now, I'm just not into them.

(Short pause.)

TOM

Since my brother Dan has suddenly had an attack of stage fright, I will try to create the scene.

(He brings the puppets center.)

There were the Mother, the Father, and the Doctor -

DAN

No no. Not dead center. They look like some nightmare chorus line. Bring 'em a little stage left.

(TOM moves one stage right.)

DAN *(cont'd)*

No, your left. Not ours.

(He gets up and moves the puppets.)

DAN *(cont'd)*

Here, let me show you. See, if they're all dead center it gets dull.

(DAN peers at the light instruments.)

DAN *(cont'd)*

Can I have one of these instruments up? I don't know what dimmer -

(The lights for the Doctor's Office come up. TOM heads off stage.)

DAN *(cont'd)*

Tom Tom Tom! Where are you going?

TOM

To write this down so I can remember.

DAN

No no no no no no no. You can't leave the stage.

TOM

Why?

DAN

Because then it will be empty. And your audience will think they got ripped off, and that's when the riot started, officer. See, you've got to ask what things say to your audience.

TOM

This is why I need your help.

(He turns to the audience.)

TOM *(cont'd)*

My brother has a degree from the Boston University Theatre School. They have taught him all the mysterious secrets of putting on plays.

DAN

And you know that means a six-figure income.

TOM

He knows the secrets of Toyland as well!

DAN

Oh, yeah. I'm the expert.

TOM

The story begins in the Great White Hospital.

DAN

Ah yes, our antagonist in his lair. You got lights for - ?

(The lights change to the Doctor's Office, 1982.)

DAN *(cont'd)*

Good to see you're on your toes.

(He turns to the audience. During the following, TOM manipulates the puppets.)

TOM

Long ago, in 1982, the brother Dan of eleven years sat before the mother, the father, and -

TOM - DAD (*to the empty chair:*)
 Danny, say hello to Dr. Bruschar!

DAN
 Hello, Dr. Bruschar.

TOM
 Dan, you have to do the scene.

DAN
 I'm not doing the scene.

TOM
 You've got to, or it won't make sense.

(DAN takes a Han Solo action figure and sits it on the chair between the puppets, then returns down stage.)

DAN
 Now, everything should be perfectly clear.

TOM - DOCTOR
 Hello, Danny. You look a lot like your brother. I know you care about him very much. Tommy has some special problems. I've been assigned by the State of Oregon to try and help Tommy. It's very possible he's suffering from some sort of retardation.

DAN (*To the audience:*)
 If there was one thing guaranteed to piss mom off-

TOM - MOM
 My son is not retarded! He just needs attention!

DAN (*To the audience:*)
 And Tom isn't retarded. The doctors could never diagnose him with any mental deficiency. He's just suffering from being Tom.

TOM - DAD
 Danny, this is important. You have a duty to your brother.

DAN(*to the audience:*)
 And everything was merit badges with dad.

TOM (*to the audience:*)
 Trujillos have much strangeness about them.

DAN (*to the audience:*)

But they were good parents. They took us to the zoo and scolded us when we were evil snots -

TOM - DOCTOR

Tommy is a very imaginative young boy. We need to bring that wonderful imagination out into the world, in a positive way. Your parents told me about his disruption at school. The stuff he broke? Tommy might hurt someone someday -

DAN

Hold up hold the f -- up.

(*Comes over to TOM.*)

DAN (*cont'd*)

What do you mean hurt somebody?

TOM

You know.

DAN

I know. Remember what we talked about? We made some promises? We -

(*To the audience.*)

DAN (*cont'd*)

Look all Doctor Bruscharde said was some stuff about Toyland-and-Tom and Tom-and-Toyland, and he thought there was some connection like if Emperor Illen carpet bombs the Good Guys then Tom ain't gettin' on at Hayhurst Elementary.

TOM - DOCTOR

Danny, does Tommy talk to you about Toyland?

DAN

And I said yeah. We used to play it together.

TOM - DOCTOR

Danny, I want you to play Toyland with Tommy *for us*.

(*TOM steps out from behind the DOCTOR puppet.*)

TOM

That was the scene in the Doctor's Office.

(*The lights rise on the rest of the stage.*)