

Scene 2

An apartment balcony. There's a packed party inside. JOSH and THOMAS stand outside smoking cigarettes and pot. They each have a drink in hand.

JOSH
Happy birthday my friend!

THOMAS
Thank you.

The two of them hug.

JOSH
Thanks for inviting me out.

THOMAS
Of course. I'm happy you're up here.

JOSH
Me too.

A beat. They both stare out at the night.

THOMAS
How's the city treating you so far?

JOSH
I love it. It's great.

THOMAS
Meeting people?

JOSH
Yeah some. Not a ton yet. But I have time. I've had to really be patient with myself. To be . . . uh. I'm focused on meeting people and all that but I have to realize too, I've only been in town a month or so. It'll take some time.

THOMAS
Yeah definitely.

JOSH
How are you doin'?

THOMAS
I'm good.

JOSH

How's Michelle?

THOMAS

She's good. Things are good.

JOSH

Good.

THOMAS

She's inside hanging with her friends.

JOSH

I saw. She's great by the way.

THOMAS

Yeah. She's something else.

JOSH

Yeah. I'm really happy to see the two of you together.

THOMAS

Thanks.

JOSH

Yeah.

A beat. They both take a deep breath.

THOMAS

You seeing anybody?

JOSH shakes his head.

THOMAS

Do you still think about Sarah?

JOSH

Every day.

THOMAS makes a pouting face.

THOMAS

Yeah.

A beat.

THOMAS

You know, you just need to kiss a pretty girl.

JOSH
Haha. Yeah. Something like that.

THOMAS
Get it out of your system.

JOSH
Yeah. It would be nice.

THOMAS
You know I see Sarah all the time.

JOSH
I know.

THOMAS
Yeah.

A beat.

THOMAS
Is that hard for you?

JOSH
Yeah.

THOMAS
You know she's seen a couple of people since you
broke up. It's not just Stephen.

JOSH
I know.

THOMAS
Yeah. I mean what happened with the last guy she was
seeing before Stephen, Mike, what happened was . . .

JOSH
You know. I don't really need to hear about it.

THOMAS
Oh. Yeah. Yeah. No definitely.

A beat.

JOSH
I have an audition this week.

THOMAS
Oh yeah? Great! What's it for?

JOSH

Some indie film thing.

THOMAS

What are you reading? Have you seen the script?

JOSH

They sent me sides but I haven't read them yet. I'm sure it's fine.

THOMAS

What's it about?

JOSH

Uh. From what I gleaned from the audition notice thing, it seems like a family drama. That sort of thing.

THOMAS

Okay.

JOSH

You writing anything?

THOMAS

Always writing.

JOSH

Good. Anything you're excited about?

THOMAS

Yeah a few things. I'm writing a short film script right now about living in the city. Sort of like "Kids" but a little bit older cast.

JOSH

Cool. That's intense. Or "Kids" is intense.

THOMAS

Well it's not too much like "Kids". That's just sort of an inspiration.

JOSH

Gotcha.

A beat.

THOMAS

So you think about Sarah a lot?

JOSH
Every day.

THOMAS
Do you still love her?

JOSH
Sure.

THOMAS
Yeah.

THOMAS gives JOSH a hug.

JOSH
It's all good. I'm . . . Well I'm happy to be here.
It's so nice to be in the city and feel the energy
and be around all these people. It's been a lot of
fun so far.

THOMAS
Do you go out?

JOSH
Yeah I try. It'll be nice to go out on this audition.

THOMAS
Yeah man. You just gotta keep working. Just keep on
working and everything else will work out.

JOSH
Yeah.

A beat.

THOMAS
It's so great that you're here. You know there's a
lot of really great people here tonight.

JOSH
Yeah I've met a couple of really cool people already
tonight. Andy? Is that his name? The guy in the
beanie and the uh . . . denim jacket?

THOMAS
Yeah Andy's the man. We used to do a bunch of shows
together in college.

JOSH
Oh nice. Anything I saw?

THOMAS

Ummm. I don't think so. Did you come up when I did "Envisions"?

JOSH

No.

THOMAS

Okay no. Yeah, you wouldn't have seen anything that we did together. We mostly did stuff together freshman year, for the most part.

JOSH

Yeah. I didn't come up until your senior year.

THOMAS

That's right.

A beat.

JOSH

Is he mostly an actor?

THOMAS

I think so mostly, yeah. He's a really talented writer though too. Really weird stuff.

JOSH

Oh yeah? What kind of stuff?

THOMAS

In college we did a really crazy version of "The Iliad".

JOSH

Oh yeah?

THOMAS

Yeah, it was definitely experimental.

JOSH

How so?

THOMAS

It was sort of just . . . I don't know just a lot of weird projections.

JOSH

Hmmmm. Like the beginning of "Persona"?

THOMAS

I don't know. I haven't seen "Persona".

JOSH

Oh it's great.

THOMAS

Bergman, right?

JOSH

That's right. There's a part at the beginning of this kid, it has nothing to do with the rest of the story. I think it might start with just a shot of a large erect penis.

THOMAS

Okay.

JOSH

Yeah. It's been awhile since I've seen it but I remember that part.

THOMAS

They are projections?

JOSH

Yeah, sort of.

A beat.

JOSH

Do you like Bergman?

THOMAS

Love Bergman.

JOSH

Did you ever see "Antichrist"?

THOMAS

Yes. That's Von Trier though.

JOSH

Yes but John Waters once described "Antichrist" that if Bergman went to hell and then came back and made a movie, it would be "Antichrist".

THOMAS laughs.

JOSH

I think it's pretty apt.

A beat.

JOSH
I met Stephanie inside. She seems cool.

THOMAS
She's beautiful huh?

JOSH
Yeah. She's working in a theater?

THOMAS
Yeah. She would be a good connection for you.

JOSH
Yeah. I need to connect with her.

THOMAS
I'll give you her number.

JOSH
Thanks.

THOMAS
No problem.

JOSH
What do you think about . . .

MITCHELL enters from inside. He's very drunk.

MITCHELL
So this is where all the cool kids are.

JOSH
Hey buddy.

THOMAS
Hey Mitchell.

MITCHELL
Are you all smoking pot?

THOMAS
Yeah. You want some?

MITCHELL
I do.

THOMAS unpacks a bag of pot and a grinder. He grinds up some pot.

THOMAS

Sorry, what were you asking?

JOSH

Oh nothing.

JOSH looks MITCHELL up and down.

JOSH

How are you doing tonight?

MITCHELL

Me? I'm good.

JOSH

How's Anna doing?

MITCHELL

(He smiles) She's doing real good.

THOMAS

She's having fun?

MITCHELL

Yes sir.

A beat. THOMAS continues to grind the pot up.

MITCHELL

She's a bit wasted, I would say.

JOSH

How are ya'll getting home?

MITCHELL

We'll take a car.

JOSH

Are you heading to the apartment?

MITCHELL

I think we'll probably just go to her place.

JOSH

Cool.

THOMAS

Are you leaving?

MITCHELL

No, not yet.

THOMAS
Good.

THOMAS pats MITCHELL on the back.

THOMAS
Do you stay at Anna's place a lot?

MITCHELL
Eh. Sometimes. Half and half.

THOMAS rolls a joint.

JOSH
I never learned how to do that.

THOMAS
What?

JOSH
Roll a joint. Mine always come out wonky. They're way too uh fat in the middle.

THOMAS
How do you get to Carnegie Hall?

JOSH
How do I get to Carnegie Hall?

MITCHELL
How?

THOMAS
How does one get to Carnegie Hall?

JOSH laughs.

THOMAS
Practice, my friend.

THOMAS finishes rolling a joint. He passes it to MITCHELL.

MITCHELL
Thank you.

A beat. MITCHELL stares at THOMAS.

MITCHELL
Can I get a light?

THOMAS

Oh! Yeah.

THOMAS digs in his pocket and produces a lighter.

THOMAS

Here you go.

MITCHELL

You're a good man, Charlie Brown.

MITCHELL lights up the joint and takes a drag. He holds it in for a moment and then blows the smoke out.

A beat.

MITCHELL

I love your apartment man.

THOMAS

Thank you.

JOSH

It really is a great space.

MITCHELL

And you've done a lot with it. Lot's of cool artwork, the record player. There's a nice . . . ambience.

JOSH

We still have to get a couch.

MITCHELL

We do. That we do.

MITCHELL takes another drag. He holds it in for a moment and then blows the smoke out. He attempts to pass the joint over to JOSH.

JOSH

Oh. I'm good. I'm drunk.

THOMAS

I mean you don't really smoke a lot, do you?

JOSH

Not much. More in the last month. It's been more plentiful lately.

JOSH winks at MITCHELL.

MITCHELL passes the joint over to THOMAS.

THOMAS
Thank you.

MITCHELL
No, thank you.

A beat. THOMAS takes a drag from the joint.

MITCHELL
What do you guys think of my shirt?

MITCHELL points down at his Hawaiian shirt.

JOSH
It's glorious.

THOMAS
It's a good color for you. What color are your eyes?

MITCHELL
Baby blue, baby.

JOSH
That must be it.

MITCHELL
I'm high.

JOSH
Oh yeah?

A beat.

MITCHELL
I'm high. And I need another beer.

JOSH
(Laughs) Okay.

MITCHELL
Baby Blue is high.

A beat.

MITCHELL
I'll see you cool kids on the flip side. Or in-side.

JOSH
Sounds like a plan.

THOMAS
There's more beer in the fridge.
MITCHELL waves and walks back in.

JOSH
He's fucked up.

THOMAS
Yeah. I'm glad they're taking a car back.

JOSH
I'm glad he has Anna to take care of him.

THOMAS
She's pretty fucked up too it sounds like.

JOSH
She doesn't drink like he does.

THOMAS
Does he drink a lot?

JOSH
Eh . . . not anymore than I do I guess. He just
doesn't . . . carry it as well maybe.

THOMAS
Hmmm.
A beat.

THOMAS
I'm so happy you're here.
THOMAS gives JOSH a hug.

JOSH
I'm happy I'm here too.
A moment passes.

JOSH
Do you have to get back in and see to your guests?

THOMAS

In a little bit. I'm enjoying the uh fall air.

JOSH

It's getting cold.

THOMAS

It is getting cold.

JOSH

Almost winter.

THOMAS

Yeah. Craziiness.

A beat.

They both breathe in deeply. THOMAS takes another drag from his joint.

THOMAS

You're gonna be alright.

JOSH

Hmmm?

THOMAS

With everything. You're gonna be alright.

JOSH

Yeah.

THOMAS

Do you feel that way? Like you're gonna be alright?

JOSH

Yeah. I think so.

THOMAS

Just stay strong buddy.

JOSH

I'm a tough motherfucker.

A beat.

JOSH

No I mean. I'm a tough motherfucker.

JOSH punches himself in the chest three times.

JOSH

I'm a tough tough motherfucker.

JOSH punches himself in the chest again.

JOSH

I am . . .

THOMAS

I know.

JOSH pulls THOMAS into him for a hug. They hug for a moment.

BLACKOUT