

NO ONE GIVES A CRAP ABOUT VH1

A 10 minute Play
by
Jamie Knox

175 State St.
Asheville , NC 28806
512.203.3715
jamiexnox426@gmail.com
jknoxcreative.com

© 2020 Jamie Knox

Cast of Characters

Jayne - 30 something musician, is over the world
Johnnie - 30 something musician, is complacent in the world
Director - 50+, is smarter than the world
Assistant - young, is here

Setting: we open on a bar, after closing, in Austin, Texas, in the year 2000. But it is not 2000, it is 2020. It's still Austin, Texas though, unfortunately.

Scene Only

Lights up on a closed bar in Austin, Texas, twenty years ago. JAYNE is sweeping, listening to a walkman, and singing along. The song is Suzy Boguss' "Someday Soon." JOHNNIE enters during the song. After the last note she opens her eyes and is startled by him.

JAYNE
(singing)

*So blow, you old Blue Northern, blow my love to me.
He's ridin' in tonight from California
He loves his damned old rodeo as much as he loves me
Someday soon, goin' with him someday soon
Someday soon goin' with him Someday soon....*

Oh!

JOHNNIE

Hello. Are you still hearing musicians?

JAYNE

No, man, we're closed

JOHNNIE

Your door is still open

JAYNE

Oversight

JOHNNIE

The open sign, though (*points*)

JAYNE

...

I'm sorry, we're closed. We're not hearing anymore auditions. The owner is gone for the night.

JOHNNIE

Okay. Can I have a beer?

JAYNE

I mean, we're closed

JOHNNIE

Right. Mind if I smoke a cigarette?

JAYNE

...

JOHNNIE

Closed, right.

JAYNE

Go ahead, man. *(Hands him an ashtray)* Here. But just so you know, the security button is right by my finger and so is a gun.

JOHNNIE

Got it. Wild West style. *(gun fingers and "pew pew")*

(beat)

Sweeping?

JAYNE

True story

JOHNNIE

Like MTV. Like the Real World. I auditioned for that show once

JAYNE

Oh yeah?

JOHNNIE

No. Twice. 1998.

JAYNE

Oh.

JOHNNIE

They said if I were a couple years early then I would've gotten cast, but that I'm too normal nowadays

JAYNE

TV is getting so weird

JOHNNIE

I know. MTV plays less and less videos these days.

JAYNE

Ever watch VH1?

Haven't really gotten into it

JOHNNIE

JAYNE

They do a lot of backstory and I like that. Majored in history

JOHNNIE

...

What were you singing?

JAYNE

Suzy Boguss

JOHNNIE

I've never heard of her.

JAYNE

Nashville country. Early 90s. Before Shania Twain ruined it. I'm secretly into it.

JOHNNIE

I'd keep it a secret too

JAYNE

Texas music snob much?

JOHNNIE

Yes. But I don't hate Shania Twain.

JAYNE

No guy hates Shania Twain. *(he chuckles)* I'm Jayne

JOHNNIE

Johnnie

JAYNE

Nice to meet you.

JOHNNIE

You too

...

JAYNE

What kind of beer do you want?

O'Douls
(JAYNE Laughs)
What?
You don't drink?
I don't
But you 'needed' a beer
I never said that. I asked if I could have one
...
Yeah sure. *(She opens two)*
You too? You don't drink either?
No, I do. Just Never tried it before *(tries it)*
What do you think?
It's like you don't get the fun part of beer, like being extra flirty and making bad choices, but at least you're bloated, have bad breath, and pee all the time
That's what I'm talking about! Cheers *(they clank bottles)*
Cheers. Sorry about the owner being gone
Why?

JAYNE

I mean, so you could audition

JOHNNIE

Oh, yeah, but I'm the one that didn't make it on time

JAYNE

You're really late actually. Like hours late. We stopped before we opened the doors

JOHNNIE

I'm not sure I believe that

JAYNE

What?

JOHNNIE

That I was late

...

I'm probably right on time

...

JAYNE

And you're sounding a little creepy.

JOHNNIE

Yeah, I know. But, seriously, do you think there are really accidents?

JAYNE

I saw one today. Bike and flower pot.

JOHNNIE

Sounds dirty.

JAYNE

Sure does.

...

JOHNNIE

I guess you gotta get back to work.

JAYNE

Yeah, this bar ain't gonna close itself. *(beat. Sizes him up then hands him a broom)* So you wanna get not-drunk and sweep with me?

JOHNNIE

Yeah, I'd like that

(They smile romantically at each other. Chemistry and sparks)

DIRECTOR

Okay, cut

ASSISTANT

Cut!

(They part quickly. Sparks gone)

DIRECTOR

Okay, perfect. Perfect.

JOHNNIE

Was it though? It seems a little, "I know you too well" for just meeting each other

DIRECTOR

That's okay. Your fans will love it. "Johnnie and Jayne: The Backstory"

JAYNE

But it's not even how we actually met

JOHNNIE

Yeah. *(to JAYNE)* How did we meet?

JAYNE

Seriously? College. You insulted me. Told everyone I was acting like a little queen

JOHNNIE

I did? I'm funny.

JAYNE

Yeah and for two years everyone called me Queenie. Thanks

JOHNNIE

It was cute

JAYNE

Yeah

JOHNNIE

Okay, so what's up your ass?

JAYNE
(To DIRECTOR)

Are we done here?

DIRECTOR

With this part, yes

JAYNE

Good cuz this script sucks

DIRECTOR
(To ASSISTANT)

Handle her

ASSISTANT

Jayne...

JAYNE

Handle me? I heard that, Tom

ASSISTANT
(*rubbing her shoulders and her arms like a coach*)

Jayne, you are doing so great. We just need a few more shots of you two singing for the video.

JAYNE

Handle me? Just because you wrote a shitty script for a shitty music video...I mean no one gives a crap about VH1!

JOHNNIE

Jayne cut it out

JAYNE

Oh, shut up, John

JOHNNIE

My biblical name, cute

JAYNE

I'm taking five

DIRECTOR

Let's take five

ASSISTANT
(into the megaphone)

Everyone take five

Lights dim. JAYNE and crew exit. JOHNNIE, ASSISTANT and DIRECTOR are on stage. JOHNNIE lights a cigarette. Sits at the bar. Everyone is quiet, afraid to comment.

DIRECTOR
 She might want to get over herself a little. A little bit of local notoriety doesn't make you a movie star.

JOHNNIE
 Hey, Tom, come on. We don't know what's going on...

(JAYNE enters in a fury)

JAYNE
 You know, what, Tom? You can go to hell! You're not fucking, what's his name? what's a, who's a fucking famous director?!

ASSISTANT
 Scorsese

JAYNE
 Shut, up, Matt, I can think for myself. Scorsese. You're not a fucking Scorsese, Tom!

DIRECTOR
 Okay, Jayne. Fine. Can we get these last shots and call it a day, then?

JAYNE
 No, I'm at five. *(Exits)*

DIRECTOR
 Fine. How much longer?

ASSISTANT
 Four and a half minutes

DIRECTOR
 Figures. What the hell is her problem today? Johnnie, what did you do?

JOHNNIE
 What? Why me?

DIRECTOR
 Let's just all do our job.

JOHNNIE

I am here doing my job. That's all we are ever doing now. We do our jobs and we go home

DIRECTOR

Well, I'll tell you I'm getting sick and tired of working with Jaynie Hawkins. I have half a mind to pull the plug on this whole damn project.

ASSISTANT

(nervously)

Come on, Tom, you wouldn't do that...

DIRECTOR

Like hell I wouldn't. I left LA for this very reason. People like her are a dime a dozen and I don't have time for this. You think I want to deal with little divas? Telling me my script sucks. Write your own damn script then! Your audience doesn't want to see some stupid frat party introduction.

JOHNNIE

We were music majors

DIRECTOR

Even worse. Your audience doesn't care how you met competing for first chair in the insert boring school name insert lame mascot marching band...

JOHNNIE

I mean, it wasn't marching band

DIRECTOR

I'm too old for this shit.

JOHNNIE

(to ASSISTANT)

Handle him

DIRECTOR

Funny.

JOHNNIE

Look, I'm sure it's nothing. She's probably just having a bad day and...

DIRECTOR

No, she's a diva. Thinks she's Taylor Swift.

JOHNNIE

Yeah, she doesn't think that...

DIRECTOR

Big deal, so your aunt is Linda Hawkins. Doesn't mean you get to parade around like your God's gift to creation. Thinks she's Beyoncé

JOHNNIE

She 100% doesn't think that...

DIRECTOR

And, I mean, Austin's cute but it's not LA. You all have no idea what that kind of celebrity is like. Different. Ball. Game. You think cuz Sandra Bullock comes to your shows? Drinking your Fiji water...and your stupid...what are they called, *Raw* bars like you're on Santa Monica boulevard.

JOHNNIE

No one here eats Raw bars!

ASSISTANT

I like them. There's one with cashews and pomegranates...

(beat. They're staring at him)

...surprisingly good together

JOHNNIE

Why would that be surprising?

ASSISTANT

(shrugs)

I like Fiji water too.

DIRECTOR

Anyway, you all can just get over yourselves. She think she's gonna get some TV deal out of this? She's washed up. Almost 40 now? Come on. Thinks she's Kacey Musgraves...

JOHNNIE

Tom, shut up. I'll talk to her and figure out what's wrong. It's hot. Longhorns just lost, again. In fact, I'm not sure why people like them so much. I mean, *can* they win a game?

ASSISTANT

Right? It's like, *can* they?

(beat. Man, he's lame)

JOHNNIE

So, maybe it's as simple as that. Or maybe something's going on with her family or her cat's sick. Maybe she burned her neck with the curling iron this morning. Women do that. It's a thing.

DIRECTOR

I know it's a thing

JOHNNIE

Just saying it's a thing.

DIRECTOR

Why are you always taking up for her?

JOHNNIE

I'm not always...

DIRECTOR

As long as I've known you, Johnnie, you've walked on egg shells around Jaynie Hawkins.

(ASSISTANT hands out Fiji waters)

JOHNNIE

I have not

DIRECTOR

You in love with her or something?

(ASSISTANT nervously laughs)

JOHNNIE

No

DIRECTOR

Is that it? You've been in love with her all these years?

JOHNNIE

No!

DIRECTOR

Maybe it's about time you told her all about your undying love, huh? Everyone in the world thinks you're a couple anyway. Then we can all twirl around with glee and go home.

ASSISTANT

Want coffee? *(off)* Karen, three coffees please!

JOHNNIE

Tom, not that it matters, but I'm not in love with Jayne

ASSISTANT

(nervously)

Karen, I think everyone here is dairy free. But, no soy, right? See if there's hemp milk and raw sugar. Or, sugar substitute? What do you want Johnnie?

DIRECTOR

Maybe you should just should run out there and tell her how in love with her you are and be her little cheerleader, and then you both can cartwheel back in here and we finish this thing and go home.

JOHNNIE

Tom I'm not in love...

ASSISTANT

No soy, right? Love handles, am I right? Or, maybe bring some soy too...

JOHNNIE

I don't care, Matt, whatever milk is fine. Tom, what is your problem, man?

DIRECTOR

I'm just saying, maybe we could cue some rain and you could rush out there and grab her shaky little wet hand and place it to your shaky little wet face and then you two could finally kiss each other and we'd all cream our jeans and then we could go the fu...

ASSISTANT

She's pregnant

DIRECTOR/JOHNNIE

What? / What the...?

ASSISTANT

(into the megaphone)

And that's time, people. We're back

(JOHNNIE crosses to ASSISTANT and punches him in the face)

lights down

End of play