**Scene for Scene Cutting Activity:**

Segment from *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* (Revised)

By Adam Long, Jess Winfield, Daniel Singer

ADAM: Can I have some house lights please? [*House lights come up. To an audience member*.] Can I

borrow your program for a sec? [*He grabs a program from a patron, which must contain a list of the plays. If there’s no program, he may consult the* Complete Works *book*.]

DANIEL: What are you doing?

ADAM: I just want to check the list of plays. I think we might have done ’em all already.

JESS: Really?

ADAM: Yeah, see, we did all the histories just now--

DANIEL: The comedies were ‘a lump of hilarity.’

JESS: Okay, that leaves the tragedies. We did *Titus Andronicus* with all the blood--

ADAM: *Romeo and Juliet* we did--

DANIEL: *Julius Caesar, Troilus and Cressida*, right--

JESS: We rapped *Othello*, Lear was in the football game, *Macbeth* we did with Scottish accents. What about *Antony and Cleopatra*?

ADAM: Yeah, I puked on that lady over there--

JESS: Right. *Timon of Athens* I mentioned. *Coriolanus*?

ADAM: Eh...let’s skip it.

JESS: Why? What’s the matter with *Coriolanus*?

ADAM: I don’t like the ’anus’ part. I think it’s offensive.

DANIEL: Okay; so we’ll skip the anus play.

ADAM: And that’s it, right? That’s all of them!!

DANIEL: Wow. Great. [*Checks the time. To audience*.] Looks like we can let you go a little early.

JESS: Hey, no, you guys . . . [*Points to a spot in the program*.]

ALL: *Hamlet*!

DANIEL: Oh man.

ADAM: Shakespeare didn’t write Hamlet.

DANIEL: Sure he did.

ADAM: What’s it about?

JESS: You know, the young prince struggling with his conscience after his uncle murders his father?

ADAM: Dude, that’s The Lion King.

JESS: Ladies and gentlemen, thirty-six plays down, one to go. Perhaps the greatest play ever written. A

play of such lofty poetic and philosophical--

ADAM: [*Tugging at* JESS*’ sleeve*] Wait a minute, Jess. Hamlet is a serious, hard-core play, and I’m just

not up for it right now.

JESS: Whaddaya mean? It’s the last one!

ADAM: I know. It’s just that that football game left me emotionally and physically drained. I don’t think

that I could do it justice.

DANIEL: We don’t have to do it justice. We just have to do it.

ADAM: I don’t wanna do it!

JESS: Look, Adam. Our show’s called *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare.*

ADAM: Okay, so we’ll change it to *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Except Hamlet*.

JESS: That’s the most ridiculous thing I’ve ever heard.

DANIEL: Adam, I think all your new little friends would like to see it. [*To audience*.] What do you say, would you like to see *Hamlet*?

[*Audience responds*.]

ADAM: Okay, fine. We’ll do *Hamlet*--

DANIEL *and* JESS: Great—

ADAM: As a two-man show! If you guys feel so strongly about it then you do it. I’m going to hang out

with them. [*Sits next to a random audience member*.] She’s my friend. I’ll sit here and we’ll watch it together.

DANIEL: C’mon. Adam—

[JESS *and* DANIEL *try to pry him loose from the audience member, but* ADAM *starts to get hysterical*.]

ADAM: You can’t make me do it!

JESS *and* DANIEL [*ad lib, to* ADAM.] Let go of her! (etc.)

ADAM: [*To audience member*.] Don’t let go, you’re all I have in the world.

[JESS *and* DANIEL *pry* ADAM *loose from the audience member and drag him roughly onto the stage*.]

ADAM: Okay, okay, okay! Just don’t touch me.

JESS: Okay, jeez! [*He tosses a now-crumpled wad back to the audience member*.] Here’s your program; sorry, it got kinda trashed. [To everyone.] Right. We start off with the guard scene, so we’ll need Bernardo and Horatio.

DANIEL: Gotcha.

JESS: We’ll need Rosencrantz and Guildenstern too.

DANIEL: Nah, they’ve got their own play, we can skip them. [*While they’re distracted,* ADAM *sprints toward the exit at the back of the theater.* DANIEL *sees him*.] Hey, where do you think you’re going?!

[JESS *sprints after him.* ADAM *grabs and audience member, preferably a youngster.*]

ADAM: I’ll kill little Timmy! I’ll kill him!

JESS: Fine, but I think it’s gonna turn him off to live theater.

[ADAM *lets go of his victim and runs out the back of the house*]

JESS: Get back here, you Shakespeare weenie!