

THE POEM CONTEST: THE CAPTURE OF MOSIER VON KIDNAPPER

Screenplay By

Anna Guo, Reena Wang, Amy Qu, Yolanda Li

*Copyright (c) 2023 This screenplay may not be used or reproduced for any purpose including educational purposes without the expressed written permission of the author.*

Scene 1:

INT. NATIONAL POETRY SLAM STAGE-MAINE-DAY

The Host, a young woman wearing a dress shirt and pants, is at the middle of a small stage. There is a small, elegant stand on the side of the stage that holds a gold trophy. The host speaks in a light British accent and smiles at the crowd.

Host

Hello everybody, welcome to our 2022 national Poetry Contest. This year, we are going to let the contestants introduce themselves. So, let's give it up for our constants!

Middle-aged man- Professor Papadopoulos struts in with his nose in the air.

Professor Papadopoulos

(In a very sincere manner, punctuating and putting emphasis on the words revolved on his talent and his superiority.)

Good dayeth everyone, I'm Professor Papadopoulos. I know, my name might ringeth a bell, I have won, hmm, what was it again, 46 international competitions. This year's trophy is quite blandeth compared to the others, but thy will accept it on thy magnificent trophy shelf. I know, I normally do not competeth with such armatures, but thou hast to do some charity work occasionally.

Mosier von Kidnapper

My name is Mosier von Kidnapper, and I am from this place in the middle of the ocean where people like to

kidnap each other and bury people in corn fields. I cannot wait to steal... I mean win this trophy. Just imagine my room with this in it, it will be glittery, and all my fellow kidnappers will get jealous and then I will be able to kidnap them too (Lost in thought) I have always wanted a reason to get rid of those people. Look around Oooh look at all these people they will make such good victims... I mean fellow contestants.

Betty

Ice Cream is so COOL and awesome! Oh, hi everyone! I'm Betty, and I hope you guys vote for me in this poetry contest thingy! In fact, if you guys vote me the winner, I'll buy all of you guys' ICE CREAM. Hmm, how much ice cream can I buy with a quarter? Anyways, hope you vote for me, bye! I scream for ice cream!

Western Guy

Howdy Yall, I'm Western guy. I live on the prairie in the land down under. That's Right, the South, BABY! Coming here has been a long hard journey, so let's hope I make the most of it...

Looks sharply from left to right.

Western Guy

And let's hope We won't run into any wild boars.

Precious

Oh, look at my perfect hair and these fabulous nails... Hi everyone, I'm Precious, why am I named that? Well, my parents took one look at that beautiful face of mine and decided to name me the beautiful Precious! OMG! What kind of hairstyle is that?

Points at a random person in the theater.

Precious

YOU! Yes you! It isn't good to try and copy an animal's sense of style. You can stop pretending, everyone knows that you were trying to copy the hairstyle of a hipster alpaca. And that is like **so** last season. None of you people have good fashion sense, Ugg. I cannot believe that I must perform my superior poem to all of you. I mean just look at that disgusting shirt you are wearing.

The host pushes Precious off stage.

Host

All right everybody, now that our contestants have introduced themselves, we're going to give them 15 minutes to get to know each other. See you back here in 15 minutes!

Scene 2:

INT. BACKSTAGE/DRESSING ROOM - MAINE - DAY

Betty and Professor Papadopoulos enter.

Professor Papadopoulos  
What a serine roometh.

Betty  
I scream for ice cream!

Professor Papadopoulos  
Ugh, must I shareth a room with thee?

Betty  
Yup, life's great, isn't it?

Professor Papadopoulos  
Hm, well don't expecteth me to try to "get to know  
thou" I shalleth do a practice poemeth. Hm, yes, I  
woneth competitioneth #28 with this one.

Clears throat.

Professor Papadopoulos  
Out out, by Robert Frost...

Professor Papadopoulos freezes.

Betty  
Frosty the snowman, had a jolly happy soul...

Betty freezes.

Professor Papadopoulos  
Doing a man's work, though a child at heart, he  
saw all spoiled. Don't let him...

Professor Papadopoulos freezes.

Betty

Take my ICE CREAM!

Professor Papadopoulos

Cut my hand off, the doctor when he comes.  
Don't let him sister. So, but the hand was gone  
already.

Professor Papadopoulos turns on fairy lights.

Betty

FAIRY!

Professor Papadopoulos

Pardon meth?

Betty

Fairy!

Professor Papadopoulos sniffs.

Professor Papadopoulos

I ameth no fairyeth; these are fairy lights.  
Think of them as my auraeth, my essence.

Betty

Your assence?

Professor Papadopoulos

Eh-sense

Betty

Ah-sense

Professor Papadopoulos

No! Sayeth eh

Betty

Eh

Professor Papadopoulos

Sense

Betty

Sense

Professor Papadopoulos

Essence

Betty

Assence

Professor Papadopoulos rolls eyes.

Professor Papadopoulos

For Shakespeare's sake, thou art hopeless, tis like a  
halo, but across thy entire body.

Betty

You have a hobo across your entire body?

Profesor Papadopoulos  
Noeth, a halo. Halo, Hobo.

Professor Papadopoulos holds out both his hands, symbolizing  
halo and hobo, Betty grabs the hobo hand.

Betty  
Hobo!

Professor Papadopoulos  
All right, that's it, get out, get outeth of my  
dressing roometh, out I telleth thou, OUT!

Professor Papadopoulos pushed Betty Off stage.

Betty  
Hey!

Scene 3:

INT. PRECIOUS' /WESTERN GUY'S DRESSING ROOM/BACKSTAGE - MAINE -  
DAY

Precious and Western guy enters.

Precious



Oh my god this manicure, it's so great, hmm, doesn't really go with my dress though.

Western Guy

Howdy lady, precious, isn't it? IT'S QUITE NICE HERE, BUT I CAN'T quite get USED TO IT, WHEN DUTY CALLS, I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE SOUTH.

Precious

But I thought you were from the west, anyways, what is UP with that UGLY HAT! Like it's so last season, and it totally does not fit your skin tone. Where do you shop anyways?

Western Guy

Uh, well I'm from the south, they just call me Western guy, it has more of a ring to it you know, WESTERN GUY!

Does jazz hands.

Western Guy

Doesn't it sound so much better?

Precious rolls her eyes.

Western Guy

Also, these hats are pretty nice.

Western Guy takes off sun hat and studies it.

Western Guy

I mean It blocks your face from the sun, and it looks pretty good ain't it, I mean, what else do you need a hat to do. It sure has served me well. Would you like to try it on?

Precious

Uh, no. Ugh, I don't spend time on unfashionable freaks like you. Why don't I say my wonderful poem.

Precious sweetly clears throat.

Precious

I am so beautiful and pretty, look at my purple NAILS, they really are fashionable and pretty, just like the rest of meeeeeee!

Western Guy does cuckoo hand gesture.

Western guy

Um, Ma'am, are you sure that's your poem.

Precious

Yeah of course it is, and it is going to win by so many. By the looks of you, you're astounded by my wonderful poem.

Western Guy

Sure, ma'am doesn't look like I can change your mind anyways.

Precious

Uh, why am I spending time with you anyways? Everything  
you're wearing is so OUT!!

Precious storms away. (Exit stage)

Western Guy

OUT? SHOULD I BE GOING OUT, WELL DUTY CALLS

Gallops of stage.

LIGHT CUE: Lights fade

Scene 4:

INT. BACKSTAGE/TROPHY ROOM - MAINE - DAY

LIGHT CUE: Lights come up on Mosier V. Kidnapper Stealing Trophy

**Suspense sound affect**

Mosier von Kidnapper

Ah, the moment I've been planning for years. This is  
the day of my glory! At last, I have stolen gold, the  
next step of my brilliant plan will be to kidnap that  
idiot immature child called Betty, she's easy to mess  
around all I need to do is steal all her Ice cream...

Evil villains laugh.

Mosier von Kidnapper

I'll get to all those foolish ugly contestants eventually, especially the one who thinks that kidnapping is "out" and spends all day making her nails clean and her gems shiny, I mean really don't you all agree that I am the only one who should have treasure, things that cost lots of money will not fall into the hands of someone like her...

Rolls eyes.

Mosier von Kidnapper

And that hideous man who likes to argue with annoying Ice cream fans like Betty has he even got any brains inside his head, does he have to talk and talk and talk and talk about his "professional" vocabulary I mean yawn. Must he always think he is soooo talented, even my stupid fellow kidnappers know that I am the best kidnapper that has ever existed in the world!! And then all his fans go dancing around him cheering and filming him, but who's the one who got fellow kidnappers that are so clumsy and useless that they turn into traitors! Who's the one who got kidnapped by his ally...

Stage Wisper.

Mosier von Kidnapper

But of course, managed to escape...

Normal voice.

Mosier von Kidnapper

Who lost 786 contests thanks to a certain arrogant guy that loves professional vocabulary. Who's the one who must wear a mustache and a wig for 10 whole years!! ME THATS WHO. People should be dancing and cheering around me! But now at last I have what I am waiting for, GOLD!! What do I have to hide anymore I should be proud! I shall let them bathe in my glory! I should let the world know that I, Mosier Von Kidnapper Has Beaten Professor Papadopoulos and has won at last the trophy! I don't have to hide anymore!

Mosier von Kidnapper rips fake mustache off.

Betty

Oh my god, that Professor Poopy-dopoulos has some Nerve. Kick me out of his room. What gives HIM the right to kick me-heyyy... Where did your beard go?

Mosier von Kidnapper

It's a moustache!!!! And by the way Betty I'm going to kidnap you and steal your ice cream, come with me..

Grabs Betty by the arm. Processes what he heard. Picks up moustache and sticks it sideways

Mosier von Kidnapper

I mean, what did you say about my moustache? There's nothing wrong with my moustache, I mean beard, I mean moustache.

Betty

Hey! Why do YOU have the trophy?

Betty gasps.

Betty

YOU WERE GOING TO STEAL IT! AND DID I HEAR YOU SAY YOU WERE GONNA STEAL MY ICE CREAM!!! NO ONE STEALS MY ICE CREAM!!! DIE!

Betty wrestles with Kidnapper for trophy.

Kidnapper

Stop crying you whiny little brat SHH shut up! I command you to stop talking right now or else you're going to ruin my brilliant plan, HEY STOP THAT!

Betty snatches trophy.

Western Guy

What's going on Here, someone tryin' to steal the trophy? Goody, I get to arrest someone. WESTERN Guy Fightin' Crime.

Precious

Are babies and kidnappers getting in fights now? OMG, I want to join in, attention people I have an important announcement. Babies fighting with kidnappers are IN!

Western guy Pulls Mosier von kidnapper away.

Mosier von kidnapper

This is not the end!!!! I will come back to kidnap you  
all!!

Precious

Kidnap us all?? That is so out. Get away from me. Hey,  
you're blocking the light, I need to shine to my full  
potential. Ugg.

Host

Announcing... Western Guy

Everybody except Western Guy exits.

Western Guy

Howdy ya'll, I'm going to preform something I made  
myself, called Life on the Prarie Living on the  
prairie is tough that's for sure, but through my ages  
I found the cure. Prairie life ain't easy that's what  
my mama told me, but then I found poetry. All these  
words coming out of my mouth, it's scaring all those  
animals out here in the south. I've been killing boars  
my entire life, do those exist in the south? You can  
ask my wife.

LIGHT CUE: Lights fade on western Guy. Everybody except Host  
enters.

Scene 5:

INT. BACKSTAGE/DRESSING ROOM - MAINE - DAY

LIGHT CUE: Lights come up on Precious, Western Guy, Professor  
Papadopoulos, and Betty.

Western Guy

I've done it again; western guy's become too great to  
handle. First, I save everyone from that Italian guy,  
Then, I preform the best Poem ever third, I make all  
those boars perish.

Lifts hand into the air.

Western Guy

Hmm, we should have something to drink, anyone got juice?

Betty

I have cherry Kool-Aid!

Western guy

It's quite good, you, what's your name, do you want  
some? Hehe- UH OH.

Betty exits stage to get cherry cool aid.

Western Guy accidentally flips the drinking glass over, spilling  
the cherry Kool-Aid all over Precious's dress.

Host

And, announcing... PRECIOUS!

Western guy



Oops, I'm just gonna, um, like, go now.

Precious

You stay right here!

Slowly push Western Guy offstage.

Precious

OMG would you look at my dress, I'm distressed it's a mess! Now I smell like cherry instead of rosemary, well at least I don't stink like the prairie. The only good thing about you is the reflection of me in your eyes, you're absolutely disgusting, take it from me I'm wise. What's so cool about killing boars you just stab them with a knife, I mean dude, get a life.

Precious Storms offstage.

Host

Wow... that was quite something precious,  
Announcing... Professor Papadopoulos

Scene 6:

INT. NATIONAL POETRY SLAM STAGE - MAINE - DAY

Professor Papadopoulos enters.

Professor Papadopoulos

Helloeth, everybody, today I shalleth be performing a Shakespeare classic, the poemeth from Macbeth. Out, out, brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow, a poor

player, that struts and frets his hour upon the stage,  
and then is heard no more. It is a tale Told by an  
idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing.

Fairy lights open.

Host

Thank you, Professor, now announcing BETTY!

Professor Papadopoulos exits.

Scene 7:

INT. NATIONAL POETRY SLAM STAGE - NEW YORK - DAY

Betty

Hi everyone, it's me, Betty, remember? So, I'm  
performing this awesome poem written by me!

Stage whisper.

Betty

And it's gonna be way better than Professor Poopy-  
dopoulos's lame Shakespearean one.

Normal voice.

Betty

So, it's called, well, it doesn't have a name yet,  
but it's by me! \*Clears throat Ice cream, it's better  
than cheese, take one bite and get a brain freeze.  
It's melty, cold, and really sweet. It's super-duper

fun to eat. Professors are STUPID, if you know who I mean. But unlike literature, ice cream's fit for a queen! Shakespeare is BORING, you hear me Papadopoulos? All those big words, metropolis, acropolis. And stealing the trophy, that's low dude, the opposite of ice cream, which is the awesomest food. And that's why ice cream's the best, you can take a bite, but save me the rest! Thanks, everybody! That's my poem! Bye!

Betty skips offstage.

LIGHT CUE: Lights fade

Scene 8:

INT. STAGE - NEW YORK - DAY

LIGHT CUE: Lights come on Host with Precious and Papadopoulos  
behind

Host

Welcome back everybody. Our judges have finally made their decision. And the winner is...

Professor Papadopoulos

I know, I know, I hast woneth againeth. I'd likeeth to thanketh my family, andeth many friends, although heaven knoweth they didn't do mucheth. I, Professor Papadopoulos, hast won competition #65...

Host

Actually, the winner is... Precious!!!

Professor Papadopoulos grabs the card away, reads it and drops it to the ground. Precious catches it before it falls to the ground. Host exits.

Precious

See, I knew I was going to be the winner. Who wouldn't want to hear a poem about my wonderful nails, aren't they beautiful! Wait, did I do my poem? Oh well, shower me with rose petals everyone, wait don't do that. Rose petals don't go with my dress.

While saying her line, Precious throws the envelope into the crowd with "grace".

Professor Papadopoulos

The godseth hast placed a curseth on me, thy shall never telleth of the dreadful incident of todayeth, my forever winning streak has been broken down by the godseth of this world.

Freezes. Betty enters.

Betty

Hi everybody! Oh, did I miss it? Oh well, I guess no one's getting any ice cream today!

Freezes. Professor slowly creeps of stage to change into Western Guy.

Precious

This nail polish is so great. Noooo OMG! I can't believe I chipped a nail. UGG.

Freezes

Western guy

Who wo... oh, um it's you again Hehe, well, Duty calls I  
have to lgo back to the Prarie soon!

Pulls of hat and kneels on one knee with hat. Freezes

Mosier Von Kidnapper

No prison can keep me forever! I will kidnap you all!

Mua ha ha ha!

Freezes. Everyone unfreezes and bows as a group

CREDITS:

CREDITS TO ROBERT FROST FOR THE POEM OUT OUT

CREDITS TO William Shakespeare FOR THE POEM FROM THE SPEECH  
TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW