

Johnny Mercer Was Here

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A 10-minute play

By Jarred Corona

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS:

MIKEY - A Savannah College of Art and Design student, a young composer/lyricist and writer

MADDIE - Another SCAD student, an aspiring actress

JOHNNY MERCER - The ghost of the famous songwriter who possesses Mikey

JUDY GARLAND - The ghost of a famous actress who possesses Maddie

#### A NOTE ON CASTING:

The actor who plays Mikey also plays Johnny.

The actor who plays Maddie also plays Judy.

There is no need for either actor to pull out an impression of either Johnny or Judy, though it is welcome. Nor are you required to attempt a Transatlantic accent. However, when possessed, they should both carry themselves and their voices differently than they do as Mikey and Maddie.

A // in the middle of a line indicates that the next speaker should start talking.

At Rise: We're at a ice cream parlor well after closing time. It's rather empty.

Two college students enter.

MADDIE

You gonna make me an ice cream?

MIKEY

Leo's one condition on letting us in was no ice cream.

MADDIE

Really?

MIKEY

Yeah.

MADDIE

Ugh. It's sort of creepy in here, all empty like this.

MIKEY

I think it's romantic.

MADDIE

You probably think the unending roadwork on 16 is romantic. You gonna write a song about it? "Construction takes you straight down thirty-seventh where Spanish moss greets you to the southern heavens?"

MIKEY

Come up with that just now?

MADDIE

I've been workshopping it all semester. There's an entire SCAD class on how to make fun of you.

MIKEY

Wow. Guess they're dissatisfied with owning half the city; now they've gotta own me.

MADDIE

So why are we here?

MIKEY

I'm glad you asked! Good girl.

MADDIE

I will murder you dead if you call me that again.

MIKEY

Right. Well: Johnny Mercer was here.

MADDIE

Who?

MIKEY

Johnny Mercer.

MADDIE

I'm not deaf. Who is that?

MIKEY

Only the greatest banana to ever come out of Savannah.

MADDIE

You like sports?

MIKEY

No. It was a joke because he's a guy. You know. Banana. Whatever. He wrote songs. He got Oscars for 'em. Who wouldn't want to be him? I figured we come here and his genius would just wash over us.

MADDIE

Sure.

MIKEY

Then I can finally write something as good as him.

MADDIE

Oof.

MIKEY

Oof?

MADDIE

That's a lot, buddy. If you want to unpack it, though, I only take payment in ice cream, so...

MIKEY

A lot? A lot. Huh. A lot. You. Wow. A lot!

In a rush, he's taken over by the ghost of Johnny Mercer.

JOHNNY

You're an actress, yes? You get your jollies on the stage?

MADDIE

Jollies?

JOHNNY

Have you accepted Dame Judy Garland as your Lordess and Savior?

MADDIE

Why are you talking like that?

JOHNNY

Sugar, this is my voice. Never you mind that a single bit! How does the trolley go?

MADDIE

Electricity?

JOHNNY

I've never been so disappointed in a young dame. C'mon, m'dear! Actress. Trolley. How does it go?

MADDIE

Splat?

JOHNNY

Splat?!

MADDIE

I don't know! A trolley is a train, right? You're doing your Savannah trivia? We're in the dark and you're talking about that awful train incident.