

BOTH STAGES

LIGHTS up on both stages.

We are in the past and the team is fresher, keener, tidier, acting much younger. The control room is cleaner. There is no WHITE or cage. A different Red is in the team. VÖR watches. They are all frozen, held on pause.

SOUND ONLY

ERIS: Is this it?

VÖR: Yes... That's it, we'll watch from here.

TIW: No. This is inadmissible, I've already been punished for this. Wrongfully.

VÖR: Be quiet. Play.

Y(OUNG) SOPHIA is in her room (WHITE with colourful clothes). On her desk she has paper, colouring pencils, crayons, etc. There are a few books lying around and there are stuffed toys lined up against the wall. She is walking slowly around trying to decide on what to do.

She looks at the books, the art materials, the soft toys, repeating this before settling on the art materials. Her actions are aligned with the NUMINA commentary.

ULLR behaves a little differently at this time, keeping up a quiet running commentary in the background on whatever Y SOPHIA is looking at or doing. This can be improvised to fit with whatever SOPHIA is doing. The others will talk over him throughout.

The rest of the NUMINA talk is rapid and overlapping until it slows.

ULLR: There are books, books are fun to read. That book I haven't read. I don't want to read now. I do want to read now. There is paper and pencils and crayons and it is fun to make things. I want to make things. There are toys and I like playing with toys. Making up stories is fun. (Etc - this keeps running until instruction to stop).

TYCHE: Stick a crayon up your nose. It'll be fun.

OGHMA: Do not do that. It will go right up to your brain and you will die.

TIW: Read a book. That one. You've read it before, so you know what's happens, which is good, and it's a nice story and you like reading the same stories over and over as they make you feel good and safe.

TYCHE: You want to know what it feels like to have a crayon up your nose. How far will it go?

OGHMA: You will get into trouble, your mum will shout at you. Do something else.

BRIGID: Don't do something you've done before, do something new. Use those new pencils, do a drawing.

TIW: (To LILITH) Back me up. (To Y SOPHIA) Re-read your book, it's your favourite. Then do your homework like you've been asked to do.

LILITH: You want to read...

BRIGID: Violet, no! Come on, something new, please?!

TIW: No, we're reading the book. Then homework.

BRIGID: If I hear that story one more time...

TIW: Pick up the book. Read for 5 minutes...

OGHMA: Reading that book makes you feel good and your mum and dad like you to read and if they come up and see that you're reading, they'll be nice. Doing your homework would be better as they asked you to do that.

TYCHE: Boring! If we're not doing crayons then... draw on the walls! Go on, no one will know.

BRIGID: C'mon Lil. Back me up.

TYCHE: That one... just see what it feels like in your nose, then write your name on the wall.

LILITH: (After looking between **BRIGID** and **TIW**). You have the urge to make a picture. A quick one, one that your mum and dad won't see. (At the glare from **TIW**) Then you will do your homework. You have plenty of time.

BRIGID: Thank you.

OGHMA: You've not been upstairs long. They're not likely to check on you for a while. Be quick.

BRIGID: Grab the paper...

*Y SOPHIA gets paper and pencils ready and stares at the paper. **TIW** is angry but doesn't intervene.*

OGHMA: Draw a house. You know how to draw a house.

BRIGID: Oh come on! Scribble!

LILITH: (With passion) Scribble!

SOPHIA scribbles wildly on the paper.

BRIGID: Yes!

LILITH: That feels good!

TYCHE: Keep doing this, homework can wait.

*Y SOPHIA then focuses on colouring in the squiggles. As she does so, all the NUMINA move to the wall to watch. **ULLR**'s commentary slows down and stops. Even **TIW** gets sucked in. They are all entranced as she gets lost in her creativity. It's a moment of creative calm.*

*Then **TIW** shakes himself out of the trance and pulls **ULLR** and **OGHMA** away from the wall. He talks to them (silently) angrily, urgently, forcefully. There's the hint of a Hitler speech about him. **ULLR** and **OGHMA** then get ready to enter the scene. **BRIGID**, glancing away from **SOPHIA**, realises what's going on.*

BRIGID: Come on, don't, please. She could be amazing!

TIW: *Could.* We can't risk everything on *could*. Her world is all about science. By the time she's an adult, it'll be a religion.

BRIGID: But she's creative, she's an artist!

TIW: (Gritted teeth) No she is not... (At **BRIGID**'s glance across to **Y SOPHIA**). Maybe she is, Brigid, but we're going to make her into a creative scientist.

NUMINA STAGE

Who fits right in with her world. The decision has been made. (To **OGHMA** and **ULLR**) Proceed.

OGHMA and **ULLR** enter the scene as **Y SOPHIA** is still stuck into colouring in.

TIW: Good! Good. They are so disappointed in you. You are a failure.

BRIGID: (To **Y SOPHIA**) You feel betrayed, you don't understand why they should stop you from doing things you love.

TIW: (To **BRIGID**) What are you doing?! (To **Y SOPHIA**) You trust they are doing the right thing and do what they ask.

LILITH: You are strong! You can make them proud by working hard.

BRIGID: You hate this!

TIW: Lights.

LILITH: Well that was fun. (To **TIW**) You have a real skill, do you know that? There are very few in our line of work who can actually pull off being a complete twat. But you do it effortlessly. It's a marvel to behold. I am actually welling up here.

TIW is livid. **TYCHE** laughs.

TIW: (To **BRIGID**) What in the seven hells was that?

BRIGID: What?

TIW: What do you mean 'what'?! Disobeying me, going against my orders.

REAL WORLD STAGE

*L***The following is delivered slowly with pauses so the two sides do not talk over each other****

OGHMA: What are you doing? We told you to do your homework.

ULLR: As you can't stop yourself from wasting time, you've given us no choice. You will work here every evening until we believe you have caught up on a lot of wasted time. You need to work, work, work!

OGHMA: This is for your benefit, darling. There is no future for you in playing games, making frankly awful art and telling stories to teddies. Except for a short and painful life living under bridges. Hard work will pay off. Science and maths will pay off. Messing about with crap like this will not.

ULLR: You'll thank us for it one day. You'll see. Now, get on with your homework.

ULLR and **OGHMA** exit. **Y SOPHIA** stares ahead then slumps on the desk.

LIGHTS down.

BRIGID: I have a different way of looking at things. You see things one way, I see them differently. We have the chance to...

TIW: SHUT UP!

BRIGID: ... to support the development of a...

TIW: SILENCE!!

BRIGID: And you're charging in making changes that I think are fundamentally wrong and...

TIW: That's it. You're done. (*Heads to his terminal*)

BRIGID: And someone needs to stand up and say that it's wrong and so that's what I'm doing. I don't think there's anything wrong with that.

LILITH: (To TIW) Come on. Don't do anything stupid (*considers this*)... more stupid.

TIW presses a few things on the screen rapidly.

TIW: Well you're not going to do it again. (*Presses button*).

SOUND: Emergency eviction activated. Red, you have 10 seconds to exit the control room before erasure processes commence.

BRIGID is startled and rushes for the exit to the wings, passing ULLR and OGHMA as they come back into the Control Room.

SOUND: Red is evicted.

There is a pause as everyone takes in what just happened. Then VÖR rushes in.

VÖR: What just happened. Why is Brigid...? What's going on?!

LILITH: I believe it's called being a complete twat. He's very good at it.

TIW: She disobeyed me.

VÖR: You can't evict someone for that!

TIW: I can and I did. We might actually get something done now.

VÖR: (*On screen*) You idiot - you have no idea what you've just done. I am revoking all of your delegated authorities. All requests must now go through me and through... (*indicates screen*) them.

TIW stares at VÖR and then grins in triumph as the LIGHTS go down.