STILL NO IDEA

Story Synopsis: A guide to the scenes and storylines

This is a story synopsis for *Still No Idea*. It is intended as a guide for anyone who would benefit from the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the scenes and storyline of the performance ahead of their visit to the theatre.

Should you have any questions regarding any aspect of *Still No Idea*, please email **boxoffice@royalcourttheatre.com.**

Warning: This document contains a description of the full plot of the performance.

RELAXED INTRODUCTION:

Lisa and Rachael start the performance by explaining that it is a relaxed performance. They tell us that we can respond however we would like to and that it is okay to leave the auditorium and come back as much as we need to.

SCENE ONE – VOX POPS:

Lisa and Rachael explain that they have interviewed the public to find out what kind of play they should make. They have asked people what kind of play they could imagine Lisa and Rachael being in. They have asked what kind of characters they should play and what their relationship would be.

Lisa and Rachael listen to the recorded interviews on mp3 players through headphones and speak the words they hear. We hear the responses from seven different interviews.

Lots of different ideas are given but several people mention that Lisa has a very cheeky look about her and that she could play someone mischievous like the Artful Dodger. Several people also say that Rachael should take a more background role and support Lisa from behind.

SCENE TWO – TRYING OUT IDEAS:

Lisa and Rachael decide to try out the play ideas they have been given.

In the first idea they try, Rachael plays an abused woman and Lisa plays a friend trying to convince her to leave the man who is beating her. They play the scene very dramatically and it ends because Rachael can't keep a straight face any longer.

The second idea they try is 'Observations on Life'. Lisa and Rachael describe some real life observations they have made. Rachael observes how she felt when the people they were interviewing said inappropriate things, especially things about Lisa. Lisa observes how many people commented on her cheeky face and explains something she calls 'Here Comes Trouble' syndrome.

For their third idea, Lisa and Rachael decide to do a song and dance number. Lisa sings a song called 'Cheeky Face' while Rachael accompanies her on the keyboard.

SCENE THREE – SHOPLIFTING:

Lisa and Rachael tells us about how, when they go shopping together, they sometimes shoplift by dropping things into Lisa's wheelchair. They tell us they only shoplift small things, like socks or earrings, and explain how they get away with it if anyone catches them.

They also tell us how Lisa gets away with a lot of things that Rachael doesn't get away with.

SCENE FOUR – THE PACT:

Lisa and Rachael come up with a new way of creating a play. They decide to go back to their interviews and let the public decide what the storyline should be. They make a pact that they will stick to the storyline the public give them, no matter what.

Lisa thinks she will probably be given the main part and asks Rachael if she will be okay with that. Rachael says she will be as she doesn't mind having less to do.

SCENE FIVE – THE GOOSECHASE:

We hear the recording of the interviews out loud as Lisa and Rachael act out the new play idea. The words are projected onto the back wall of the stage.

The public decide that Lisa and Rachael are unlikely friends. Rachael is shy and Lisa is bubbly. Lisa is rich and Rachael is poor. Lisa asks why her character is the rich one and the public say it is because she is a wheelchair user so it makes the characters more equal if she is rich. Lisa is unsure about this but they carry on.

In the story, Rachael's character goes on a big adventure. She has an accident and goes to hospital where she meets a handsome doctor. She's a bit worried about him, so has him investigated. They fall in love and we see them going on lots of amazing dates. She introduces him to her family and discovers that he used to be in a relationship with her sister. They argue and her sister goes missing. She decides to investigate her sister's disappearance.

Lisa does not have much to do in the story. She makes a phone call to an investigator and then, later, makes a phone call to an undercover agent. She does not even leave her luxury apartment.

Lisa stops the play because she has not been included in the story. Lisa and Rachael talk about how different the story has turned out than how the public said it would.

SCENE SIX – WOW FACTOR:

Lisa and Rachael tell us about something they call the Wow Factor. The Wow Factor is when someone does, says or reveals something that other people don't really know how to respond to, so they just say "WOW".

SCENE SEVEN – WELL ESTABLISHED CONTINUING DRAMA:

Rachael says that if Lisa wants to have a main part in their play, she should write it herself and base it on what she knows. Lisa and Rachael act out a story about 'Lisa the Actress'.

Lisa the Actress gets a phone call from her agent telling her she has an audition for a part in a well established continuing drama. Lisa the Actress gets the part and is really happy. She meets lots of people at her new job, from the studio manager, to the writer, to the boss, and they are all really excited to have her in the show. They are especially excited that she is not playing a disabled role; they say they think this will change the world.

Time goes by and Lisa the Actress settles into her new job. Five months pass and she visits the boss to ask when she will get her first storyline. She is told to be patient, her time will come.

A year passes and she asks the boss again. Two years, pass. Two and a half years pass. Three years pass. Lisa the Actress starts to doubt herself and her acting talent. She goes to see the boss again and again and is given excuse after excuse for why she has not been given a storyline.

SCENE EIGHT – REHEARSAL ROOM CHAT:

Rachael points out that nine years have passed since they recorded the first interviews. Lisa thinks that maybe things have changed in that time. Disabled people are represented on television a lot more.

They decide to repeat their experiment and interview the public with the same question; "if you could imagine us two in a show, what would it be about?"

We hear the recording of the interviews out loud as Lisa and Rachael act out the new play idea. The words are projected onto the back wall of the stage.

The public decide that Lisa and Rachael should play unlikely friends. Rachael is shy and Lisa is mouthy. The story starts with the news of the death of an old school friend, from whom Rachael and Lisa both receive an odd letter.

Rachael is contacted by another old school friend who has also received a letter. Rachael and the other friend go on an adventure to try and solve the

mystery. They visit a haunted house where sacrifices have taken place. Rachael is possessed by a spirit and is pinned to a flaming pentagram.

Lisa shouts to stop the play. She has been left out of the story again. She is angry and upset and says it does not seem like things have changed after all.

Rachael suggests that maybe it's only Lisa that things haven't changed for and says they should ask Lisa's successful disabled showbiz friends. We hear recordings of the answers given by Mat, Liz, Chez and Simon.

SCENE NINE – DWP STATS:

A series of facts are projected on to the back wall of the stage. The text shows us the names of people, their age and how they died because of benefit cuts, sanctions or other actions by the DWP.

SCENE TEN – REHEARSAL ROOM CHAT:

Lisa and Rachael tell us about their friendship. They tell us how comfortable they are together and how they have the same rhythm in life.

Lisa and Rachael decide that they must try their experiment once more. We hear the recording of the interview out loud as Lisa and Rachael act out the new play idea. The words are projected onto the back wall of the stage.

The public decide that Lisa and Rachael are friends. Lisa isn't as nice as she seems and she often gets Rachael in trouble. In the story, Lisa pretends to buy a Big Issue from a homeless person but she is actually buying drugs. A policeman turns up and Lisa puts the drugs in Rachael's bag so that she doesn't get caught.

Rachael has her bag searched when she reaches work that day. The drugs are found and she is suspended from her job.

Lisa receives a phone call letting her know that Rachael has been suspended from work. It is revealed that Lisa is actually an undercover cop who was in the middle of a major drugs bust. Lisa acts out a gritty scene in which she explains how her cover has been blown.

The scene finishes and Rachael is excited that Lisa has finally been given a complex character and a good storyline.

Lisa and Rachael reveal that the final scene was created by disabled people.

Rachael thinks this is a good outcome to their experiment and says that we just need to make sure more disabled people are put in positions of power.

Lisa is annoyed, upset and frustrated. She says that this is not a good outcome and explains that lots of disabled people are struggling just to live, let alone to get into positions of power. Lisa is frustrated because people keep telling her she's in the story but she knows she isn't.

Lisa tells us, "The only thing I knew when we first started to make this was that I didn't want to make a show about disability and here I am doing exactly that. I do it too. Back to the only story I can tell..."

SCENE ELEVEN – FINALE SONG:

Lisa sings a reprise of her song, 'Cheeky Face', and Rachael joins in. The lyrics are different this time and now reflect everything Lisa and Rachael have learnt during their journey.

CURTAIN CALL

THE END