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Advanced Directing 329
Production Book 3

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Naomi

Numbers for Naomi are in red

Physical:

Age: 59- Naomi is the mother of a son who is 34 so Naomi had him around 23, which is a common age for mothers in 1954. (1)

Gender: Female

Race: German heritage

Height: 5'4

Weight: 160

Hair/Eye Color: Gray Hair, Brown Eyes

Musculature: average build, average strength.

Internal/ External Rhythms: ever changing

Body Type: A little extra

Distinguishing features: mole under her left eye

Clothing: A Mumu of eccentric design, high heeled boots of clashing color, costume or macaroni/ handcrafted jewelry, glasses, and a hat. (3)

Emotional:

Strengths: organization, teaching, conversation starting, and creative.

Weaknesses: Her ever changing emotions make it hard to deal with things, uncensored, and brutal.

Needs: Adoration, friendship, acceptance.

Coping Mechanisms: cope? Naomi doesn't cope.

Psychological:

Types of thinking: Her way or the high way. Naomi suffers from an unnamed mental illness. Her traits seem to lead to possibly having dysphoric mania.

Personality traits: changes emotion at any moment, very defensive, and doesn't respond well to others sadness. (4)

Moral fiber/ Coding: Follows her own sense of right and wrong

Intellectual:

Natural and Learning intelligence: Very smart and a quick learn but you wouldn't know due to her mental illness.

Education Background: graduated from high school

Social:

Economic class: higher middle class

Decorum: Naomi thinks she is very dignified

Occupation: retired school teacher (5)

Nationality: American

Ethical/Religious Beliefs: Atheist

Political Beliefs: liberal

Initial Character Mood Intensity:

- Heart beat- 70 bpm
- Perspiration- light
- Stomach Condition- full
- Muscle Tension- relaxed
- Breathing- light and relaxed

Ending Character Mood Intensity:

- Heart beat- 160 bpm
- Perspiration- heavy
- Stomach Condition- hungry, but only for something sweet
- Muscle Tension- beginning to relax due to change of mood (6)
- Breathing- a little out of breath, deep breaths

Relationships:

John is her son and Johnna is her daughter in law. She also has several “imaginary” friends that appear throughout the scene.

She has known John since he was born and has known Johnna since she started dating John in college.

Naomi has the highest rank status in her mind and also because John and Johnna also have a fear of her giving her that status.

Objectives:

- Overall: To have a nice afternoon with John and Johnna
- Unit 1: To inform John and Johnna what each room is for.
- Unit 2: to remove John and Johnna from the couch, so she can sit there
- Unit 3: to entice her friends to come out into the living room
- Unit 4: to demand Johnna to explain who she is.
- Unit 5: to identify out how to have a conversation with her.
- Unit 6: to rebuke the comfort from Johnna about seeing a therapist
- Unit 7: to pressure John to dress like her
- Unit 8: to attempt to cope

Language: Christopher Durang writes Naomi in a way that her eccentricity fully shines in the words and doesn't fully rely on physicality or actor choices. She has a very casual word choice and also uses swear words to punch certain points. The way it's written a long with the things she talks about reveals that she is very cultured, smart, and deranged. Also she is written with certain punctuation and statements that make the work for the actor very easy to understand her impulse control

Johnna

Numbers for Johnna in Purple

Physical:

Age: 32- Johnna is the mother of 5 children, deciding the oldest was ten years old would put her being pregnant at 22, a reasonable age for the time.(1)

Gender: Female

Race: German Heritage with hints of British and Irish.

Height: 5'3

Weight: 120

Hair/Eye Color: Blonde Hair, Blue Eyes

Musculature: weak

Internal/ External Rhythms: internal- fast, nervous rhythms, external- normal relaxed rhythms.

Body Type: petite

Distinguishing features: freckles on her nose and always has her nails painted.

Clothing: Black dress as if in mourning, small heeled shoes, along with a string of pearls.(3)

Emotional:

Strengths: motherly instinct, polite, cares for others feelings.

Weaknesses: her children, love, and tolerance.

Needs: Love, respect, and someone to listen.

Coping Mechanisms: brushing it off as something normal, laughing, and being quite.

Psychological:

Types of thinking:

Personality traits: timid, always polite, not the most exciting person to be around.

Moral fiber/ Coding: She has a very deep understanding of what she thinks is right and wrong.

But her weakness of tolerance gets in the way of acting upon these understandings.(4)

Intellectual:

Natural and Learning intelligence:

Education Background: graduated from high school and attended college until she got pregnant with her first child

Social:

Economic class: higher middle class

Decorum: Johnna presents herself as a dignified person, but not always the case on the inside.

Occupation: She was a stay at home mom, but now she is working temp secretary jobs to try and keep her mind off of the children.

Nationality: American

Ethical/Religious Beliefs: Christian (5)

Political Beliefs: liberal conservative

Initial Character Mood Intensity:

- Heart beat: 120bpm
- Perspiration: moderate
- Stomach Condition: has had coffee but nothing else to eat, so a little hungry.(5)
- Muscle Tension: tense

- Breathing: attempting to keep normal

Ending Character mood Intensity:

- Heart beat: 150 bpm
- Perspiration: heavy
- Stomach Condition: all appetite is lost
- Muscle Tension: super tense
- Breathing: heavy

Relationships:

John is her husband and Naomi is her mother in law.

John and she have been together for around 11 years. They met in college and had their first child a year later. She met Naomi for the first time when John proposed to her shortly after they found out she was pregnant.

Johnna has the lowest status in the scene. She is also very timid and shy at time so she easily gives up power.

Objectives:

- Overall: is to get through the visit without any hick-ups
- Unit 1: To keep calm
- Unit 2: To escape Naomi path
- Unit 3: To hold back her emotion
- Unit 4: to bemuse John from leaving her alone with Naomi
- Unit 5: To not lose her temper
- Unit 6: To discover conversation
- Unit 7: to not loss control
- Unit 8: to flee

Language:

Like the rest of the show, Johnna is written in a very conversational matter. Her character becomes very clear through her lines and uses words in ways that seems like she is trying to heal their wound. She is written in a loving format, even when she is insulted, she tries to simply just remove herself from the situation.

John

Numbers for John in Blue

Physical:

Age: 34- John was the father of 5 children, having his first child when he was 24. His mother is almost in her sixties making Naomi 22 at the time of his birth. (1)

Gender: Male

Race: German heritage (2)

Height: 6'0

Weight: 160

Hair/Eye Color: Brown Hair, Brown Eyes

Musculature: average

Internal/ External Rhythms: internal and external- on edge

Body Type: Tall and skinny

Distinguishing features: Mustache (3)

Clothing: A suit which colors clash with the couch. (3)

Emotional:

Strengths: fashion, dealing with his mother, and loving Johnna.

Weaknesses: fashion and understanding when the right or wrong time is.

Needs: Love, friendship, and some sort of authority. (4)

Coping Mechanisms: laughing or dressing like a woman.

Psychological:

Types of thinking: generally positive and level headed.

Personality traits: affectionate, feminine in nature, authoritative.

Moral fiber/ Coding: Knows what's right and wrong. He is willing to stand up for his beliefs.

Intellectual:

Natural and Learning intelligence: Not the smartest person, but can generally figure things out.

Education Background: graduated from high school and graduated from college with a degree in business

Social:

Economic class: higher middle class

Decorum: He thinks he is dignified.

Occupation: a business man

Nationality: American

Ethical/Religious Beliefs: Atheist but pretends to be Christian for his wife

Political Beliefs: a liberal

Initial Character Mood Intensity:

- Heart beat: 100 bpm
- Perspiration: light
- Stomach Condition: satisfied
- Muscle Tension: relaxed
- Breathing: normal

Ending Character Mood Intensity:

- Heart beat: 120bpm
- Perspiration: moderate
- Stomach Condition: satisfied
- Muscle Tension: relaxed
- Breathing: higher pace

Relationships:

John is married to Johnna and Naomi is his mother.

He has known Naomi since his birth and met Johnna in college.

John has power over Johnna but Naomi still trumps him with the mom card.

Objectives:

- Overall: To reveal to mother his cross-dressing tendencies
- Unit 1: To ease mother
- Unit 2: To avoid
- Unit 3: To reveal to mother
- Unit 4: To prepare for reveal
- Unit 5: To gain confidence
- Unit 6: To oppress fear
- Unit 7: To obligate Naomi to understand why he doesn't dress like her
- Unit 8: to flee

Language:

Christopher Durang creates with John with a normal, average joe try speak. He is very straight forward and doesn't speak a lot. When John comes out as a woman, he tries to follow Johnna's characteristics but also keeps him general language. He is the same person, but just different on the outside.

John the Cross Dresser

Numbers in Pink

Physical:

Age: 34-John was the father of 5 children, having his first child when he was 24. His mother is almost in her sixties making Naomi 22 at the time of his birth. (1)

Gender: Male, but dresses as a female to be more like his wife.

Race: German heritage

Height: 6'3 (John will be wearing heels at this point since Johnna is wearing heels, thus will be taller) (2)

Weight: 160 (same as normal John)

Hair/Eye Color: Blonde wig with brown eyes (2)

Musculature: average

Internal/ External Rhythms: both are smooth and relaxed.

Body Type: Tall and skinny (same as normal John)

Distinguishing features: no longer has a mustache! (2)

Clothing: Black Dress, smaller heels, with a String of Pearls- Matching Johnna (2)

Emotional:

Strengths: fashion, dealing with his mother, and loving Johnna.

Weaknesses: fashion and understanding when the right or wrong time is.

Needs: Johnna and acceptance, (3)

Coping Mechanisms: smiling

Psychological:

Types of thinking: whatever Johnna would be thinking.

Personality traits: whatever Johnna is expressing at the time.

Moral fiber/ Coding: whatever Johnna would have.

Intellectual:

Natural and Learning intelligence: see John

Education Background: see John

Social:

Economic class: higher middle class

Decorum: Finds himself/herself dignified.

Occupation: business man

Nationality: American

Ethical/Religious Beliefs: Atheist

Political Beliefs: Liberal

Initial Character Mood Intensity:

- Heart beat: 120 bpm

- Perspiration: light
- Stomach Condition: satisfied
- Muscle Tension: slightly tense
- Breathing: higher pace

Ending Character Mood Intensity:

- Heart beat: 160 bpm
- Perspiration: heavy
- Stomach Condition: satisfied
- Muscle Tension: tense
- Breathing: high rate

Relationships:

Naomi is John's mom and Johnna is his/her female idol/wife.
He/she has known Naomi since birth and Johnna in college.
Same status as normal John.

Objectives: see John

Language: see John