

Denise in Office 208

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Main Themes and Dramatic Questions:

Theme: The reality of faith.

Questions Raised: What is God? Are things pre-ordained or is it left to chance? If there is a God, are they inherently good? Is needing a god an innate human characteristic? Is faith absurd inherently? Do we just invent faith to cope with our problems?

Number of Characters/Gender Breakdown: Two, one male one female

Time/Location: Modern Times, middle of the work day, an office building

Genre/Performance Style: Post-Contemporary, Absurdism, Comedy

Denise:

- **Age/Gender:** "Middle-aged" (mid 40's), Female
- **Social Status:** The boss
- **Health:** High levels of stress but physically fine
- **Education level:** Unknown
- **Relationships with others:** Wants to help Sam, feels sorry for him, sees him as her way out
- **Objectives, Super Objective, Tactics:** Answer the Letters, keep the world in order, help people. SO: Find peace for herself. Smoking, organizing, stacking, helping Sam, listening to Sam, convincing Sam to take over.
- **How can the above be expressed visually:** Professional attire, but not professionally presented (not ironed, hair not done well, rushed makeup). Timeless silhouettes in classic colors. Nothing too flashy, although the blouse's print can be busy (perhaps a paisley). Low heels, pantyhose, suit skirt, patterned button up blouse, and blazer.

Sam:

- **Age/Gender:** Late 20's, male
- **Social Status:** middle management of a company, aspires to climb the corporate ladder
- **Health:** In good physical and mental condition
- **Education level:** College education (most likely just a 4 year degree)
- **Relationships with others:** Believes Denise to be his boss and so is submissive to her until it is clear she is not and he reveals that he can have fits of emotion and aggression. Confides in Denise. Obviously respects the company he works for.
- **Objectives, Super Objective, Tactics:** Get a signature. Get promoted. SO: Help people. Do whatever Denise says so that he can get the signature he needs. Follow the company's procedures. Accept the responsibility of becoming "god."
- **How can the above be expressed visually:** Professionally dressed, everything pressed exactly right. Perhaps dressed a little too well, with tie clip and everything. Warm, welcoming colors. Pattern of the tie is not too busy and matches well with his dress shirt. Polished dress shoes. Two piece suit, well tailored.

Basic Needs List:

Denise:

Pull/Buy - Dark green skirt suit

Pull - Muted colored Paisley button up blouse (or similar kind of pattern)

Pull - Pantyhose

Pull - Low heel plain dress shoes

Pull - Long Coat

Pull - Ridiculous hat (preferably huge sun hat)

Sam:

Pull - Light gray suit

Pull - Belt (Black)

Pull/Buy/Actor supplied - Light blue gingham dress shirt

Pull - Dress socks (black)

Pull - Dress shoes (black)

Research Images and Sketches

The World/Tone





Denise



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DENISE



Sam



Preliminary Costume Plot

Both characters are on stage the whole time and do not change looks. Right before she exits, Denise will pull a coat and a hat from some drawers and put them on as she exits.