

# RESURRECTION FOR DUMMIES

TEN MINUTE PLAY

**By Rhea MacCallum**

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## **RESURRECTION FOR DUMMIES**

**By Rhea MacCallum**

**SYNOPSIS:** Eddie attempts to bring his father back to life.

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(2 males, 1 either)*

**EDDIE (m)**.....Cary Grant frantic physical comedy tempered by Cary Grant suave smooth grace under pressure. He wears a bright yellow rain slicker and hiking boots. 20s – 30s. *(35 lines)*

**JOE (m/f)** .....A college senior who has worked at the tourist shop for the last five years. Cocky, sarcastic, seen it all and utterly bored by his job. He wears an employee collared t-shirt, khakis and a watch. If played by a female, JOE becomes JENA. *(35 lines)*

**MR. HONG (m)** .....Resurrected skeleton, Eddie’s father, 50s. *(3 lines)*

*(ALL LINE COUNTS ARE APPROXIMATE)*

**SET REQUIREMENTS:** The inside of a Niagara Falls’ tourist shop. Table or counter and stool.

### **PROPS**

- Modern Science magazine
- Large duffle bag
- Two tickets
- Two flashlights
- Bowl
- Skeleton in tattered Chinese garb
- Blanket or sheet
- Book
- Small bottles
- Gold cross

**PRODUCTION HISTORY**

*Resurrection for Dummies* premiered at the Secret Rose Theatre, NoHo Arts District, October 31, 2006, in "I Can't Believe It's Not Horror." It was produced by Fire Rose Productions with the following cast:

EDDIE.....Josh Polizzi  
JOE.....Jose Rosales  
MR. HONG ..... Peter Chen

*Kaz Matamura and Mike Rademaekers, Artistic Directors*  
*Directed by Mallory Garrett*

**DEDICATION**

*For Terri*

**SETTING:**

*The inside of a Niagara Falls' tourist shop. Joe sits on a stool behind a counter that is littered with brochures and tourist information.*

**AT RISE:**

*Lights up on Joe reading Modern Science. Eddie enters carrying a large duffle bag. Out of the duffle bag peeks a tuft of hair or skeletal finger.*

**EDDIE:** Is this where you buy tickets? *(Joe looks up, then finishes reading paragraph.)* For the tour, of the falls?

**JOE:** Yeah. *(Checks his watch as he puts magazine down.)* Last run's about to leave. *(Taking in Eddie's attire.)* I see you came prepared.

**EDDIE:** Yes.

**JOE:** Most people have to rent the slicker. Guess you've been here before.

**EDDIE:** Just once, to claim the body.

**JOE:** Excuse me?

**EDDIE:** My father. He was murdered at the falls.

**JOE:** Oh, dude, I'm sorry.

**EDDIE:** It's okay. You didn't do it... did you?!

**JOE:** No. *(Beat.)* Well, the bus will take you over, let you out. There's a guide who'll point out some highlights if you're interested. Be sure to look for the rainbow.

**EDDIE:** The rainbow?

**JOE:** Yeah, it's there, even at night.

**EDDIE:** Weird.

**JOE:** Yeah.

**EDDIE:** *(Looking at his own map.)* Does the bus take you right up to the Excavation landing or...

**JOE:** It stops at the main landing... *(Beat.)* You have your own map?

**EDDIE:** The bus stops here and—

**JOE:** —as you see the Excavation landing is just north. Not very far.

**EDDIE:** Great. And I should be able to get to the landing before midnight, right?

**JOE:** Definitely.

**EDDIE:** Cause I have to get there before midnight. I need time to set up.

**JOE:** *(Pause.)* You do know you can't camp out over there, right? The bus will be bringing ya back around 12:30.

**EDDIE:** Oh, yeah, I know, I know. I'm not gonna camp out. *(Joe looks at the large duffle bag.)* Oh, no, that's not. It's not camping gear. *(Joe gives him a look of disbelief.)* No, really. *(Unzips bag, revealing skeleton wearing tattered white pants, a red and gold traditional Chinese jacket, matching hat and long braided ponytail.)* It's my father.

**JOE:** Your father.

**EDDIE:** Yeah.

**JOE:** Please. I've seen better skeletons in old Vincent Price movies.

**EDDIE:** But it's really my father.

**JOE:** Sure it is.

**EDDIE:** But—

**JOE:** God, I hate working Halloween.

**EDDIE:** It is!

**JOE:** Just do me a favor and don't do anything weird over there, okay.

**EDDIE:** *(Hesitant.)* 'kay.

**JOE:** You got a flashlight?

**EDDIE:** No.

**JOE:** *(Pulling out a flashlight from behind counter.)* The main lights cut out at midnight, so if you're afraid of the dark we recommend you're back at the bus before midnight.

**EDDIE:** I'm not afraid.

**JOE:** Good for you, but we do require you carry a flashlight at all times.

**EDDIE:** *(Panicked.)* I didn't bring a flashlight. I don't have a flashlight. I have to go tonight and—

**JOE:** You can borrow one for the nominal deposit fee of \$5. For a return of your deposit just come back and see me at the end of the tour. *(Beat.)* Alright then, ten for the ticket, five for the flashlight - it'll be \$15 please.

**EDDIE:** Make it thirty. *(Beat.)* I need tickets and flashlights for two. *(Joe looks around.)*

**JOE:** Two? (*Pause.*) And the other ticket would be for...?

**EDDIE:** My father.

**JOE:** Of course it is. That'll be \$15.

**EDDIE:** But I want two tickets and two flashlights.

**JOE:** Look, if this is a scam for flashlights there's a Shop & Drop just down the road.

**EDDIE:** This is not a scam!

**JOE:** And that's your father?

**EDDIE:** Right.

**JOE:** And he needs his own ticket and his own flashlight.

**EDDIE:** Yes.

**JOE:** (*Moves in closer.*) Where's the camera?

**EDDIE:** What camera?

**JOE:** This is a new Punk'd show or something...

**EDDIE:** There's no camera.

**JOE:** Boys Behaving Badly?

**EDDIE:** I don't know what you're talking about.

**JOE:** Fine. Two tickets, two flashlights. \$30. (*Exchange of tickets, money, flashlights. Eddie collects belongings and exits.*)

**EDDIE:** Thanks!

**JOE:** It's your money.

*Lights out.*

## SCENE TWO

### **SETTING:**

*The sound of the waterfall. Red lighting.*

### **AT RISE:**

*Lights up on Eddie standing over a blanket. He unzips his duffle bag and pulls out Mr. Hong. His attempts at being delicate are met with great adversity. Part of the skeleton gets stuck in the bag. Eddie has to pull the skeleton out with force, skeleton goes flying. Eddie catches and says:*

**EDDIE:** Sorry, Dad.

*Eddie lays skeleton out on blanket. Crosses and uncrosses his legs, puts hands on chest. Tries to make 'Dad' comfortable. Kisses his hand or cheek.*

Won't be long now, Dad.

*Eddie unloads the rest of the contents of his duffle bag. A box of bottles, powders, oils and gold cross. Eddie pulls out a book.*

*Resurrection for Dummies. (Finds place in book.) Conjure of parental unit. Return the deceased to the place where his life was taken. Check. Lay him on familiar material. Check. Encircle deceased with Kyoto powder. (Does so. Sniffs it and coughs, gags.) African ginger. (Same circle. Smells it, likes the smell, tastes it.) Gross! (Spits it out, wipes tongue on shoulder/sleeve.) Pour Mitti Attar oil in bowl. (Beat.) Oh shit! A bowl? (Takes cap off skeleton.) You'll thank me later. (Pours oil into cap.) White Lotus oil. (Puts it in cap.) Invocation powder. (Sprinkles some into cap, spills some and tries to pick it up and get it in the cap.) Onion salt. Onion salt?! Alright. (Puts in cap.) Blood of loved one. (Pulls out knife.) You better appreciate this. (Cuts hand.) Ouch, ouch, ouch, ouch, ouch. (Holds hand close to his chest.) In the eyes. (Drips blood into eye sockets, wipes hand on Mr. Hong's face.) Place Cross of the Ancestors. (Places gold cross on Mr. Hong's heart.) Spread mixture. (Stands up.) Here we go! (Eddie dances circles around Mr. Hong, dipping some of the mixture from the cap as he goes.) Alright.*

*Stops at Mr. Hong's head, puts the cap on the ground, dips fingers and sprinkles blanketed area around Mr. Hong while repeating the chant over and over, building in speed and confidence:*

Here where he was slain  
So shall he arise  
When one is killed in vain  
Not long will he be left to lie

A loved one of true heart  
May seek thy spirit's return  
Back to the life once departed  
A second chance so did they earn

*The chant and sound of the waterfall rise then all noise cuts out – silence. Eddie checks to see if this is working. Nothing. He sighs, then goes back to chanting. Sound of waterfall returns. Chant and waterfall build to a crescendo, a flash of white light, lights out.*

**MR. HONG:** Eddie?

### SCENE THREE

*The tourist shop. Eddie and Mr. Hong enter the shop as Joe sits reading. Mr. Hong is wearing clothing that resembles the tattered attire of the skeleton.*

**JOE:** *(Not looking up.)* I'll be right with you.

**EDDIE:** *(Putting his flashlight on counter. Mr. Hong does the same on the other side of Joe.)* We'd like our deposit money back. *(Joe looks up, falls off stool.)*

**JOE:** Holy...!

**EDDIE:** Our \$10?

**JOE:** You're joking right. I mean...

**EDDIE:** You said if I brought back the flashlights you'd return my deposit.

**JOE:** No... him... how...?

**MR. HONG:** Return deposit.

**JOE:** *(Pulls out cash drawer.)* Here. Take it. Take it! *(Eddie takes his \$10.)*

**EDDIE:** C'mon, Dad. Let's get you home. *(They turn to leave.)* Mom's gonna be so surprised to see you.

**MR. HONG:** I'll say, she's the one who killed me.

*LIGHTS OUT on Eddie's shocked reaction.*

## THE END