

Is There Anybody Out There?

***Aim :** This is a light hearted scene setter for a presentation about the existence of God. It is based on an idea from someone with twin children who had used the illustration of a conversation they may have had in the womb. It is best to use the sketch first and explain the concept afterwards so the audience gradually pick up on the clues as to what's going on (although you can help them do this – see notes).*

Characters :

2 people – any age, either gender

Props/Costumes :

2 chairs/stools

It works well if the actors are in the same plain and neutral colours

A pair of tights (optional, see notes)

***Notes :** The two characters are quite comical as they are chatty, but static in their movements. To emphasise the context we used a sound effect of a heart-beat at the start of the piece, fading out as they began to speak. The two characters also wore a pair of neutral coloured tights on the top of their heads, and sat so they were physically linked, but this is optional depending on the nerve of the participants!!*

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The two characters are sitting on two stools/chairs, as close together as possible. They have little movement apart from their eyes. They spend a few moments in silence, staring ahead.

1) So, what time is it now then?

2) About an hour after the last time you asked.

1) So .. ?

2) 7014 hours – by my reckoning.

1) Oh . . . I thought it was later than that.

2) Well, time doesn't exactly fly in here does it?

1) Oh, I don't know. I like it. I mean it could be worse.

2) I suppose.

1) We're warm

2) Yeah

1) Well-fed

2) Yeah

1) Safe

2) True

1) And we've always got each other to chat to

2) Hmm, well . . .

1) No, I'd be quite happy to stay here, just like it is

2) (*Laughs*) Look, I keep telling you, that's not an option

1) And I keep telling you, I don't see why not.

2) Well, I think that Mother would have something to say about it for a start.

1) Ah, well, that's where we differ again isn't it? I mean – I'm the realist and you're the superstitious one.

2) (*a little frustrated to be going through this again*) Mother does exist

1) If you say so

2) I do

1) And if it helps you to believe in all that, then that's great – if it helps

- 2) Why are you so against the idea of us having a mother? Why is it so impossible for you to consider?
- 1) Look, we've been through this before, every few hours it feels like as you go off on one of your flights of fancy. Look around you. We have everything we need. You agreed, we're warm, fed, safe, content – and how do we manage that? By ourselves. As far as I can see, there's just you and me.
- 2) You are so naïve.
- 1) All right then. This “Mother” – where is she?
- 2) Well. . . she's out there.
- 1) Where?
- 2) Out there – somewhere.
- 1) So, we can't see her?
- 2) Well, no, but we can feel her.
- 1) How?
- 2) Well, I don't know, there's just a sense that she's here, looking after us.
- 1) Well, you might feel that, and like I say, if it helps you, fine, but as far as I'm concerned, it's crowded enough in here with just the two of us, never mind this other supposed presence. . . Is that it then? That's your so-called evidence – any idea what this “Mother” may look like?
- 2) Well, no, not really, although I have heard that we look a bit like her.
- 1) Well, that's not difficult to work out. I mean you're the only living soul I know, and you look exactly like me. Everyone must look the same.
- 2) Yeah, but we don't know that, do we? Don't you ever want to know how we got here in the first place? And what's going to happen next? This “Mother” figure is our best hope of finding out, I reckon.
- 1) Why can't you just be happy that we *are* here, and get on with it?
- 2) No. It's not enough for me. You say “Mother” doesn't exist just because you don't feel that you need her, but all this warmth and food and so on, how do we get that?
- 1) To be honest, I don't really care, as long as it keeps coming.
- 2) Yeah, well I do – and I'm off to find out

Person 2 begins to shuffle as though about to make a move

- 1) What?

2) I've got to see what's out there for myself. I've had enough of being cooped up in here. I'm off.

1) What? You're leaving me?

2) Well, come with me then

1) No, I'm quite happy here thank you

2) I keep telling you, you've got to leave eventually.

1) Oh I know, so you keep telling me. (*Pause as he thinks of an idea*) I tell you what – how about . . .you go out first and check it out.

2) Right, fine, that's good

1) And then, in a couple of hours time . . .

2) You'll come out and join me

1) Well . . .I was thinking more that you could pop back in and let me know what it's like. Deal?

2) Deal.

They shake hands and grin at each other