

PREDATOR AND ALIEN VS. RAMBO AND POWER RANGERS 3-D, PART IV

TEN MINUTE PLAY

By Burton Bumgarner

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SYNOPSIS: A movie patron has the misfortune of sitting next to an annoying, cell-phone-using, soda-spilling, popcorn-squishing moviegoer with personal issues.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

ACTOR 1 (m/f).....Patron waiting for a movie to start. Actor 1 wears a t-shirt beneath a dress shirt, sweatshirt, hoodie or other shirt that is easy to remove.

ACTOR 2 (m/f).....A noisy patron.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The script is written for two male actors. Change pronouns for female actors.

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SETTING:

Two chairs are center stage. These represent seats in a movie theater. Upstage is a prop table with a dress shirt and blazer that Actor 2 will use to become an usher. It also contains drink cups and popcorn bags.

AT RISE:

Actor 1 enters and sits. He (or she) has a box of popcorn and a large drink. He sips from the drink, places it on the floor by his feet and eats popcorn. After a moment, Actor 2 enters talking on a cell phone. Both actors have 3-D glasses atop their heads.

ACTOR 2: *(On phone.)* I'm sorry! I forgot about Mom's birthday! Can't you just buy something and tell her it's from me? *(Steps over Actor 1, bumping him and causing popcorn to spill. To Actor 1.)* Sorry man. *(Continuing on phone.)* Look, just buy her some flowers and sign both our names. I'll pay for half...I don't have time to go get flowers! I'm about to see "Predator and Alien vs. Rambo and Power Rangers 3-D, Part IV"! Do you realize how long I've waited to see this movie?

ACTOR 1: *(Trying to get Actor 2's attention.)* Excuse me.

ACTOR 2: Since "Predator and Alien vs. Rambo and Power Rangers 3-D, Part III"! That's how long! Almost four months! ... It's not a stupid movie full of mindless violence and poor acting! It's a GREAT movie full of mindless violence and poor acting!

ACTOR 1: You're not supposed to use your phone in a theater.

ACTOR 2: *(On phone.)* Hang on a second. *(To Actor 1.)* This is important.

ACTOR 1: Maybe you should go outside and talk...

ACTOR 2: *(Interrupts. On phone.)* What do you mean you already have a gift? ... What's she supposed to do with a silk nightgown from Victoria's Secret? *(Or other lingerie store. Offended.)* That's our mother you're talking about! Return that nightgown and get her some flowers and say they're from me! I'll pay for them! Well, I'll pay for some of them!

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ACTOR 1: Uh ... maybe you should continue your conversation out in the lobby.

ACTOR 2: *(To Actor 1.)* There's a little bit of a family emergency here.

ACTOR 1: I realize that, but maybe it would be better to resolve the emergency in the lobby.

ACTOR 2: *(Looking around.)* No way, man. The theater is full. If I went out in the lobby one of those people in the back would get my seat.

ACTOR 1: But you're not supposed to talk on your phone in a movie theater.

ACTOR 2: Why not?

ACTOR 1: Because it's considered rude.

ACTOR 2: Rude? You wanna know about rude? It's a sister who won't help out on their mother's birthday! When she got braces on her teeth and the other kids in middle school laughed at her, I stood up to them! I said if anybody's gonna laugh at my kid sister it's gonna be me! That's the kind of brother I've been to her!

ACTOR 1: Look, I don't think you should share your problems with a theater full of people.

ACTOR 2: She had a boyfriend in high school I didn't tell Mom about. He was in a motorcycle gang, had tattoos from head to toe, wore a t-shirt that said "bad to the bone" and had enough body piercings to qualify as a pin cushion. But did I rat her out? Did I?

ACTOR 1: I don't think—

ACTOR 2: NO! I did NOT tell our parents about Percy!

ACTOR 1: *(Surprised.)* Percy?

ACTOR 2: Percy Wimple.

ACTOR 1: Percy Wimple? Percy Wimple sounds like a character in a children's story, not like a member of a motorcycle gang.

ACTOR 2: Oh, he was trouble, and I mean big time. It may have had something to do with his name.

ACTOR 1: Look, they just made the announcement about turning off all cell phones - they're about to show the trailers.

ACTOR 2: I love the trailers.

ACTOR 1: Use your phone and order some flowers yourself.

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ACTOR 2: Great idea. *(On phone.)* Hey, sis. I'm telling Mom about Percy. Bye. *(Hangs up.)* That was fun. Now I need to find a flower delivery service.

ACTOR 1: Do it after the movie.

ACTOR 2: I'd better do it now. I might forget.

ACTOR 1: *(Shouts.)* Then do it QUIETLY!

ACTOR 2: Hey, man. Keep it down. We're in a movie theater.

ACTOR 1: *(Loud whisper.)* Then do it quietly! *(Actor 1 eats popcorn and tries to watch the trailers. Actor 2 fidgets with his phone, studies the screen, then elbows Actor 1.)*

ACTOR 2: *(To Actor 1.)* Which do you like better? The autumn applause or the spring festival? *(Shows Actor 1 pictures on his phone.)*

ACTOR 1: *(Annoyed.)* What?

ACTOR 2: Which of these arrangements do you like better? The autumn applause has a delightful spray of yellow and orange mums, lily of the valley, and real and artificial leaves in browns and gold. The spring festival has daisies, lilies, sunflowers and delightful little primroses in white, red and purple.

ACTOR 1: I can't believe this.

ACTOR 2: Really. Which do you prefer?

ACTOR 1: *(Frustrated.)* I don't know!

ACTOR 2: Choose one.

ACTOR 1: The autumn applause.

ACTOR 2: It costs more.

ACTOR 1: The spring festival.

ACTOR 2: I don't think it's as attractive.

ACTOR 1: Why are you asking me?

ACTOR 2: I don't want to make a mistake. *(On phone.)* I'd like to order some flowers.

ACTOR 1: If you don't stop I'm going to get an usher!

ACTOR 2: If you leave your seat one of those big guys in the back is going to waltz down here and take it. And I'm not going to stick up for you. *(Actor 1 looks upstage.)*

ACTOR 1: Then order your flowers quietly.

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ACTOR 2: Okay. I can do that. *(Mumbles into the phone, barely audible to the audience. Actor 1 eats popcorn and watches the trailers. Throughout the mumbling we make out some of the words.)* Autumn applause. Is there a discount? *(Actor 1 shushes Actor 2. The mumbling continues.)* What would spring festival cost without the primroses? *(Actor 1 shushes him. Shouts.)* Why is the delivery fee as much as the stupid flowers? This is a rip off! *(Actor 1 stands, leaves popcorn in his seat and calls usher.)*

ACTOR 1: Usher! Usher! *(Actor 2 pulls him down.)*

ACTOR 2: Come on. I paid twelve bucks to see this movie. *(Actor 1 sits on his popcorn.)* Hey man, you're sitting on your popcorn. *(Actor 1 removes the flattened popcorn bag from the seat and looks sadly inside. Actor 2 on phone.)* Okay, I'll go with spring festival with the primroses and I'll pay your outrageous delivery fee. Let me just find a credit card here. *(Actor 2 tries to get his wallet for a credit card and bumps Actor 1's arm spilling the flattened popcorn.)* Give me a little room here. *(He pulls items from his pocket, keys, coins, etc., and hands them to Actor 1.)* Here. Hold this. *(He gets his wallet and searches for a credit card, handing Actor 1 items to hold such as a driver's license, other cards, money, etc., but no credit card.)* Do you have a credit card I can use? I'll pay you back.

ACTOR 1: NO!

ACTOR 2: Please? It's for my mom's birthday. She's had such a difficult year. We lost Dad last year.

ACTOR 1: Your father died?

ACTOR 2: No. We just lost him. We went to the midnight madness sale at WalMart and lost him in the crowd. The last time we saw him he was fighting a little old lady for a 50 inch television set. Then the crowd surrounded him and that was it.

ACTOR 1: What happened to him?

ACTOR 2: He either has amnesia from a head injury or he's in jail for assault. Or he could have gone home with the wrong family. His memory wasn't all that great to start with. *(Actor 1 reaches in his wallet and hands Actor 2 a credit card.)*

ACTOR 1: I expect to be reimbursed.

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ACTOR 2: Oh, I plan on reimbursing you.

ACTOR 1: With interest.

ACTOR 2: How much interest?

ACTOR 1: 100%. Compounded hourly.

ACTOR 2: Fair enough. *(Takes the card. On phone.)* Here it is. Ready for the number? *(Actor 1 shushes him.)* Sorry. *(Stage whisper.)* Ready for the number? American Express 5678 ... what? *(To Actor 1.)* They only take Visa or MasterCard. *(Actor 1 grabs his card and stands.)*

ACTOR 1: *(Stands.)* I quit.

ACTOR 2: What do you mean you quit?

ACTOR 1: I can't sit beside you.

ACTOR 2: Why not?

ACTOR 1: You're insane!

ACTOR 2: Not entirely!

ACTOR 1: You're talking on your phone; you've smashed my popcorn—

ACTOR 2: Actually, YOU smashed your popcorn. *(Actor 2 leans back in his chair and kicks over Actor 1's drink.)*

ACTOR 1: You're disturbing the entire theater with your personal problems. And you just spilled my drink in my shoes.

ACTOR 2: *(Looks at the floor.)* Why was your drink on the floor?

ACTOR 1: Because I put it there. I can't take this anymore.

ACTOR 2: Sure you can. Sit down. Just hand me your Visa card and you won't even know I'm here. *(Indicates the movie screen. Takes Actor 1's wallet and removes Visa card.)* Look. There's the new Bruce Willis *(Or other popular actor.)* movie. Watch the trailer and I'll finish up this little business transaction with this Rip-Off Flower Delivery and we can both enjoy the movie.

ACTOR 1: My shoes are full of soda.

ACTOR 2: And I am very sorry if I am responsible in any way.

ACTOR 1: I don't think I can sit here with my feet sloshing around in a mixture of high fructose corn syrup, zanthium gum and artificial color.

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ACTOR 2: Sure you can. I do it all the time. You'll get use to it.
(*Indicates downstage.*) Hey, look. The new Kristen Stewart (*Or other popular actress.*) movie. (*Actor 1 stands.*) Hey! Where are you going?

ACTOR 1: Home.

ACTOR 2: Sit down. If it'll make you feel any better I'll get you another soda. (*Actor 2 stands and crosses upstage and puts on the usher's attire, shirt and blazer and crosses back to Actor 1.*)

ACTOR 2: (*As Usher.*) Sir, you're causing a disturbance.

ACTOR 1: It's not me! It's the other guy.

ACTOR 2: (*Looking around.*) What other guy?

ACTOR 1: That guy that was sitting there.

ACTOR 2: There is no guy sitting there.

ACTOR 1: He went to get me another soda.

ACTOR 2: Why?

ACTOR 1: He spilled my first soda on the floor. (*Actor 2 looks at the floor.*)

ACTOR 2: So, you spilled your soda all over the floor.

ACTOR 1: It wasn't me. It was the guy who was sitting there.

ACTOR 2: Who isn't there now.

ACTOR 1: That's correct.

ACTOR 2: You know what I think? I think YOU spilled your soda! Whoever was sitting there moved because the floor is covered in soda! (*With drama and growing anger.*) Who do you think cleans up the messes you patrons make? They don't clean themselves up, you know! It's me, and thousands of ushers across the country working continuously and tirelessly to assure that floors in movie theaters are not sticky! And you know what?

ACTOR 1: What?

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ACTOR 2: It's a thankless job! Someone somewhere is always spilling their popcorn and soda in a movie theater and not even bothering to acknowledge the tireless work of the ushers who do their best to make the movie-going experience a pleasant and joyful experience! *(Leans over and grabs Actor 1 around the neck and pretends to choke him.)* When I think of all of the selfish, rude and clumsy people that I have to clean up after I get so mad I could hurt someone! *(Suddenly relaxes and looks at the screen.)* Oh look. The new Steven Spielberg *(Or other famous director.)* movie. That guy's a genius.

ACTOR 1: *(Gasping for air.)* You tried to choke me!

ACTOR 2: Sorry about that. Look, keep quiet, keep your drink in the cup, keep your popcorn in the bag, forget about a lawsuit and enjoy the movie. *(Actor 2 crosses to the upstage table, removes blazer and dress shirt, takes drink cup and crosses to seat. Actor 1 rubs neck in stunned surprise.)*

ACTOR 2: Hey, man. I got you another soda. *(Hands cup to Actor 1 and spills ice in his lap.)* Oops. Look, about that credit card charge. *(Actor 1 jumps to his feet.)*

ACTOR 1: You spilled soda all over my lap!

ACTOR 2: Actually, YOU spilled soda all over your lap. Is that the thanks I get for buying you another soda? You're just going to pour it all over yourself? Sit down. You're disturbing people

ACTOR 1: I'm leaving. *(Stands.)*

ACTOR 2: This is "Predator and Alien vs. Rambo and Power Rangers 3-D, Part IV"! You're not going to let a little soda get in the way of a powerful artistic achievement! *(Makes Actor 1 sit. Actor 1 gasps.)* What's wrong?

ACTOR 1: It's cold.

ACTOR 2: Look, about that credit card charge. I may not be able to pay it back right away. I'm a little strapped for cash at the moment. Wait a minute. There's my phone. *(Takes out phone.)* It's my sister.

ACTOR 1: Do not answer it!

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ACTOR 2: I'd better answer this. *(On phone.)* Hello...No, I haven't told Mom about Percy yet ... I'm waiting for just the right moment ...Okay. What's it worth to you?

ACTOR 1: I can't believe this!

ACTOR 2: *(To Actor 1.)* My sister got to thinking about me telling Mom about Percy and she's going to buy Mom flowers and say they're from me. I guess we didn't need spring festival after all.

ACTOR 1: Are you going to cancel the order?

ACTOR 2: Of course not. She'll get two arrangements from me and she'll love me more than she loves my sister.

ACTOR 1: Have you ever considered family counseling?

ACTOR 2: We thought about it. But it's what my mom does for a living. By the time she's listened to everyone else's problems she wasn't in the mood to hear ours. Her motto is: "If you have a problem keep it to yourself."

ACTOR 1: She must not be a very successful counselor.

ACTOR 2: She's successful. Well, kind of successful. Not really kind of successful. She's moderately successful...on occasions. I think I'll tell her about Percy. *(Dials on phone.)*

ACTOR 1: Can't it wait until after the movie?

ACTOR 2: I've been waiting for this moment for years. This is going to be vindication for all of the mean things my sister did to me when we were kids. The tattletaling, the noogies, wedgies!

ACTOR 1: Why don't you wait until after the ...

ACTOR 2: *(Looks at screen.)* Hey, look. The new Brad Pitt *(Or other popular actor.)* movie. *(Actor 1 looks at the screen. Actor 2 dials on phone.)* Voice mail. Hey, Mom. Happy birthday. You'll never guess who Sallie dated when we were in high school. You're not going to like it. Think "Born to be Wild" meets "American Psycho." Bye now. *(To Actor 1.)* That'll get her.

ACTOR 1: That's it! I quit! You can have my soda, you can have my popcorn! *(Stands and shoves cup and popcorn in Actor 2's hands.)* You can have my credit card! You can have my car keys! You can have my shoes! *(Takes off shoes and places them on Actor 1's lap.)* You know what else you can have? You can have the shirt off my back! *(Removes shirt and throws it at Actor 2.)*

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ACTOR 2: Hey, man! I don't want this stuff! *(Actor 1 crosses to prop table and puts on the Usher shirt and blazer.)* What a weird-o. Oh, well. *(Eats some popcorn and sips drink. Watches the screen. Actor 1 crosses to Actor 2.)*

ACTOR 1: *(As Usher)* We've had some complaints about talking and cell phone use.

ACTOR 2: Wasn't me.

ACTOR 1: *(Noticing items in Actor 2's lap.)* Uh...what's that stuff?

ACTOR 2: Some guy who was sitting here freaked out and threw all this stuff at me. He must be the one people are complaining about.

ACTOR 1: Is that a shirt?

ACTOR 2: Yeah. He gave me the shirt off his back. And he spilled soda all over the floor. *(Indicates the floor.)* Look at that.

ACTOR 1: On behalf of the theater I apologize.

ACTOR 2: That's okay. I've been looking forward to "Predator and Alien vs. Rambo and Power Rangers 3-D, Part IV" for four months.

ACTOR 1: May I see your ticket? *(Actor 2 hands Actor 1 a ticket stub.)*

ACTOR 2: Sure.

ACTOR 1: You're in the wrong theater.

ACTOR 2: I am?

ACTOR 1: Yes, sir. "Predator and Alien vs. Rambo and Power Rangers 3-D, Part IV" is in theater 8. This is theater 18. "Twilight Zombie Vampires in Love, Part III."

ACTOR 2: Oh, man. I'm in the wrong theater.

ACTOR 1: Yes sir. Number 8 is on the other side of the grand foyer, second right, third left, then another left, then straight ahead. The theater to the left of number 17. The movie's about to start. You'd better hurry. Take that stuff with you. *(Actor 1 returns to the prop table and becomes Patron. Actor 2 answers his phone.)*

ACTOR 2: Hey, Mom. Do you remember Percy Wimple? The guy with all the tattoos? Well, let me tell you about my sweet little sister ... *(Crosses to prop table and puts on Usher's coat. Actor 1 returns to the seats.)*

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ACTOR 1: Hey, man. I need my car keys. Where is that guy? He's got my keys, my wallet, my credit cards! (*Looks at the screen. Actor 2 crosses to seats as Usher.*) "Twilight Zombie Vampires in Love, Part III"? I'm in the wrong theater! That guy drove me so crazy I can't remember where I was!

ACTOR 2: I'm going to have to ask you to leave the theater.

ACTOR 1: But ... but ... that guy has my keys! (*Actor 2 drags Actor 1 offstage.*)

ACTOR 2: Come along peacefully or I'll have to call the cops.

ACTOR 1: Hey! (*Exits shouting.*) HEY! WHERE ARE YOU? I NEED MY SHIRT!

THE END

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NOTES

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