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We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!

ArtAge Publications

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SECRETS IN THE CLOUDS

By
Judith Allen

CAST

LIZ RYAN: Ageless, with a slight Irish brogue

ELSIE SCHAFFER: Older looking than LIZ, an American born Jew. No accent.

Production Notes:

Both women are lively and full of punch. While they are older looking, there is something ageless about them. They don't walk or talk like old people. LIZ drinks more than ELSIE. They are affected by it differently. ELSIE becomes mellow and LIZ becomes belligerent. It is important that the director and actresses are totally familiar with Scrabble.

Place

The Afterlife

Time

Eternity

Setting: A table with a Scrabble Game (preferably one with a turntable) and two chairs facing each other center stage. To one side is an old-fashioned dictionary stand with a big dictionary. Behind the Scrabble table is a cart with a bottle of Jameson's Irish Whiskey and two tumblers.

At Rise: LIZ sets up the Scrabble game for two and pours herself a fortifying drink. ELSIE enters, bewildered.

LIZ: Elsie. There you are. You're here.

ELSIE: Liz?

(They hug and size each other up.)

ELSIE: Where's Sid?

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LIZ: That's how ye greet me? A hug and "Where's Sid?" No "I'm glad to see ye. How have ye been?" I've been waiting 24 years for ye. Not that I ever wanted to hurry ye along, mind ye. Ye have no idea how much I missed ye.

ELSIE: Hello-how-are-you-I-missed-you. So there. *(noticing the Scrabble set)* You've been waiting 24 years to play Scrabble? Where's Sid? I've been waiting 27 years to be with him.

LIZ: Time's different here.

ELSIE: I hated that wait. Every day I woke up wishing I was dead.

LIZ: Ye finally got your wish.

ELSIE: Tell me, where's Sid?

LIZ: *(pouring drinks for the both of them)* Ye should have enjoyed the time ye had, my friend.

ELSIE: I wasn't about to change. Where's my Sid?

LIZ: It was never too late to change.

ELSIE: Don't start up with me. I want to see Sid.

LIZ: I hate to tell ye this, but we're in the Orthodox section. Men and women are separated.

ELSIE: There's got to be a mix-up. I'm not Orthodox.

LIZ: Ye did keep kosher.

ELSIE: I gave that up when Sid died. *(beat)* Oh my, my, my. If we're in the Orthodox section, then what the hell...*(LIZ frowns, pointing upward.)* What the heck are you doing here? You're an atheist. You're not even a Jewish atheist...

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