TWENTY-FIVE

Scene 6 – 25th Birthday

*Scene is taking place in the lobby of theater. It is the 25th Birthday party for a theater company. #25 are standing MSC. DSL of #25 are podium and 2 chairs with Stage Manager & Technical Director sitting in them holding drinks and talking to Producer (who is standing SL of chairs). 2 actresses & 2 dancers are standing on either side of snack table with plates or cups.*

DIM LIGHT

**#2** – I heard there was going to be a party!

**#5** – Yes, a Birthday Party.

**#2** – I hope we get some cake, I’m starved.

**#5** – Not gonna happen.

**#2** – How do you know?

**#5** – Because we *are* the cake. Here, put on your candle. *(hands candle face cover to #2 and puts their own candle face cover)*

**#2** – I need a new job. *(Puts candle over head)*

LIGHTS FULL

**Dancer 1**:How many years have you been involved in this theater company?

**Actress 2:** Well, I did my first show with them the year after I moved to this area. *(thinks)* I guess it’s been 17 years.

**Dancer 1:** That’s crazy!

**Actress 1:** Isn’t it? I laugh because I’m considered a newbie even though I’ve been with this group for 5 years.

**Dancer 1:** It’s remarkable how many people have devoted so many years of their lives to this program.

**Actress 2:** This group is like my second family. We’ve been through a lot together.

**Dancer 1:** Sue and I are dance majors. We auditioned for your summer show to keep our skills up, but everyone was so nice we’ll definitely be back.

**Actress 1:** That’s the way it happens. There’s something about putting up shows that makes fast friends and that’s what keeps people coming back.

**Producer:** *(Moves to podium & taps mic)* Is this working? *(looks around – actresses/dancers shake head no)* Honestly, microphones are the bane of my existence. *(pushes microphone down)* I’ll just project.

**Actress 2:** That’s what we always say.

**Actress 1:** “Don’t trust the mic – project!”

**Producer:** Well, this is actually a great lead-in for pitching the present we’d like everyone to help us buy for our 25th Birthday – new microphones!

*(Everyone on stage applauds and interacts with spontaneous comments such as? “It’s about time.” “Finally!” Yes! )*

**Producer:** I know… it’s long overdue but this community theater has always had an abundance of talent and a shortage of funds.

*(Reactions: laughing, “That’s for sure” “At least we got talent!” “We know how to stretch a dollar!” Money isn’t everything!)*

**Producer:** However, it is with great gratitude that I get to announce that we are kicking off our fundraising, with two super-donations from our founding duo *(turns around to look & gesture to TD & Stage Manager sitting on chairs)*. I have *(holds up 2 checks that were on podium)* two checks for twenty five hundred dollars! Let’s give them a big round of applause. *(Producer walks over and shakes hands with both TD and Stage Manager.)*

*While everyone is applauding the Movie Rep and Movie Star make a grand entrance from SR. The Movie Star assumes the applause is for her so she waves and smiles at people while walking. They cross to podium. Movie Rep*

*stands behind podium& movie star takes an ornamental pose SR of podium. Dancers notice Movie Star first and point her out to others.*

**Movie Rep:** Thank you for such a warm greeting. Miss Lola is always humbled to have so many fans wherever she goes.

*Miss Lola is anything but humble – she give a condescending smile and head nod to crowd. Everyone gives slight applause as she nods.* *TD & Stage Manager and Producer are startled and confused by the arrival of these 2 people. They are (miming) asking each other “Did you know about this?” “How are they?” etc.)*

**Movie Rep:** I know you are surprised by the presence of such a famous movie star at your little Birthday party, but I thought this was the perfect opportunity to announce our surprise present!

**Producer:** *(goes over to podium)* Excuse me, this is a private party. I need to ask you to leave.

**Movie Rep:**  Well, considering that I’m going to be the new owner of this building, I think you’re going to want to hear what I have to say.

*Everyone on stage reacts with disbelief: “What?” “Did you know about this?” “What going on!?”– except Movie Star who keeps waving to people.*

**Movie Rep:** I understand how exciting this is for you. Thanks to me, you will no longer have to worry about finances and keeping your little program going because we’re going to turn this building into a movie studio! *(waits for applause but there are only gasps).* Just think of the many opportunities you’ll have to apply for *paying* jobs.

**Producer:** We *have* paying jobs.This theater program is our passion not our livelihood.

**Dancer 1:** *(the only one in room excited about this possibility)* Will we be able to audition for movies!? *(Peers look at her with scowls and disdain.)*

**Movie Rep:** I’m certain there will be times when we need local talent for filler parts that support the professional actors and actresses that we bring in – like Ms. Lola. *(She takes a swooping bow as if just given an award.)*

**Producer:** You don’t need to be condescending. We may not be LA but we have a lot of great talent, and we put up good shows that people love.

**Movie Rep:** I’m sure that you are one of the best little programs in this area, but I’m giving you a chance to go big-league.

**Actress 1:** We’re happy playing in the minors.

**Actress 2:** We’ve been putting up shows for 25 years. You can’t just shut us down.

**Movie Rep:** Actually, once this building is mine, I can do anything I want.

*Technical Director and Stage Manager previously stood up when reacting to Movie Rep’s announcement. They now step over to podium to escort Movie Rep & Movie Star out – exiting DSR. Everyone reacts as they leave: “Good riddance.” “Go back to LA.” “We don’t need your ‘help’”*

**Producer:** Ok, everyone. Let’s regroup. We can’t control what happens to this building. However, I know that if God wants our program to continue, He’ll find a way. So let’s put our trust in Him and get back to celebrating our 25th Birthday.

BLACK OUT