

TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

CHARACTER LIST

Sergeant - 50s

Hashtag on Fire - Mid 20s

Lost and Looking 555 - 40s/50s

Sweet Thang - 30s/40s

SETTING

A lone battlefield in the online dating minefields. Distant sounds of gunfire and explosions create the setting. The lighting design should be created to augment the atmosphere, focused on the centre of the performance space and blurred around the edges.

Only one entry/exit is required, however the director may want to utilise two on either side of the stage for the initial entrance.

Recommended props are a rifle and back pack for each character.

Recommended costuming is army camouflage.

Running Time: 15 minutes

Actors, as there will be some crouching, jogging and jumping you need to be at a level of fitness, can stand noise 'cause your in the army of love now, Soldier!

TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

Director: Yuley Buist

1/4

Directions are in *italics*

Character trait:

(50s) able to do a booming voice

Demanding recruit trainer watching out for his "men" but/and also show being wistful.

Sergeant:

Bring it in, soldiers. *The huddle together for a pep talk from the Sergeant.* This is not the time to lose your nerve, company. I know that the battleground that lies before us is different from those you have faced in the past – computers, devices, internet history... The game has changed and no longer can we rely on hand-to-hand combat. You've spent months training for this. We've practiced our photo download drill sessions a million times. I don't need to remind you that precision and intention are key to engaging the opposition here, soldiers, it's time to bring you're A-game. Now what are we?

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Director Yuley Buist -yl_buist@yahoo.com.au 2/4

Traits:

(40-50yrs) can maintain **strong** projected quiet voice.

A soldier who has seen too much "battle" /wearing out but hopeful.

Leading line:

Hashtag on Fire: What?

LOST AND LOOKING 555 :

We've become products. Things to own and use until we're no longer useful. We have to make ourselves look pretty enough that, when we're sitting up there on the dating shelves, someone might stop for long enough to take us down and read the label. We need to keep looking shiny and new, no matter how beaten we feel on the inside. We need all the colours and shiny buttons that will create enough interest to make someone linger. And even then... Leans in to create a more intimate storytelling atmosphere for the soldiers. I know a soldier who pushed forward and got all the way to hand to hand combat.

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Director: Yuley Buist

yl_buist@yahoo.com.au

Traits:

(mid 20s)

Newbie, sound innocent/panic stricken. New recruit soldier idea- (preferably lanky).

Italics are non-verbal

Lead in line:

(Lost and Looking 555: That was it. She signed off and walked away. Crushed.)

HASHTAG ON FIRE :

That's Brutal, but it doesn't mean it will happen to all of us, right? You have to be in the battle if you have any chance of winning it.

Frantic. He calls out while making swipe movements on a phone.

Left! Left! Swipe Left!

They all jump left. Continue jogging. Each time Hashtag calls out a direction they jump one step in that direction and then continue jogging.

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Director: Yuley Buist

yl_buist@yahoo.com.au 4/4

Traits:

(30s-40s)

the Latino style of fighter from Alien

Sombre moment thinking about "war" and is it worth it...Talking to superior officer.

Lead-in line-

Sergeant: I guess you would ask I am a student of philosophy, what makes you ask?

SWEET THANG:

Just a hunch. *Looks back out over the minefield.* I got to admit, Sarg, and I know I haven't been fighting for as long as you have, but I've had enough of this dating malarkey. In general, I'm a pretty positive kind of person and I've tried to do what you ask. Keep my eye on the prize and all those clichés. But, Sarg, I'm tired. It's exhausting fighting every day for something you think you could have if you could just meet the right person. I'm starting to think that, while I'm chasing this happily ever after idea, what if I'm missing out on some fantastic adventures elsewhere? Do you really think it's worth it?