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# Dario Fo. Mayor?

de  
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traducción de  
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*(fragmento en inglés)*

## ACT I

*An office.*

*MAGAZINE EDITOR, seated, is faintly illuminated.*

*The lights go up on the foreground, where DARIO FO enters and addresses the audience.*

DARIO FO

I am an actor, a jester. Nothing else. My weapons are my words, the gesture, the ability to make you laugh, the ability to make you think. *(Beat)* My arms... *(Beat)* I don't like the word arms, it stinks and I'm not in favor of violence, although words can sometimes be aggressive. I mean, who hasn't justified violence, even though in self-defense? Who hasn't blessed, if you'll pardon the expression, I hope nobody takes offense, who hasn't blessed... *(He apologizes with a gesture)*... violence on some occasions? Even for a brief moment. I must confess, violence doesn't suit me. I am an actor, a jester, a clown. Nothing else. My weapons, my word, gesture, the ability to make you laugh, the ability to make you think. However, I would have killed this man here. *(He points at MAGAZINE EDITOR)* I had doubts, serious doubts: *(He gesticulates miming the different actions and making the corresponding sounds)* I could strangle him with my bare hands or perhaps follow him discreetly to a subway station, hide among the crowd, get behind him, wait for the train to enter the station and... *(Beat)* Or I could smash his brain with a good hammer. Or even better, use a chainsaw... I would cut him up slowly into pieces, in very very small tiny bits and very very slowly and... *(Beat)* I'm sorry, I am human, deep down inside me I can't help being quite human... Although I tried to avoid them, I must confess that these harmless thoughts crossed my mind and vanished in a thousandth of a second. Violence doesn't suit me. I am an actor, a fool, a joker. Nothing more. My weapons are my words, the gesture, make you laugh, make you think.

*(Exit DARIO FO)*

*(Lights go up)*

DARIO FO

*(Shouting offstage)* Where is MAGAZINE EDITOR? No, I don't have an appointment and I don't care. I've said that I'm coming in and I will. *(Enters holding a magazine in his hand)* I'll come in and kill him. I'll kill this rat. *(He pounces on MAGAZINE EDITOR)* I'll kill you. You scumbag!

MAGAZINE EDITOR

*(Fleeing away)* Wait, wait, wait, calm down, please! *(He protects himself behind the table, with a chair in his hands like a tamer.)*

*(DARIO FO chases MAGAZINE EDITOR round the table)*

DARIO FO

I am very calmed, that's why I'm gonna kill you.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Relax, please. Take it easy.

DARIO FO

Relax? *(He shows him the magazine)* Take it easy? And this? Can you explain this? How dare you?

Dario Fo is running for Mayor of Milan! I want an explanation!

MAGAZINE EDITOR

I... Well, I can...

DARIO FO

You bastard! Who the hell has authorized you to publish such a lie? Mayor of Milan! Who said you can spread this bullshit around? Running for Mayor!

MAGAZINE EDITOR

I can explain...

DARIO FO

You son of a bitch! It's all over the Web. *(He throws at MAGAZINE EDITOR the objects that are on the table)* How can you publish this without even talking to me first? *(To the audience)* It's a good reason to kill him. Isn't it?

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Please, do try to keep calm down, I'll try to explain...

DARIO FO

There's nothing to explain. This is a false statement. I demand you make an immediate retraction. Immediate!

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Let me explain...

DARIO FO

I want a front page that says: *(He bangs the table, stronger and stronger.)* We apologize, we have lied, Dario Fo is not, I repeat, is not running for Mayor of Milan, Dario Fo is not running for anything, this is all a big lie. Do recognize you are a liar a manipulator and a filthy bastard.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Please...

DARIO FO

Call a press conference and deny everything immediately: it's all a clumsy setup. You creep! I'll sue for libel. I'll crush you, you haven't heard the last of me...

*(DARIO FO tries to attack him again and chases him around the table)*

MAGAZINE EDITOR

*(Raising his voice)* Please, calm down. Let me explain. We haven't stated that you are the candidate. It's only a proposal. If you read the article you'll see that we only consider it as a hypothesis, a revolutionary hypothesis, which is highly desirable from our point of view, but it's only an idea that we are proposing. We've never said openly that you are a candidate, I insist, it's only a proposal.

DARIO FO

Do you think I'm stupid?

MAGAZINE EDITOR

I acknowledge that the headline is somewhat ambiguous, but you know that's the usual way for us the press. The small print is absolutely clear.

DARIO FO

*(To the audience)* He does think, I'm stupid.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Not at all, please don't think that. I can assure, that if I have taken the liberty of insinuating, of starting this game, it is...

DARIO FO

Game? Do you think you can go playing around? This is a very serious issue. I can't tolerate such disregard towards me. My freedom is sacred. *(To the audience)* I beg your pardon.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

It's just a proposal for the sake of Milan, for the common interest of the citizens.

DARIO FO

You just want to sell magazines.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Not at all. You perfectly know that we're a serious magazine, with a rigorous, honest, progressive editorial line... Please, believe me. I give you my word. We never meant to create a scandal and even less try to annoy you. Perhaps I should have asked you first...

DARIO FO

*(To the audience)* Perhaps, he says.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

... but I got carried away by the sense of social responsibility, it's an optimistic idea, but it's so good that I rushed to publish it without thinking carefully. I only meant to survey my readers. I wanted to know their opinion, I thought that I was finally publishing something that could mobilize the left wing voters.

DARIO FO

But you can't do such a thing without talking it over with me. It's a question of personal dignity, of respect for individual freedom... You're out of your mind!

MAGAZINE EDITOR

I'm sorry. But just think about it for a second. This city has been in the hands of the right for ten years. Ten years in their clutches! We must throw them out of office. You certainly agree on that, don't you?

DARIO FO

*(He nods)*

*(MAGAZINE EDITOR starts to pick up and organize the objects that fell to the ground, slowly DARIO FO starts to help him)*

MAGAZINE EDITOR

We need an influential candidate, we need a leader and the problem is that the left has no big names, just politicians who have no real connection with the people. The traditional left can do nothing: they lack leaders.

DARIO FO

Oh yes, I agree, but that has nothing to do with the fact that I should be running for Mayor. Not even those sound reasons, which I share, allow you to suggest such a wild idea without taking me, the victim, into account.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

It's an unusual idea, but not wild; we need someone with a clean record of honesty, someone that nobody in the left would dare to question. We need to find a renewed impulse and you can be the leader.

DARIO FO

No way.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

A popular personality, someone who can connect with people, a straightforward person like you, who can talk to the king of Sweden or to the common man in the street, a well-known international vip who can attract the world attention on Milan.

DARIO FO

Forget it. This is just a marketing operation. I am no leader, nor a politician. I haven't taken part in politics directly. I am a jester, a minstrel: theatre is my world. I'm just a worker, who I works with gestures and words.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

You don't want to see it. That's precisely what makes you the right person. You've always committed yourself, you've occupied the streets without hesitating. You have always taken a step forward if required. We need to get our city back on track for social progress.

DARIO FO

That's true. Milan lost its soul a long time ago, it's turned into a grey, dismantled and dull city. And I also wish to throw out the conservative power. We need clean air, fresh air.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Now you're talking.

DARIO FO

But that doesn't mean at all that I'm a candidate. I've lived my whole life outside organized structures, I reject parties and institutions.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

The mainstream opinion is that new faces are needed. People with a good name and that have nothing to do with professional politics. That's what it's all about.

DARIO FO

It's a dangerous game, my friend. You know the saying: power always corrupts.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Honest candidates with a clean record of commitment and independence. Senior people that won't let themselves be tempted by the mermaids singing of power. People beyond pride and vanity.

DARIO FO

Yes, I get it. People with a class conscience who get involved to help the community. People who want to be in it temporarily and find solutions to the city problems. People who don't want to make politics their way of living.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

That's right.

DARIO FO

Yes, it's exciting. *(Beat)* But I am afraid I can't.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

I'm sorry. It was my fault and I shouldn't have involved you. But if all this gets to move on, could I count on your support?

DARIO FO

It looks like a good idea to me. If this is guiding principle, I'll support you. We'll see how.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

*(He hands over a list to DARIO FO)* Can you think up other names?

DARIO FO

Do you mean candidates? No, not all of a sudden. They're all honorable... But have they confirmed anything?

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Not really. It's just a project. We need... Who do you think could lead this project?

DARIO FO

Any one of them. They're all qualified. However I believe that the important thing is the group, not an individual.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Yes, but one only can be the Mayor. We need a name, a photo, an election poster.

DARIO FO

It's not so important, the Mayor is only a symbol. We should avoid personal competition. It's essential to focus on the project and on the team. It should be up to them to choose the name of their leader. Someone they believe in, someone able to raise voters' hopes. Or even better, ask the people...

MAGAZINE EDITOR

*(He shows him the magazine)* That's exactly what we're doing.

DARIO FO

Touché. *(He smiles at the audience)*

MAGAZINE EDITOR

We've published the article as an opinion poll, in order to get the peoples feeling. Look. Reactions couldn't be more enthusiastic. *(He shows him a laptop)* Hundreds of positive comments on our blog.

DARIO FO

*(To the audience)* I wasn't aware I had so many relatives and friends. Or are they enemies?  
*(Reading)* I couldn't imagine the idea would arouse such enthusiasm.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

They're waiting for you.

DARIO FO

Yes, but this is not something a person can do on his own or with a just few people. This is a complex. If I had the support...

MAGAZINE EDITOR

You've read for yourself. Left-wing activists are absolutely enthusiastic.

DARIO FO

If only I could get a certain degree of support from the people, perhaps the support of a party, or of its base, or get a common approach from all left-wing groups...

MAGAZINE EDITOR

That's possible.

DARIO FO

With an opinion poll I'd give a conditional yes. It's not that I'm insecure, but it would be very

unwise of me to set up an election campaign without the certainty of a political platform supporting me. It would be my only condition.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

We'll work it out. Yes.

DARIO FO

This is a very serious issue, and of great responsibility. I have to know what the people think. I'll ask the taxi drivers, the police officers, shopkeepers, teachers, students, the working class... *(To the audience)* Although it's gonna be difficult to find them.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Yes.

DARIO FO

I'll visit every house, every market, every taxi... I'll let the citizens of Milan help me make the way clear. Yes, I'm ready to give Milan back its soul .

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Yes, yes.

DARIO FO

But, what about the catholic vote? You know my reputation.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Don't worry. Perhaps you should mind your language and be careful when you make statements to the press. You had better not insist on certain issues.

DARIO FO

But i'm no longer a child either. At my age most people are stuck in an elderly care home.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

No, no at all! Even your age is something positive. You are a mature and experienced person and you are in perfect shape. We 'll highlight your experience during the press campaign. If we mention it openly we'll avoid any attack the subject.

DARIO FO

They will prefer a serious and traditional candidate rather than a playwright, a clown.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

No. That's precisely your reputation. You always speak clear and simple. You're easy for everyone to understand. We'll turn that idea into the strategic axis of your communication with the media.

DARIO FO

Aren't we giving too much importance to the media? With all this campaign, strategy, statements to the press... I'm not really sure I want to play that game.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

It's essential. Today you can't expect to go into politics without the support of the fourth power. We will arrange a detailed work-plan with the media and you'll have communication experts and advisors working for you.

DARIO FO

I'm not sure I want to get involved in that game. *(Beat)* Besides, I should have to quit acting.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Perhaps. *(Beat)* Yes, it would be a requirement.

DARIO FO

No, that's not possible. *(Beat)* You're a wonderful strategist, very clever indeed, but this is absolute madness. I can't do it. I came here to kill you... *(To the audience)* I had decided to strangle him, you know, it's the cleanest way... *(Beat)* You might as well thank me for not suing you police. Forget it all..

*(He exits)*

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Maestro, please, think it over, please, think it over.

*(Lights go down)*