

## **HUMAN KINDNESS**

Conceived and created by Dennis Corcoran

*Human Kindness* is a 6 min., 20 sec. story of a homeless person whose entire “life” fits into an old grocery cart. Repulsive and repulsed, this person, “no more crazy than the rest of us”, experiences the unfair judgment and rejection of others but also acts of human kindness which give rise to a like response.

**\* THIS SHOW IS PERFORMED IN SILENCE \***

*Human Kindness* is a piece of performance art or physical theatre told through movement, mime, and exaggerated physical expression against an aural backdrop of a compilation of singers/songwriters performing an adaptation of Randy Newman’s *I Think It’s Going to Rain*.

### **CAST REQUIREMENTS**

**Homeless Person – 1 M or 1 F**

**Rejectors – 1 M and 2 F**

**Acceptors – 2 F and 1 child**

### **REHEARSAL NOTES**

Rehearsals will consist of exploring appropriate story-telling movements, scenes and vignettes based on study of the real-world experiences of those who live on the streets as interpreted by the members of the ensemble.

The final production piece will be a devised work created and performed by the ensemble under the direction of Dennis Corcoran. Research notes on homelessness will be provided by Dennis.

**NOTE:** While there is no script, per se, the piece is challenging for all of that.

## **HUMAN KINDNESS – Background Thoughts**

- A. The homeless man in Portland, OR
  - B. The many homeless of Portland, ME – the “cardboard” people
  - C. Nigel’s thoughts and observations on the homeless
  - D. *Etchings* – the sense of character, background, etc.
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- 1. The man in Hawaii who ran over to us in the rain with a big umbrella ...
  - 2. The mirror – takes it out, looks, plays, suddenly notices “us” – stiffens
  - 3. The English homeless man who gave all his money to a young student for a taxi
  - 4. The US homeless man, given \$100, spent it all on food for other homeless folks
  - 5. The final bit of tune – he runs to one side, picks up umbrella, runs back to give it

## **Choreography**

All thoughts on choreography, at this point, are written in pencil in my sketch book. They are, therefore, tentative and subject to change based on the cast’s abilities, looks, and interests in terms of where they each wish to take their character.

## **Props and/or Set Pieces**

Grocery cart – ideally beat up, metal, rusted – containing ...  
Large trash bags stuffed with “stuff” – indicating his/her entire life is in this cart  
Mirror – a broken piece of or shard of shiny, reflective plastic  
Large umbrella – don’t know color - same as that of Woman’s slicker – ideally shiny  
Actor’s box or two