

THE RIGHT SIDE

by Sergio Snyder

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Characters:

Ron - 20 year old student

Jane - 45 year old Lawyer

Martin - 50 year old Teacher

Neil - 35 year old Banker

Alan - 60 year old construction worker

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SCENE 1

(As the play starts we see the stage completely empty except for one single white line in the middle of the stage, sideways.)

(We see Ron come in, he is a 20 year old student, carries a rucksack and is listening to his music. He stops when he sees the white line. He looks at it for a moment and then bends down to touch it. He is intrigued by it.)

(After a few moments we see Jane come up and stand in front of Ron. Jane is a 45 year old woman, she is dress in business attire)

(Ron looks at her high-heeled shoes and then follows the line of her leg until he is looking up to her from the ground. He stands up and takes his headphones off)

JANE
Hello.

RON
Hi.

JANE
What are you doing?

RON
Nothing.

JANE
Why were you looking at the line?

RON
I don't know.

JANE
Do you know what it is?

RON
No.

JANE
Good. Then move along please.

RON
Sorry?

JANE
Move along please?

(Ron is not sure what to do)

JANE (CONT'D)
I said, move along please!

(Ron steps to the side and takes a couple of steps continuing his way.)

(Jane steps over the line and stands facing the other way looking at Ron. He stops, aware of this and turns around looking at Jane)

JANE (CONT'D)
Yes?

RON
(comes over to her)
Why did you do that?

JANE
Do what?

RON
Change sides?

JANE
I didn't.

RON
Yes you did.

JANE
No, I didn't.

RON
You were standing on this side of the line and then you moved.

JANE
I always meant to be on this side of the line. You were on my way.

(Ron looks at her strangely. Enter Martin. He is a 50 year old man. He dresses in a tweed jacket and corduroy trousers. He stands behind Ron. Ron becomes aware of this and turns around)

MARTIN
Hello.

RON
Hi

(Looks at Martin who is too close
to Ron)

RON (CONT'D)
Can I help you?

MARTIN
No.

(Ron looks at both Martin and Jane
and then moves out of the way.
Martin then moves close to Jane,
they are facing each other with
the line in between them)

JANE
What are you doing?

MARTIN
Nothing.

JANE
Why are you standing there?

MARTIN
Why wouldn't I be?

JANE
You are on the wrong side.

MARTIN
No, you are on the wrong side.

JANE
No I am not!

MARTIN
Yes you are.

JANE
You are on the wrong side.

MARTIN
No I am not, you are.

JANE
You are!

MARTIN
You are!

(And as this gets louder, Ron steps
in between Martin and Jane)

RON

Hey stop! Take it easy.

JANE

He is on the wrong side!

MARTIN

No, she is on the wrong side. It's obvious.

JANE

How is it obvious?

MARTIN

Come on, anyone can see that!

JANE

Really?

(Talks to Ron)

JANE (CONT'D)

Am I on the right side or the wrong side?

RON

Well, I don't know, I ...

JANE

(interrupts him)

There, you see, he can't tell if I am on the right side or
the wrong side, therefore I am on the right side and you are
on the wrong side!

MARTIN

What does he know, he's a kid!

RON

Actually I am not a kid, I am 20 years old and...

(He is interrupted again. He steps
away from them.)

JANE

I don't care what you say, I am on the right side, and that's
that!

MARTIN

What do you know about being in the right side! Look at you!

JANE

What? What do you mean?

MARTIN

Look at the way you dress, and your hair!

JANE

How dare you! Look at yourself! Did you get your jacket from a charity shop?

(At this moment we see Neil enter. Neil is a 35 year old man, he is dressed in a suit and is talking on the phone as he approaches Jane. As he stands behind Jane talking on the phone. Ron looks at Neil)

NEIL

(looks at Ron and hangs up the phone)

Hello.

RON

Hi.

NEIL

(To Jane)

Is the the right side?

JANE

Of course it is.

(She smiles victorious)

MARTIN

Of course not! That is the wrong side. But what would you know about it...

NEIL

What do you mean?

MARTIN

Just take a look at yourself?

JANE

Here we go again with the look! What have looks got to do with anything?

MARTIN

I mean, anyone who dresses like you people, wouldn't have a clue about which is the right side. You and your fancy cloths and phones!

NEIL

What is your problem?

MARTIN

Me? I don't have a problem! It's you that have the problem being on the wrong side!

NEIL

(looks at Ron)

Is he with you?

RON
No! I don't know him.

NEIL
So surely you must see he is on the wrong side?

JANE
I've already asked him that, he doesn't know.

NEIL
He doesn't know?

(Turns to Ron)

NEIL (CONT'D)
How old are you?

RON
20

NEIL
And you don't know which is the right side?

RON
The right side for what?

(Neil and Jane laugh)

NEIL
The right side for what! You are funny.

(At this moment we see Alan come in. Alan is a 60 year old construction worker. He is dressed in dirty cloths and has a newspaper under his arm. As he approaches the center he looks at Ron. Then he stands behind Martin)

ALAN
Hello.

RON
Hi.

ALAN
I see we have some people on the wrong side already.

MARTIN
Tell me about it! And they think they are on the right side!

(They both laugh)

ALAN
(he points at Ron)
What about him?

MARTIN

We don't know. He claims he doesn't know.

ALAN

You what?

MARTIN

Apparently he doesn't know which is the right side!

JANE

I am sure he does, but he is playing games.

NEIL

How do you know that?

JANE

He was here before me, and was standing on this side.

NEIL

So he does know the right side...

RON

Hang on a minute. I have no idea what you are talking about. I was walking along minding my own business, listening to my music when I saw the line, so I stoped, looked at it and then next thing I know I have this woman standing in front to me asking me to get out of the way.

MARTIN

I think he is laying!

ALAN

Yea, he is one of them!

RON

One of whom?

ALAN

Them people on the wrong side!

RON

Look, I am not one of "them" and I don't know what any of you are talking about!

NEIL

So you are one of them, and you are trying to convince us that they are on the the right side, when in fact is the wrong side. You are trying to get us to move. Nice try, but you won't fool us! How much did they pay you to do this?

MARTIN

We have not paid this boy to do anything! It is you that have this boy pretending he knows nothing and then convince us that that is the right side when we know this is the right side.

JANE

That has never been the right side!

ALAN

This has always been the right side! I know it since I was a boy. My father showed it to me. And his father to him and so on.

RON

Alright everyone just stop!

(As Ron says this, they all stops
and look at him)

RON (CONT'D)

I really have no idea what you are talking about. I don't know which is the right side or the wrong side. I don't even know if there is a right side or wrong side.

(He points at Jane and Neil)

RON (CONT'D)

I've no idea who you are and if your side is the right side or the wrong side.

(He looks at Martin and Alan)

RON (CONT'D)

I've no clue who you are and if you are on the right side or the wrong side.

(He walks away from them thinking)

RON (CONT'D)

I don't even think any of you know if you are on the right side.

(They all look at each other for a
moment.)

NEIL

And your point is?

RON

My point is that unless you know what is the right side, how can you say that you are on the right side!

MARTIN

Ah well, that is obvious, it's easy to see.

JANE

You've said that before.

RON

Yes, you said that before, but still haven't told us why it is so obvious that you are on the right side.

(Pause. Martin turns to Alan)

MARTIN

Help me out here. Tell these people why they are on the wrong side!

ALAN

Ah, well, that is easy...

(They all wait for him to say something)

ALAN (CONT'D)

It's obvious, can't you see it!

(Ron moves away from them and goes to Jane and Neil)

RON

Ok, if you really think you are on the right side, then tell us why your side is the right side.

JANE

Shall I?

NEIL

Sure please.

JANE

Thank you. You see according to the constitution in section 15, paragraph 22, it makes provision for anyone under sanction 13 a, sub section D in accordance to the public act of rights and undertaking, that an individual who complies with the provisions established in the above said sectors including appendix 104 and 105, without excluding section 33 of the same, the right to be on the right side when he or she, without predigest or discrimination, may be on the right side.

(Pause. They all look at her)

JANE (CONT'D)

And that is why this is the right side.

NEIL

Absolutely.

MARTIN

That is bull shit!

JANE

How do you know?

RON

Yes, how do you know?

MARTIN
That can't be possible.

NEIL
Why not?

MARTIN
Because...

(They all look at him. He turns to
Alan)

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Help me out here...

ALAN
Well...

(He pauses and think)

ALAN (CONT'D)
It is bull shit because section 33 of the appendix has been
taken out.

(Jane and Neil look at each other)

NEIL
(to Jane)
Is this true?

JANE
(to Neil in a lower voice)
I don't know, I will need to check it out and come back to
you.

NEIL
(turns to all)
We will need to verify this information and come back to you.

MARTIN
Aha! You see, you are on the wrong side!

JANE
We are not! This is just merely an administrative oversight
which we will correct.

ALAN
In the mean time you are still on the wring side!

NEIL
We are not on the wrong side!

(They get into a verbal battle of
"we are on the right side" Ron
looks at them and after a few
seconds he puts his head phones on
and starts to walk out. Jane sees

this)

JANE
Hey, where are you going?

(He can't hear her so he continues
to walk)

JANE (CONT'D)
Stop him!

(Alan runs after him and stops him)

ALAN
Where are you going?

RON
I'm going home.

ALAN
You can't.

RON
Why not?

ALAN
I don't know.

(He turns to Jane)

ALAN (CONT'D)
Why can't he go?

JANE
(comes over)
Look, you were here before me. You saw the line. You were
even touching it, I saw you.

RON
So?

JANE
So you must know which is the right side. You were standing
there. You were the first one to be there.

(Ron looks at Jane who is holding
his arm. He frees himself from her
and walks back to the center of
the stage. Walks around and looks
at the surroundings. He stands in
both sides and moves as if testing
the ground, smelling the air and
checking out the area. Once he's
done this, they all stand again in
their place, waiting his verdict.)

(He looks at them and then speaks)

RON
I think both sides are wrong.

MARTIN
What!

JANE
That can't be!

NEIL
Ridiculous

ALAN
Come on kid, you are joking!

RON
Look, it doesn't really matter...

NEIL
What do you mean it doesn't really matter?

MARTIN
It matters, and it matters a lot!

JANE
Think about it, which side would you rather be on?

ALAN
That's easy, this side of course!

RON
Actually I don't think i'd like to be on either side.

MARTIN
Don't be stupid boy, everyone wants to be on one side.

RON
What if I want to be on both sides?

JANE
It's impossible!

ALAN
You can only be on one side!

NEIL
Come on boy, make up your mind, which is the right side?

MARTIN
Yes, which one? Come on!

JANE
Decide!

ALAN
Choose the right side!

(And as they said this they have
towered over him and he is almost
kneeling down)

ALL

Which is the right side!

(Ron looks at them and slowly goes
on his knees and gets close to the
line. He picks the end of it
carefully and slowly peels one end
up. He stops)

JANE

What are you doing?

(He peels one bit more)

ALAN

What's he playing at?

(He pulls another section off)

NEIL

Have you gone insane!

(And then he looks at them and hold
the section he has already peeled
off with both hands)

MARTIN

Don't you dare!

RON

There is no right side!

(He then pulls the rest of the line
off the floor)

ALL

No!

LIGHT OFF

SCENE 2

(They are all standing facing the
audience each on a spot light.
After they speak their light goes
off)

JANE

Hello. My name is Jane Miles, lawyer and I am on the right
side.

ALAN

Hello. My name is Alan Dumbbell, construction worker and I am on the right side.

MARTIN

Hello. My name is Martin Gordon, school teacher and I am on the right side.

NEIL

Hello. My name is Neil Paterson, banker and I am on the right side.

(Then a spot light comes on Ron who has a small roll of white tape, just enough to tape across the stage. As he speaks he walks across the stage, taping the white line across just in front of the other)

RON

Hi. I'm Ron, student and I am in nobody's side. The reason? I don't think there is a right side. Some times people think they are on the right side, but in fact there are wrong. But not because they are on the wrong side, but because there is no right side. When you are given a choice, you want to have a good choice, but when all you get is shit, then you know there is no right side. And the solution?

(The lights come on and now there is a long line across the stage and Ron steps in front of it)

RON (CONT'D)

A collision, a group of people who think they are on the right side when in fact they are all on the wrong side!

LIGHTS GO OFF