

Monologue Mania!

In the Hood

by Pat Lydersen

FEMALE / 50s or older / Present day

About the play: The corner of 159th Street and 43rd Avenue is a lively neighborhood. Kids play hopscotch while the shop owners take care of their businesses. But kind, old Mr. Fineburg is in money trouble and about to lose all the buildings he owns thanks to Mr. Guy Jantic. The greedy businessman is threatening to purchase the properties and turn the street into a state-of-the-art parking lot. Mr. Fineburg's tenants, who are also his friends, get together with other residents to try to save their "hood." It looks like they're doomed to failure until modern social media saves the day.

About the scene: Ditzzy, eccentric Miss Bowman is a long-time resident of the neighborhood who constantly reminisces about her days on the stage while teaching acting to many of the neighborhood kids and teens. She is currently leading an outdoor acting class in her very unique, extravagant, and dramatic style.

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MISS BOWMAN:

No more talking! It is time to emote! Everyone imagine that you are an ice cream cone—cold, rich, and creamy with a lovely crisp and sugary cone.

You love being an ice cream cone! Think of what flavor you are. Chocolate? Strawberry? Or perhaps a tasty butter pecan! Become that ice cream cone, children! Glory in your cold creaminess! Glory in it!

But, oh, what is this? It is beginning to get warmer. You are starting to melt! Oh, yes! Melt, children! Melt down the sides of your cone, which is becoming soggy and soft! Sink slowly to the ground, sink, sink! Close your eyes. All is black!

Now, you are trapped in a tight, leathery shell. You are a butterfly in your cocoon ready to emerge! Push against the wall of that cocoon! Push! Push! Finally, you are out. Fly into the sky! You feel free and happy! Flit through the air! Flit, children! Flap those wings! But then... a storm comes up. You are tossed back and forth in the wind. Back and forth! Back and forth! What are you to do? What are you to do? You fall to the ground, your wings twisted and broken!

Then, slowly, something magical happens. You begin to grow! You grow up, up, up, to become a giant oak tree. Be that oak tree, children! Feel your branches and your leaves rippling in the breeze. Feel the sap coursing through your veins! You are strong! You are powerful!