

How to Get Sick and Die Trying

ACT 1 - Scene 1 - Opening

Pre-show. Audience chatter. Magic in the air.

Lights fade to black.

Play "STARTOFSHOW.WAV"

Lights up at 50% on first big bang (0:18)

Connor is on stage holding a foil-covered box. He puts the box down and does a small dance move.

Connor exits.

Jordan enters, holding a red question mark. He tapes it to the box.

Jordan exits.

Track will end on its own.

Lights to 100%

Connor enters. He collapses.

Connor:

Doctor! Doctor! I need a doctor!

Devon enters.

Devon:

Or do you? Hi, my name is Devon Hyland, hold for applause, and I'm here to tell you that maybe... just maybe... You (full rotation of arms around the back, point to Connor) don't need a doctor after all.

Connor:

But I *do* need a doctor, hold for applause; I'm very sick.

Devon:

But Connor shut up. What if I were to tell you that being sick is *actually* a good thing?

Connor stands up, suddenly fine.

Connor:
A good thing?

Connor exits dumbly.

Devon:
Yes.

Play “SICKDOESTHETRICK.WAV”

Devon:
Being sick, does the trick!

Jordan and Connor poke their heads out:

Jordan and Connor:
It does? It does?

Devon:
Yes.

Devon kills the song with a throat motion.
it ends on its own, no tech required

Devon:
During the course of this show we will be demonstrating why being sick is actually - contrary to the opinion of the “trained medical professionals, yogi bear, and this woman’s dumb friend” - a good thing. Then it will be *us* who will be teaching *you* the ways you can become ill. So sit comfortably, buckle your seat-belts, hold for applause and get ready for-

Jordan enters with hip hop street-wear.

Jordan
Yo. There no seat belts, guy.

Devon:
No seatbelts, hip hop JJ? Are you telling me Comedy Bar is not equipped with seatbelts? How are people expected to stay in their chairs?

Jordan:
Well with a show this poppin, they’re nizzle!!

Devon:

This is a serious problem, here.

Connor enters, clipboard in hand.

Connor:

It's no doubt a safety concern- really, Jordan? Hip hop JJ at a time like this? Devon, I've been doing some calculations and... what if we make the show slightly less entertaining? You know, so they won't become overwhelmed and they'll stay in their chairs?

Jordan:

Pull back on the quality of the show?

Connor:

Might be our only safe option.

Devon:

(nodding)

Yep... yep, that's gonna have to be what we do. All right, let's cancel everything hilarious we had planned. That means any pages in your script that were blue. We're just doing the orange and green pages, okay?

Connor:

The not-as-good ones.

Devon:

That's our show.

Cast:

Got it / Okay / This will be much less funny / Easier workload / You're the boss / I hate comedy anyway / etc.

Cast begins to file out.

Jordan:

(pointing at "?" box)

We still going to use the magic box?

Devon:

No. Cut it.

Jordan:

Awww...

Jordan lifts up the box.

Blackout.

Play “INBETWEEN.WAV”

ACT 1, SCENE 2 - Obligation Avoidance

Lights up on:

Connor standing stage-right.

Connor:
Section One, Part One: Obligation Avoidance.

Connor spins.

Connor (cont'd):
I'm feeling really sick today...

Devon enters and Connor immediately exits

Devon:
...is a phrase that excuses you from performing the everyday common pleasantries that are forced upon us by *society and this woman's dumb friend*. Speaking those words will afford you “sicky-person allowance” to look off in a disinterested manner, place your face in your hands for no reason, and sit however's comfortable.

You may think that people expect very little of you now, especially if you're me - which I was recently disappointed to find out that I am – but your friends and co-workers will expect *even less* from a person they “know to be ill.”

Connor and Jordan enter.

CONNOR:
Piano-Tuning Recitals.

JORDAN:
Exorcisions.

DEVON:

Helping a friend move yogi bear's dead body.

There are many things in life we would like to avoid. I mean, how many times have you woken up and thought:

CONNOR:

Jeez I suck, this sucks, I suck. I hate my life. My shoes hurt. How comes there's no more than 1 sun. I don't want to.

DEVON:

Well, if you're a little wuss like Connor is in real life, you can easily avoid all of life's unwanted tasks. Watch this brief demonstration relating to work.

Devon pretends to call Jordan

Devon

Hello, Boss?

Jordan

Yes, Employee?

Devon

I have something of an ailment.

Jordan

Say no more, you are excused from working today.

Devon

Ok, I'll stay home.

Devon winks to the audience

Jordan

I hear Netflix is good.

Devon

Oh yeah? I haven't seen that one yet. Is it online?

Jordan

Yes

Devon

I'll check it out. What's the web address?

Jordan

Not sure, but if you go to the library they can look it up in a book.

Devon
Thank you good bye.

Devon hangs up. Jordan exits.

Devon
After a short trip to the library...

Devon walks stage-right.

Connor:
It's netflix.com

Connor exits. Devon returns to centre-stage and sits down.

Devon
...You'll be relaxing in couch-town with an orange juice in one hand, and a wireless laptop mouse in the other. Be forewarned: netflix is one long, confusing movie with many characters and story-lines, and plenty of opening and end credit sequences to what seem like different films.

Blackout.

Play "INBETWEEN.WAV"

ACT 1 - SCENE 3 - Sympathy From Others

Lights up on:

Connor standing stage-right.

CONNOR:
Section One, Part Two: Sympathy from others. What's the greatest thing about sympathy?

Connor exits.

Devon enters.

DEVON
Probably the chocolate. You play your sympathy cards correctly and you can get an aero bar, a jersey milk, fuck, even a *toblerone* from your unsuspecting friends and family. You make yourself ill and I promise you that sexy guys and sexy gals will be lining up to blow raspberries in your tum-tum, tickle your feet, and feed you baby-food...

Lighting to 50%.

...and we all like baby-food. We do. Period.

Lighting back to 100%.

Jordan and Connor enter, Jordan mimes being pathetic, Connor gives him a tobleron.

DEVON:

Other people's sympathy is a gift from them, but to receive it you must lower yourself. Because if you put yourself so obviously below another person that they perceive themselves to be *much* better and *much* higher than you, they will feel bad for their good luck. Make someone else's life seem amazing by comparison, and you have done two people two very big favours! They feel great about themselves for giving you a tobleron, and you get a tobleron.

Devon grabs his guitar.

JORDAN:

Sympathy is a hug from a girl who is not attracted to you

CONNOR:

A friendly smile from the man who you assume owns the arcade.

Song begins.

CAST:

The worse you look

The better people treat you

Unless you go too far and you look homeless

Yes, The worse you appear

The more they say "oh dear"

And shower you with love and hugs and kindness

If you look like you're strugglin'

As you shuffle down the street

People rarely hassle you

Or kick you with their feet

Walk with pride and you will see

A different world complexion

Where people use their kickin' limbs,

to teach your ass a lesson.

When you smile

with your lips

But you cry

with your eyes

People know

there's something wrong

*and share their
hot, crispy, gold-en, mc-don-ald's french fries!*

*Everybody knows someone who is losing
No one asks that loser for favours
When you look like you would crumble at the task
You're very rarely asked to do hard labour*

CONNOR:
Can you guys help me move my shed?

DEVON:
(to audience)
You will occasionally be asked to do hard labour.

SOUND CUE: PLAY "SHED.WAV"

Cast moves mimed shed for approx. 20 seconds.

Fade to black as song fades out.

Play "INBETWEEN.WAV"

ACT 1 - SCENE 4 - To Make Others Sick

Lights up:

CONNOR
Section One, Part Three: To Make Others Sick.

Connor exits.

Devon enters.

DEVON
I am not a spiteful man, though I do hold grudges against those who have done me wrong in the past, and I do like finding ways to even out the score.

"The score?" you ask, dumbly unaware that everyone but you is keeping score. Yes, the score. That thing by which everyone judges you and your girlfriends.

Connor and Jordan enter.

JORDAN
Did you hear? Martha is dating Alvin.

CONNOR

What a score differential!

DEVON

And so on. If you haven't been keeping score, chances are: you have a low score.

A good score is like a 13, a 14...

If you're looking for an example, take these two totally imaginary characters. In real life, Jordan hates Connor because of what he said earlier about Hip Hop JJ.

CONNOR

I just thought it was an inappropriate time for such a character-

Connor looks sad. Jordan hides coughing into his hand, wheels arounds and kisses Connor on the lips. He then grabs Connor's weiner with his dirty hand.

DEVON

Jordan just did something he wouldn't have been able to do if he were not sick: make his mortal enemy in real life, cpethompson@gmail.com, sick. Connor now has the opportunity to make his mortal enemy sick.

Connor coughs on the back Devon's head.

Beat.

ALL:

And now back to the shed moving.

Play "SHED.WAV" again.

Cast moves the imaginary shed a little farther.

Fade to black with the music.

Play "INBETWEEN.WAV"

ACT 1 - SCENE 5 - SELF-LOATHING

Lights up on:

CONNOR

Section One, Part Four: Self-Loathing. Ugh.

Connor exits.

DEVON:

You're a big fuck up!

You feel bad, don't you? You know what else makes you feel bad? Being sick. But this is actually beneficial, because when we feel bad about ourselves we can more easily identify our faults, of which there are many, especially if you're Connor. Connor Thompson, everybody!

CONNOR (O.S.)

No!

DEVON

And being able to identify your faults is the first step toward self-improvement.

Since many of you have not chosen to be sick yet, you might not be able to see your shortcomings as easily as we can. So, these are your errors, you losers:

Connor and Jordan enter.

C- Brides don't feel comfortable around you.

D- You walk too slow in the carpool lane.

J- You never remember birthdays or if someone has died or not.

D- You laugh too much when we're not expecting it.

C- You slow down serious shows with your laughter.

J- You didn't bring the cat you promised.

D- You pay with debit at the drive-thru coffin store.

C- My shoes hurt.

J- You're in the pocket of Big Duck.

D- And the most important thing!

ALL- You don't own a nice suit.

Jordan exits.

CONNOR

Hello young man, are you looking to buy a suit?

DEVON

Yes I am. Please show me your nicest suit.

CONNOR

My nicest suit? Why, whatever would have caused you to want such a thing?

DEVON

Lately I've been sick and.

(beat)

CONNOR

Ah, say no more. That's our number one reason for people who are wanting to buy our suits.
Right this way please.

Connor points the wrong way.

They walk the right way.

CONNOR

Here it is, our nicest suit.

DEVON

I'll take it.

CONNOR

Excellent, please accept this free container of baby food.

DEVON

I like baby food.

CONNOR

Why OF COURSE you do!

Lighting to 50%

CONNOR:

You like baby food.

DEVON AND CONNOR:

Period.

Lighting back to 100%.

JORDAN (from audience):

Ohhhhh, I get it now. Those are the reasons why being sick is a good thing. Got it. I'm convinced. But now that I know why being sick is a good thing, are you going to show me ways that I make myself ill?

Devon:

Yes, we are. Why don't you come up here and continue performing in the rest of the show with us?

Jordan:

That *was* the agreement.

BLACKOUT

Play "INBETWEEN.WAV"

ACT 2 - SCENE 1 - Meet People's Kids

LIGHTS UP

JORDAN:

Section 2, Part 1: Meet People's Kids

DEVON:

The number one, easiest way to get sick is to meet people's kids.

I'll say it again:

The number one way to get sick: Meet. People. 'Skids.

Haunted houses, ball pits, chocolate factories... get out there and greet 'em!

Those big babies are just *covered* in germs, rollin' about in the dirt and lickin' animals. They are often not smart enough to connect eating vomit with then vomiting themselves. Kids love to eat vomit.

Look out on your street. Check out your neighbors.

Check 'em out.

Do they have kids? Good. You want to spend as much time around those kids as possible, and *that's why* inviting yourself on your neighbor's family vacation is just about the smartest thing you can do. So that's what we're going to do right now.

1. **Establish sadness.** Take a stroll around the neighbourhood to remind your neighbours that you exist. If you can, think about some questionable life decisions you've made in the recent past to make your face convey an expression of deep thought and concern.

2. **Demonstrate babysitter skills.** Show them you're good at carrying things for a long time by adding a large piece of wood to those neighbourhood walks for the weeks leading up to the big day.
3. **Admire luggage.** If you're lucky enough to speak to your neighbours, try to steer the conversation toward luggage.

CONNOR:

Sure wish I had a reason to use *my* suitcase.

DEVON:

Is an overt but effective catch-phrase. Use it often.

CONNOR

Sure wish I had a reason to use *my* su-

DEVON:

(interrupting)

4. **Say you need to go.** If they're not getting the hint, come right out and say it. Lie. Make threats. Jokingly at first, then play it by ear.
5. **Go on vacation anyway.** Surprise your neighbours by picking their kids up after school. Drive'em to your favourite national park and hole up for a few days in a remote cabin you rented. Why remote? You don't want anyone else getting infected; those are your germs, you've worked hard for them. If all goes well you'll be crammed in a dirt-floor cabin with germy kids for days. Next stop: Sicktown. Population: Is Sick.

Blackout.

Play "INBETWEEN.WAV"

ACT 2 - SCENE 2 - Eat and Drink Things that Taste Good

Lights up on:

JORDAN

Section 2, Part 2 - Eat and Drink Things that Taste Good

Jordan exits.

DEVON

Life is short, and it's important to realize that we will all die tonight - *could* all die tonight.

Some say that life's too short to drink bad wine, but I say life's too short to complain about wine all the time, jeez, it's all we have I'm not going to the store. Not tonight. Not in this storm.

Sound cue: "THUNDERANDRAIN.WAV"

Blackout.

Low-lighting (like an emergency power thing... blue if possible)

DEVON

Looks like we're stuck here for the night. What do we have for rations?

Connor and Jordan enter.

CONNOR

I have a snickers bar.

DEVON

Great, mine. That one's mine. What else?

JORDAN:

I've got some salt and vinegar Ms. Vicky's chips.

DEVON

Great, mine, that one's mine. What else?

CONNOR

(holding an onion)

I have this celery.

DEVON

You can keep that.

Blackout.

Stop all sound.

Regular Lights up

They all bow. They shake hands and Jordan and Connor exit.

DEVON:

Why did the character in the “storm game” only take the junk food? Because a wise man like “stormman” recognizes that eating junk food is not only delicious, it comes at a cost. The healthy cost of disease.

Jordan and Connor enter.

CONNOR

Wait, are you saying I can have my cake and get sick too?

DEVON

Yes

JORDAN

What about cupcakes?

DEVON

Yes.

CONNOR

Miniature pies?

DEVON

Yes.

JORDAN

Half a cupcake?

DEVON

Yes.

CONNOR

Carrots?

DEVON

No.

JORDAN

Carrot pie?

DEVON

Maybe.

CONNOR

Carrot Cake?

DEVON

Yes

CONNOR

I don't get-

JORDAN AND DEVON:

And so on!

Jordan exits.

DEVON

So in conclusion, eat what-

CONNOR

(interrupting)

Pizza Sauce. I get it now.

Devon points to the exit, Connor leaves.

DEVON

So in conclusion, be like Stormman and eat what tastes good and feel like shit afterwards. Otherwise, the opposite. (Devon frowns and shakes his head.)

Blackout.

Play "INBETWEEN.WAV"

ACT 2 - SCENE 3 - Fall In Love

Lights up on:

JORDAN

Section 2, Part 3: Fall in Love

Jordan moves to stage left.

Connor enters and joins Jordan.

Song begins:

Capo 2

NARRATOR:

C

The person that you fall in love with

Em

Will take over your whole life

D7 G

Likely limiting

F

How much time you have to eat

C

vitamins

DOCTOR:

G

F#

Em

Doctor's Patient, Doctor's Patient

C

B

Am

This chart says: I love you [he hands her a red heart from a file]

PATIENT

G

F#

Em

Patience, Doctor, Patience, Doctor

C

B

Am

A7

You know I'll say "I do" ... when you ask me to marry you. [they hug, not moving]

NARRATOR:

Em

Em6

Em7

Em6

And so they stayed that way, for five days in May.

ANNOUNCER / COUPLE

C

D

G

They/we never moved from the spot

DEVON:

Being in love is horrible. You can't move. You're basically just laying in bed, doing nothing, not exercising properly, getting sick... which is actually a good thing.

Blackout.

Play “INBETWEEN.WAV”

ACT 2 - SCENE 4 - Take Medication For Illness

Lights up on:

Jordan standing stage-left.

JORDAN
Section 2, Part 4: Take Medication For Illness

Jordan exits.

Devon enters.

DEVON
They have this wonderful stuff called medicine. If you take enough, it makes you sick. Make sure to ask your doctor how much to take. Then take more; I find they're usually wrong.

Whatever you do, don't underdose or you'll start to feel better.

Blackout

Play “INBETWEEN.WAV”

ACT 2 - SCENE 5 - Try Your Best

Lights up on:

Jordan standing stage-left. Connor is standing stage-right. Each is holding a jar of pickles.

JORDAN
Section 2, Part 5: Try Your Best

Devon enters.

Jordan and Connor cross downstage and crouch down in the audience.

DEVON:
If you really want to make yourself sick, it's important that you weaken your immune system by overexerting yourself all the time. Now, did anyone bring a tight jar of pickles?

Jordan and Connor each hand Devon their jar of pickles and walk backstage.

Devon does multiple pickle-jar exercises.

Now that I've sweat a lot using these *two* jars of pickles, I'm more susceptible to illness. My body is in a weakened state, like your body sir. (point to no one in particular.)

Along with bringing down your physical state, trying your best can also lower your emotional state. Because chances are your best won't be sufficient, whether it's basketball, scrap booking or...shed moving.

Back to shed moving.

Play "SHED2.WAV"

ALL:

We just couldn't move the shed far enough.

Jordan and Connor exit.

DEVON

Try. Fail. Get sick.

Play "TRYYOURBEST.WAV"

DEVON:

*Endeavour to succeed with every little venture
If you want a clue to just how high you'll fly
Try your best at every turn that's the only way you'll learn
Exactly from which altitude you fall out of the sky*

CONNOR:

*Expose every short-coming
Try to make them long-comings
Measure out the distance that you fail
For all your fluke successes
There's a dozen little messes
That are there to show you just how in comparison you pale*

JORDAN:

*Present your intentions in front of a crowd
Remove any questions by the time you have bowed*

*Everyone will know what you
Can, kinda can, and cannot do
But either way they'll clap whether or not they're really wowed*

ALL:

*And if you end up getting to this part of the song
invite everyone to join up and sing along*

*sha-na-na-na-na-na-na
(sha-na-na-na-na-na-na)
I said
sha-na-na-na-na-na-na
(sha-na-na-na-na-na-na)*

DEVON

Ahhhh!

JORDAN AND CONNOR

Oh no! He's dead.

Jordan and Connor scramble off-stage.

Blackout.

Play "DEATH.WAV"

ACT 2 - Scene 6 - Death

Lights up:

Devon is still dead on stage.

Jordan enters.

JORDAN:

Devmeister, I am an other-wordly spiritual being, an OSB for short, and I'm here to present you two choices: live or die.

DEVON

Thank OSB you're here, I choose to die.

JORDAN:

But death is nothingness. You'll have no consciousness, no experiences, hell, you'll never again get to have sexual relations with Monica Lewinsome Youlosesome!

DEVON

Well that sounds like just what I need. I don't know if you know this, but my life wasn't all that great anyway. I was sick all the time! Sitting in silence and just reflecting sounds like fun.

JORDAN

I don't think you understand, you're not-

DEVON

Yep, sitting in silence sounds like fun to me.

They sit down.

Play "SILENCE.WAV"

DEVON

Sitting in silence, not doing anything, that's the life for me.
Soon I'll fade away and die, and death is all I'll see.

JORDAN

When you say you will see death, what you really mean
Is because of your lack of consciousness, nothing will be seen

Lighting to 50%

Connor enters. He dances.

Lighting to 100%

ALL CAST:

No crying, no smiling,
no boston pizza

No emotions, no memories
no boston pizza

If you stand up on your table at a
boston pizza

and you this sing song for them
you'll be asked to leave...

...you'll be asked to leave...

...the boston pizza.

Blackout.

Play "BOWS.WAV"

Lights up. Bows. Exits. The end.