

Matters of the Heart
Or,
A Magic Trick

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Onstage, a series of boxes of various sizes, like those used in magic tricks. MAN enters. He is middled-aged, balding, slightly overweight. He wears jeans, a button-down shirt, and a vest. He is barefoot.

He looks into the darkness of the audience and then bows long and low. When he stands, he seems about to say something, but doesn't. Music begins. It is energetic but cheesy music of the kind used by second rate magicians who think they are sexy and cool.

The Man goes offstage and returns with a yellow teddy bear. He puts it in a box. Please note: all the specific items mentioned in this script can be replaced with other items that are meaningful to the actor or director. Furthermore, the actor should relate to the placing of the items in the boxes with care and a deep connection to what each items means to his past, his present and, possibly, his future.

The Man goes offstage and returns with a Big Wheel. He puts it in a box.

The Man goes offstage and returns with his FIRST LOVE. He puts him/her in a box.

The Man goes offstage and returns with a model rocket. He puts it in a box.

The Man goes offstage and returns with his TRUE LOVE. He puts him/her in a box.

The Man goes offstage and returns with an electric guitar.

He puts it in a box.

The Man goes offstage and returns with his SEVEN-YEAR-OLD SELF. He put him in a box.

The music crescendos and the Man makes some vaguely magical gestures. There is a loud BANG and a bright FLASH and the sides of all the boxes collapse outwards to reveal piles of dust.

Silence.

The Man looks confused. Lost. He wanders offstage.

Lights go out sometime.