

TAUTOLOGY by Julius Galacki

excerpt:

This is a monologue play where 4 characters rotate through their monologues in a Rashomon-like way. This particular set of monologues occurs about 2/3 of the way into the play. The son's monologue is published in Smith & Kraus' "Audition Arsenal for Men in their 20's" (p.106), though in fact the character is in his late teens:

father

I remember when I was seventeen. I was thinking about my parents -- how I thought they talked too much about what *they* had done for me. I was on top of this roof and I was thinking about this. (*He laughs.*) They *had done* a lot for me but I hated my old man for always telling me. Why did I think about that? (*A beat.*) I was real tired. Feeling so lonely. I remembered how Randi made me feel...whole like a man. I remember her telling me, in case anything happened to her -- I said "No. Never think you can die and leave me" -- but she kept on, I don't know why she had to...said if I ever had trouble with Randy Jr to think of when I was a kid. (*Beat.*) I forgot how I felt. How much I hated my old man. But I got through it. Because I had a sense of duty. I didn't do that with Randy Jr. That's got to be it. It was the only thing I could think of. When I got home he got me so mad. I didn't walk in wanting to be mad. I just didn't know how to get that sense of duty in him. I wanted to hit him.

son

I'm going to kill him. I thought about it. We have a long kitchen knife. Through his back into his heart. I'd have to strike really hard.... You see I was listening to the birds. I wasn't bothering him! He said how could I listen to the birds for hours. He didn't even look at them. They were little babies jumping from branch to branch. And they sang. Sang. Then he hit them with a stick. I heard the tree try to catch them as they fell. But they were dead already and they couldn't hold back. So they just fell. Then he turned to look at me. I thought he was going to kill me too. That's when I saw her. I hadn't seen her for years. Right then I could feel her brown curls -- how much I loved her. How well she took care of me. I knew he was going to kill me, so I screamed "Momma, save me!" And he froze. He started to cry, ran back into the house. She saved me. I've never seen anyone make him cry.