

TIME - Screenplay (Short)

written by

Satan

One person. One chair. One Camera.

It could be done on a stage, or as this is written, before a camera with cuts.

PERSON needs to be older, but able to act younger. They start quite confident and sure of themselves. Joking and speaking quite quickly with lines like, "You'll assume I am crazy, remember this, I am only a little crazy. I am not completely barking!"

Person deteriorates in between cuts. Confident speech falters a little, and then a lot.

PERSON (O / S)
Okay, is this thing on?

PERSON walks into shot and sits down on the CHAIR and looks at the CAMERA.

PERSON
You'll assume I am crazy. Remember this, I am only a little crazy. I am not completely barking! Ha! I may be. Who knows? Would I know if I was? I am not yet in a rubber room. So I can't complain.
(beat)
Well, I could complain. I like a good moan me, but I won't.
(beat)

CLAP hands together and places them in lap.

PERSON (cont'd)
Right, to the point. We could dillydally all day, but where would that get us. I am here because of time. Time, you may or may not know is a bitch. Just when you think you have it in a corner it either runs away screaming like a toddler in a tantrum or bitchslaps you like an aggressive teen.
(beat)
Wait, no that is wrong, and off point.

Gets up and walks BEHIND the camera.

CUT to black.

Camera comes back ON, PERSON is sitting back in front of it.

PERSON (cont'd)

Time. Most people see time like this. A to B to C. A being the past, B the present and C the future. Most people think that if we are going to travel in time we can go from point B, the present. To point A, the past. But we can't! There is no Sports Almanac to be had. Sorry Mr Tannon.

Person LEANS over and GRABS a couple of pills from a TABLE.

PERSON (cont'd)

They have me on these pills, first it was Donepezil.

Holds up a PILL.

PERSON (cont'd)

Then it was Memantine.

Holds up a SECOND pill.

Person takes the second pill, SWALLOWING it whole, he puts the first BACK on the table.

PERSON (cont'd)

Crazy, I told you! But drugs are drugs, and free drugs are better. But legal kids, always legal!

(beat)

So, A. B and C. The future is unfolding right, it is not yet written; as the movie with the robot told us.

(beat)

B to A is impossible, stop trying. B to C though, and, I suppose, A to C, now that is a different matter. Yes, we can travel to the future if we want.

Camera CUTS, then comes back

PERSON (cont'd)

Can't go back, it is shite and something you don't consider. I mean think about it, if you could go back someone would have assassinated Hitler, got a selfie with Jesus or some such nonsense.

(beat)

Forward we can do. It is not time travel really, it is more of a trick with time. A conning of time. Pulling a fast one - literally, over time.

(MORE)

PERSON (cont'd)

We have all done it in a minute way, yes, even you. It is doing it in a large way that is troublesome.

Person GRABS a load of PAPERS, covered with mathematical equations. He LOOKS them over.

PERSON (cont'd)

My notes. This part is tricky, therefore I need them for this bit, brain isn't quite what it once was. So, forward in time. We can't jump to one point in an instant, what you can do is follow the rules of the universe.

(beat)

The faster you go, the slower time. So when you are going at, lets say 70mph, time is moving for you at a faster rate than someone going at 4mph.

(beat)

Now, obviously, this is a minuscule difference at those speeds. It is something you would never notice, and why would you. But, lets say you go in to space. Then you will be a couple of seconds ahead! A few seconds, it is not much but it got people thinking.

Person TAPS a finger against the side of their head to indicate thinking.

PERSON (cont'd)

We can't go faster than the speed of light, we all know this; Einstein taught us that yonks ago. $E=mc^2$. This is simple stuff. The faster you get to the speed of light, c , the bigger the mass, m . So you cant exceed that speed. If you do, Its the end of the world...

Person hums the last line of the REM song, "Its the end of the world." Waiting, taking a moment, or just remembering.

PERSON (cont'd)

But I feel fine...

Person PAUSES, daydreaming for a second, STARING of to one side blankly, they snap out of it back to the camera.

PERSON (cont'd)

Sorry, drifted into a daydream there. Old song, I don't know if you know it. Came out ages ago, feels like yesterday.

(MORE)

PERSON (cont'd)
 (beat)
 All my troubles seemed so...

Person DRIFTS again for but a second, remembering a memory. SNAPPING back to the camera with a smile, as if nothing had happened.

PERSON (cont'd)
 But what if we could do 99.9 percent the speed of light? What if we pushed to the very limits, to the edge of what is possible. Now that is possible, that can be done.

Person LOOKS at their notes.

PERSON (cont'd)
 If we travel for two and a half years at the 99.9 times the speed of light, upwards. Zoom, off we go. Two and a half years, then turn around and two and a half years to get back. Five year round trip.

WAVE notes at the camera

PERSON (cont'd)
 We've travelled for five years, but here's the clever bit. Time back home on earth has moved forty years forwards. My maths is a little off, hey, I am not a mathematician, but it is close enough for this example. Here is the problem, here is the thing you don't consider when signing up.
 (beat)
 You can't go back. You're stuck out of place, and out of time.

Camera CUTS to black, and then back.

PERSON (cont'd)
 So, whaddya do? Going back isn't an option so you need to do something else. You can stay and live out your life, but why do that? It gets you nowhere, nowhere slowly. So you go forwards. And zoom, away you go.

GRABS a CUP and uses it like a space ship to demonstrate.

PERSON (cont'd)
 Two and a half up, two and a half down. Now you're eighty years out of time. And they still have not worked out a solution.
 (MORE)

PERSON (cont'd)

(beat)

Bugger! Panic sets in, Shit I am really stranded.

(beat)

So back you go, Zooming into space and then back. One hundred and Twenty, the darts announcer screams. Now you are well out of place. You didn't stop to think, you should have stopped. Impulsive that has always been your problem!

Person CRASHES the cup back to the table.

PERSON (cont'd)

Now you are really stuck, you are so far out you don't know a soul and your ship is broken. You can't fix it, you are not a damn Engineer. You can't even fix the a car. You check the things you were taught, but you can't find a problem. Shit, shit, shit, shit.

(beat)

You turn to the people who created the craft originally. The ones who recruited you, but they deny all knowledge. Secrecy? Disowned Project? The pitfalls of messing with time? I don't know. I only know that when I returned the ship was gone, I was alone. It was all gone.

Camera CUT to Black, and back.

PERSON (cont'd)

Family is important you see.

(beat)

I can't remember now, maybe it is time messing with me. You are not supposed to play with time, so maybe my brain cannot take it. Maybe I am crazy, do you think so? Maybe I am. I remember little bits, glimpses of a past that moves like ripples, starting clearly and then fading. I can remember some things, I just feel like they are there. Ready to be grabbed, but I reach out

Person REACHES out.

PERSON (cont'd)

But I can't grasp them. Like ghosts, drifting in a wind.

(MORE)

PERSON (cont'd)

I..I, its so close, I think I had children, I can't say for sure.

(beat)

It slips from me, just when I think it is there it is gone.

(beat)

The memory in the corner of my eye.

Person is getting visibly UPSET.

PERSON (cont'd)

I just don't know any more, did I have a family? Did I ... I just, it won't come. I just can't make it come.

(beat)

I don't have the time.

(beat)

I wasted so much time.

Person holds their head in their hands, blubbering

CUT BLACK.