Paul Acts 22 monologue

CHARACTERS: PAUL, at least 2 soldiers, Commanding Officer, as many CROWD people as desired.
COSTUMES: Biblical, cloaks on some of the crowd.
PROPS: None or spear for soldier.
SETTING: Open area
RUN TIME: 3 minutes
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 22
FK reading level: 7.0

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: This can be done strictly as a monologue but I highly suggest having CROWD people, SOLDIERS and COMMANDING OFFICER. Communication is a two way street and the facial reactions and body language of those listening can add much to the spoken word. Especially with a longer monologue, it is easy for audience attention to wander, but watching various reactions to the speaker keeps audience interest and aids in their emotional response, comprehension and retention. At the point Saul says he's being sent to the Gentiles, CROWD people should become angry or enraged and COMMANDING OFFICER & SOLDIERS should snap to an alert that a riot may take place. Up to that point, some of the crowd should be vigorously pro-Saul, shaking their heads "yes". A couple of the CROWD should be confused, shrugging their shoulders and looking at each other with puzzled faces. Some should seem skeptical, leaning back, hands under chin, heads cocked to one side, occasionally looking at a comrade and raising their eyebrows. A small child could be tugging on an adults hand and the adult should not make eye contact, brushing the child off who eventually sits and draws in the dirt with a finger until the shouting starts. Then the adult should scoop them up protectively, adding to the tension that something terrible may happen. The COMMANDING OFFICER can move occasionally, appraising the CROWD better, but immediately focusing back on SAUL to figure out what is going on.

At rise: Paul addresses a crowd flanked by Roman soldiers grasping his upper arms. Paul and the CROWD should be mostly facing the audience, but slightly cheated towards each other. CROWD is murmuring. COMMANDING OFFICER nods to SOLDIERS and SOLDIERS release SAUL.

PAUL: My fellow Jews, listen carefully as I make my defense before you! *(crowd quiets).* I am a good Jew, born in Tarsus in the province of Cilicia, but educated here in Jerusalem as a student of Gamaliel. I received strict instruction in the Law of our ancestors and I've always been passionately on God's side, just as you are right now. I went after anyone connected with this Jesus sect. The high priest and the council of the elders can testify I tell the truth. I received from them letters written to fellow Jews in Damascus. I went there to arrest these people and bring them back in chains to Jerusalem to be punished.

I arrived on the outskirts of Damascus about noon. A blinding light blazed out of the skies and I fell to the ground. I heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' I answered, 'Who are you, Master?' He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, the one you persecute.'

My companions saw the light, but they didn't hear the conversation.

Then I asked, 'what do I do now, Master?'

"He said, 'Get to your feet and enter Damascus. There you'll be told everything that God has determined for you to do.' I was blind because of the bright light, and so my companions took me by the hand and led me into Damascus where Ananias lived, a religious man who obeyed our Law and was highly respected by all the Jews

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living there. He came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' In that very hour I looked up at him and regained my sight.

Then he said, "So what are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized, and have your sins washed away".

I went back to Jerusalem, and while I was praying, I had a vision, in which I saw the Lord. He said to me, 'Hurry and leave Jerusalem quickly, because the people here will not accept what you say about me."

"Master", I said, "they themselves know that I was obsessed with hunting down, *(pained)* imprisoning and beating those in every synagogue who believed in you. *(even more pained)* When your witness Stephen was put to death, I myself was there, approving of his murder and taking care of the cloaks of his murderers.'

'Go,' the Lord said to me, 'for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.'

(Crowd throws off their cloaks, and throws dust into the air)

CROWD 1: Kill him!

CROWD 2: He's not fit to live!

CROWD 3: Away with him!

CROWD 4: Rid the earth of this fellow, for he isn't fit to live!

CROWD 5: Kill him! He's an insect! Stomp on him!

COMMANDING OFFICER: Get him out of this crowd and back to the barracks for questioning. *SOLDIER 1 grasps Paul's upper arms and takes him away while SOLDIER 2 keeps the crowd back, spear held crosswise.*

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