Paul's speech from Acts 23

CHARACTERS: Paul, soldiers, Claudius, Pharisee 1 & 2, Sadducee 1 & 2, Jesus, boy, extras as MOB
COSTUMES: Biblical
PROPS: none specified
SETTING: split stage: open area, prison
RUN TIME:
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 23
FK reading level: 5.7

At rise: PAUL, SOLDIERS, CLAUDIUS (commanding officer), and MOB stage right. Lights up only stage right.

PAUL: *(loudly)* Brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience until today. I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!

PHARISEE 1: Maybe a spirit or angel has spoken to him

SADDUCEE 1: There are no such things as angels or spirits

PHARISEE 2: *(shouting)* We find no evil in this man., let's not fight against God!

PHARISEE 1: He speaks truth about the resurrection of the dead.

SADDUCEE 1: *(loudly)* There is no resurrection

PHARISEE 1: *(Shouting)* There is! *(general chaos and shouting)*

CLAUDIUS: *(over the shouting to SOLDIER)* Get him out of here before they tear him to pieces. *Paul is taken stage left as mob is disbanded and exits. CLAUDIUS remains stage right. Lights down stage right, up stage left where Paul sits dejected, guarded by one soldier.*

JESUS: Cheer up, Paul, for as you have testified about me at Jerusalem, so you must testify also at Rome. *PAUL sits up. Small boy comes to him and whispers in his ear. PAUL motions for guard to take BOY to CLAUDIUS. Lights down stage left, up stage right.*

SOLDIER: Paul, the prisoner, and asked me to bring this young man to you, who has something to tell you. *CLAUDIUS motions SOLDIER to return to PAUL.*

CLAUDIUS: What is it that you have to tell me?

BOY: The Jewish authorities have agreed to ask you tomorrow to take Paul down to the Council, pretending they want to get more accurate information about him.

CLAUDIUS: That is reasonable.

BOY: Don't listen to them, because more than forty men have taken a vow not to eat or drink until they have killed him. They will be hiding and waiting for their chance.

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CLAUDIUIS: Don't tell anyone that you have reported this to me. *(CLAUDIUS sends him off stage left and beckons two centurions to him from off stage.)* Prepare two hundred soldiers to go as far as Caesarea, with seventy horsemen, and two hundred men armed with spears. You leave just after midnight.

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