

Script

THE IDEA'S TRIAL

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Act I

Fade in on a large, untidy room and it's 3:57 in the afternoon. The room is furnished with a long table and chairs. The walls are bare, drab, covered by little notes. Along one wall is a row of windows. High on another wall is a clock. A half closed toilet door is in one corner of the room, a small kitchen set and a water sink are in another corner. Nearby, we see empty beer bottles lying on the floor and there is lots of spilled paint everywhere. On the table are papers, pencils, ashtrays, and marks from coffee. It's hot in that room.

Four Jurors are seated in. They are waiting for one other Juror who is in the toilet. The camera drifts over the faces of the Jurors as they wait until the decision making starts. Juror no.1 opens up a box of cigarettes, which he smokes constantly throughout the play. Juror no.2 and Juror no.3 go for a glass of water in the kitchen, Juror no.4 is rising from his chair and walks nervously around the room. Papers blow to the floor as the door opens. The fifth Juror finally enters the room. The camera focuses on him as he walks in, slowly, consciously, and says..

Juror No. 5 :

Forgive me, gentlemen. I didn't mean to keep you waiting.

Juror No. 2 (briskly) :

It's all right. So, please. Let's take our seats.

Some of the Jurors nod. They all begin to sit down, while one of them taking off his jacket. The Jurors have to decide, whether the Idea is worthy of being produced, beyond reasonable doubt.

Now we see Juror no.1 puts out his cigarette.

Juror No. 1 (blowing out the last of the smoke) :

*Right. This better be fast. We've got other things to work on.
The other deadlines and so on, so anyway, lets just get started!*

Juror No. 2 :

*All right. Now, you can handle this any way you want to.
I mean, we are not going to make any rules.
If we want to discuss it first and then vote, that's one way.
Or we can vote right now to see where we stand.*

Juror No. 1 :

Let's vote now. Let's see who's where.

Juror No. 4 :

Right. Anybody doesn't want to vote?

He looks around the table. There is no answer.

Juror No.1 :

Okay, all those voting NOT-WORTHY raise your hands.

Juror No.1's hand rises quickly. Followed by Juror No.3, then Juror No.2. Juror No.4 raises his hand more slowly. Everyone looks around the table and Juror No.5's hand is not raised.

Juror No.1 :

That's four for NOT-WORTHY. Okay. WORTHY?

Finally, Juror No.5 raises his hand.

Juror No.1 :

One. Right. Now we know where we are. There is always one.

Juror No. 4 :

I guess we should talk. So you think the Idea is worthy enough to be produced?

Juror No. 5 (quietly) :

I'm not sure.

Juror No. 1 :

*Look, I've never seen a worse Idea in my life.
You sat right in the studio and heard the same thing I did.
The Idea is simply not original. You could see it!*

Juror No. 5 :

It's still young

Juror No. 1 :

*Come on.. Lots of other artist have been developing this kind of Idea
and they resolved it in a thousand different ways. Do you want me to list them?*

Juror No. 5 :

No.

Juror No. 3 :

So why do you vote WORTHY?

Juror No. 5 :

*There were 4 votes for NOT-WORTHY.
It's not so easy for me to raise my hand and send an Idea off to die without talking about it first.*

Juror No. 2 :

Who says it's easy for me?

Juror No.5 :

No one.

Juror No. 2 :

Why, just because I voted quickly? By realizing it, I think the medium kills the Idea. You couldn't change my mind if you talked for a hundred of years.

Juror No. 5 :

I don't want to change your mind. I just want to talk for a while. Look, this Idea has popped up a couple of times. It comes up pretty much out of a euphoric moment. It's a raw and spontaneous Idea. What do they call it in German? Schnappsdee!. And you know, we knock them down just too often. I think, I think maybe we owe it a few words. That's all.

Juror No.5 looks around the table. Some of the Jurors cannot look at him.

Only Juror NO.4 nods slowly.

Juror No. 1 :

I don't mind telling you this, mister. We don't owe this Idea a thing. Look, we're all grownups here. You're not going to tell us that we're supposed to believe this Idea, knowing what it is. You can't believe a word this Idea says. You know that.

Juror No. 3 :

I don't see any need for arguing like this. If we're going to discuss this case, let's discuss the facts.

Juror No. 4 :

I think that's a good point. Let's do it.

Juror No. 3 :

Ok, I may have a suggestion. I'm just thinking out loud now, but it seems to me that we try to convince this gentleman—(indicating Juror No. 5)—that we're right and he's wrong. Maybe if we each took a minute or two, you know, to say something.

Juror No. 2 :

That sounds fair enough.

Juror No. 3 :

So.. (To No. 1) I guess you're first.

Juror No. 1 :

Okay, Number one, let's take the curator who came by to the studio when the sketch was being made. After he said, "I've seen it", he explained that he was a in a big exhibition a couple of years ago and saw a similar work and it turned out that the work was considered a failure.

Juror No.2 :

And he also showed the reviews from the media.

Juror No.1 :

Right. Now what else do you want?

Juror No.4 :

Wait a minute, what about the gallery owners' thoughts?

Juror No.2 :

The gallery owner, who is also the artists' friend, said that the way the work will be installed, makes it impossible to be sold and to be shown in any space.

Juror No.5 :

I'd like to ask you something. How come you believed her so easily?

Juror No. 2 (Loud) :

What do you mean?

Juror No. 5 :

*Lets just hear first what other people think.
(To Juror No.3) So what do you think?*

Juror No. 3 (timidly) :

*(Long pause) I just think the Idea is not worthy enough.
I thought that was obvious*

Juror No. 5 :

Nothing is obvious. You know that.

Juror No. 3 (flustered):

Well, most of it has been said already. We can talk all day about this, but I think we're wasting our time. I mean, Look at this kind of Idea's record. Comes from a personal problem. Born from stress or sometimes under the influence of drugs or alcohol. And you know, schnappsidgee always seems stupid after thinking about it again over the next days.

Juror No. 4 :

Yes! I would say it's too unreliable.

Juror No. 2 (Loud):

So would I!

Juror No. 3 :

OK calm down now. We're wasting time. (To No.4) How about you?

Juror No. 4 :

The Idea claims that it needs a specific medium, to bring the originality out of it. The other medium will not be able to express the message, and by doing this, the Idea is not worthy enough to be realized.

Juror No. 1 :

See, this guy knows what he's talking about. It's impossible to realize this Idea.

Juror No. 5 :

Nothing is impossible.

Juror No. 1 :

Oh come on.. Really?

Juror No. 5 :

Yes really? How about this..

Juror No. 5 reaches casually into his pocket the withdraws a sketch, which he made when he was trying to visualize this Idea. He said that one night, he put random words that interested him in Google and by accident he found a link, which apparently shows a possibility of how the Idea could be executed. No one notices this. He puts the sketch on the table and he stands up quietly. Then Juror no. 2 starts to speak.

Juror No. 2 :

you trying to make us accept a coincidence?

Juror No. 5:

I'm not trying to make you accept it. I'm just saying it's possible.

Juror No. 1(shouting) :

*And I'm saying it's not possible. What are you, the Idea's lawyer?
Listen, there are still four of us who think the Idea is not worthy. You're alone.
What do you think you're going to accomplish? Do you really want to stay here all night.*

Juror No. 4 :

It's only one night. An Idea may die.

*Juror no.4 glances at Juror No.5 for a long while, but has no answer. Juror no.1 looks closely at Juror no.5. We can begin to sense an intense vibe between them. There is a long silence.
Suddenly, Juror No.5 stands up and says..*

Juror No. 5 (standing) :
I've got a proposition to make.

We catch a close shot of Juror no.1 looking at Juror No.5 as he talks.
Meanwhile Juror No.2, seems puzzled, and listens closely.

Juror No. 5 (standing) :
*I want to call for a vote. I want you four to vote by secret ballot. I'll abstain.
If there are still four votes for NOT WORTHY, I will just accept it and we can let the artist make the
decision.*

Juror No. 3 :
That sounds fair. Does everyone agreed?

They all nod their heads. Juror No.2 starts to pass ballot slips to all of them. Juror no.5 walks over to the window, looks out for a moment and then faces them. He watches them tensely as they begin to write. The camera shows a closed shot of every face of the Jurors. Then to a wide shot where we see every Juror in frame and the scene slowly, slowly fades out.

Act II

Fade in on the same scene. No time lapse. Now we see Juror No.5 stays perfectly still the other Jurors fold the ballots and pass them along to the Juror no.3. Juror No.3 takes them, checks through the folded ballots, counts four and now he is ready to open them. The rest of the Jurors watch him quietly. We hear his voice and the sound of Juror No.1 dragging and blowing his cigarette.

Juror No.3 starts to open the first ballot..

Juror No.3 :
NOT-WORTHY.

He opens the second ballot.

Juror No.3 :
NOT-WORTHY.

Then he opens the third ballot.

Juror No.3 :
NOT-WORTHY.

He pauses at the forth ballot and reads it quietly.

Juror No.3 :
WORTHY.

Juror No. 1 (angry) :
How do you like that!

Juror No. 2 :

Who was it? I think we have a right to know.

Juror No. 3 :

*Excuse me. This was a secret ballot. We agreed on this, no?
If he wants it to remain secret...*

Juror No. 1 (standing up):

*What do you mean? There are no secrets in here! I know who it was.
(He turns to No. 3) What's the matter with you?
Now you vote WORTHY because this slick preacher starts to tear your heart out
with stories about a poor little impulse, which just couldn't help becoming the worst Idea.*

Juror No. 2 :

Now hold it.

Juror No. 1 :

*Hold it?
We're trying to put a bad Idea into where it belongs
and all of a sudden we're paying attention to fairy tales.*

Juror No. 3 :

Just a minute! I would like to say something here.

Juror No. 4 (quietly) :

*There's nothing for him to tell you. He didn't change his vote. I did.
Maybe you want to know why.*

There is a silence. We see a close up shot of Juror No.1's disappointed face then a close up shot to the other Jurors faces. One after another.

Juror No. 4 :

*(Pointing at Juror No.5) This gentleman chose to stand alone against us. And that is his right. It takes great
courage to stand alone. He left the verdict up to us. He gambled for support and I gave it to him. So, I
want to hear more. The vote is three to two.*

Juror No. 2 (to Juror No.5) :

*Look, suppose you answer me this.
If we would realize this Idea, what would other people think about the artists' originality?*

Juror No. 5 :

*As far as I know, we have to decide whether or not the idea is worthy to be executed.
We're not concerned with anyone else's motives here.*

Juror No. 4 :

Worthy or not, beyond a reasonable doubt. This is an important thing to remember.

Juror No. 1 :

*Everyone's a lawyer.
(To Juror No. 4) Supposing you explain what your reasonable doubts are.*

Juror No. 4 :

This is not easy. So far, it's only my feeling. Perhaps you don't understand.

Juror No. 2 : (loud)

A feeling! What are we gonna do? spend the night talking about your feelings? What about the facts? Look, the gallery owner said that the way the work will be installed, makes it impossible to be sold and to be shown in any space. And you know.. we knew her for quite a while.. We have already done a couple projects together and I think it should be something to be recognized.

Juror No. 1 :

That's right. And let's not forget the curator who came by to the studio. After he took a look at the sketch and after some talks, he said "I've seen it", and he said that it turned out, the work was considered a failure.

Juror No. 5 :

Well, I don't know. It doesn't sound right to me. He was only there for around 10-15 minutes. At this point, he was in a hurry. he said that he only had little time because of the next meeting. He came in and he had a look around, while the sketch was being made, right? At that time his phone was ringing couple times but he was ignoring it, and instead, he explained the preparation of the exhibition. You know.. Curating is a very complex job. Especially when dealing with highly specific issues. Budgets, deadlines, names, places, all at the same time....

Juror No. 2 :

Will you get to any point?

Juror No. 5 :

It just keeps bugging me, how could he have enough time to understand what the sketch was all about? In the end he just said, 'I've seen it'.

Juror No. 1 :

Well.. maybe he is just that kind of guy. Also, he said that he has been trying hard to always come to big exhibitions to feed his brain.. Look, curator has responsibility to support the artist while producing a response to the concept. So why would he mislead the artist with his opinion. Everyone was there and heard his thought. Maybe you should start to listen another person's opinion!

Juror No. 3 :

Well, there is always a risk that the curator knows more than he should, which in the end means he plays his own game.

Juror No. 4 :

Right! And I mean.. by saying I've seen it doesn't have to mean that this man was really physically and mentally there. How many times have you said you saw it somewhere, even though you are not sure where or how you experienced it. You know.. Nowadays lots of information comes easily from many different sources. I'm just saying that It's possible that he hasn't really seen it.

Juror No. 1 :

What are you people talking about? Are you calling this young man a liar? You guys are crazy. Why would he lie? What's he got to gain?

Juror No. 2 :

Attention, maybe?

Juror no.5 looks hard at Juror no.1 then turns to Juror no.2. And asks...

Juror No. 5 (softly) :

What do you mean? Why might this friendly young man have lied?

Juror No. 2 :

Ok.. don't get me wrong..It's just that I looked at him for quite some time. His black sport coat was slipped under his arm. He was a middle-aged man with retro glasses and a brightly colored button-down shirt. He used his freshly bought Ipad awkwardly. I think I know him better than anyone here.

He was a nervous, insignificant middle-aged man. Who is just stepping into his carrier. Who worries about the future. Who has not been doing enough and a man like this just needs more recognition. This is important.

Juror No. 3 :

And you're trying to tell us that he lied so that.. so that he could feel more important?

Juror No. 2 :

No, he wouldn't really lie. But perhaps he'd make himself believe that he had already seen it. Perhaps he was also under emotional stress you know

Juror No. 3 (Loud):

*Well, that's the most fantastic story I've ever heard.
How can you make up a thing like that? What do you know about it?*

Juror No. 2 (low) :

I speak from experience.

There is a long pause. We see the Jurors try to deal with the awkward silence. Juror No.2 stands up and walks in to the toilet. The situation forces the Jurors to have a break from the discussion. The camera shows a wide shot from the room where the Jurors stay still. No one speaks. Then, it starts to rain and the scene slowly fades out.

Act III

Fade in on the same scene. No time lapse. Juror no.1 glares at Juror no. 4. and after a long pause, he shakes himself loose and turns away. He walks to the windows. The other Jurors stand around the room as Juror no. 2 walks out of the toilet. Juror no.1 goes back to his seat now. Silently the rest of the Jurors take theirs. Then, Juror no. 3 starts to speak..

Juror No. 3 :

Well, we're still nowhere. Who's got an idea?

Juror No. 2 :

I think maybe we should try to vote again!

Juror No. 1 :

Alright, I want an open ballot. Let's call out our votes. I want to know who stands where.

Juror No. 5 :

That sounds fair. All right. Let's start it from there.

Juror No. 1 :

I vote NOT WORTHY.

Juror No. 2 :
NOT WORTHY.

Juror No. 3 :
NOT WORTHY.

Juror No. 4 :
WORTHY.

Juror No. 5 :
WORTHY.

Juror No. 4 :
Hmm.. Still the same. I would say, lets go to make the decision!

Juror No. 5 (to Juror No.4) :
Wait, you mean you still don't think there's room for reasonable doubt?

Juror No. 1 :
No I don't.

Juror No. 2 :
Pardon. Maybe you don't understand the term "reasonable doubt."

Juror No. 1 (angry) :
What do you mean I don't understand it? Who do you think you are to talking to me like that? (To all) How do you like this guy? He comes over here and tells us how to run the show.

Juror No. 4 :
OK, let's stop arguing. Who's got something constructive to say?

Juror No. 3(hesitantly):
*Look, what about the gallery owner's testimony?
To me, the Artist's experience of working with her over past years should mean something.*

Juror No. 2 :
Yes. That's true. Let's go over her testimony. What exactly did she say?

Juror No. 5 :
I believe I can say it accurately. So she came over for a coffee to the studio and we had a conversation about how the project is going. At some point the conversation led to a situation where the artist explained how the work looks and at the same time she was showing the room plan of the exhibition. She said the way the work would be executed, makes it impossible to be sold or even to be shown in any space.

Juror No.1 :
And that's what I mean. I found it good that she was being rational. How do you think the artist can pay his rent?

There is a silence, Juror no.1 looks around the table, but there is no answer. Suddenly Juror No.4 says..

Juror No. 4 :
*I'd like to try something.
I need two people to play a little game with me.*

Juror No. 1 (Juror to no.4) :
A game? What's this for?

Juror No. 3 :
Wait, I want to see where is it going.

Juror No. 1 (Loud):
And I want to stop wasting time!

Juror No. 4 :
No..no..We're not! We're going to find out, how the gallery owner decided to say that its impossible to sell or to show the work in any space. A thought from a friend and a business partner, who has been supporting the Artist's innovation.

Juror No. 2 :
OK. I'm in.

Juror No. 1 :
Well.. OK, I'll do it. I can't wait to see what happens.

Now, Juror no. 1 and Juror. No. 2 stand up. Juror no. 4 looks around and starts to explain how the game works. He says the game is called Prisoner's Dilemma.

To play the game, Juror no. 1 will be called suspect 1 and Juror no. 2 will be called suspect 2. As the suspects, they have been arrested for a crime, and are being held in separate rooms. They were informed that if one, for instance Suspect 1, confesses against the other, he can go free, but if one doesn't confess, and the other does, he will be sent to jail for three years.

If both of them confess, they will be sent to jail for two-years.

If no one confesses, they will get a one-year prison sentence each.

So.. The game begins. Juror no. 1 is still in the same room, Juror no. 2 is in the toilet. They are separated by a closed toilet door and are told, they should just knock the door, to show that they have confessed. There is a long silence. The rest of the Jurors watch them carefully, waiting and guessing who will confess first. Then, we see a close up shot of the eye of Suspect 1, which blink couple times and look nervous. Then jump to a close up shot of the sweat, which comes out of the Suspect 2's forehead. We see one of the other Jurors looks at his watch. The rest are not moving and are holding their breath. Then, zoom in slowly, slowly until we see Juror No.1 moves nervously towards the door... he raises his right arm.. suddenly.. the door is knocked.. but from the other room. The toilet door open sand Juror no.2 comes out. He says that the confrontation of such a dilemma forced him to be rational. He wanted more to full fill his needs of benefit rather than stay silent and take the chance that the other confesses.

He walks back to his chair and starts to admit..

Juror No. 2 :
I knocked the door, because.. I wanted to play it safe.

Juror No. 4
And she could too. You know .. Maybe there is a voice in her brain that keeps reminding her to stick to the gallery's plan. And by saying impossible in advance, maybe she thought, she could have more chances to gain a better profit in the future.

Everybody seems thoughtful. Then Juror no. 4 looks around the table nervously. The camera zooms in to the face of Juror no.2. He stands up and says..

Juror No. 2 :
I'd like to change my vote to WORTHY.

Juror No. 3 :
Are you sure?

Juror No. 2 :
Yes. I'm sure.

Juror No. 1 (To Juror No.2) :
*What are you basing it on? Stories these guys made up?
They are just good story tellers! How does they know all these things?*

There is a silence. Then Juror No. 5 asks..

Juror No. 5 :
Does anyone still think there is no reasonable doubt?

He looks around the room. The Juror No.3. looks down and shakes his head.

Juror No. 1 (loud) :
I think it's still UNWORTHY.

Juror No. 5 (calmly) :
Does anyone else?

Juror No. 3 (quietly) :
No. I think, I'm convinced.

Juror No. 5:
(to Juror No.1) *Now, You're alone.*

Juror No. 1 (Loud) :
*I don't care whether I'm alone or not! I have a right.
I told you I think the Idea is not worthy to be executed! Now what else do you want?*

Juror No. 5 :
Your arguments.

Juror No. 1 :
I gave you my arguments.

Juror No. 5 :
We're not convinced. We're waiting to hear them again. We have time.

Juror No. 1 looks around at all of them for a long time. They sit silently, waiting for him to speak. Then, slowly, he goes back to his chair. Meanwhile Juror no.2 sits awkwardly and looks out of the windows several times. Juror No.1 starts to light up another cigarette. Now, we see the close up shot of the cigarettes smoke and slowly, slowly the camera is zooming out to the room and the scene fading out at the same time.
