

*The Before Times and The After Times*  
*A Socially Distant Minor Comedic Odyssey*  
By Madelyn Sergel

I want somehow to contribute to the survival of theatre companies during this pandemic. Thusly, I am offering this one act free of charge to any existing theatre company to use as a fundraising, production, or educational program. The offer is good from today, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, to September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

I wrote this using the need for masks and social distancing protocols as a writing prompt. As it began taking shape, I realized it was a comedic one-act. (My first comedy. And it only took a global pandemic and democracy in flames to motivate me). It speaks to our current experience with a healthy dose of magic realism to make things fun. It requires simple costumes, few props, and has extremely flexible casting options.

My hope is that this will be both a vehicle for actors to practice their craft and a production/fundraising option for theatres, but one which will also check health and safety boxes for everyone involved.

In no way to I want to contribute to any unsafe or risky practices. Please, please, if you decide to proceed, make sure all possible safety protocols are in place. If followed, I believe the stage directions (requiring mask usage and social distancing for all characters) will protect performers. It will be up to theatres to ensure crew and audience are also following distancing and masking protocols.

## Conditions

- This should only be rehearsed and performed in a large outdoor location which allows for social distancing for audience, cast, and crew
- During performance and rehearsals, masks must be worn at all times and always cover both nose and mouth.
- Combining mask usage and the challenge of acoustics when performing outdoors could make projection more difficult, so some amplification might be needed. If individual microphones are used, each performer must have equipment designated for their use only.
- If your company uses this for an event which charges admission, please compensate performers and crew. This can depend on the resources of your company, but I ask that some stipend is provided. If this is used for a one-time fundraising event and participants agree to donate their time, this request is waived.
- Please notify me of any usage of this play. [m.sergel@comcast.net](mailto:m.sergel@comcast.net)