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學校名稱 : 元朗公立中學校友會鄧兆棠中學
Name of School : YLPMSAA TANG SIU TONG SECONDARY SCHOOL
劇名 Name of Play : BOTH SIDES, NOW
劇作者 Script writer : Mr. Stephen Leung (Teacher) & Ms. Alfree Tsui (Teacher)

故事大綱 Synopsis :

Clouds are lovely. They are as poetic as hair. They are castles as light as feathers. Its beauty is beyond what words can describe.

Ms Cheung is going to face up-and-downs and hardships that are beyond her control. Each and every step she has to take is harder than it looks. Every choice comes with a sacrifice. How would she choose?

One's perspective matters, doesn't it?



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Prologue

(Light on. Stage is empty. The 1st verse of the song “Both Sides Now” is being played.)

(Young Cheung is in, sitting on the stage side, looking at the clouds in the sky.)

(Miss Cheung goes in, quietly staring at the Young Cheung for a while.)

Cheung : Do you ever spend time looking at the clouds in the sky?

When I was little, I used to think that the clouds were very beautiful. I could look at them the whole day. Sometimes they were like floating castles built with ice cream; sometimes they were like feathers, or valleys made with feathers, hanging over the sky. And in more often times, they were like the hair of an angel, so silky, like milky ways, slowly flowing, and floating.

When I have become a grown-up, I have suddenly come to realize that the clouds are often blocking the sun, making things dim and dull. When it rains, or even snows, all my plans can be totally spoiled, ruined, leaving me alone in failure.

There are clouds that are beautiful. There are clouds that are dark. What are clouds all about?

(Young Cheung leaves the stage.)

Cheung: : My mom has always told me to be genuine and sincere, and to offer help to those in need. I think this is so true. So when I have become a teacher, I try to help my students. I hope to pass this belief on. But after years and years of teaching, I have started to be confused, when the parents, the schools and our society try to convince me that all we need are the graduation certificates from the universities and what is most important is having great achievements in a profession...

What is education all about?

(Cheung's Mom is in a wheelchair. A practitioner in the hospital is pushing her wheelchair onto the stage.)

Cheung : When I was little, I felt that mom was tall and unbeatable. Many years have gone by and my mom has no longer been strong. She relies on me in every detail in her daily life. I doubt if I really know how to take care of her, like how she took care of me before.

What is life... all about?



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Scene 1

(Mother leaves the stage.)

(Miss Wong enters.)

Wong : (Seeing Cheung seemingly lost in thought)
Miss Cheung? Miss Cheung? Michelle!

Cheung : (Awakened) Yes!
Hi, Miss Wong.

Wong : Are you okay?

Cheung : I'm okay. I'm just staying up late for marking these couple of days...

Wong : Take care, dear.

Cheung : Thank you. (Pause) Miss Wong, why did you come back?

Wong : Why did I come back?

Cheung : You left this school and went to teach at university... I mean you deserve a better prospect. But why did you choose to come back?

Wong : Why do you ask?

Cheung : I'm just... you know... having some thoughts on...

Wong : Oh my... You have a new offer!

Cheung : No... I'm just... tired. I'm tired of being a teacher.

(Pause)

Wong : It was like twenty years ago. Why did I come back here... maybe... I love marking papers?

Cheung : Oh, please!

Wong : Ok, no more joking. There are some old students waiting for you at the school hall.

Cheung : Oh, yes! I almost forgot. Thanks dear.

Wong : It's so sweet of them.

Cheung : Yes. They were my first batch of graduates 25 years ago.

Wong : So proud of you. Let's go and meet them now.

Cheung : Yes, madam. (Leaving) So when are you going to tell me why you came back?

Wong : Wait till you're done with your marking.

Cheung : No, this will never end. Tell me next time.

Wong : Deal.

(Miss Wong leaves the stage.)



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(Miss Cheung goes into the hall. Some old students are waiting.)

Amy : MISS CHEUNG! (Hugging Cheung) We miss you much!

Cheung : Hey you! How are you doing? I'm so glad to see you all.

Amy : You remember our time capsule? We put it in the school garden 25 years ago. It's almost time! Can't wait to dig it out!

M 1 : What did you write down? Please don't say you wrote, "I got a crush on a boy who's..."

Amy : Buzz off! (Laughing) Never in the past. Never in the present. Never ever is this possible!

M 1 : Oh, please be honest to yourself.

(All laugh but Raymond.)

Cheung : Oh, dear! You guys haven't changed a bit! (Happily)

(To Amy) Amy, are you still singing?

M 2 : (Shy, to Amy) I have subscribed to your YouTube channel.

Amy : Thank you! (To Miss Cheung) Yes. And I will keep on writing new songs and share them on my YouTube channel.

M 3 : I also like your songs!

M 2 : Oh, REALLY!

M 3 : Why?! What?!

M 2 : (To Amy) Please ignore him. I don't think he has ever knows you are a singer.

M 3 : Hey!

Raymond : How many people do you think would subscribe to your channel? Only sharing on YouTube won't make you known to everyone.

(Pause and silence)

Amy : I should say thank you to you, Miss Cheung.

Cheung : Say thanks to me?

Amy : I wouldn't have chosen to stick to singing if you hadn't encouraged me to.

Raymond : It's more crucial to do things that make you succeed, not to do things that make you feel good.

Amy : (To Raymond) Sorry! But are you saying that you ARE doing something very SUCCESSFUL?

W 1 : (In a low voice) Well, I think he is. He is not only a senior oncologist but the youngest one in Queen Mary Hospital, And he's only 38.

(Silence)



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Amy : Miss Cheung, you've taught us a lot of things which I would never forget. Things like treating people with sincerity, helping others as we can...

Raymond : These wouldn't work today. Outdated.

(Pause and silence)

Cheung : (To Raymond) Why do you think these do not work today, Raymond? I'd love to know.

Raymond : Okay. Well, Miss Cheung, you said that the school was a miniature of our society.

Cheung : Yes.

Raymond : In our society, if you want to be true to others, they will only think you are dumb. They will find the chance to take advantage of you making use of your kindness. I have learnt very painful lessons before I have become as successful as you can see now.

Cheung : (Pause) I now realise I never know how to teach...

(All silent.)

(Miss Wong enters the stage.)

Amy : (To Raymond) Why are you here today? You don't seem to have a reason to come back.

Raymond : You can ask Miss Cheung.

(Pause)

Cheung : My mother has cancer. Raymond is the attending doctor.

(Light off)