MISSION POSSIBLE

A Playlet By Laurie Brooks

COMMISSIONED BY THE KENNEDY CENTER
Playwright’s note:

This play is written for the younger crowd but can be performed and enjoyed by any age. Two chairs are necessary, a dog treat and a phone. All other set pieces are optional and imaginative.

CHARACTERS

Tippi - girl, dressed in a princess costume.

Dylan - boy.

Scout the Dog - large, hairy, sweet, played by a person.

Ensemble - Two or more actors and/or the audience comprise the ensemble of party goers.
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The playlet takes place at a birthday party. Dylan sits alone, looking at his phone and ignoring everyone. Tippi is with the Ensemble alongside Scout.

The Ensemble and Tippi sing the Happy Birthday Song, finishing with cheers. Scout the Dog sings along with various barks and other dog sounds.

TIPPI
(Petting Scout.) Sit, Scout.

Scout sits.

TIPPI
Good dog! Lie down.

Scout lies down and rolls over.

Tippi notices Dylan sitting alone.

TIPPI
Listen carefully, Scout. It’s time for another mission possible. When I need reinforcements, you know what to do.

Scout shows his excitement with dog sounds.

TIPPI
Stay, Scout.

Scout pretends to be sleeping complete with dog snoring. Tippi takes a dog treat out of her pocket and puts it on the floor away from Scout and Dylan.

Tippi sneaks over to Dylan. He doesn’t see her. She taps him on the shoulder. He jumps back in surprise.

DYLAN
Ahhh! You scared me.

TIPPI
(Creepy voice.) I’m a alien from another planet!

Tippi makes alien sounds and movements.

Dylan ignores her, looking back at his phone.
TIPPI
How come you didn’t sing Happy Birthday?

DYLAN
What?

TIPPI
You didn’t sing Happy Birthday.

Tippi sits, like she’s staying for awhile.

Dylan ignores her.

TIPPI
You don’t talk much, do you? Is that because you’re on your phone all the time?

DYLAN
No.

TIPPI
Is that why you didn’t sing Happy Birthday?

DYLAN
I don’t sing.

TIPPI
Everybody sings Happy Birthday. Why did you even come to the party?

DYLAN
I’m visiting. I had to come.

Dylan has not looked up at Tippi.

TIPPI
Check out my shoes. They aren’t exactly princess shoes but almost. (Whispers loudly.) They’re magic dancing shoes. See? They have taps.

Tippi performs an elaborate, funny tap dance for Dylan, who doesn’t look up from his phone.

TIPPI
I want to take tap dancing lessons, but I have to wait. My Mom’s thinking it over. Hey, want to dance?
DYLAN
I don’t dance.

TIPPI
It’s okay if you don’t know how. We’ll make it up. You know, pretend.

DYLAN
That’s not real dancing.

TIPPI
How do you know? We didn’t make it up yet.

DYLAN
If you make it up then it’s not real.

TIPPI
Is that why you’re not at the party? Because I know for sure birthdays are real.

DYLAN
(Sadly.) I don’t like parties.

TIPPI

Dylan doesn’t answer.

TIPPI
I might as well tell you why I’m here. I’m Tippi, special agent from the land of Winklefry.

DYLAN
You made that up.

TIPPI
(Whispering loudly.) Yes, but don’t tell anybody. It’s a secret. Your turn.

DYLAN
What?
TIPPI
Now you tell me who you are.

Dylan still has not looked up at Tippi.

DYLAN
I’m Dylan.

TIPPI
That’s your real name. I mean who you are for pretend.

DYLAN
I don’t pretend.

TIPPI
Don’t you play with your brothers and sisters?

DYLAN
Don’t have any.

JOEY
Well, sometimes that’s a good thing. Who do you play with?

DYLAN
Nobody.

TIPPI
(Big sigh.) Guess I’ll have to do all the work myself. Here’s who you are. You’re a special agent, too. We’re going on a journey together called Mission Possible. We’re going to a place where people can be whoever they want.

ENSEMBLE AND SCOUT

Dylan puts down his phone and looks up at Tippi for the first time.

DYLAN
What if I don’t want to go on a mission?

TIPPI
You have to go. Because you’re sad. That’s why I’m here.
DYLAN
(Sadly.) You don’t have to stay.
You can go if you want to.

TIPPI
And leave you alone? No way. You’re
too sad.

DYLAN
Maybe I’m a little sad so maybe you
better stay. If you want to.

TIPPI
Okay. Want to see my rabbit face?

DYLAN
Is this part of the mission?

TIPPI
Yep.

Tippi makes a rabbit face and rabbit moves. Dylan almost
laughs but stops himself.

TIPPI
You almost laughed!

DYLAN
Kind of.

TIPPI
I don’t want you to be sad.

DYLAN
I feel a little better.

TIPPI
Now you make a rabbit face.

Dylan tries to make a rabbit face but fails.

DYLAN
That was bad.

TIPPI
Yeah. That one’s hard, but since
we’re on a mission let’s try secret
agent faces.

Dylan tries making a secret agent face.
DYLAN
That was the worse face ever.

TIPPI
No, it was good.

DYLAN
Really?

TIPPI
Really. Let's go to the next step.
Searching for clues. Follow me.

Music might accompany this brief section.

Tippi tiptoes around the space looking for clues. She realizes Dylan is not following her.

TIPPI
(Whispering.) Come on. This is important.

Dylan tiptoes with her, searching for clues.

DYLAN
I don't know what I'm looking for.

TIPPI
Me neither. Just look.

They tiptoe and search for clues.

DYLAN
See anything?

TIPPI
Not yet.

They search again.

DYLAN
Look, I found a clue!

TIPPI
Shhh.

DYLAN
(Whispering.) Look, I found a clue.
Looks like a dog treat.

TIPPI
I wonder what that means. Let's say the password.
DYLAN

Okay.

TIPPI

Go ahead.

DYLAN

What’s the password?

TIPPI

Oh, yeah. I forgot. It’s Scout. But you have to close your eyes and say it loud or it won’t work.

DYLAN

Okay.

Dylan closes his eyes. Tippi grabs Dylan’s phone and puts it in her pocket.

DYLAN

(Shouting) Scout!

Scout jumps to his feet and runs to Dylan, laying his head on Dylan’s knee.

DYLAN

Is this your dog?

Dylan gives scout the treat.

TIPPI

Yep. Meet Scout the wonder dog.

Scout yips sweetly at Dylan.

TIPPI

He likes you.

DYLAN

You’re so lucky. I have a stuffed dog but he just sits there.

TIPPI

Is that why you’re sad?

DYLAN

No, but a stuffed dog isn’t as fun as a live dog.

Dylan imitates the stuffed dog who just sits there.

Tippi and Dylan laugh.
TIPPI
You laughed! Yay!

DYLAN
I guess I did.

Scout barks and nuzzles Dylan.

TIPPI
That was the best stuffed dog face I’ve ever seen.

DYLAN
Thank you.

TIPPI
I’m going to tell you another secret. Scout is a part of our mission.

DYLAN
Really?

TIPPI
Yep. Scout has to be your dog for the rest of the party. Right, Scout?

Scout barks in agreement.

DYLAN
(Petting Scout.) I like this mission.

TIPPI
Me, too.

DYLAN
What’s next?

TIPPI
You have to agree to pretend that Scout is your dog for the whole rest of the party.

DYLAN
Okay. Sure.

TIPPI
You have to say it. The whole thing.
DYLAN
I agree to pretend that Scout is my
dog for the whole rest of the
party. There, I said it. Can we
play some more? I want to finish
the mission.

TIPPI
Sure. And after the party, you
could come to my house for a
playdate.

DYLAN
What’s that?

TIPPI
You don’t...? Never mind. It just
means we play at my house, but we
might have to find a new mission.
This one’s already super
successful.

DYLAN
Yeah. I found the clue and made the
best stuffed dog face. And Scout
likes me.

TIPPI
And I’m going to take tap dancing
lessons! When I’m not on a mission.

DYLAN
What’s our new mission?

TIPPI
Can we have cake first? I love
birthday cake.

DYLAN
Me, too. You know what? I don’t
feel sad anymore.

TIPPI
Hooray for Mission Possible!

Scout makes dog sounds and does a happy dance.

DYLAN
Let’s go. Can Scout have cake?

TIPPI
Hey, Dylan?
DYLAN
What?

TIPPI
Aren’t you forgetting something?

DYLAN
I am?

Tippi takes Dylan’s phone out of her pocket and hands it to him.

DYLAN
I forgot about my phone!

TIPPI
It was safe with me.

Tippi and Dylan laugh. Dylan takes his phone.

DYLAN
Thanks, secret agent Tippi from Winklefry!

Ensemble cheers!

THE END