

Boxes

A Short Play Without Words

By Jen Huszcza

Boxes

This play requires four actors. They can be any age, gender, ethnicity, race.

The actors should wear large boxes (boxes used for moving or sending large packages should suffice). The boxes should be large enough that the corners jut out from their bodies. Their arms should be in the box. Their heads should stick out of the top of the box. The bottom of each box should be open, so the actors can walk around. The actors never sit.

A bare stage.

If possible, the stage is a square divided into four quadrants that are the same size (Upstage Right, Upstage Left, Downstage Right, Downstage Left). This can either be accomplished through lighting or marking the floor of the stage. However, this is not necessary.

The pace of this play is slow.

There is no music.

Those great whites they have big teeth.

--Lorde

Boxes

LIGHTS UP.

BOX ONE walks on, stands Upstage Left, turns, faces the audience.

BOX TWO walks on, stands Downstage Right, turns, faces the audience.

BOX THREE walks on, stands Upstage Right, turns, faces the audience.

BOX FOUR walks on, stands Downstage Left, turns, faces the audience.

Pause. Silence. Count to Five.

Upstage	
3	1
2	4
Downstage	

BOX TWO walks across the stage and stands next to BOX FOUR. BOX TWO faces the audience.

BOX THREE walks downstage, to where BOX TWO was. BOX THREE stands and faces the audience.

BOX FOUR turns and faces BOX TWO. BOX FOUR is not happy. BOX FOUR walks into BOX TWO who quickly steps away to avoid collision.

BOX TWO goes upstage and stands next to BOX ONE.

BOX FOUR faces the audience.

BOX ONE turns and faces BOX TWO. BOX ONE walks into BOX TWO.

BOX TWO retreats to upstage right. BOX TWO stands and faces the audience.

Pause. Silence. Count to five.

Upstage	
2	1
3	4
Downstage	

BOX ONE quickly crosses and goes downstage to BOX THREE. BOX ONE immediately pushes BOX THREE out of the spot.

BOX THREE retreats upstage and collides with BOX TWO who does not move.

BOX THREE crosses down to BOX FOUR. They collide. BOX FOUR does not move.

BOX THREE goes upstage and finds a place where BOX ONE had been. BOX THREE stands and faces the audience.

Pause. Silence. Count to five.

Upstage	
2	3
1	4
Downstage	

At the same time, BOX TWO and BOX THREE run downstage and run around BOX ONE and BOX FOUR.

BOX ONE and BOX FOUR do not move.

BOX TWO and BOX THREE run around the whole downstage. BOX TWO runs around BOX ONE, then BOX FOUR, then BOX ONE again. BOX THREE runs around BOX FOUR, then BOX ONE, then BOX FOUR again.

BOX TWO and BOX THREE stop running and breathe heavily as if they had just run a long race.

BOX ONE and BOX FOUR chase BOX TWO and BOX THREE back to their spots upstage.

Pause. Silence. Count to five.

Upstage	
2	3
1	4
Downstage	

BOX FOUR starts to cry.

BOX ONE walks to downstage center and stops. BOX ONE looks at BOX FOUR with sympathy.

BOX TWO walks to upstage center and stops. BOX TWO looks on with sympathy.

At the same time, BOX THREE and BOX FOUR go to center stage.

Pause Silence. Count to five.

Upstage	
2	3
1	4
Downstage	

BOX FOUR exits.

BOX TWO exits.

BOX THREE slowly starts to walk offstage.

LIGHTS TO HALF.

BOX THREE exits.

BOX ONE remains.

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY