

MICKEY AND ANTHONY  
(full-length drama)

SYNOPSIS

John and Denise Lawrence refuse to institutionalize their 22 year old son Mickey who suffers from a severe brain disorder. They rely instead on the assistance of a state-provided home help care worker. When it becomes impossible to find anyone willing to assume this responsibility because of the difficulties Mickey Lawrence presents, a last ditch experiment is proposed. As community service, 22 year old Anthony Williams, an African-American petty criminal is assigned to the task. Nobody is thrilled about this arrangement, least of all Anthony, but it becomes a life changing experience for both young men.

CAST

1 Caucasian male (22)  
1 African-American male (22)  
1 Caucasian male (40s)  
1 Caucasian female (40s)  
1 African-American female (40s)  
1 African-American female (21)  
1 Male (30s-50s)

SETS

Sparsely furnished Living Room  
Dining Room with table and chairs  
Office  
Jail Cell or Holding Room

PRODUCTIONS/READINGS

New play - 2015 None yet

**MICKEY AND ANTHONY  
DIALOGUE SAMPLE**

JOHN

Jesus Christ Denise. He's here to work as a helper, a babysitter, a gofer. What's the difference what career he's pursuing? He's got a simple straightforward job, help you take care of Mickey. Stop with the twenty questions. (HE gulps the drink and crosses to pour another)

ANTHONY

My time started right? I mean I'm getting paid now even though this kid's sleeping right?

DENISE

(To ANTHONY) This isn't going to work out. I'm sorry but we're really looking for someone else.

ANTHONY

Whatchoo mean? They promised me nine dollars an hour for a thousand hours.

DENISE

A thousand hours?

JOHN

(Quick interruption) Well they wanted a firm commitment so a thousand hours seemed like a good number. So he doesn't leave after a couple of days like the others.

ANTHONY

What others?

DENISE

The others. The women who do this sort of thing for a living. They couldn't deal with Mickey for more than a couple of days. Look Anthony, this job's not for you.

JOHN

Denise!

DENISE

No offense but I'm not going to leave Mickey in his care. (To ANTHONY) I'm sorry we wasted your time.

ANTHONY

Hey I didn't want this job nohow, but I need the nine large.

DENISE

The what?

ANTHONY

The nine large. The nine thousand.

DENISE

They're paying you nine thousand dollars?

ANTHONY

Well for my thousand hours.

DENISE

How did they come to a thousand hours?

ANTHONY

That's my community service time.

JOHN

Oh Jesus. (HE gulps the drink and pours another)

DENISE

Community service?

ANTHONY

(To JOHN) Oh sorry dude.

(MICKEY starts howling offstage)

What the fuck is that?

DENISE

(TO Anthony) You need to go.

(MICKEY bursts into the room, howling in anguish.

ANTHONY jumps back in fear)

JOHN

Calm down Mickey. What's wrong?

(HE continues to howl)

DENISE

He's hungry. You want cereal?

(MICKEY continues to howl. He suddenly notices ANTHONY and stops. He approaches ANTHONY curiously)

ANTHONY

(Acknowledging uncomfortably) Dude. (MICKEY reaches out to touch ANTHONY who pulls away) Don't touch me.

DENISE

(Stepping between them and pointing to the door) GO!

(ANTHONY starts to move towards the door)

MICKEY

NO GO! STAY!

DENISE

He has to leave, Mickey.

MICKEY

WANT HIM STAY!

(HE starts to throw a violent fit. ANTHONY stares as JOHN and DENISE struggle to contain him)

DENISE

(To ANTHONY while struggling) He doesn't want you to leave. Can you just stay for a minute?

(ANTHONY shakes his head "no" and turns for the door prompting even louder cries from MICKEY)

MICKEY

MAKE HIM STAY!

DENISE

PLEASE!

(ANTHONY stops and MICKEY immediately calms down)

DENISE (Continued)

(Moving MICKEY to a seat) I'll get you cereal. (To ANTHONY) Could you please sit with Mickey for a few minutes?

ANTHONY

Nah I gotta go.

JOHN

You're still on the clock. You'll still get paid for this visit and you're working time off.

ANTHONY

Nine bucks for this. Ain't worth it. Sorry.

JOHN

I'll give you twenty.

ANTHONY

Nah. (HE moves towards the door and MICKEY begins to scream violently)

JOHN

Fifty. I'll give you fifty.

(ANTHONY turns back towards the family, hand outstretched to JOHN who furiously counts out money, handing it to him. ANTHONY saunters to a chair and sits next to MICKEY who begins to smile and drool. HE moves his head towards ANTHONY who pulls back)

ANTHONY

Yo dude don't be drooling on my Jordans.

DENISE

I'm sorry. The drooling is because he knows he's going to eat.

ANTHONY

(Shocked) Like those dogs from the science experiment?

JOHN

It's a reflex.

ANTHONY

He ain't no dog. That's sick.

MICKEY

(Laughing) Woof, woof, woof.

ANTHONY

Dude you ain't no dog. Stop.

(MICKEY stops. DENISE places a bowl in front of MICKEY and pours cereal and milk into it. MICKEY reaches into the cereal placed before him, trying to eat with his hands)

DENISE

Mickey not like that. Use your spoon.

MICKEY

No spoon. (To ANTHONY) You use spoon?

ANTHONY

Yeah I use a spoon. You don't eat with your hands.

(MICKEY picks up the spoon and hands it to ANTHONY)

MICKEY

Use spoon.

ANTHONY

I ain't hungry dude.

MICKEY

Feed Mickey.

ANTHONY

I ain't feeding you.

(MICKEY reaches into the bowl to eat with his hands)

ANTHONY (Continued)

Dude don't do that. It's disgusting.

DENISE

I'll feed you.

ANTHONY

The dude is twenty-two. Why you feeding him?

JOHN

Because otherwise he'll slop it all over and end up not eating.

(ANTHONY hesitatingly takes the spoon. MICKEY seems elated as ANTHONY begins to feed him. ANTHONY continues to feed him as the scene progresses)

ANTHONY

How long this been going on?

JOHN

His whole life. He was born with a brain disorder.

ANTHONY

No shit.

DENISE

Why are you doing community service?

ANTHONY

Over some CDs. Just a bullshit thing.

MICKEY

(Parroting) Bullshit thing.

DENISE

Oh my God. Don't say that Mickey.

(ANTHONY continues to feed him)

JOHN

It's incredible. He never speaks to any of the home help aides.

ANTHONY

Well the freak's chatting up a storm today. (HE catches DENISE's icy stare) Yo I didn't mean anything. I mean you got to admit he ain't mainstream.

DENISE

(Sarcastic) No, not like you and I!

ANTHONY

Exactly.

DENISE

So I started asking you why you're doing community service. Can you be more specific?

ANTHONY

I tried to get some CDs from a car I thought belonged to a friend of mine but it was the wrong car. (HE wipes cereal from MICKEY's chin)

DENISE

So you didn't do anything violent?

ANTHONY

No. Why?

DENISE

Maybe you could help us for a while. Mickey seems to like you.

ANTHONY

I don't know.

JOHN

We can do a two for one.

ANTHONY

Whatchoo mean?

JOHN

I would be willing to say you worked two hours for every hour you work. Then you'd only have to do five hundred hours and your rate would double to eighteen dollars an hour.

DENISE

John!

JOHN

What's the difference? Five hundred hours of relief would be wonderful.

ANTHONY

How would it work? I mean would you be here and I'd just be helping?

JOHN

Well mostly we'd like to just get out. Maybe dinner, a show now and then.

ANTHONY

So I'd be like a babysitter.

JOHN

I suppose.

ANTHONY

(Looking around) You got a nice place. I could make myself comfortable here.

DENISE

So you'll do it?

ANTHONY

I gotta think on it.

MICKEY

(To ANTHONY) Name. (No response) NAME!

ANTHONY

Call me "A"

MICKEY

A A A A A (HE laughs grotesquely)

JOHN

(To ANTHONY) Looks like you've made a friend.

ANTHONY

We can try it. But if I decide to stop I ain't givin' no two weeks notice or nothin' so don't count on that. And I work 300 hours and you say I worked 1000.

(JOHN and DENISE exchange glances)

DENISE

Fine.

(ANTHONY continues to feed MICKEY)

JOHN

(Dawning on him) We're going to breakfast.

DENISE

What?

JOHN

We're going to the diner. No better time than right now to see how these guys do on their own.

DENISE

No. No I...

JOHN

LET'S GO!

DENISE

Don't you think we should be here while they get acquainted?

ANTHONY

Yeah yeah. Listen to her.

MICKEY

GO DINER GO DINER!

DENISE

Oh my God.

MICKEY

(Screaming) GO DINER!

(JOHN and DENISE jump up and hurriedly prepare to leave)

ANTHONY

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Don't listen to him. He ain't runnin' things.

JOHN

You'll be fine and we'll be back in an hour.

(JOHN grabs DENISE'S arm and quickly maneuvers her to the door)

DENISE

(As THEY exit) His diapers are in the bathroom closet. He can help with them. (THEY exit)

ANTHONY

What???? NO! COME BACK!

(The door slams shut and ANTHONY and MICKEY are alone)

MICKEY

(Laughing) A, A, A, A.

ANTHONY

Don't you pee or poop dude.

MICKEY

(Slapping himself hard on the chest) Mickey!

ANTHONY

Like the mouse?

MICKEY

(Laughing) Mickey Mouse!

ANTHONY

You more like Goofy.

(MICKEY suddenly grabs his head, jumps up and starts screaming)

ANTHONY (Continued)

Yo, yo, yo calm down.

MICKEY

You Goofy. (HE laughs grotesquely) You Goofy. You Clara. Mooooo Mooooo.

ANTHONY

You Pluto.

MICKEY

(Laughing) Woof, woof, woof. (HE drops to the ground and hops around like a dog) Woof, woof, woof. (HE bangs his arm on a chair and jumps up in pain holding it). Ow, ow, hurts.

ANTHONY

(Waving his arm) Go like this, shake it out dude. Shake it out.

(MICKEY tries to imitate ANTHONY. THEY both start laughing as THEY look at each other)

MICKEY

You funny looking.