

## THE UNHEARD WORLD OF JASPER LAWSON

The play traces the life of one Jasper Lawson - a young man born in the country, in seemingly ideal circumstances, except for one fact: he is deaf.

The action follows Jasper's life in the country where his deafness serves to make him an 'outsider'. Not only the local people in his area but also his father, treat him as if he is mentally defective. They have no understanding of deafness and therefor take the easy way out instead of trying to communicate with Jasper.

Resigned to a world in which he has no place, Jasper becomes the faithful son, until Monsieur Beret, a Frenchman, takes up residence in Jasper's local town. Monsieur Beret understands the skills of mime and the sign language and because he also is ostracised because he is a foreigner he makes friends with Jasper and teaches him the sign language and the skills of mime. A new world opens up for Jasper but eventually his friend packs up and moves to the city.

Jasper is banished by his father and he too decides to try his luck in the big city.

Again we find people take advantage of Jasper because he is deaf and through a series of events he finds himself in trouble with the law. After two court appearances he is finally sent to prison. It is here that Jasper decides that his future lies in a career in mime and he practises all the skills that he has been taught by Monsieur Beret.

On release from prison he pursues his career in mime and eventually signs a contract with an American manager who takes him on a world tour. This makes Jasper a star.

On his return to Australia he is totally disillusioned with his life as an artist as he still feels people look upon him

as an outsider.

He decides to return to his home in the country where his roots lie only to again find that his family do not know how to cope with his new found status as a 'Star'.

He decides to remain in the country and when he approaches the local newspaper for a position he finds that his old friend Monsieur Beret has sold his business in the city and bought the local newspaper where he is doing his bit to show that people from a foreign country can assimilate with the local community.

Jasper and Monsieur Beret decide to join forces and work together along with another friend of Jasper's, Jake, who can only be described as a 'con-woman' from way back.

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The production involves four artists, two deaf and two hearing, who use visual and spoken dialogue, mime, music and humour to present a theme which is quite obviously universal, but one that relates to a very special problem within its common theme - deafness.

The production runs approximately 58 minutes but can be reduced to allow for commercial breaks.

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