

Dead Fly Walking

By Albert Jamae

Duration: 15 min

STORY: Billy the fly is neurotic about dying. But when a fortune teller predicts his demise, and the Fly Reaper's looming, Billy has a choice to make.

SETTING: A rubbish pile

CAST: (12 characters played by minimum 6 actors)

1. BILLY/YOUNG BILLY
2. DAVO /GEORGE
3. RICO / ETHEL
4. BAZZA / VENUS FLY TRAP
5. DRUNK FLY/DEAD BILLY
6. *MADAME MAGGOTAH* / FLY REAPER

YOUNG BILLY, VENUS FLY TRAP, ETHEL & GEORGE (played by Fly 1-4)
DEAD BILLY STUNT DOUBLE (Played by Drunk)

STAGE DESIGN:

Dead Fly Walking is a cartoon style pantomime

The props are simple two dimensional cardboard painted, colourful, e.g. the Blowfly Car, the Toad, etc, but very open to interpretation, given a limited budget

Equally the sets/backdrops could be painted in the same style to create a cartoon atmosphere, e.g. the Rubbish Pile etc

The costumes are something simple to represent the different flies for example dressed all in black or grey with different head wear that resembles a fly's head.

A few Sound Effects (SFX) to be played via sound system.

If possible amplify Fly Reaper's voice – Darth Vader like

1 - RUBBISH PILE – NIGHT

THREE FLIES sit on a **BIG BLOWFLY (BUZZING SFX)** as if its motor is running.

BAZZA

Yo Billy! You're waistin' our time dude!

DAVO

Sure you don't wanna come to the creek man?

BILLY; a frail, nervous looking fly watches on while sucking on a **VENTOLIN PUFFER**.

DAVO

There's a toad tongue with your name on it.

BILLY

Oh I don't know Davo; it doesn't look like you have enough seatbelts...

RICO

You gotta chill Bill. You know the average lifespan for our species is like...twenty two days amigo; you just turned twenty one so live it up!

DAVO

Yeah, don't be such a maggot!

Flies start laughing. Billy's embarrassed.

BILLY

Yeah but...I...I mean what if...

BAZZA

Your loss...dudette.

OTHER FLIES

Dudette?! / Good one Bazza!

The flies crack up laughing; high five each other, crank the blowfly into gear and fly away (BUZZING SFX).

Billy plonks down on a rotting apple core.

BILLY

(sighs) They're right; I am just a maggot. I'd like to have fun, but with so many risks involved...I mean, what if something bad happens? [cont.]

BILLY

[cont.] What if my purpose in life goes unfulfilled because of some silly accident that could be easily avoided if I just...

DRAMATIC SFX.

An old fly foot slams down onto Billy's head.

BILLY

Ahhhh!!!!

*A **DRUNK FLY** sits on a box of **JELLY CRYSTALS**; his feet and mouth covered in red sugar.*

DRUNK FLY

You want answers?

Billy frozen in fear as Drunk Fly leans in closer.

DRUNK FLY

You need Madam Maggottahhh!!! (hiccup). She can see the future!!!

DRAMATIC SFX. *Drunk Fly falls off his box with a **THUD SFX**.*

Billy looks on warily.

DRAMATIC SFX *repeats as one of Drunk Fly's legs thrusts up a **BUSINESS CARD**.*

Billy reluctantly takes the card and reads it aloud.

BILLY

Madam Maggottah - I can see the future! You're right!

DRUNK FLY

(hiccup)Tell her Harold sent ya.

Billy's still speechless.

Drunk Fly staggers away singing badly. ('come fly with me?')

Billy looks at the card with newfound inspiration.

INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC STING - LIGHTS DOWN

2 - RUBBISH PILE/MADAM MAGGOTTAH'S CARAVAN – NIGHT

EERIE MUSIC.

[backdrop] A COCKROACH (as the horse) tied to the front of a rusted tin can on wheels.

FOG drifts by.

BILLY sits nervously on a **STOOL**; in front of a **LARGE TABLE** with a **CRYSTAL BALL**.

The 'exotic' **MADAM M** sits with her back to him.

MADAM M

Are you sure you want to know what lies ahead?

BILLY

Er...yeah. I want more out of life ya see. But I want to know how I can have fun safely without...

Madam M taps a leg on a payment dish nearby.

Billy reluctantly drops a coin in.

Madam M spins around in lightning speed; two legs rubbing her temples, two shaking BELLS/ waving INCENSE STICKS, and two caressing the crystal ball.

MADAM M

Ooohh! I see...wait a minute...ah yes there you are young Milly.

BILLY

It's Bill...

MADAM M

Silence!

Billy gulps in fear.

MADAM M

Oh dear, I'm afraid the last curtain is about to close on your miserable little life.

Billy looks scared.

MADAM M

But first, you will experience separation from your dearest friends.

BILLY

That's right! They left me to go and...

MADAM M

Then!!! You will get a message from a crazy drunken fool!

BILLY

(wary)

Er, yeah. He told me to see you.

CRICKET CHIRP SFX.

MADAM M

And who shows wisdom beyond his days!!!ooooohhhh!!!

She intensely rattles chimes and swishes incense for effect but Billy's lost inspiration and starts to leave.

BILLY

Look Mrs...er...Madam...this isn't working for me. I think I'm better off if I just go home and...

CRASH! DRAMATIC SFX. *Billy turns to see Madam M has dropped all her trinkets; her eyes rolled back.*

She grabs Billy, who goes stiff with fear, and she talks in a possessed voice.

MADAM M

Tonight, when the clock strikes midnight, he will come for you! Prepare for the worst!

BILLY

But, but how can I...

MADAM M

You must free yourself Willy!

BILLY

It's Bil...

MADAM M

(shaking him) Free Willy! Free Willy!!!! Mwahahaha!!!

Billy closes his eyes in fear. POOF!

*Madam M disappears in a puff of smoke; leaving Billy sitting on the stool; sucking hard on his **VENTOLIN PUFFER.***

BILLY

Oh my god. Oh my god! This is it! I'm actually going to die.
I can't believe it! I thought I did everything possible to
avoid it but now death is...

*He checks the big watch sitting in the rubbish pile, 11:50. **DONG SFX.***

BILLY

Ten minutes away!

He shakes his puffer - empty. He tosses it away and sighs.

BILLY

Ah what's the point? Twenty one days and my life has
been...pointless! I may as well just lay here and wait for
the inevitable.

*Billy lays down sniffing and falls asleep. **SAD DREAMY MUSIC.***

3 - RUBBISH PILE – DAY(BILLY'S DREAM)

***ETHEL** (Billy's mum), wearing glasses, apron, hair in curlers, cranky, looks up into the sky
in a panic.*

ETHEL

George! Get back here! What on earth are you doing?!