

Acting on Authority Script Excerpt

The Characters:

Corporate CalgaryKevin
Street KidRoland
Street KidLaura
Street KidAdrienne
Foster DadMike

Scene 4: Street kids

The cast moves into an image of kids begging for change. Kevin walks by.

Adrienne: Can you spare some change?

Kevin: Can I spare some change? You know, yes. Yes, I can spare some change. But I won't. You know why I won't? Because I worked for this change. I have a job. Everyday I get up. I go to work. I earn money. Then punk ass kids like you expect me to give up my hard-earned money just because you beg for it. You want money, get a job.

Adrienne: I'd love to work. You think I choose to beg? You think I don't want a job, to earn my own money?

Kevin: If you want to work, get off the streets. Get rid of the pink hair. Go take a bath. Get some clean clothes, an education, and an ethic.

Adrienne: Ethics. What is ethical about letting children live on the streets. Don't you think society has a responsibility to help kids get off the streets?

Kevin: Don't talk to me about society. I am paying for your social programs. When you are a taxpayer, then we'll talk about society. When you contribute to the system, maybe then you can get something from it. Get out of my sight. You kids make me sick.

Image freezes. Kevin separates out for his monologue.

Kevin: What is up with kids these days. Man, when I was a kid you learned to work. "Pay your own way, son". That is what my dad

taught me. These kids have no motivation. They're spoiled. They've had it too easy. They want everything handed to them. Begging on the street. That is such bullshit. There should be a law against that. These beggars are giving Calgary a bad image. Go to school, get a job, or go to jail. Why should I give them money. They are just going to spend it on drugs anyway.

Kevin freezes DR. The kids line up along the back wall, like they are part of a line up. Mike stands DL.

Laura: I am so sick of judgments and ignorance.

Roland: I don't know a single person who doesn't want to work, who doesn't want to be employed in a meaningful and valued job. Do you know how hard these jobs are to get?

Adrienne: You try working at McDonald's and see how long your self-esteem holds out....

Roland: No rights.

Laura: No self-respect.

Adrienne: No dignity.

Roland: I'm sick of being treated like shit.

Laura: I'm sick of being used and abused.

Adrienne: I'm sick of being alone.

Mike: These kids, I gave them everything and look how they turned out.

Kevin: Kids today, we do everything for them and they are still a burden to society.