

THE INCREDIBLE INCENDIOS

A Combustible 10-Minute Betrayal
Play Performed Under A Big Top

By Conrad A. Panganiban

Conrad A. Panganiban
conradap@gmail.com
@consplayspace
consplayspace.com

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Zoe Incendio: 19. Female. The Fire Bender of The Incredible Incendios. More than dreams of fame, she needs to leave a legacy. She is the Focused Dreamer.

Max Incendio: 19. Male. The Fire Starter of The Incredible Incendios. Zoe's fraternal twin brother. He is content with having things stay the way they are. He is the Pragmatic Stalwart.

Dio (the flame): Forever the kid at heart with no age who's only intention is to be Max and Zoe's friend ever since the twins found them at the orphanage where they grew up. They are the Carefree Ethereal Being.

The Ringmaster: 30s. Male. The Ringmaster of Cirque du Marvella. He's not only the holder of exquisite show master's charm only matched with his unquenchable need for fame and fortune, but also a keeper of a secret that will turn The Incredible Incendio's lives upside down. He is the Opportunistic Realist.

SETTING

This 10-Minute Circus Adventure takes place in the present on a single stage under the Cirque du Marvella Big Top Tent.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

Let your imagination run free with how DIO will represent fire. Whether it be the actor carrying red, orange, and yellow ribbons to wearing a fire colored jumpsuit while on a skateboard, the idea is to be imaginative, fun, and safe! DIO is the wondrous side of fire which we know could instantly ride into the dangerous.

Inspired Spotify Playlist - **Dark Circus Core:**

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0LtZIDWiq2BDE1wyr4z6OP?si=e29d5ff8093144be>

A drumroll is heard as the lights come up on THE RINGMASTER wearing a red coat and the traditional a black top hat.

THE RINGMASTER

Ladies and Gentleman. Children of all ages and everyone else under the Cirque du Marvelle Big Top, we require your utmost attention in wondrous silence as The Incredible Incendios perform the most death defying finale of all death defying finales.

Drumroll continues as lights up on MAX, ZOE, and DIO, The Incredible Incendios, as they perform the finale of their fire act: MAX starts a fire made up of their childhood friend, DIO (the flame), and ZOE bends DIO in various directions before all end the trick in a furious flourish.

THE RINGMASTER

(With hands outstretched)

The Incredible Incendios!

THE RINGMASTER starts the applause for the audience to join him.

ZOE does an over-the-top bow as MAX and DIO simply look at each other, shrug, and take their bows.

THE RINGMASTER

If you thought that was impressive, remain in your seats for the next seven minutes when The Incredible Incendios return to this very stage to Wow you once again to perform their act for the Very Last Time! Thank you!

Lights come up to reveal the end a stunned MAX and DIO at hearing this news for the first time.

THE RINGMASTER

Great job, kids! Get some rest. We have a lot riding on this, Zoe. They're here.

THE RINGMASTER exits.

MAX

What's he talking about?

ZOE

He just wants us to get some rest before our next act, Max.

DIO

Did The Ringmaster say our *next* act? Or our *last* act? Cuz, I don't remember ever getting a memo?

MAX

You mean something like an official memo about our next act being-

MAX & DIO

Our *last* act?

ZOE

Dio, can you give me and my brother a minute?

DIO

Not if it's about our last act.

MAX

Dio, why don't you practice that dream ending you've been talking about and I'll convince my sister to add it into the finale.

ZOE

Wait! What? Add WHAT in?

MAX

(to ZOE)

Did you still wanna talk?

ZOE

(begrudgingly)

Yes.

MAX

(to DIO)

Make it big!

DIO

YESSS!!! I won't let you down!

DIO exits happily!

ZOE

Make what big?

MAX

Nothing bigger than what you have to tell me! Spill the peas, what did The Ringmaster mean about our last act being our last act?

ZOE

Well, it's more like... your... last act.

MAX

What?!

ZOE

You've been saying that you need a break-

MAX

Like a vacation

ZOE

You've been so distant

MAX

Just to Disneyland!

ZOE

Like you're not here

MAX

You know how much

ZOE

And you know how much-

MAX

Splash Mountain means to me!

ZOE

This show means to me!

ZOE

And then he asked me if I wanted to have my own spot.

Pause.

MAX

What just happened?

ZOE

Max. Ever since we found Dio and joined the Cirque, this had been our lives for the last 10 years. And I didn't need to be your twin to see that your heart just into this anymore.

MAX

What are you talking about? I'm still here. You? Dio? The three of us performing-

ZOE

You're just going through the motions, Max. That's not show business.

MAX

I can't always be "on" like you, Zoe! You've always been more like The Ringmaster. But me? I just start the fire and you bend them. That's our act! What else is there?

ZOE

Being the best! You need to do more than just snapping your fingers and Dio comes alive. You need to be more than that just... you.

MAX

What's wrong with just being me?! I'm awesome. I start fires!

ZOE

Dio's the fire! You just throw him at me and watch *me* do all the work. And then the rest of the time, all you want to do is watch YouTube all day-

MAX

I tried to show you that one video of the cat named Tiger that had 15 babies! It had 15 million views!

ZOE

Max, haven't you ever thought about what we're going to be when we grow up?

MAX

Grow up? What's wrong with just coasting on this path until we get there?

ZOE

I... That's not me. Don't you want to be famous?! We perform for all these people and all I could think about is wanting people to know my name long after I-

MAX

Go up in flames?

ZOE

That's exactly what I want. I want to burn the memory of me bending flames to stay with each person that sees me. Like a reincarnated legacy passed through generations.

MAX

What about what we created when we were kids? After I found Dio in the fireplace and we started playing catch with him to make all the other orphans laugh, between the oos and ahhs, to forget where or who we were... like that time with Ms. Morrible.

ZOE

I can still hear her shrill voice calling us Freaks.

MAX

But we got her good, didn't we? Even after The Ringmaster heard about what we did to her and took us away to live here, it was always just supposed to be *US*. What did you say? "Doing our tricks for others was all you ever dreamed of."

ZOE

It's just not enough anymore.

MAX

You mean, we're not enough anymore?

ZOE

The Ringmaster is starting a new circus and he wants *me* to be its star. But I needed to tell... ask... you first... and he needs the answer after our last act because there's some investors in the audience... I need this, Max.

Enter DIO excitedly runs back in.

DIO

Yeeeeehooooooooo!!!!

I got it! I got it, Max!!!! You won't believe what I could do, Zoe!

MAX

Is it something that would burn the memories of our last act into whoever sees it?

DIO

Our last act?

MAX

(to DIO)

How would you like to take a vacation, Dio, while Zoe tries something a little different on her own?

DIO

As long as it's not Splash Mountain. I don't do well with splashes.

MAX

We'll talk about where later, but just for now, let's see our sister be more than she's dreamed of being.

DIO

As long as I could just keep being me... and Zoe's happy, it's all fire with me.

ZOE gives MAX a hug.

ZOE

Thank you! Thanks, Dio. You don't know how much this means to me!

MAX

Go tell him your decision and we'll be here waiting.

ZOE

Thanks.

ZOE runs off.

DIO

So it's really our last act?

MAX

It's not just going to be our last act... (with something sinister in his voice) It'll be the last act for all of them.

Show me what you came up with.

Exit DIO and MAX.

Enter THE RINGMASTER with drums rolling.

THE RINGMASTER

Ladies and Gentleman. Children of all ages and everyone else under The Cirque du Marvelle Big Top, we require your utmost attention in wondrous silence as The Incredible Incendios perform the most death defying finale of all death defying finales... for the last time. Shhhhhh.....

Lights up on MAX, ZOE, and DIO. As they are about to perform the finale of their fire act, ZOE strikes a ready pose, while MAX says...

MAX

Now Dio!

MAX and DIO unceremoniously sit on the ground and the drumroll ends.

ZOE

(in a loud whisper)

Max! Dio! What are you doing? Get up! Get up!

DIO

And do what? Leave me too? Max told me about your plan with The Ringmaster!

ZOE
Don't do this to me!

MAX
Who's doing what to who?

Enter THE RINGMASTER.

THE RINGMASTER
Ladies and Gentlemen, in true show fashion, The Incredible Incendios are showing off their mastery of tension!

(in hushed anger to MAX and DIO)
What are you doing, you little Freaks? Get up and finish your act!

MAX
So you can get rid of us?

THE RINGMASTER
Who said that I needed you in the first place?!

THE RINGMASTER does a flourish with his hands which summons up DIO to move towards The Ringmaster.

DIO
Whooooooooaaaaa!!!

MAX
How are you...?!

THE RINGMASTER
You mean, this?

With another flourish, THE RINGMASTER makes DIO move around the stage... like he's the one bending the flame.

THE RINGMASTER
Or like, this?!

THE RINGMASTER suddenly shifts his body to throw DIO into MAX causing him to fall and get burned!

Ahhhhh!
MAX

Max!
ZOE

ZOE runs over to MAX to check on him.

THE RINGMASTER
You're not the only ones in this family who can start or bend fire.

What did you do!?
ZOE

THE RINGMASTER
You stupid Freak! Just like your mother. She wanted to leave this business too, but after her tragic high-wire accident, I left you both at that orphanage... that is until I found out that you both inherited my powers.

MAX
And groomed us to be your ticket to fame?!

THE RINGMASTER
Don't forget about the fortune part too... until you ruined it!

Another flourish from THE RINGMASTER.

Whoa! Not again!!!
DIO

DIO crashes into MAX causing another fall.

Arghhhh!!!
MAX

Stop it!
ZOE

THE RINGMASTER
Stop what? They're the ones getting in the way of what you want!

THE RINGMASTER does another gesture to send DIO to hover near ZOE.

THE RINGMASTER
Finish them and you can have everything you've ever dreamed of!

ZOE

All I ever dreamed of...? Dio, forgive me.

ZOE does a flourish and sends DIO to run into
THE RINGMASTER causing him to fall.

DIO

Ooo! I didn't mind that at all!

ZOE helps MAX up.

ZOE

(to Max)

Are you okay?

THE RINGMASTER

What are you doing?!

ZOE

Thinking about all *we've* ever dreamed of.

(to Max)

Remember that time when Ms. Morrible...

MAX

I'm way ahead of you.

(to Dio)

Hey Dio! It's time for the finale you always wanted to do!

DIO

Let's Go!

MAX does a flourish that sends DIO to ZOE for
DIO to create a super flame which is sent to
THE RINGMASTER who in complete fear gets
up and runs off stage followed by DIO. A bolt of
red flashes bright from where they exited
followed by a...

THE RINGMASTER (O.S.)

NOOOOOoooooooooooooooo.....

Pause.

MAX

Now, *that* was a finale to end all finales.

ZOE
Yeah.

MAX
I'm sorry that I ruined your dreams.

ZOE
I'm sorry that I almost ruined you.

Enter DIO.

DIO
Wheewww... well that guy is ruined... but at least we got a souvenir.

DIO gives The Ringmaster's Top Hat to MAX.

ZOE
I guess without a Ringmaster, we really did have our last act.

MAX
Or maybe not?

MAX holds out the Top Hat out to ZOE.

MAX
Ready to start a new dream?

ZOE takes the hat and puts it on for size.

ZOE
Ladies and Gentlemen and Children of All Ages...

Blackout.

END OF PLAY