

THE OUTLIER

A Play by Richard Ehrlich

AT A GLANCE

Genre: Contemporary Family Drama | **Runtime:** 70 minutes (real time)

Cast: 4 (2M, 2F) + 1 voiceover | **Set:** Single interior (living room)

Themes: Family loyalty, moral disagreement, inherited certainty, the cost of honesty

SYNOPSIS

Two brothers gather to settle their father's estate. A shadow box containing campaign memorabilia becomes the catalyst for a devastating confrontation about loyalty, compassion, and whether love can survive fundamental moral disagreement. The play reaches its explosive peak when Robert accuses Daniel of weaponizing his pain for moral superiority. Daniel resists—then breaks, admitting it's true. The admission sits unprocessed. The damage echoes. The ending refuses resolution.

CHARACTERS

DANIEL (late 60s) — Retired educator. Thoughtful, wounded, sometimes uses understanding as superiority

ROBERT (early 70s) — Businessman. Disciplined, guarded, struggles to distinguish principle from fear

ELLA (late 60s) — Robert's wife. Intelligent, wary, shrinks the world to survive it

CLAIRE (mid-60s) — Daniel's wife. Direct, protective, sometimes speaks when silence is needed

WHY PRODUCE THIS PLAY

Urgently relevant: Addresses moral fractures in American families with equal intelligence for all perspectives

Actor's showcase: Four substantial roles requiring emotional restraint and precision

Minimal tech: Single set, natural light progression, key props only

Festival-ready: 70 minutes, small cast, no intermission—ideal for competitions

PRODUCTION INQUIRIES

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Full script available for download at www.theoutlierplay.com