

SCENE SIX: *In the Town Square*

IAGO and RODERIGO enter.

RODERIGO: This feels all wrong, Iago.

IAGO: Do you hate Othello?

RODERIGO: Yes, of course. He married the young and beautiful Desdemona, whom I adore.

IAGO: Right! And do you hate Cassio?

RODERIGO: Of course. He is having an affair with the young and beautiful Desdemona, whom I adore.

IAGO: And he took the job that was rightfully mine.

RODERIGO: *(Agreeing quickly)* And he took the job that was rightfully yours.

IAGO: Then we must get rid of Cassio once and for all - agreed?

RODERIGO: Agreed! *(Pauses, working it out)* Which means...?

IAGO: Tonight, good Roderigo, is your lucky night! For you shall kill Cassio.

RODERIGO: *(Fearfully)* Not me!

IAGO: Yes, you! I shall be close by to provide support, naturally. We will wait here by this shop and, when Cassio appears just after midnight, you will jump on him and attack him until he is dead!

RODERIGO: What? Stab him?

IAGO: Stab, strangle - it doesn't really matter how, just kill him. Just picture him and the young and beautiful Desdemona together, and you'll find it very easy.

RODERIGO: *(Nobly)* I shall kill him for her honour!

IAGO: Whatever. Now we wait until just after midnight.

They position themselves in hiding by a 'shop' and freeze. A CHARACTER walks onto the stage and says to the audience: 'Just after midnight.' He or she then exits immediately on the opposite side of the stage. RODERIGO and IAGO unfreeze. CASSIO enters. RODERIGO leaps out at him with his sword.

RODERIGO: *(Shouting)* Cassio! Prepare to die.

CASSIO is confused, but reacts instinctively. He draws his sword and fights with RODERIGO. While the sword fight is happening, IAGO creeps offstage. Finally, CASSIO stabs RODERIGO.

RODERIGO: You have stabbed me! I am slain! I am slain!

As he collapses to the ground, RODERIGO stabs CASSIO in the leg.

CASSIO: You have stabbed me! I am lame! I am lame!

RODERIGO: Help! Help! I die!

CASSIO: Help! Help! I am wounded! I am bleeding!

IAGO enters again, with MONTANO, LODOVICO and GRATIANO.

IAGO: What is all this noise?

GRATIANO: *(Going to CASSIO)* It is Cassio, he is wounded!

MONTANO: It is Cassio, he is bleeding!

LODOVICO: Who did this terrible deed? Who was your attacker?

IAGO: *(Sees RODERIGO)* Here is his attacker! I will halt his evil ways.

IAGO stabs RODERIGO and kills him.

RODERIGO: *(In surprise and shock)* I am killed!

GRATIANO: *(To IAGO)* You have saved Cassio.

MONTANO: You have protected us!

LODOVICO: *(Pausing and looking at the victim, then in surprise)* You've killed Roderigo!

MONTANO: Hurry! Let us go quickly to Othello and tell him the news of Cassio and Roderigo!

GRATIANO: Yes, hurry!

They all begin to exit.

CASSIO: *(Shouting after them)* Wait! What about me? I am wounded, I am bleeding!

They all return, drag RODERIGO's body offstage on one side, then lift CASSIO up and carry him offstage on the opposite side.