

Epic Proportions

I. Given Circumstances

A. Environmental Facts

1. Geographical location including climate – The play takes place in the desert right outside of Molton Rock, Arizona. The climate is hot and dry. The action of the play grows in intensity as the story develops because of the hot temperatures and hot attitudes.
2. The play takes place in the 1930's. There are no specific references to the season, but it takes place over several months. Action occurs at different times of the day.
3. The economic environment is the typical Depression Era economic environment of the time. The extras have a sense of the depression and its effects while the movie directors and actors seem somewhat oblivious.
4. There are no specific references to the politics of the time. These people seem to live in an absurd form of communism where everyone is to share everything, but in actuality the higher ups are living large off of the lower class.
5. The social environment is also very typical of the era. Everyone seems to live according to the hierarchy that has been set up in this created world. The director and his assistants are at the top with the principle actors under them and all of the extras at the bottom of the totem pole.
6. The religious environment is typical of the time period, although the playwright makes no specific references.

B. Previous Action

In the previous action before the play we know that Benny has long had the dream to become a movie star at whatever cost. He has somehow gotten his hands on a flyer advertising a new movie where many extras are needed. He has run away from home, leaving no note and come to Molton Rock to be in the movie. Phil has found the flyer in Benny's room after Benny left and was asked by his parents to travel to Molton Rock to bring his brother home. We know that the boys have lived in a somewhat boring and predictable home. Louise is from Alaska and her parents are deceased. She was an extra in one of Dewitt's earlier films and decided to follow his production team and is now one of his assistants. She has been through many heartbreaks in her time. Phil has been more popular than his brother and was a successful drum major in his high school years.

C. Polar Attitudes

1. Benny – In the Beginning –

- A. He feels as though the world is full of possibilities, but that something is holding him back. There is something more if only he could be given the chance to find out what that is. The world is exciting and amazing! He just has to go out and find it.
- B. He feels like he is always in the shadow of his older brother. Phil always gets everything and is the golden child. He loves his brother but is jealous of him at the same time. He is not too close with his parents, as he has run away from home to realize his dream. He is infatuated with Louise. He loves the idea of her but knows that he could never get her.
- C. He feels as though he is always second best. He lives in the shadow of Phil and finds it difficult to get out of that shadow. He knows that he has the talent and the drive but feels that he is always overlooked and that his hard work goes unnoticed.
- D. He feels as though the prospects are there, but the Phil and himself are standing in the way of ever realizing his dreams. This is when it comes to his career as an actor. He does not see any real prospects with Louise in the beginning.

2. Benny – In the End

- A. The world is his to conquer! He has taken over the ancient world and led his people to the promised land!
- B. His relationship with his parents is unchanged. His relationship with Phil has evolved and he still loves and respects his brother, but now feels as though he has gained that same love and respect from his brother. His relationship with Louise has grown into something that he had never imagined. He loves her and she loves him back. He has finally gotten the girl!
- C. Most importantly, Benny has proved himself to himself. He has proven that he can star in a movie and get the girl and beat up his brother. He now knows that the world really can be his if he goes after it.
- D. His prospects could not be any better! He has the career he has wanted and a beautiful girl has agreed to marry him.

3. Louise – In the Beginning

- A. Louise is not at all impressed with her world. She works hard, but has to work with a bunch of stupid extras that never listen to instructions. She wants more. This is not where she thought life would take her.

- B. Louise has no meaningful relationships. She has constantly had her heart broken by men. She has no family. Her only relationships are work relationships with people that she really doesn't care for.
 - C. She doesn't really like herself. She has let what others think about her affect her. She has started believing what others say about her and accept how people treat them.
 - D. She doesn't really see any true prospects in her future. She works to get by. There are no men in her life.
4. Louise – In the End
- A. The world is fantastic! She has a true hero that she loves and he returns that love! She has the romantic ending that she has always longed for.
 - B. Her relationship with Benny is the relationship that she has always wanted. There is a mutual love and respect between the two of them. Her other relationships have gone unchanged.
 - C. Louise is proud of herself for the first time in a long time. She has given up on the typical hero and given the underdog a chance. And that chance has paid off by giving her the true hero that she has been searching for.
 - D. She now has tangible prospects. She has the man that she has longed for and she can see a real future for herself.
5. Phil – In the Beginning
- A. He is oblivious to his world. He is Phil and he is here and he goes with the flow because he is in control of his destiny.
 - B. He does not have a strong relationship with his parents. He has what he thinks is a good relationship with his brother. He rules over him as all big brothers do.
 - C. He puts forward an attitude of being untouchable. But underneath, Phil is very insecure. He must always be in control of everything around him.
 - D. He has never thought about his prospects. He works as he should and everything will come to him in its time.
6. Phil – In the End
- A. His world has been shaken to the core, but he is still happy with it. He has learned much about himself and gained much respect for his brother in the process.
 - B. He is happier with his relationship with his brother. He sees that the love of his brother is more important than all the power that is afforded to a movie director.
 - C. He feels even better about himself. His confidence is no longer superficial. He sees his value and the value of respecting others.

D. He sees his prospects as fairly dim, but feels as though there is still something out there for him.

II. Dialogue

- A. Choice of words – The playwright has chosen words very carefully. The language seems to me to be very typical language. There does not seem to be a pattern created by the author with any particular word choice.
- B. Choice of Phrases – Again, there is no noticeable pattern created by the playwright. They do use some clever phrasing to help punch the comedy of the piece.
- C. Choice of Images – There are many images described throughout the play to help create the movie scene of the ancient world. The playwright uses very descriptive phrases to help paint the picture of this desert where very beautiful and majestic sets have been built to recreate the ancient biblical and Roman worlds.
- D. Choice of Particular Characteristics – There are a couple of instances where this shows in the play. The most obvious is the character of Cochette and her very thick, written in, French accent. She is only in the play briefly and this difference in dialect allows her to stand out even more in the show. There is also some slight variation in the dialect and speech of the extras than that of the higher ups in the film.
- E. The Sound of the Dialogue – This play was written very recently but is set in the 1930's. The language sounds more modern than of the time period in which it is set. It works, though with the characters in order to give them a better voice.
- F. Structure of Lines and Speeches – There is no noticeable structure in the lines and speeches.

III. Dramatic Action

- A. Titles of the Units –
 - 1. In the Beginning
 - 2. Let's Get to it
 - 3. Reunion
 - 4. Get it Done
 - 5. Do we have our numbers?
 - 6. Building the Pyramids
 - 7. Phil wants to Leave
 - 8. Why Have we Stopped?
 - 9. Approaching Louise
 - 10. The Plan
 - 11. Killing Octavium

12. Redirecting the Mob
13. What happened to the 4's?
14. Modeling Behavior
15. Second Try
16. You got a sword?
17. Parade
18. Phil makes his Move
19. The Letter
20. Romance
21. Inquisition
22. Thanks
23. The Letter: Reprise
24. Ten Plagues
25. Plagues' Effects
26. Finding the Script
27. I'm a 4!
28. Unleash the Queen
29. De Quitt
30. The Movie Shoot
31. Killing the Queen
32. Great Job!
33. Jack's Burning Bush
34. Discovering the Pyramids
35. Are you sure?
36. Phil's Takeover
37. Busy Phil
38. Cochette the costumer
39. Can we talk?
40. I don't WANT to kiss you.
41. Good Acting
42. Setbacks
43. Surprise
44. Surprise, back.
45. Is it me?
46. Thanks, my love?
47. Who do I love?
48. About last night....
49. Almost caught

50. I'm gonna tell
 51. Up the Skirt
 52. The Dish
 53. Everyone Knows
 54. Gladiator
 55. Phil Figures it Out
 56. Out of the Picture
 57. The Tide Turns
 58. Rough Morning
 59. No!
 60. Well...?
 61. Help me, Louise?
 62. Louise Turns
 63. The Chase
 64. You didn't need the sword.
 65. The Queen
 66. Stay away from my boyfriend
 67. Where's Phil?
 68. There's Phil
 69. Pregnant?
 70. Moses Descends
 71. Benny Steps up
 72. The Proposal
 73. The Exodus
- B. Detailed breakdown of the action –
1. Louise informs
 2. Louise Informs
 3. Phil questions. Benny informs.
 4. Shel backs down. Jack intimidates.
 5. Louise inquires.
 6. Slavemaster enforces. Phil threatens. Benny pleases
 7. Louise consoles. Phil declares. Benny pleases.
 8. Dewitt questions. Jack enforces. Phil protects.
 9. Benny sucks up.
 10. Slavemaster enforces. Phil plans.
 11. Conspirators conspire. Octavius motivates.
 12. Louise redirects.
 13. Phil inquires. Benny defends.

14. Louise clarifies. Extras demonstrate.
15. Benny attempts. Louise ignores.
16. Roman General motivates. Benny questions. Phil explains.
17. Louise directs.
18. Phil helps. Louise lets her guard down.
19. Benny pours his heart out.
20. Phil seduces. Louise falls.
21. Louise informs. Phil informs.
22. Louise shows gratitude.
23. Benny sleeps.
24. Egyptians mock.
25. Phil sympathizes. Benny fades.
26. Benny discovers. Phil denies.
27. Benny concedes. Phil encourages.
28. Queen dominates. Louise answers.
29. Jack announces. Louise steps up.
30. Louise directs. Benny attempts. Queen prospers.
31. Queen commands. Slave obeys.
32. Phil praises. Benny questions.
33. Shel astonishes. Others listen

C. Summary of the Action –

IV. Characters

A. Desires

1. Louise – To have the American Dream.
2. Benny – To be a great actor.
3. Phil – To have power.
4. Jack – To be the director of the movie.
5. Shel – To please Jack.
6. Queen – To make her comeback.
7. DeWitt – To die happy.
8. Cochette – To be fabulous.

B. Will

1. Louise – Intelligent, resourceful, beautiful
2. Benny – Genuine, hard working, hopeful
3. Phil – Ruthless, fake, strong-willed
4. Jack – Ruthless, bully

5. Shel – hard working, nice, determined
6. Queen – determined, hard working, confident
7. DeWitt – powerful, hard working
8. Cochette – uncaring

C. Moral Stance

1. Louise – Loyalty, honesty, love
2. Benny – Loyalty, honesty, love, responsibility, integrity
3. Phil – honesty, loyalty
4. Jack – responsibility
5. Shel – loyalty
6. Queen – power, talent
7. Dewitt – Loyalty, integrity
8. Cochette – talent

D. Decorum

1. Louise – Beautiful. Very proper and lady-like. Powerful voice.
2. Benny – Smaller in stature but still masculine. Soft spoken.
3. Phil – Large framed, man’s man. Handsome. Loud and overpowering.
4. Jack – Large and in charge. Loud. Older
5. Shel – Younger, boy-next-door. Soft spoken but can be loud.
6. Queen – Small, beautiful, older and refined. Powerful sound.
7. DeWitt – Tall, regal. Demands attention. Smooth talker.
8. Cochette – Tall and beautiful. Demands everyone look at her. Loud.

E. Summary Adjectives

1. Louise – Strong, determined, beautiful, and driven.
2. Benny – Loyal, meek, responsible, and courageous.
3. Phil – Handsome, determined, crushing, and driven.
4. Jack – Ruthless, driven, strong willed, and pushy.
5. Shel – Nice, loyal, responsible, and hard working.
6. Queen – Beautiful, talented, driven, regal.
7. DeWitt – Powerful, responsible, driven, and smooth.
8. Cochette – Tall, beautiful, creative, and driven.

F. Initial Character Mood Intensity

1. Heart Rate – Louise – Fast; Benny – Super fast; Phil – normal; Jack – Always elevated; Shel – Nervously fast; Queen – Slow; DeWitt – Barely going; Cochette – Normal
2. Perspiration – All are perspiring greatly due to the heat in the desert.

3. Stomach condition – Louise – Steady; Benny – butterflies; Phil – steady; Jack – churning indigestion; Shel – nervous; Queen – starving; DeWitt – gassy; Cochette – steady.
4. Muscle tension – Luoise – somewhat tense; Benny – nervous tension; Phil – no tension; Jack – super tense; Shel – nervous tension; Queen – relaxed; DeWitt – relaxed; Cochette – proper tension.
5. Breathing Rate – Louise – deep; Benny – shallow and nervous; Phil – steady; Jack – slow and deep; Shel – shallow and nervous; Queen – relaxed but shallow; DeWitt – relaxed and deep; Cochette – relaxed and shallow.

V. Idea

- A. Meaning of the Title – The comes from the fact that they are making a epic motion picture and that their own lives take on the story of the movie in very epic ways making for a larger than life, epic tale told in the desert.
- B. Philosophical Statements – “I’m a 4. I’ve always been a 4 and I’ll always be a 4.”
- C. The outcome of the struggle is that you should never underestimate yourself. Each of the three main characters go through a period of doubting their own abilities. Whether it is to be a good leader, a good girlfriend, a good brother, a good actor, etc, each of the characters reaches a point of success. It also shows that success is something that one should never take for granted. If you do take it for granted, it can slip away just as fast as it came to you.

VI. Moods and Tempo

Unit	Touch	Taste	Smell	Sound	Sight	Rate
1	Gritty	Bitter	Sweet	Echo	Browns	M
2	Gritty	Bitter	Sweet	Echo	Browns	M
3	Soft	Sweet	Clean	Soft	White	M-F
4	Rough	Tart	Sour	Blaring	Large	F
5	Cool	Sweet	Sweet	Clear	Expansive	M
6	Rough	Vinegary	Pungent	Cracking	Red	M-F
7	Sharp	Sour	Stinky	Loud	Red	F
8	Hot	Hot	Hot	Loud	Deep Red	F
9	Smooth	Sweet	Perfume	Soft	Pink	S-M

10	Smooth w/rough edges	Sweet and Sour	Slight stench	Hollow	Magenta	S-M
11	Sharp	Hot	Blood	Echo	Blood	M
12	Bumpy	Unpleasant	Burnt food	Clear	Dirty	S-M
13	Gritty	Bitter	BO	Soft	Sweat Stains	M
14	Holes	Sour	Stench	Through clinched teeth	Brown	M
15	Velvet to fraying	Sweet to bitter	Perfume to fart	Music to screeching	Pink to gray	S-M
16	Smooth	Cool	Clean	Triumphant	Silver	M-F
17	Bubbly	Sweet	Fun	Cheerful	Rainbow	F
18	Smooth	Cool	Aftershave	Smooth	Blue	S-M
19	Bubbly	Sweet	Sweet	Cheerful	Sparkly	M
20	Cool	Smooth	Perfume	Smooth	Sapphire	S
21	Creamy	Sweet	Light	Light	Bright	S
22	Soft	Sweet	Sweet	Soft	Flowers	S-M
23	Bubbly	Sweet	Sweet	Cheerful	Sparkly	M
24	Smooth	Wine	Food	Raucous	Shiny	M-F
25	Hot, Sharp	Sour	Pungent	Loud	Dirty	M
26	Jagged	Tart	Stinky	Soft with crescendos	Unwound	F
27	Holey	Tasteless	Sweaty	Quiet	Gray	S-M
28	Polished	Creamy	Perfume	Nails on a	Gold	M

				chalk board		
29	Sandy	Tart	Stinky	Loud	Tan	F
30	Smooth	Pleasant	Fruity	Quiet	Silver	M
31	Sharp	Blood	Perfume	Hiss	Red	S-M
32	Smooth	Fresh	Sweet	Resounding	Bright	
33	Hot	Hot	Hot	Crackling	Red	F
34	Cool	Dank	Dank	Hollow	Dark	S
35	Bumpy	Salty	Mildew	Ringing	Square	M-F
36	Pointed	Foreign	Strange	Melodious	Diamond	M-F
37	Jagged	Bittersweet	Foul	Wind chimes	Heart Monitor	F
38	Velvet	Delectable	Intoxicating	Harp	Glaring	M
39	Various	Bland	Cheap Candle	Crow	Blinding	S-M
40	Soft	Sweet	Nice	Birds	Yellow	S-M
41	Hot	Hot	Hot	Sizzle	Red	S
42	Sandy	Puckering	Sour	Crickets	Tan	M
43	Bubbly	Sweet	Matches	Quiet	Rainbow	F
44	Needles	Sour	Manure	Echoing	No color	S-M
45	Burlap	Tangy	Unclean	Quiet	Light blue	S
46	Smooth	Fresh	Fresh	Mellow	Pink	S-M
47	Jagged	Sweet and Sour	Flowery	Noisy	Magenta	S
48	Hot	Hot	Hot	Hot	Red	M-F

49	Cool	Lemon	Mint	Smooth	Green	F
50	Hard	Sour	Sour	Quick	Purple	M-F
51	Smooth	Sweet	Sweet	Quiet	Pink	S
52	Cracking	Puckering	Hot	Piercing	Yellow	S-M
53	Peeling	Sour	Stinky	Scratchy	Pale green	F
54	Hard	Earthy	Dirt	Loud	Silver	M-F
55	Jagged	Crappy	Perfume over stench	Blaring	Muddy	S-M
56	Sharp	Tart	Fury	Loud	Gray	F
57	Razor Sharp	Copper	Fear	Blaring	Chrome	S-M
58	Smooth	Cool	Cool	Smooth	Blue	S
59	Pointy	Sharp	Smoke	Even tone	Square	F
60	Smooth	Bland	Clean	Soft	Circle	M
61	Blunt	Artificial Sweetener	Fake	Soft	Cracked paint	S-M
62	Sharp	Hot	Bold	Loud	Diamond	M-F
63	Hilly	Bile	Stench	Raucous	Muddy	F
64	Smooth	Sweet	Flowery	Even tone	Orange	S-M
65	Smooth	Fruity	Perfume	Loud	Gold	M-F
66	Sharp	Hot	Hot	Loud	Red	S-M
67	Smooth	Sweet	Fresh	Soft	Pink	F
68	Sharp	Bitter	Stinky	Loud	Orange	M-F
69	Fat	Unfamiliar	Stinky	Piercing	Glaring	F

70	Polished	Decadent	Perfumed	Clear	Sparkling	S
71	Apex	Bold	Clean	Loud	Shiny	S-M
72	Soft	Sweet	Sweet	Deliberate	Ring	S
73	Smooth	Earthy	Earthy	Clear	Bright	M

VII. Tone

1. Fun
2. Crazy
3. Zany
4. Moving
5. Sweet