

SHOO-BE-DOO, DOWN, DOWN, DOWN.

(JOE finally drops SHULIE to the floor)

SHULIE

Hey, you guys, isn't anybody going to pick me up successfully?

GEORGE

Oh, I'll get you, Shulie.

(GEORGE picks SHULIE up off the floor)

Shulie Stumbles & Falls

SHULIE

Thanks, George. You're my hero. And there aren't a lot of those these days.

GEORGE

Zero...

SHULIE

Tell me about it.

GEORGE

No, I mean Zero. Zero is my hero.

- unlike Superhero

SHULIE

Zero? How can Zero be a hero?

Zero

Well...

(HE carries SHULIE to a stool, CENTER. The ENSEMBLE sits on the floor in a semi-circle around GEORGE and SHULIE. This song should be played as if GEORGE and SHULIE have crushes on each other)

#15 Zero, My Hero

(George, Shulie)

There are all kinds of heroes, you know.

A man can get to be a hero for a famous battle he fought...

(JOE slowly stands and mimes being a soldier in battle. ENSEMBLE makes "war-like" sounds. JOE then slowly sits down again as DINA rises)

Or by studying very hard and becoming a weightless astronaut...

(DINA slowly rises as an astronaut floating in space. ENSEMBLE makes "space-like" sounds. DINA slowly sits as JOE rises)

And then there are heroes of other sorts,
Like the heroes we know from watching sports.

(JOE slowly rises as a baseball player. ENSEMBLE makes "baseball-like" sounds. JOE slowly sits as DORI rises)

But a hero doesn't have to be a grown-up person, you know.

SHULIE

No?

GEORGE

A hero can be a very big dog who comes to your rescue...

(DORI slowly rises as the dog. ENSEMBLE makes "dog-like" sounds. SHE slowly sits as TOM rises)

... or a very little boy who's smart enough to know just what to do.

(TOM slowly rises as the little boy. ENSEMBLE makes the sound of rushing water. TOM sticks his finger in the hole in the dike to stop the leak. ENSEMBLE makes the sound of the water being plugged)

But let me tell you about my favorite hero...

SHulie

MY HERO, ZERO.

SUCH A FUNNY LITTLE HERO.

BUT 'TIL YOU CAME ALONG,

WE COUNTED ON OUR FINGERS AND TOES.

NOW YOU'RE HERE TO STAY,

AND NOBODY REALLY KNOWS

HOW WONDERFUL YOU ARE.

WHY, WE COULD NEVER REACH A STAR

(ENSEMBLE slowly rises and reaches for a star, then EXITS)

WITHOUT YOU, ZERO, MY HERO.

HOW WONDERFUL YOU ARE.

SHULIE

What's so wonderful about a zero? It's nothing, isn't it?

GEORGE

Sure, it represents nothing alone...

BUT PLACE A ZERO AFTER ONE
AND YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A TEN!

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ALL

SEE HOW IMPORTANT THAT IS?

GEORGE

WHEN YOU RUN OUT OF DIGITS,
YOU CAN START ALL OVER AGAIN.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ALL

SEE HOW CONVENIENT THAT IS?

Shulie
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

THAT'S WHY, WITH ONLY TEN DIGITS,
INCLUDING ZERO, YOU CAN COUNT AS HIGH
AS YOU COULD EVER GO —
FOREVER, TOWARDS INFINITY.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ALL

NO ONE EVER GETS THERE,
BUT YOU COULD TRY.

SHULIE

IT'S HIGHER THAN THE SKY!

GEORGE

HIGHER,
WITH TEN BILLION ZEROS.
FROM THE CAVEMEN 'TIL THE HEROES
WHO INVENTED YOU,
THEY COUNTED ON THEIR FINGERS AND TOES.

Shulie-

And maybe some sticks and stones.

SHULIE

Or rocks and bones!

GEORGE

And maybe your neighbor's toes! And
(HE tickles SHULIE)

Shulie-

NOBODY REALLY KNOWS

HOW WONDERFUL YOU ARE.
WHY, WE COULD NEVER REACH A STAR.

(GEORGE reaches for a "star" and turns it into a sly way of putting his arm around SHULIE'S shoulder. SHE enjoys this very much)

WITHOUT YOU, ZERO,
MY HERO, ZERO —
HOW WONDERFUL YOU ARE.

(A "dry-erase board" appears. Written on board:

$1 \times 10 = 1$
 $2 \times 100 = 2$
 $3 \times 1000 = 3$

GEORGE fills in the zeros as he sings)

George
PLACE ONE ZERO AFTER ANY NUMBER,
AND YOU'VE MULTIPLIED THAT NUMBER BY TEN.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ **ALL**

(To AUDIENCE)
SEE HOW EASY THAT IS?

GEORGE
PLACE TWO ZEROS AFTER ANY NUMBER,
AND YOU'VE MULTIPLIED
THAT NUMBER BY ONE HUNDRED.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ **ALL**

(SINGING to each other, lost in each other's eyes)
SEE HOW SIMPLE THAT IS?

GEORGE
PLACE THREE ZEROS AFTER ANY NUMBER,
AND YOU'VE MULTIPLIED
THAT NUMBER BY ONE THOUSAND.

(There should be concealed zeros all around the set. At this point, the ENSEMBLE returns and reveals the zeros. GEORGE crosses DOWNSTAGE, imagining all of the zeros going into infinity. SHULIE follows him down)

ET CETERA, ET CETERA,
ALL-AD INFINITUM,

AD ASTRA,
FOREVER,
AND EVER,
WITH ZERO,
MY HERO —
HOW WONDERFUL YOU ARE.

George
Shulie

(GEORGE turns around and catches SHULIE dreamily looking over his shoulder. Their eyes meet)

Bye zero GEORGE
'Bye Shulie.

Bye zero SHULIE
'Bye George.

(Embarrassed, THEY EXIT in opposite directions)

TOM

Let's see. We've done adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, nouns and verbs. Now, what am I forgetting?

JOE

Well, how are you going to tie all of those things together?

TOM

I don't know.

JOE

Sure you do, Tom. I'm going to give you a big hint — you're on the right... track.

TOM

Conjunctions.

JOE

That's right, Tom. And where do those parts of speech come together?

TOM

At the Junction!