

Sam Can!

An interactive play about passive-aggressive bullying by Holly Adams

We had Sam and Arte as Bun Raku Puppets.

At Rise: empty stage. Sam enters, greets audience. She and the audience talk about movies. Part way into it . . .

Sam: Isn't there one about _____? *(they respond)* You like that one? *(They respond)* Me too. I hope I get to see that one sometime. That would be awesome. I don't want to go by myself, though. I want to go with my best friend, Arte. I hope he likes that movie . . .

(Arte enters)

Arte: Hiya, Sam!

Sam: Hiya, Arte! So, whassup? What are you doing today?

Arte: Well, I thought maybe I'd play some base ball, walk the dog, help my mom . . . and see what you were doing!

Sam: *(smiling)* I was hoping you would come over! What do you feel like doing?

Arte: I like lots of stuff. Like I said, baseball, playing with the dog . . .

Sam: I think its going to rain today. Maybe we should do something else.

Arte: Like what?

Sam: I don't know!

Arte: Well, we could read comic books or play Pokeman or maybe we could call up X Y and Z and get my mom to take us all to the MALL. What do you want to do?

Sam: I don't care. I remember last time we read comic books, though, you got all stiff from lying on the floor, so you probably don't want to do that. Plus my mom probably won't let me play Pokeman today.

Arte: Why not?

Sam: She sometimes doesn't let me.

Arte: Why not?

Sam: She just doesn't, okay?

Arte: Okay, okay. So if you don't want to read or play Pokeman, what do you want to do?

Sam: I didn't say I don't want to read or play Pokeman!

Arte: Then what are you saying?

Sam: It doesn't matter to me what we do! I just don't think you want . . .

Arte: *(interrupts)* I already told you my ideas. I want to know YOUR ideas. *(getting a little angry)* Besides, how could YOU know what I want? *(opens mouth to say more, but Sam interrupts)*

Sam: Times out! (*Arte freezes. If there has been sound/music, it stops. If there has not, it starts*) I hate this, I hate this, I hate this!

(*Looks at Arte*) I know how this is going to go--I would keep trying to get Arte to go to the movies and he would keep getting madder and then he wouldn't want to go the movies anyway, and I end up feeling so confused and mad, plus I really want to make him do what I want to do, so I just run off! This stinks, stinks, STINKS! Isn't there anyone who can help me?

(Exciting music-, and facilitator/ Magical Being enters. Very magical and exotic looking)

MB:I am so glad you finally asked for help! We were all hoping you would ask an adult friend, but hey, at least you asked.

Sam: wha, wha, woo, woo, who, what..... (*to audience*) I think I am going to faint (*faints in a funny way*)

MB: (*sigh*) (*to audience*) I was afraid something like this might happen. Well first let's send Arte home . (*snaps fingers. Arte unfreezes*)

Arte: wha wha, woo, woo, who, what?

MB: Go on home, Arte, and get some cookies and milk. I will see you later.

Arte: (*dazedly*) I think I'll go home and get some cookies and milk. She'll see me later. (*wandering off.*) Who will see me later? What am I talking about? (*exit*)

MB: Sam honey, come on back now.

Sam: (*coming back up*) Hi.

MB: Hi.

Sam: umm, the faint thing was kinda real and kinda faking.

MB: I know. (*pause*) so what's up?

Sam: well, my friend Arte nevers wants to do what I want. He makes me so mad sometimes and so I don't want to play with him.

MB: What makes you mad?

Sam: Well, that he doesn't want to do what I want to do!
And that he gets mad at me!

MB: Okay, hold on sec, Sam. Let's check with these kids out there. Kids, did you see what happened? Can you tell me about it? What did you notice? What else did you notice?

(after this conversation, MB gets at two ideas through FUN facilitation which includes SAM:

1) that Sam did NOT communicate what she wanted.

BRAINSTORM!!! How can she

- a) know what really wants? ("if I could do anything in the world, anything here and now, second choice?")
- b) say what she wants (practice with the group--how do you feel? what do you want?)

2) That Arte was mad for a reason; Sam was BULLYING him. (*Keep this part brief*)