

MONUMENT

By Mark Scharf



MONUMENT

Copyright Notice

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by the Author and/or Self-Publisher and are managed through Green Room Press, Inc. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

OTHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement through Green Room Press, Inc.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission.

Mark Scharf



Mark Scharf is an award winning American playwright living in Baltimore, MD whose plays have been produced and published widely in the United States and internationally. Scharf has served as Playwright-in-Residence for the Theatre Virginia New Voices Program and taught Playwriting at the University of Mary Washington and at Howard Community College. He has also presented Playwriting seminars for the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, The University of Mary Washington, The University of Virginia, Johns Hopkins University, the Baltimore Playwrights Festival, and the Maryland Writers Alliance. Scharf served three terms as Chairman of the Baltimore Playwrights Festival. He has an MFA in Playwriting from the University of Virginia and is a member of the Dramatists Guild. Scharf believes in the power of the idiosyncratic voice of the playwright to move people to feel, think, remember and understand in a way no other art can. He also loves opening nights, which he says are sacred.

MONUMENT
By Mark Scharf

MONUMENT

By Mark Scharf

SYNOPSIS: What are the things one leaves behind that matter? How much of what we do is part of us? In *Monument*, a conversation between a roofer with a personality on overdrive and a circumspect writer reveals that the strength of the human connection creates a monument as strong as any work man can craft. Funny, bewildering and crystal clear, *Monument* is a snapshot of our yearning to understand and be understood -- to do right by each other to be right with ourselves.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 males)

SCOTT (m) Early to mid-40's. *(51 lines)*

PAUL (m) Late 30's to late 50's. *(46 lines)*

TIME: The present, late afternoon

PLACE: Paul's front yard

NOTE: *Cover photo by Tessa Sollway, (used with permission)*

PRODUCTION HISTORY

MONUMENT was first produced at the Fells Point Corner Theatre in Baltimore, Maryland in June, 2016 as part of the 10X10X10 Festival of Ten-Minute plays.

Directed by Howard Berkowitz

SCOTT David Shoemaker

PAUL Gareth Kelly

*This perusal script is for reading purposes only.
No performance or photocopy rights are conveyed.*

In memory of Scotty LaRock

AT RISE: *The lights rise on SCOTT facing the audience and staring up while smoking a cigarette. He wears dirty jeans, a T-shirt and work boots, and one of his hands has a rag wrapped tightly around it.*

PAUL enters. He is dressed business casual and has a laptop case slung across a shoulder. He crosses to SCOTT who doesn't acknowledge his presence. He looks up where SCOTT is looking. They stare up in silence. They never physically touch during the play.

SCOTT: *(Drawing out his words.)* Yeah. Yeah, I think that's all that's gonna get done today, Scribbles.

PAUL: "Scribbles?"

SCOTT: That's what ya do! Ya scribble words.

PAUL: I type on this laptop. Sometimes an iPad...

SCOTT: Same thing.

PAUL: If you're going to give me a nickname, please pick something classy, like "Hemingway" or "Shakespeare." Scribbles sounds like a cat's name.

SCOTT: "Shakespeare?" Gettin' full of yourself, ain't ya?

PAUL: Been full of myself my whole life. *(Pointing up.)* Looks good.

SCOTT: Ya think so? I'll bet you can't even tell me where I've laid in the new shingles.

Beat as PAUL looks without success.

SCOTT: *(Continued.)* No, huh? You know why? I'm that good. See that section to the right of the dormer? That's the way it's supposed to look. When I finish a job it don't scream "Repair!" –

PAUL: I hope to hell that was the *only* leak.

SCOTT: Don't worry, man. I'll take care of you. I promised Rachel I'd take good care of you and that's what I'm doing. When I'm finished, that roof'll be good for a hundred and fifty years. Like a damn monument. Longer than we'll be around.

PAUL: Speak for yourself. I'm not leaving.

SCOTT: Shit, man... you live to be a hundred and you'll be prayin' to go.

PAUL: Not me. I'm not going anywhere.

SCOTT: OK. All right. You do that. (*Looks at PAUL.*) I'm almost finished but I gotta stop. See that shit rolling in?

SCOTT points and they both look.

SCOTT: (*Continued.*) I see those clouds and I stop and I get my ass down on the ground. You ain't never gonna find me up on a roof in the rain or right after it rains or even if it just looks like rain. Ain't nothin' more slippery, more treacherous...

PAUL: *Treacherous?*

SCOTT: Hey, just 'cause I work with my hands doesn't mean I don't read or have a good vocabulary...

PAUL: I didn't mean...

SCOTT: Aw, don't worry, man. Just jerkin' your chain a little.

PAUL: I wasn't trying to insult you...

SCOTT: I said don't worry about. Now, tell me you're not going to worry about it.

PAUL: "I'm not going to worry about it."

SCOTT: There ya go! Now, what was I tellin' you – oh, yeah! You ain't never, never gonna find me up on a slate roof if there's rain even in the forecast. Ain't worth the risk. There's a reason people say, "easy as fallin' off a roof." 'Cause it is easy. I already fell once because of this numb-nuts-jackass who was supposed to be helpin' me. He just helped me into the emergency room. Moved the damn ladder without tellin' me. Can you believe that? No, sir. I ain't fallin' again. Ever. Ev-vah. Broke both legs. I've still got metal pins in me holdin' shit together.

PAUL: Sorry.

SCOTT: Don't be. Ain't nothin' but a thing, ya know? I lived to work another day. I got plenty of other projects I can be doin' and if I didn't, I'd find somethin' to do.

PAUL: Looks good to me.



GREEN ROOM PRESS

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

MONUMENT

by Mark Scharf

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

GREEN ROOM PRESS, INC.

customerservice@greenroompress.com

www.greenroompress.com