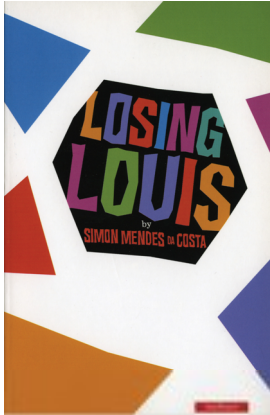


Losing Louis by Simon Mendes de Costa



It's the 1950s and Louis is busy impregnating his wife's closest friend, Bella. In the next scene, 50 years have elapsed and the family gather at the funeral of Louis. The bedroom in which Louis indulged his insatiable sexual appetite, and in which his young son, Tony, heard everything from his hidey-hole under the bed, now becomes a battleground, in which family prejudices and secrets that have built up over the years, are exposed. De Mendes's play swings back and forth in time to show us how one person's actions can corrupt a whole family.

Losing Louis premiered at the Hampstead Theatre in January 2005.

'[De Mendes's] natural and abundant humanity means that he treats his characters with kindness. He never judges them or their ordinariness.' *Independent*

Genre:	Family black comedy	Fee:	£56 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m3 f4	Scripts:	ISBN 9780413775122 £8.99
Set:	a bedroom	Length:	2 acts
Contact:	amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com		

EXTRACT

Tony What have you got against me?

Tony At last you said it. You hate me.

Reggie Me!?

Reggie No I didn't.

Tony Yes, you.

Tony You wouldn't have said it unless you were thinking it. You've got no reason to hate me, you were the one he loved the most.

Reggie Nothing

Tony Well, you have a funny way of not showing it.

Reggie Oh God. OK. So he loved me more than you. So what?

Reggie Great.

Tony What?

Tony That's it, true to form, walk away.

Reggie What should I have done about it, make him love me less.

Reggie If you think I'm staying here to let you drunkenly insult me . . .

Tony You're saying that he did?

Tony Well, hang around, I'll be sober shortly.

Reggie Yes, I am.

Reggie I've always hated you when you get like this.

If you enjoyed this, you might like:

- *The Grown-Ups* by Nicholas Kelly (m3 f2)
- *The Early Bird* by Leo Butler (m1 f1)
- *Loot* by Joe Orton (m2 f1)