

Seasonal Spectacular

A One Act Play By Jess Mason

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Characters: *Note* All casting is gender fluid. Characters may be performed by men, women, and non-binary folk (even Mother Nature).

OFF-STAGE ANNOUNCER- (could be played by SEASONAL DEPRESSION actor)

SUN - A bright, cheery, unflappable host.

EARTH - Anxious. A wishy washy, indecisive judge

MOTHER NATURE - Loving and confident judge. Compliments for everyone.

HALLOWEEN - Sour. Judgemental. Dark. Hard to impress.

WINTER - A killjoy.

SPRING - Flighty.

SUMMER - Hawt.

FALL - A strong contender.

HOLIDAY- Magical.

SEASONAL DEPRESSION - Is there.

Setting - A competition show. It can be as simple as a microphone stand and a judge's table and as complex as desired.

Props

- Appropriate costuming choices to clearly define each character visually.
- Applause sign
- Halloween's cell phone
- Ukulele
- Hula Hoop
- Comically long roll of paper
- Hot drink
- Basket
- Foil pan
- Plates
- Forks
- Tee shirt with DEPRESSION on it
- Tee shirt with SEASONAL DEPRESSION on it

(Lights up on SUN center stage. MOTHER NATURE, EARTH, and HALLOWEEN are seated at the judges table. All contestants are off stage.)

OFF-STAGE ANNOUNCER: And we're live in three, two, one . . .

SUN: *(enters, holding APPLAUSE sign. Encourages audiences to applaud)* Welcome everyone to the second annual Season Spectacular! The competition show where the Seasons show off their best and try to win over our hearts. Before we bring out our contestants, let's take a minute to meet this year's judges! Hi judges!

MOTHER NATURE, EARTH - *(wave enthusiastically)*

HALLOWEEN - *(is on their phone. Acknowledges SUN in a less enthusiastic manner.)*

SUN: WOW! If I didn't know that I'm the only one in this room who actually generates energy, I'd swear it'd be coming off of that judge's table! Ha ha! Let's say hello to our first judge, the lady who brings it all together so we sing in harmony, our beautiful Mother Nature!

MOTHER NATURE: Hello Sun! It's so lovely to see you. Isn't it a spectacular day?

SUN: I couldn't agree more. You look stunning!

MOTHER NATURE: Thank you! Being close to you brings out all of my best features, Sun.

HALLOWEEN: Kiss ass.

MOTHER NATURE: Party pooper.

SUN: All right, there. Flattery will get you everywhere! Now, Mother Nature, do you have a favorite season that you're looking forward to seeing in today's competition?

MOTHER NATURE: Oh, that's such a hard question! Every season is special, and has something wonderful to celebrate about them. I do love bearing witness to these seasons and their special talents, but it's so hard to pick a winner.

SUN: Well, it's a good thing that you're not declaring a winner on your own. I love seeing how encouraging you are to all of our contestants. Thanks for being here today, Mother Nature.

MOTHER NATURE: My pleasure!

SUN: Let's go ahead and meet our second judge. We all know that we wouldn't be here today if it weren't for our very special relationship and bond, so please give a warm welcome to our one and only planet Earth!

EARTH: (*flustered*) Oh, hey, I mean, hi . . . hello Sun!

SUN: Earth, is everything OK?

EARTH: I don't know, this whole competition thing is so much pressure. How are we supposed to pick the BEST season? What if the other seasons get mad and retaliate? I'm already having enough troubles keeping my ice caps in shape . . . haven't you heard about global warming?

SUN: Hmm . . . that sounds like a you problem. I'm always hot. Good luck sorting all that out, Earth!

EARTH: And *(stage whispering)* Halloween is giving me the creeps.

HALLOWEEN: I can hear you. *(flips off EARTH, or another rude gesture)*

SUN: Well, that brings us to our final judge, our very special guest who was the winner of last year's competition. Let's hear it for our very own spooky season, Halloween!

HALLOWEEN: Sup.

SUN: Now, Halloween, today must be a bittersweet day for you. As last year's winner, folks were excited to watch Hocus Pocus while binging on fun-sized Snickers every day. You aren't eligible to participate in this year's competition, meaning once we crown a new winner, you'll lose your current status of 365 days of Spooky Season.

HALLOWEEN: *(laughs)* I'm not scared. Despite what the SYSTEM says, there will always be those who hold darkness in their hearts, and I will find them and claim them. No. Matter. What.

SUN: You're a real creeper, aren't you, Halloween?

HALLOWEEN: *(shrugs)* It's on brand.

SUN: Well, folks, I think it's time that we get this competition started, don't you? *(applause from*

the judges. SUN holds up APPLAUSE sign.) Before we bring out our contestants, why don't we remind you folks just what's at stake here? Today's winning season will be awarded the grand prize of 365 days of celebration. How SEASONALLY SPECTACULAR!!! (*APPLAUSE sign*) So, let's get started! Our first contestant today is always a welcome sight, please give it up for Spring! (*APPLAUSE sign*)

SPRING: (*enters waving, holding a ukulele*) Hello everyone! Hello! I'm so happy to be here today!

MOTHER NATURE: My darling!

SPRING: Hi Earth!

EARTH: Hi . . . don't get too close to me . . .

SPRING: Why not?

EARTH: It's just that my eyes are watering, and my nose is starting to itch . . .

SUN: Spring, why don't you tell us what you've prepared for us today?

SPRING: I thought I'd sing a little song just to remind everyone of how much my arrival brightens everyone's mood!

HALLOWEEN: DON'T.

SPRING: Oh, Ok. I guess I won't then. (*hides ukulele behind back*)

HALLOWEEN: UGH, Spring, this is why I can't with you. You're always so wishy-washy. Do we really want a full year of this back and forth? One minute you're hot, one minute you're cold . . .

MOTHER NATURE: But Spring also brings flowers and trees blooming. Who wouldn't want to spend a year while I'm at my freshest and most beautiful?

EARTH: AAAAHHHH CHOOOOO!

HALLOWEEN: Gross. We don't want a year of allergy snot. NEXT!

SPRING: Always the bridesmaid, never the bride . . . (*steps back, but does not leave the stage*)

SUN: Wow Spring, you've got all the fortitude of a wet paper towel. Unlike our next contestant, who bares down on us all with unrelenting power. Please welcome Summer! (*Applause sign*)

SUMMER: (*enters with a hula hoop*) SUN! What's up, babe? Oh my gosh, you're, like, glowing!

SUN: Oh Summer, don't make me blush. You know I'm the impartial host. I can't show favoritism, can I?

SUMMER: Oh, we won't tell anyone. (*wink*) I can't wait to remind everyone why I am, like, the greatest season of all time. Then we can wrap this competition up fast so I can go get my biweekly mani pedi! Mother Nature, hey Girl! Earth, you look good.

MOTHER NATURE: Hello Summer.

EARTH: Do you really think I look good? I don't feel good . . .

SUMMER: Halloween.

HALLOWEEN: (*hisses*)

SUMMER: *(rolls eyes)* Whatever, Count Chocula. Biases aside, you cannot deny that the people want me as their Seasonal Queen. I'm so hot, people, like, run out of their house to go do cool shit. Beach, camping, hiking, star gazing: name an outdoor activity, I've got you covered.

MOTHER NATURE: Oh, how lovely.

HALLOWEEN: Skin cancer, record heat waves, forest fires . . . yeah, you're great.

EARTH: Oh . . . They've got a point. Summer, you've been really comfy lately.

SUMMER: *(gasp)* As if! I am the season of total vacay vibes!

HALLOWEEN: Vacation? In this economy?

SUN: Summer, why don't you go ahead and show us what you've prepared for us today?

SUMMER: Oh, absolutely. I'm all about relaxing and good times, so I thought I'd show you this new hooping flow I've been working on! *(SUMMER hula hoops to an upbeat, beachy song. Think "California Girls" by Katy Perry or the anything by the Beach Boys.)*

SUN: Wow, folks, let's give a big hand for Summer! *(APPLAUSE sign)*. Ok, judges, what did you think of Summer's performance and her compelling arguments?

MOTHER NATURE: Well, darling, I thought you were spectacular. You really lit up the room! You certainly impressed me.

SUMMER: Thanks bae.

EARTH: Summer, you're definitely hot.

SUMMER: Totally.

EARTH: *(pulls at collar)* But, maybe too hot? I don't know if I can handle 365 days of this sweltering heat.

SPRING: *(steps up)* I'm not usually too hot. Sometimes, I even bring a little snow, just to keep you all on your toes.

SUMMER: No one asked you, Spring!

EARTH: Spring, I thought you already took yourself out of the running?

SUMMER: Oh! Yeah! Sorry! I forgot. *(steps back again)*

HALLOWEEN: *(takes their time. Slowly stands up, adjusts clothing. Takes a deep breath)*
BOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

SUMMER: *(sticks tongue out or other rude gesture towards Halloween. Starts to walk towards them, but SUN holds them back).*

SUN: Ok, there, my feisty fireball. Summer, we have to see the rest of the contestants, but you're a fan favorite for sure. *(APPLAUSE sign)* For our next guest, we are pivoting hard from hot, hot, hot to ice, ice, baby. Please put your hands together for Winter! *(Applause sign)*

WINTER: *(enters hesitatingly)* . . .

SUN: WINTER! *(gestures encouragingly)*

WINTER: Oh. Hey.

SUN: Ok then! Now, buddy, I know that you and I aren't that close, but let me help you out here. What did you prepare to help convince the judges that you should be this year's winner of

Seasonal Spectacular??

WINTER: . . . We were supposed to prepare something?

MOTHER NATURE: Yes, dear! Like a talent or a skill . . . something to help remind us what's so special about you.

WINTER: DAMNIT! I . . . you know what? I give up. I forfeit. (*turns to leave*)

MOTHER NATURE & EARTH: No!!!

HALLOWEEN: (*less sincere*) No . . .

SUMMER: Yes! Two down . . .

EARTH: Winter, don't give up yet!

WINTER: But, I'm not going to win. I mean, if Spring isn't going to win, what chance do I have?

SPRING: Hey!

MOTHER NATURE: But some people really LOVE you, Winter!

WINTER: No they don't.

EARTH: Yes! They do.

WINTER: No, they DON'T!

EARTH: Yes they do!

WINTER: NO! They DON'T! PEOPLE! DON'T! LIKE! ME! They do nothing but COMPLAIN about me! How I ruin traffic, and that I'm too wet and gray! People count down the days until I'm gone. Some people pack up their entire LIVES and MOVE AWAY to places like FLORIDA just to avoid me. Can you imagine that? Choosing to live in FLORIDA rather than deal with me? Unbelievable.

EARTH: But Peace on EARTH and goodwill towards men . . .

WINTER: YOU. DON'T. LIKE. ME. YOU LIKE THEM! (*points to HOLIDAY SEASON, who is sitting out in the audience*)

SUN: Wait a minute, who is . . .? Is that . . .? Holiday Season, is that you hiding out there? What are you doing in the audience? Come on up here, you silly goose. Holiday Season, everyone! (*Applause sign*)

HOLIDAY SEASON: (*shows mock humility, and then gets on the stage*) Oh, well, gosh, if you INSIST. Hi everyone, I'm Holiday Season, and, even though I wasn't prepared, here are all the reasons I believe that I am this year's winner of Seasonal Spectacular. (*reaches into pocket, and unfurls comically long paper list*)

SUMMER: Oh, please.

HOLIDAY SEASON: (*clears throat*) Carols and traditional songs.

EARTH: Oh, I do love those!

HOLIDAY SEASON: Freshly fallen snow.

MOTHER NATURE: (*sigh*) So peaceful and beautiful.

WINTER: *(laughs)* Sure, you all love snow! Until it's a week old and dirty. Then you're all whining about parking in slush.

HOLIDAY SEASON: Snuggling up with someone you love in front of the roaring fire.

HALLOWEEN: I do like the long hours of darkness.

WINTER: What? That's MY thing! They have nothing to do with that! This is bullshit! *(exits)*

HOLIDAY SEASON: Twinkling lights.

SUMMER: Summer nights.

HOLIDAY SEASON: Holiday cheer!

SUMMER: Ice cold beer!

HOLIDAY SEASON: Yuletide!

SUMMER: Poolside!

SPRING: SPRINGTIDE!

ALL: SHUT UP, SPRING!

SPRING: Sorry.

SUMMER: Margaritas on ice!

HOLIDAY SEASON: HOLIDAY SPICE!

FALL: *(enters holding a hot drink in a sleeve and carrying a basket)* Did somebody say PUMPKIN SPICE?!

EARTH: Fall! You actually showed up on time this year!

HALLOWEEN: *(rising to greet them)* My dude! Finally! *(they exchange an intricate handshake)*

SUN: Folks, our final contestant has arrived! Please give a warm welcome to Fall! *(Applause sign)*

FALL: That's right, bitches! Sweater weather, changing leaves, PSL . . . what's not to love?!

SUMMER: You think you're all that and a bag of chips?!

MOTHER NATURE: Cool it, Summer.

FALL: It's chill, Mother Nature. She's just jealous because my aesthetic is all over Pinterest. Hashtag Girly Vibes.

SUMMER: You may be the newest viral trend, but I have been there for the people since, like, they were children. EVERYONE loves summer vacation.

HOLIDAY SEASON: CHILDREN love PRESENTS, which is reason number 394 on my list.

EARTH: Is this why I feel like shit all the time? Because all you seasons can't stop pushing and shoving and fighting over your rightful spots while I orbit around Sun? I feel a migraine coming on . . . anybody got an aspirin?

HALLOWEEN: Want some morphine?

SUN: Ok! I'm not sure how our very creepy judge procured that medication, but I'm SURE a

doctor wrote a legitimate prescription for it, so let's get back to the task at hand. Contestants, let's settle down now.

FALL: You're right, Sun. You don't have to worry about me. Unlike these hot heads like Summer here, I'm cool. That's why people love me. They find the fact that I'm chill relaxing. I'm a nice break from the relentless heat, but I'm still plenty of fun. Hashtag Fall Activities!

SUMMER: Hashtag H-O-T-T-O-G-O, as in the Summer's hottest hit!

HOLIDAY SEASON: Oh I, don't want a lot for Christmas . . .

SUN: Woah woah woah, Holiday Season, we don't have the funds to defrost Mariah Carey yet. Fall, something smells DELICIOUS! What did you bring us? I hope you brought enough for everyone! *(chuckles)*

FALL: Thanks for asking, Sun! Well, as I was saying, I'm just as much fun as Summer. A trip to the pumpkin patch, a corn maze, and apple picking are all fun I bring for the whole family! So, in honor of that, I thought I'd give you all a taste of my Grandma's Apple Cobbler. *(pulls out foil pan out of basket, and starts distributing the plates, forks, and cobbler to the judges, who eat appreciatively).*

MOTHER NATURE: I always LOVED chatting with your Grandma Demeter. She has such a way with fruits. Please tell her that I say hello.

EARTH: I still have a migraine, but this is nice.

MOTHER NATURE: This is lovely, Fall. I could eat this 365 days in a row, that's for sure.

HALLOWEEN: Eating this for a whole year . . . I don't know. What else do you got?

FALL: Apple cider, pumpkin pie, apple cider donuts, banana nut bread, hot apple cider . . .

HALLOWEEN: Woah, woah, woah. Enough, enough! What are you, sponsored by Apple?

FALL: I wish! *(to audience/camera)* Hey Apple, call me.

HALLOWEEN: Fall, I know we're tight, but this is a little too wholesome for me.

EARTH: Yeah, I'm also nervous about year-round leaf maintenance. The last thing I need is another unprecedented weather pattern.

SUN: Well, judges, while you finish off Fall's tasty treat, the time has come for you to make your final decision. Spring and Winter have both taken themselves out of the running, but it's been a tight race today between fan favorites Summer, Fall, and Holiday Season. WHO will win? Judges, the fate of the next 365 days rests in your hands. *(Judges start to whisper and huddle, but SUN appears to be getting a message through his earpiece)* Oh, wait, wait, wait, *(interrupts judges)* I've just been informed by our producers that we have one more contestant who would like to throw their hat in the ring! *(all on stage mumble in confusion)* Ladies and Gentleman, competing for the first time in the Seasonal Spectacular, please put your hands together for Seasonal Depression! *(Applause sign)*

(SEASONAL DEPRESSION and WINTER enter. SEASONAL DEPRESSION is simply wearing a tee shirt that says SEASONAL DEPRESSION)

WINTER: Yeah, yeah, I called up my buddy Seasonal Depression here! I figured, if I wasn't going to win, that they should at least have a shot!

SEASONAL DEPRESSION: *(waves)* Hello.

FALL: Hey, I know you

SPRING: Yeah! I do too! I always see you around whenever I come out!

SEASONAL DEPRESSION: Yeah, I do try to get around and touch as many folks as I can.

EARTH: Oh . . . I think I know you too! Wow! Your face is so familiar!

SEASONAL DEPRESSION: How are you doin', Earth?

EARTH: Not great! But it's good to have you here today.

HOLIDAY SEASON: My man! *(they embrace)*

SUMMER: I'm sorry, WHAT? Holiday Season, how are you bros with this guy? Aren't you all joy and peace and happiness and light?

HOLIDAY SEASON: Actually, Seasonal Depression and I work very closely together. Ever had a tense holiday meal with your toxic family? *(shrugs)*

HALLOWEEN: *(has stood up, and has nervously made their way from the judges table towards Seasonal Depression)* Seasonal Depression? *(they shake hands)* Oh my goodness, I can't believe it! I'm sorry, I just . . . I'm a huge fan! Can I . . . take a selfie?

SEASONAL DEPRESSION: Sure. *(They do. Halloween sufficiently, and out of character, geeks out on their way back to the judges table).*

MOTHER NATURE: Wow. Winter, I always knew you had something special. What a powerful friend you've brought to this year's competition.

EARTH: Yeah, we are all very familiar with this season. I'd even say, the way you show up for all of us year round . . . it's pretty spectacular.

HALLOWEEN: *(VERY UNCOOL)* YOU HAVE MY VOTE.

SUN: Well, this competition sure is full of surprises! At the last minute, we have what looks to be our . . .

SUMMER: WAIT!!!!!! STOP!!!!!! Like, this is so unfair! You're saying Seasonal Depression wins because they're around all of you . . . what about ME? What about Sun? You can't argue with Vitamin D!!!! *(pouts)*

SEASONAL DEPRESSION: Oh. Wait. *(takes off SEASONAL DEPRESSION shirt. Underneath is a tee shirt that just said DEPRESSION across it)*. Hey Summer.

SUMMER: UGH, it's YOU? Oh, I've been trying to pretend you're not there!

DEPRESSION: Only so much that Lexapro can do.

SUMMER: I GIVE UP! *(exits)*

SUN: Ah, that fiery temper. Judges, would you like to make the official statement?

EARTH: We hereby proclaim this year's winner of the Seasonal Spectacular is . . .

MOTHER NATURE, EARTH, HALLOWEEN: SEASONAL DEPRESSION!

SUN: Well folks, this has been the second annual Seasonal Spectacular, brought to you by Father Time Clocks. Father Time Clocks, you can always count on us. Enjoy your full 365 days being just a little bit tired and a little less hopeful as you experience the soft, unending pressure of Seasonal Depression, and we'll see you here next year. I'm Sun, and I hope to be your host for the next eight billion years!

SEASONAL DEPRESSION: Oh, I actually believe you're going to sputter out and die in seven billion years. Not eight.

SUN: Fantastic. Thank you everyone, and goodnight!