

Play: **That's Why You Go Away**
Playwright: **Yung Tin Yue, Ngan Sze Kei**
School: **Pentecostal Lam Hon Kwong School**

Scene One

(In the street, Christine, Peggy and Mable just finished school.)

1. *Christine: (Rubbing her eyes continuously, humming a song, with ear-phone on her head, holding lyrics of song in her hand)) Peggy, I guess I have read too much novel lately. There' s something wrong with my eyes.
2. *Peggy: Don' t rub your eyes, Christine. Look, your eyes have become rabbit eyes already. (Took away the lyrics from Christine's hand) Oh, Vincent Hui? Who is he?
3. *Mable: Christine doesn't like the pop singers, she only likes this APA student.
4. *Peggy: APA?
5. Christine: Academy of Performing Arts. All the songs in this CD were composed and written by him. He is now writing a musical on Romeo and Juliet.....Eh, Mable, Peggy, don' t you two remember today is a big day. (Peggy and Mable looking at each other, Peggy suddenly remember something)
6. Peggy: Of course we remember.
7. Christine: So did you ...
8. Peggy: Sure. I got the tickets. (taking the tickets out) Now, one each. This is for Mable. This is for you Christine.
9. Mable: Wah, it' s the famous tutor David Sze' s lecture ticket. I read about him in the magazine. It seems he has very high qualification and is very popular.
10. Peggy: And he looks smart, also.
11. Mable: But most important is, he has tips. It' s wonderful.
12. Christine: Don' t you remember... It' s my birthday today.
13. Peggy: Oh dear. I' m really sorry. Don' t be angry with us.
14. Mable: Well, Christine, I wish you ' Happy Birthday' . But we are still going to the

lecture. Why don't you come with us.

15. Christine: No, I'll not.
16. Peggy: Then, sorry, we got to go. Happy Birthday anyway. Perhaps we'll celebrate with you tomorrow.
17. Mable: Bye.

(Peggy and Mable left quickly)

(Christine left being annoyed)

Scene Two

(Opening the door with the keys, got in, threw the school bag down.)

18. Christine: It's ridiculous! (Sat on the sofa angrily.)
- (Singing 'Happy Birthday, a birthday cake on Peggy's hands, together with Mother and Mable.)
19. Mother,
Peggy,
Mable: Happy Birthday!
20. Christine: (Thrilled) Why you're all here!
21. Mother: They came to celebrate your birthday with you. Now make a wish and blow out the candles.
22. *Mable: What wish do you want to make?
23. *Christine: It's a secret.
24. *Peggy: She wants to marry Vincent Hui.
25. *Christine: That's not a bad idea, though.
- (Christine put her hands together and blow the candles out)
- (Everyone claps, light on)
26. *Christine: Turn on the light. I want to have a good look at the cake.

27. Mother: What happen to you? The light is on.

28. Christine: What? My eyes... my eyes...

Scene Three

(Christine's eyes were bandaged, Doctor was examining her and Mother rushed in)

29. Mother: Doctor, what happen to my daughter? Is she alright?

30. Doctor: You should have taken her here earlier.

31. Mother: So what's wrong with my daughter?

32. Doctor: This is a rare case. In short, her corneas were seriously infected.

33. Mother: So, what will happen to her?

34. Doctor: In order that the eyeballs will not be further infected, we have to remove the cornea immediately. I hope we have your consent.

35. Mother: (Agitated) But that means my daughter will be blind without the cornea. It can't be. My daughter is so young. She has already lost her father. If she turns blind, how can she live on? I won't let her suffer any more. (Start crying)

36. Doctor: But this is the only way. Yet when someone donates his cornea, we'll do the transplant for her right away.

37. Mother: How long do we have to wait?

38. Doctor: It's hard to say. If we're lucky, it won't be too long, but...

39. Mother: Will she have to wait forever?

40. Doctor: I can't really tell you.

41. Mother: My God. How can this happen! Why...(Putting herself together) Doctor, then we have to count on you.

42. Doctor: Don't worry too much. I'll get ready for the operation. (Doctor left, Christine woke up)

43. Mother: You're awake!

44. Christine: Mother, why is it all dark here. I can't see anything. Where am I? (Trying to feel the surrounding with her hands)
45. Mother: Don't be scared. You're in hospital. Mother is with you.
46. Christine: Hospital. Why am I in hospital? (Touching her eyes) What's covering my eyes?
47. Mother: Nothing much. It's bandage only. The doctor said it's not serious. It won't be long before we can take off the bandage and you can leave here.
48. Christine: What.... Not serious, how long do I have to be blind and stuck in a hospital.
49. Mother: Mami's good girl. It won't be long. I'll stay here to be with you tonight, OK?
50. Christine: (Without any choice) OK!

Scene Four

(In the hospital, Christine sitting on the bed,, Mother carrying a travel bag.)

51. Mother: Christine, you look good today.
52. Christine: At last, I can go home.
53. Christine: Now we can take off the bandage. I really want to look at you.
54. Mother: No... let's wait for the doctor.
- (Doctor got in)
55. Doctor: Mrs. Chan, Christine. (Doctor examining Christine)
56. Christine: Can I go now, Doctor? When can I see again?
57. Doctor: To see! (Looking at Mother) Didn't you tell her the situation?)
- (Mother shaking her head.)
58. Christine: What situation? Can I leave today?

59. Doctor: You can leave the hospital now. But you must remember, take a lot of rest, OK?
60. Christine: OK. Doctor, can I take the bandage off now?
61. Doctor: Of course. You can take it off now, or I'll tell a nurse to undo it for you. But remember, you must come back for examination every week. Now, I have to see other patients, Bye.
- (Doctor left, Christine took down the bandage)
62. Christine: (Nervous) Why... why can't I see anything?
63. Mother: Christine good girl. Listen to me. The doctor said your corneas have been infected. It will take a while for them to be healed. Be patient. You will soon see again.
64. Christine: What... What infection? Why did I get this? I have waited for a whole week. Now you ask me to wait again... What if I can't wait? (Christine shaking her mother) Say something. You say something.
65. Mother: No. Don't do that. (not knowing what to do)
66. Christine: No. Mother. I don't want to be blind. I'll see the doctor. I'll find her!
- (Christine wanting to leave the room, stumbled, Mother moved forward to pick her up)
67. Mother: Don't be like this...
68. Christine: No. Mother. I don't want to be blind.
- (Mother and Christine embracing each other and cried)

Scene Five

(Christine and Mother waiting at the bus-stop for the Rehab bus. Mobile phone rings)

69. Mother: Hello. Yes, it's Carol speaking.... No. I've told him many times. That he should see a sample before making any order.... What? Come back to see.....No....I can't go now.....

70. Christine: Mother. Go. I'll be alright. I have taken the Rehab bus here for months,
71. Mother: OK. I'll come back right away. (Put the phone down) Christine, I'm really sorry. The boss wants me back to see the sample. The Rehab bus will be here any time, try to get on the bus yourself. I'll pick you up at the
72. Christine: OK. Bye. (Mother left unwillingly)
- (Vincent carrying a few bags, bump into Christine carelessly)
73. Christine & Vincent: Eh!
- (Vincent's things and Christine's stick on the ground)
- (Vincent picked up his things, saw Christine try to feel the ground, quickly picked up the stick and gave it to her)
74. Vincent: Are you looking for this?
- (Christine took the stick without saying anything)
75. Vincent: I'm sorry I bump into you. I'm really sorry.
76. Christine: It's alright. I'm used to that now.
77. Vincent: Where are you going? Can I give you a lift.
78. Christine: No, it's alright. I'm waiting for the Rehab bus to take me to the hospital.
79. Vincent: Rehab bus? It's just gone.
80. Christine: Oh dear. I have to go to St. Joseph Hospital for a check up.
81. Vincent: What a co-incident. I'm going there, too. Let me take you there in a taxi.
82. Christine: OK. Thanks.
- (Vincent walked up, seeing Christine walk slow, went back to help her.)
83. Vincent: Let me help you.

Scene Six

(In the taxi.)

84. Taxi driver: Where' re you going?
85. Vincent: St. Joseph Hospital please..... I' m going to the second floor to see the doctor.... Why isn' t anybody going with you to the hospital. How come your family will let you go on your own?
86. Christine: My mother has some business to attend to. She will come to pick me up at two.
87. Vincent: What about your friends.
88. Christine: Friends? I need to have some. But often I was blind, I didn' t go to see them. And they didn' t come to me...
89. *Vincent: Then shall we be friends? ...Ah, what' s your name...My name is Vincent, Vincent Hui.
90. *Christine: You are Vincent Hui... Are you studying in the APA?
91. *Vincent: Yes...
92. *Christine: I like your songs very much...How about your musical, Romeo and Juliet?
93. *Vincent: You seem to know me well....I've just started writing.....then shall we be friend?

Scene Seven

(In a restaurant.)

94. Waiter: Sir, are you ready to order?
95. Vincent: We' ll have two cups of coffee, please.
96. Christine: Vincent, it has been half year since we first met. And this is the first time we have had coffee in a restaurant.
97. Vincent: Yeah, usually friends meet in a restaurant. But we meet in a restaurant only after almost half year.

98. *Christine: I guess this is life. Unusual things just happened on me. Without father, without school, without friends, without corneas.....By the way, is your 'Juliet and Romeo' good?
99. Vincent: Yes, it's very good.
100. Christine: Congratulation.
101. Vincent: Thank you.
102. Christine: I'm proud of your achievement....I heard that the New York Theater of the United State invites you there, is it true?
103. Vincent: Yes, the dean of APA informed me lately..
104. Christine: Terrific! Soon you'll become famous!
105. Vincent: I was flattered, but I declined their offer.
106. Christine: Why?
107. Vincent: I have more important business to attend to in Hong Kong....and a person I cannot leave behind.
108. Christine: What a pity..... I mean I can only listen to your musical and not see it.
109. Vincent: With love you feel with your heart, the eyes see only the surface.
110. Christine: Love.
111. Vincent: Christine, have you ever fallen in love?
112. Christine: No, well, perhaps, may be..... and you?
113. Vincent: (Uneasy) Yes. But we broke up.
114. Christine: Why is that?
115. Vincent:Do you know why I often have to go to St. Joseph for examination?
116. Christine: I have asked you many times. But you did not give me a clear answer.
117. Vincent: It's stomach cancer.
118. Christine: What?

119. Vincent: Don't worry. It's under control. The doctor said I'm basically healed. When she knew that I had cancer, she left me.
120. Christine: She must have broken your heart.
121. Vincent: She did... Don't worry. I'm sure there are still lovers like Romeo and Juliet.
122. Christine: Really?
123. Vincent: Of course! Or life will be unbearable with so many things happening to us.
124. Christine: You're so tough!
125. Vincent: In fact, I'm more than alright now....for I have found true love.
126. Christine: Vow. How romantic! What is she like? Is she beautiful?
127. Vincent: She's rather like an angel, lovely and beautiful.... Well, actually, she's....
128. Christine: Well.... Now, you are healed. But I still cannot see. Have I not come to know you. I will die like Juliet.
129. Vincent: Don't you think like this. There are many people who love you.
130. Christine:Does the leading man, Romeo, look smart.
131. *Vincent: Not too bad. Will do for a leading person.....Ah, I've composed a song for you
132. *Christine: Really? Let me hear it.
- (Vincent let the pianist to play.)
133. Christine: It's wonderful... Vincent, why are you so good to me....I'm blind....I'm so scared...
134. Vincent: Beethoven once said: if you add reasons to love, you degrade it.
135. Christine: I wish I could see your face.
136. Vincent: This ring has brought me good luck, but I want you to have it. I have a hunch that you'll see soon.

(Vincent smiled, putting Christine's hands on his face)

Scene Eight

(In a park, Christine waiting on a bench impatiently, Vincent arrived)

137. Vincent: Sorry, I'm late for an hour.
138. Christine: Good that you know you have been late for an hour.
139. Vincent: Don't be mad...
140. Christine: Don't you know I'm very unhappy today. Yesterday the doctor told me that he found some dead cells in my eyes. If I still can't find a donor, I would be blind forever.
141. Vincent: Is it so serious?
142. Christine: Do you know how I wish to see again this birthday, to see mother, to see the world, and of course, to see you.
143. *Vincent: Of course I know. I promise you, you'll see me this coming birthday....
144. *Christine: Why!
145. *Vincent: I want to put all my attention to my last few songs.
146. *Christine: Your last few songs?
147. *Vincent: ...I mean the last few songs in the series. The New York Theater will bring out the CD.... But I have to leave you for a while.
148. *Christine: Why?.....How can you leave me alone now?....Do you go to the United State?....I know you will accept the New York Theater's offer. How long will you be there?
149. *Vincent: Won't be too long. You'll here me, on your birthday.
150. *Christine: Congratulation! I shall give you something to see you off.
151. *Vincent: It's not a necessary.
152. *Christine: I shall let you have this ring. And I hope your good luck will follow you there.

153. *Vincent: Don't.....I have written the lyrics for the song I composed for you last time.

154. *Christine: Why don't you sing it for me?

(Vincent sings the song.)

Scene Nine

(In the hospital.)

155. Christine: Doctor, you want me here. Do you have some bad news for me again?

156. *Doctor: It's good news this time. Finally, there's a donor who will give his cornea to you.

157. Christine: Mother, did you hear. I have the corneas. I can see again. (Embracing her mother)

158. Mother: It's wonderful.

159. Doctor: As soon as the procedure is over, I guess you can have the operation tomorrow.

160. Christine: It's marvelous. Soon I can see you.

Scene Ten

(In the room, Christine's eyes were bandaged and sitting on the bed with mother. Doctor got in)

161. Christine: Is it the doctor? Doctor, can you undo the bandage quickly. I can't wait to see the world again.

162. Mother: Be patient, my dear.

163. Doctor: (Undoing the bandage) The operation is really successful. Close your eyes first. (Doctor finished undoing the bandage) Now, open your eyes slowly. How is it? Can you see anything?

164. Christine: Ah, I can see. Doctor, I didn't know you are so pretty. (Looking at Mother). Mother, you lost a lot of weight.

165. Doctor: Christine, remember not to get your eyes too tired this week. Your eyes still need time to get used to this. Take lots of rest, OK?
166. Christine: OK, doctor. Thanks a lot. Bye. (Doctor left)
167. Mother: Christine, do you know what day it is today?
168. Christine: It's my birthday. Mother did Vincent call? He said I would hear him this birthday.....but he has probably forgot.
169. Mother: (Saddened) He won't come. But he's left you a letter, and his CD.
170. Vincent: (Christine reads the letter, and finds the ring of good luck attached.)
When you're reading this letter, I hope you're reading it with your eyes. Though we have only known each other for a year, we have come to know each other so well and... And that's more than I can hope for. My only regret is I cannot be with you when you can see the world, and I cannot share your joy. But I'm glad that my leaving the world can make your dream come true.

I have not told you about my illness. Remember that day I was late for an hour in the park? In fact, that day the doctor told me I do not have much time left. And that day, I decided to give you my cornea. we all died. Yet some of us are lucky enough to have our love live on. Christine, it's a great comfort to me that my love will live on in you. my one and only true love

End of Play