

EXERCISE : A 'BOXING MATCH' - 2 CHARACTERS WHO WANT
DIFFERENT THINGS FROM A SCENE (HENCE BOXING MATCH)

(For this we have chosen a
boxing trainer, and his
protege.)

INT. AROUND A MESSY DESK IN THE CORNER OF A BOXING GYM. SAT
AT THE DESK IS THE TRAINER.

THE BOXER enters

THE BOXER
So, you wanna speak to me?

THE TRAINER looks up.

THE TRAINER
It's about the fight. I've been
thinking.. and I wanna pull you from
it.

THE BOXER
But I'm ready! I can't pull out now!
..Why?

THE TRAINER
Sorry kid. You're not ready yet.

THE BOXER
But I can do it! I said I'd do it.
I've been training to do it. You
can't pull me now! I'm gonna flatten
him! (BEAT) But you don't think I
can do it, do you? I can beat anyone
here! I've been training for this
fight for three months!

THE TRAINER
(bluntly)
I say who's ready. And you're not
ready.

THE BOXER
I've gotta fight. I've told
everyone. What will I say to them
now? It's gonna look like I pulled
out. Like I'm a quitter. Or I'm
scared.

THE TRAINER
I say what goes here. Everyone knows
that. Just tell em I said it,
they'll believe you. Everyone thinks
I'm a crazy old fool anyways. (BEAT)
Son, you're gonna get seriously - I
mean seriously - hurt. The other
guy. I saw him in training. He's a
gorilla. Somebody sent me a tape. I
don't usually pay for spy-tapes, but
this time I did. Cos I was
worried...

THE BOXER

You watched a tape of the other guy?
And you think he's better than me? I
thought you were on my side! You got
no right to do that. You got no
respect. Don't worry 'bout me. I'm
going out there to get hurt. I'm
going out there to win. (BEAT) Don't
stop me going out there...

THE TRAINER

...But son...

THE BOXER

(Brusquely)

Don't call me that ...here. In the
ring - and in the gym - I'm just
another guy, dad. Don't call me that
here....alright, dad?

SCENE 2: INT. HOSPITAL CONSULTATION ROOM

Brightly lit room with medical paraphernalia. The BOXER is
sitting on a Hospital Bed. He has cuts & bruises that have
been attended to around his eyes and nose. He's still
wearing the boxing shorts from the fight he's just
participated in.

TITLES: AFTER THE FIGHT

THE TRAINER enters

THE TRAINER

What the hell happened out there?

THE BOXER

(excitedly and during dialogue
gets up and paces)

I told you I could do it...

THE TRAINER

You might fool them, but not me...

THE BOXER

...don't start! I knocked him out
fair and square. He never had a
chance. He ran at me so I threw a
jab that got him, then a cross that
landed square and that ended
it...did you see that?.."

THE TRAINER

Bullshit! I never saw such a dirty
fix in twenty years of boxing. I
never thought I'd see the day that a
son of mine would stoop to being a
being in on a scam! In all my years
as a boxer - and as a trainer..

THE BOXER

(Stops pacing)

..Yeah - too long dad, too long.

You've lost it old man. You shoulda got out of this game a long time ago.

THE TRAINER

No! You shoulda lost it! There's no way you won that clean. That guy wasn't trying. I know it. You know it, and they know it.(beat) You're not ready yet. But if you kept at it, you could've had this guy... And you've got the potential, you just need to put the work in... Never quit, never rest. But now it's all over. Was it worth it? Throwing it all in for one fight. Was It Worth It!?

THE BOXER

(sits)

No - You don't get it! I don't have it, I never really did. I'm not angry enough, not hungry enough. You know how it is: if you're not the best, you're no-one. There's only a career - with a real life - for the very best. And even they get their brains mashed so they don't even remember who they are. And they're the winners! And everyone else? They're just getting by. And where do they end up? If they're lucky they set up gyms and con the next generation with the same dreams. The same bullshit promises - Just like you dad - ...

DOCTOR enters, hearing the last line, looks down at, and leafs through some papers clipped onto a clipboard.

DOCTOR

Oh, hello! I didn't realise you two were related! Keeping it in the family, huh? That's good to see - father and son in it together.

The boxer and the trainer give him a look. The doctor hands the boxer the clipboard with some medical forms he's moved to the front of the stack on it.

DOCTOR

Anyway, sorry to keep you waiting. We've done a thorough scan and there's nothing to worry about neurologically. But if you experience blurred vision or faintness, you must contact us immediately...it's very important. Just one more thing - if you can sign these releases - you can go.

The boxer signs the papers without looking at them carefully

DOCTOR

Ok champ, thank you. See you after the next one.

THE TRAINER

There won't be a next one.

Doctor gives the trainer a look, and leaves.

THE TRAINER

Your outlook is just so wrong. You might've got a quick payoff this time, but what are you going to do now? I mean - this was your career! This is what you did! So - what are you going to do now? (beat) And are you going to treat it the same way? Is this your way of succeeding? Cos no matter what you take up - with your attitude - you're still going to be a loser. A quitter. (Beat) I've tried to teach you to work hard, to never give up, to be a fighter, not a quitter...

THE BOXER

I've heard it all before Dad! I've HAD ENOUGH of this! (beat) If I don't go now... I'm gonna... flatten you...old man...

The boxer appears to want to come to the trainer, but decides to leave.