

OUR TOWN ISN'T ABOUT OUR TOWN

Caleb Stenzinger

INT. COMMUNITY THEATRE - NIGHT

The stage is blank. BOBBY, TRACY, MAYOR BONFIELD, and DOC GIBBS sit in the audience.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Please enjoy Bonfield Community
Theater's production of Our Town.

Lights up. The STAGE MANAGER, fedora on and pipe in mouth, enters and begins placing a table and three chairs downstage. He checks his pocket watch, walks to center stage.

STAGE MANAGER

The name of the play is Our Town.
Written by Thornton Wilder. The
town is Grover's Corners, New
Hampshire--

BOBBY

Wait what?

STAGE MANAGER

Quiet in the audience please.

BOBBY

That's not our town.

TRACY

Yeah, I thought this was a show
about our town.

STAGE MANAGER

It is a show called Our Town.

TRACY

I know. That's why I came. I love
our town.

STAGE MANAGER

Have you ever seen Our Town, Tracy?

TRACY

Of course I seen our town, Patrick!
I live in our town!

STAGE MANAGER

I mean the play called Our Town by Thornton Wilder about Grover's Corners, New Hampshire which we are trying to perform right now. Can I get back to it?

TRACY

Pft, I guess!

STAGE MANAGER

Thank you.

(beat)

The day is May 7, 1901.

BOBBY

Not even close, man. It's 2017.

STAGE MANAGER

Gah! Our Town takes place in 1901!

TRACY

Was our town even around then?

BOBBY

Let's ask the mayor. Hey, Mayor Bonfield, was our town around in 1901?

MAYOR BONFIELD stands in the audience.

MAYOR

Yes it was. My great great grandfather Jonathan Bonfield settled our town after the Civil War in 1868.

TRACY

Oh ok. That checks out then. Go on, Patrick.

STAGE MANAGER

As I was saying. May 7, 1901. The time is just before dawn.

BOBBY

It's 7:30!

TRACY

PM!

STAGE MANAGER

--The sky is beginning to show streaks of light over in the East there, behind our mountain.

TRACY

No mountains in Illinois, man.

MAYOR

Do you know anything about our town, Patrick?

BOBBY

Doesn't sound like it. Our town ain't got mountains. Just mostly cornfields.

TRACY

And a new Big Lots on route 50.

MAYOR

And a new Creamed Corn Museum, which replaced the old Big Lots on Route 102.

STAGE MANAGER

But we also have a vibrant arts community, including a great theatre program! Please. I'm trying to perform a play here.

BOBBY

Talk about our creamed corn!

STAGE MANAGER

Geez, ok, I'm just gonna jump ahead to the entrances. Places everyone!

A MAN enters from one side. A WOMAN enters from the other.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

There's Doc Gibbs comin' down Main Street now, comin' back from that baby case. And here's his wife--

TRACY

Ok, now that's just harsh. Doc Gibbs is right here. And everyone knows his wife died an embarrassing death on the toilet last month.

DOC GIBBS stands in the audience and sheepishly waves.

DOC GIBBS
Hey, Patrick.

STAGE MANAGER
Hey, Doc. Glad you could make it.

DOC GIBBS
Just trying to do things to keep my
mind off Debra.

TRACY
Patrick, you've gone too far in
your portrayal of our town.

BOBBY
Yeah, we've had enough of your
revisionist history. Get off the
stage. We're taking our town back!

STAGE MANAGER
Fine, you want to do this, Bobby?

TRACY
Yes! Go on, Bobby. Tell our story.

Bobby jumps up on stage and pushes Patrick off.

BOBBY
Ok, so this is Our Town, by Bobby
Joe Hawkins. Our town is Bonfield,
Illinois! Over yonder is the new
Big Lots on Route 50.

The audience members cheer.

Blackout.