



Acceptance Speech for Winner of Best Actor Award and/or Presidential Primary

By: Shalom Auslander

THANK YOU, thank you very much. (*Thunderous applause.*) Thank you. (*Thunderous applause, along with whistling and hooting.*) Thank you. (*Thunderous applause at apparent inability to continue due to overwhelming support and admiration.*) Folks, if I don't make this speech, we'll never get out of here! (*Thunderous applause at wry, knowing remark aimed at machinery of modern celebrity and use of the word "folks."*) (*Pause.*) You know, when I was just a young boy spending summer days playing in the fields of (*insert rural-sounding hometown here*), I used to dream of one day standing up here and delivering this speech. (*Applause, one audience member loudly shouts out name or incomprehensible in-joke, audience laughter.*) (*Smile.*) (*Pause.*) You know, there is a lot of (*pause to dramatize disgust over next word*) talk lately (*thunderous applause for in-your-face attitude*), there is a lot of talk lately (*breathe deeply, as if pain of mentioning sore-nerve issue is almost too much to bear*) about a loss of respect for the work we do (*audience members nod solemnly, as if pain of sore-nerve issue is almost too much to bear*), about how it's all become about numbers (*small boo at possibly bad thing*), about pandering (*thunderous boo at obviously bad thing*). Well, I think you know different. (*Audience responds approvingly to pandering.*) It's about dreams. (*Thunderous applause.*) It's about (*pause*) people. (*Thunderous applause.*) Because I stand here today not for myself, but for you. (*Point at audience.*) (*Thunderous applause.*) Because you, you are the reason I do the work I do (*applause*), WE do the work WE do. (*More applause at remembrance of little people.*) (*Place finger over mouth as if choked up.*) Through our work, we CAN make this a better world. (*Applause.*) (*Speak loudly over applause, as if message is more important than adulation.*) Because for the people you see on this stage tonight, it's not about the money or the power or the fame (*growing swell of applause*) (*put hand up to indicate a serious moment*) (*applause subsides*), it's about making a difference. (*Thunderous applause.*) (*Take sip of water to let applause carry out, smile at someone nearby onstage.*) I want to thank you all for this honor, but (*applause*) I feel that I would be remiss if I didn't mention all the other people who worked hard to get here. (*Camera pans audience to find losers.*) (*Thunderous, patronizing applause for losers.*) Because even though I won, we are all winners here today. (*Thunderous applause.*) (*Wait serenely for applause to subside, indicating a serious moment.*) Mom (*thunderous applause for family values*), Mom, you always believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. (*Dramatic pause.*) (*Attempt to shed tear.*) Thank you. (*Thunderous applause.*) What we have here today, ladies and gentlemen (*hush falls on crowd, punctuated by occasional cough to emphasize quiet*), is not simply a victory for me (*look to wife/model/girlfriend*); we have a victory for honesty (*thunderous applause*), a victory (*speak loudly over applause, as if message is more important than being loved by strangers*) for truth (*thunderous applause*), a victory (*pound podium as if not reading from TelePrompter*) for integrity (*thunderous applause*), a victory (*hold up hand to indicate serious moment*) (*applause subsides*) for humanity. (*Thunderous applause.*) Thank you! (*Thunderous applause.*) (*Hold up statuette/hand of wife/ model/girlfriend, beam for camera.*) (*Exit stage right, hug presumably important people in front row, whisper in their ears.*) (*Locate agent/ press secretary.*) How'd I do? Really, you think? (*Have makeup girl reapply powder, hair spray.*) (*Look around angrily at no one in particular.*) Okay. (*Shake head, wipe sweat from brow as if renown and stardom were hard work.*) Who do I have to fuck to get a glass of water around here? (*Slowly allow smug self-importance and lack of self-awareness to return.*)

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