

For the sake of avoiding character conflict this story may take place in an alternate world. Admittedly I did have to rewrite it quite a bit when I discovered some of the answers to the questions I asked didn't match the character I'd come to identify with Jairus but hey this things happen right? And at least I didn't turn him into a pony.

An Electric Lecture

The lecture hall was packed and the guest lecturer checked his equipment. He almost chuckled as he held the wand in his left hand. There was a lot more science in these things than most people wanted to admit. This was epically true of those who used them frequently. The wand as it was generally known was a tool for creating reality warping effects. They came with many kinds of abilities and uses. While the scientist had to admit there was no shortage of art in the foraging of this tools he could not simply accept that that was all there was to it. He remembered when he received the request to cover as a guest lecturer at his old university.

...

"Jairus I'm so glad you came. I really need a favor from you" the older professor said as The kangaroo rat English major / actor sat down. "So what's going on professor? Your email was kind of vague and you never responded to my replies." "Well Jairus, I need your help. I saw your last play and you did very well in it you're to be commended on your performance, and it's because of that skill that I'd like to lecture one of classes next week while I'm in a staff meeting. I have the equipment here and you can use your background in English to add changes to the lecture a bit to make it flow better while you're at it. The essential part is that it covers the information in a memorable way." Jairus shook his head "Really I'm flattered professor but I'm not in your field. I'm an English major who just got there B.A. not long ago and as you say I'm an actor. You can't seriously expect me to lecture one of your classes"

The professor lifted his glasses and rubbed the bridge of his nose. "It is because you're an actor that I think you can pull this off in my absence. You see next week's class needs to be special. It needs a certain flare, a pizzazz and I think you can give it that." The professor holds a wooden tapered staff with a gold tip that is about as long as Jairus's fore arm maybe a tad longer. "Do you know what this is Jairus?" he asked handing the grad student the object.

Holding the odd short staff in his hands Jairus looked it over. He could feel a strange tingle in it through the wood almost like an electrical charge. "Isn't this a prop from the drama department?" he asked not sure why. It looked almost like some magic wand out of a children's book. "Not quite" said the professor taking the staff back. He pointed the tapered end towards a small metal target and suddenly there was a flash of light and an electrical arch connected the tip of the wooden staff to the metal target. The only last for an instant but it was impressive.

"What was that?" asked Jairus a little shocked. "It's a wand, Magic for lack of a better term." "Magic? Come on professor you're pulling my tail." Jairus replied not quite believing that this was happening. The professor smiled understandingly. "I know it's hard to believe. But as I said for lack of a better term it's referred to as a magic wand. This one is electrical in nature but there are others like ones that create either heat or cold effects but we're still testing them. What I need you to do is to

introduce this object to the class in a memorable way and compare it to its technological equivalent a tesla coil should do nicely.”

Jairus considered as the Professor handed the ‘magic’ wand back to him. He pointed it at the target and tried fire it. Nothing. He tried again his brow furling in effort and the tip of the wand sparked and he imagined a bolt of lightning string forward and hitting the target. Hit wasn’t as spectacular display but it was something. “okay professor assuming I can make this work why me? I know I took your science 101 class a few semesters ago but this is way beyond that. I think this is out of my league”

“It’s your showmanship ability that I need Jairus” the professor said. “ i trust you will master the equipment necessary for the presentation and I’ll help you as much as I can especially for the QnA but this time around the lecture needs a real talented presenter. I know you can do it. I’ve seen you on stage and I know that you can do this. Just think of it like any other role televised or not.” Jairus’s Eyes went wide for a moment, so that was the reason he was called here. Still it could be a valuable opportunity and he’d be lying to himself if he said he wasn’t interested. “okay Professor. You have yourself an lecture for next week but only cause I’m curious” the professor smiled. “You won’t be sorry my boy”

That it seems was the clincher and for the next week Jairus and the professor worked on his speech. Jairus finely turned the speech for a group of peers in their early 20’s. the professor was right about it needed the touché of an English major. The professor was a hound when it came to fact watching. “Showmanship is one thing Jairus but we must be certain that we don’t present our lecture in a way that it intentionally misleading” he would say from time to time. Jairus wasn’t trying to be misleading but in adjusting his speech for a class in his age group he’d made a few language substitutions that weren’t as clear as the professor needed them to be. Seven days came and went then it was show time.

...

Jairus rose from the trapdoor on a lift. As he reached where he could see the back of the hall he started and electrical arc dancing between the wand and a tesla coil in his right hand. One at a time he aims fore and hits Metals targets that were set on the stage away from the students and the cameras. Each target is connected to a volt tester that displays not only the strength of each electrical arc but also its charge (negative or positive) and the duration of contact. “Science. It defines the world we live in but long ago something else defined the world of our ancestors. They called it magic!” and so lecture began. About half way through the lecture the professor made his way into the lecture hall and smiled and Jairus as he took a seat in the front row. Later he would tell Jairus it was an excellent performance but for now the role was all. He was the scientific lecturer explaining the theory that so called magic was a form of science, a way to define the world that was unfamiliar to the current society and he was loving it.