

# The Collective

*By Brent Holland*

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### **DEDICATION**

*To the original cast of "Trial of Existence" (and this show as well!) Nick, Jacob, Colby, Jackson, Rocco, Malik, Ella, Ava, Sarah, Halie, Charlotte and Emily. What a great ride we have had with these characters!*

### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

The Collective has called an Inquiry for Inclusion to decide if all of humanity is to be allowed into their enlightened community. Seven representatives for all of humanity are questioned by opposing sides to see if we are indeed worthy of being considered an advanced and enlightened species.

**DURATION:** 35-40 minutes

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(12 roles. While 10 roles are flexible, 2 of them, SIX and HANNAH are better played by females.)*

**MICHAEL:** (m/f) A leading member of the Representatives of Order. Patient and kindhearted.

**HANNAH:** (f) A member of the Representatives of Order. Levelheaded and calm.

**ATAXIA:** (m/f) The leading member of the Forces of Chaos. An enemy of humanity.

**CARRION:** (m/f) A member of the Forces of Chaos. Calculating and cold.

**JUDGEMENT:** (m/f) The unbiased judge of humankind.

**ONE:** (m/f) One of the seven random candidates chosen.

**TWO:** (m/f) One of the seven random candidates chosen. Compassionate, but a convicted felon.

**THREE:** (m/f) One of the seven random candidates chosen. Outspoken.

**FOUR:** (m/f) One of the seven random candidates chosen.

**FIVE:** One of the seven random candidates chosen. Judgmental.

**SIX:** (f) One of the seven random candidates chosen. Serves as humanity's representative. Sometimes called Ella.

**SEVEN:** (m/f) One of the seven random candidates chosen.

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

### **SETTING**

A fantasy-based courtroom. Seven chairs placed in a semi-circle in front of a lectern.

### **STAGE DIRECTIONS**

When characters exit the stage, it can be done via black light, or as in the original production, two characters clothed all in black with gold masks entered and escorted them off stage.

## **The Collective**

*(AT RISE: JUDGEMENT is at his podium as ATAXIA and CARRION enter.)*

**ATAXIA:** This is very inconvenient timing, Judgement!

**JUDGEMENT:** You are on my time, Ataxia.

**ATAXIA:** Of course, but at the moment we were—

**JUDGEMENT:** The Forces of Chaos have been summoned to offer a rebuttal.

**ATAXIA:** A rebuttal? A rebuttal to what?

**JUDGEMENT:** The Collective has made an Inquiry for Inclusion.

**CARRION:** WHAT?

**ATAXIA:** You can't be serious!

**JUDGEMENT:** You have been summoned to prepare your response that humanity, as it is at this very moment, is ready to be included into the Collective.

**CARRION:** How can this even be in question? This society is far from the standards expected by the Collective; they are savages!

**JUDGEMENT:** The Collective is curious about humanity on several points and thus an Inquiry of Inclusion has been initiated.

**ATAXIA:** But Judgement, you have to know that these people aren't ready!

**JUDGEMENT:** It is my role, as Judgement, to act as an impartial jurist in the matter, not to offer an opinion.

**ATAXIA:** Have the Representatives of Order been notified?

*(MICHAEL and HANNAH enter.)*

**MICHAEL:** We have.

**ATAXIA:** What did you do to make this happen?

**MICHAEL:** Make this happen?

**HANNAH:** Ataxia, you have to know we had nothing to do with this.

**CARRION:** The Collective can't be this stupid!

**JUDGEMENT:** The junior associate of the Forces of Chaos will refrain from denigrating the Collective, else punitive measures will be enforced.

**CARRION:** My apologies, Judgement.

**ATAXIA:** I don't even know what's required in an Inquiry for Inclusion. I thought we were centuries from even having to consider it.

**CARRION:** I thought humanity would fail before it ever came into question.

**JUDGEMENT:** The procedures for the Inquiry for Inclusion will be given once we have summoned our candidates. You will have a brief period in which you will be expected to prepare.

**ATAXIA:** But Judgement, we aren't ready for this!

**JUDGEMENT:** Your lack of foresight into this matter is a problem for the Forces of Chaos, not this governing body. Are the Representatives of Order and the Forces of Chaos ready for the summoning of the candidates?

**MICHAEL:** Yes, Judgement.

**ATAXIA:** Do we have a choice? (*JUDGEMENT glares.*) We'll be ready, Judgement.

*(At this, there is a BLACKOUT, just long enough for the seven CANDIDATES to enter and stand by the seven seats.)*

**JUDGEMENT:** Welcome, Representatives of Humanity.

**ONE:** Where am I?

**FOUR:** What happened? I was just sitting in my living room!

**JUDGEMENT:** Please take a seat in the chair provided.

**THREE:** How did I get here?

**JUDGEMENT:** Please take a seat, in the chair provided.

**THREE:** Answer me!

**JUDGEMENT:** (*Booming.*) Candidate Number Three will sit in the chair provided. You are in no position to make demands of this governing body! Each of you will sit in the chair provided, and upon doing so, all of your questions will be answered.

*(THEY all sit.)*

## **End of Freeview**

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