

The Magic Word

5-person scene

By Samuel Stokes

ALEXANDER: Prepare to be amazed, for I am the Amazing Alexander, and tonight I will be teaching you about the magic word... not "please," not "abracadabra," but the most important magic word of them all... "NO!" At this time, my arch-nemesis, the evil villain, the Disappointing Daryl, will join me on stage. Let's give him a well-deserved booing. BOOOOOO!!!!

DARYL: Amazing Alexander?! More like the AWFUL Alexander! You may call me the Disappointing Daryl, but it's you who will be disappointed when none of your volunteers can withstand the pressure to try tobacco products.

ALEXANDER: We shall see, Disappointing Daryl. We shall see! At this time, I need my first volunteer to join us on stage, as Disappointing Daryl steps behind the curtain.

VOLUNTEER 1: Wow, the Amazing Alexander! I'm so excited to be on the show!

ALEXANDER: I'm excited for you to be here as well, for you are about to learn to use the magic word "no."

VOLUNTEER 1: Do I get to use a magic wand?

ALEXANDER: The beauty of the magic word is that on wand is necessary.

VOLUNTEER 1: Aw, but don't I at least need to train at Hogwarts or something?

ALEXANDER: Actually, the magic word doesn't require any special skills or training. Anybody can use it at any time. Now, when I call out the Disappointing Daryl, I want you to tell him "no." No matter what he says, say "no."

VOLUNTEER 1: Okay.

ALEXANDER: Disappointing Daryl, you may come out now, and do your worst!

DARYL: Would you like a cigarette?

VOLUNTEER 1: (*very loudly*) NO!!

DARYL: Don't you like smoking?

VOLUNTEER 1: NO!!

DARYL: But don't you think you'd be a lot cooler if you smoked?

VOLUNTEER 1: NO!!

DARYL: Okay, okay, just forget it then! (*DARYL leaves*)

ALEXANDER: Well done! A round of applause, if you please!

VOLUNTEER 1: That was really easy!

ALEXANDER: Some would say AMAZINGLY easy! Let's have our next volunteer. (*VOLUNTEER 2 enters*)
Now for you, we will learn that there are other ways to say no.

VOLUNTEER 2: You mean there are ways to say no where you don't actually say "no"?

ALEXANDER: That's right! You could try giving a reason, making an excuse, or changing the subject. So when I call out the Disappointing Daryl, tell him no without saying "no."

VOLUNTEER 2: Okay, I will.

ALEXANDER: Alright, Disappointing Daryl, come out and see what you can do.

DARYL: Hey, want some of my chewing tobacco?

VOLUNTEER 2: Don't you know that stuff is really bad for your teeth and can also lead to throat cancer?

DARYL: Oh, it's not that big a deal. Try some, you might like it!

VOLUNTEER 2: My parents would totally ground me for a year if they knew I'd used chewing tobacco.

DARYL: Oh, they'll never find out. Just try some!

VOLUNTEER 2: You know what? I'm kind of hungry. Let's go get a burger.

DARYL: Actually, that sounds really good to me... wait a minute! What am I saying?! Drat! I've been foiled again! (*DARYL exits*)

ALEXANDER: Well done! Let's have another round of applause.

VOLUNTEER 2: Wow, there are so many different ways to say no without saying "no."

ALEXANDER: That's right! There are an AMAZING number of ways to say no without saying "no." And now for our final volunteer. If saying "no" doesn't work, and if all attempts to give reasons, excuses, or change the subject fail, you can use the best magic trick of them all... disappear!

VOLUNTEER 3: Disappear?

ALEXANDER: That's right.

VOLUNTEER: Oh, I think I get it.

ALEXANDER: Alright, Disappointing Daryl! Come out and face your most fierce competitor yet!

DARYL: This time I will win for sure! Hey there pal, buddy, sport.... want to vape with me?

VOLUNTEER 3: No.

DARYL: Come on, come vape with me!

VOLUNTEER 3: No.

DARYL: Why not?

VOLUNTEER 3: Vaping is bad for you, and I really want to stay healthy.

DARYL: Oh come on, it's not nearly as bad for you as a lot of other things. Just try it!

VOLUNTEER 3: My allergies are kind of acting up right now, so I'd rather not.

DARYL: Seriously, don't you know all the popular people vape?

VOLUNTEER 3: Hey, I have an idea! Why don't we go to my house and play some video games?

DARYL: Nah, I just want to vape, and if you're my friend, you'll do it too!

VOLUNTEER 3: *(pointing up)* Look in the sky! It's the Goodyear Blimp!

DARYL: *(turns around, while VOLUNTEER 3 runs offstage)* What? Where? I don't see anything! *(turning back around)* Oh no, they've disappeared! Confound it! I've been defeated yet again!

ALEXANDER: That's right! Sometimes the most powerful way to say no is to simply disappear! You can just leave and avoid the situation or person in the future.

DARYL: Wow, saying "no," and even saying no without saying "no" is really magical.

ALEXANDER: Now you understand! “No” is the most AMAZING magic word of them all! Now it’s time for me to disappear. Thank you for being a wonderful audience, and always remember the power of “No!”