

the beginning of

**THE TOTAL SPIRITUAL** (from **POOL PARTY**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

*Time:* The present.

*Place:* Above and beyond.

*Characters:* INTERVIEWER

APPLICANT

A member(s) of the BUCKET BRIGADE\*

(\*This can be one person, or someone different with each entrance.)

A simple set: a table or desk, a couple of chairs, a swimming pool.

As the play begins, the INTERVIEWER is making notes at his/her desk.

A member of the BUCKET BRIGADE enters, carrying a large bucket of water.

INTERVIEWER

Need any help?

BUCKET BRIGADE

No, I got it.

INTERVIEWER

Looks like a heavy one.

BUCKET BRIGADE

Yeah, well, there's been a slew of people hearing bad medical news, and a couple of natural disasters, and a lot of people touched by unexpected acts of kindness.

The BUCKET BRIGADE pours the bucket into the pool.

INTERVIEWER

Send the next one in, okay?

BUCKET BRIGADE

Will do.

The BUCKET BRIGADE exits. A moment later, the APPLICANT enters.

INTERVIEWER

Have a seat.

APPLICANT

Wow, this is, this is – I didn't expect it to be so –

INTERVIEWER

Don't be nervous.

APPLICANT

It's just all so –

INTERVIEWER

I know. It's a big adjustment.  
Have a seat.

APPLICANT

I mean, it's not every day –

INTERVIEWER

Relax. Breathe.

APPLICANT

Are, uh, are you –

INTERVIEWER

I just help out.

APPLICANT

How long have you been helping out?

INTERVIEWER

Not long. Eighteen hundred years.

APPLICANT

Wow.

INTERVIEWER

I'm one of the new kids.

APPLICANT

I see.

INTERVIEWER

So... how was the funeral?

APPLICANT

It was, it was – good, I guess. Huge turnout.

INTERVIEWER

I'm glad.

APPLICANT

I was amazed at some of the things people said.  
I never realized people liked me so much.

INTERVIEWER

I know. Sometimes I think we'd enjoy funerals a lot more if we could have them before we dropped dead. Now then, about your life –

APPLICANT

I know I made a lot of mistakes.

INTERVIEWER

Everybody—

APPLICANT

I was selfish, and I coveted a few things I should've never coveted—

INTERVIEWER

Relax.

APPLICANT

I know it's late, but I swear I'm willing to atone for anything and everything –

INTERVIEWER

If people were angels when alive, then heaven would feel like a rerun.

APPLICANT

It's just, if I could only –

INTERVIEWER

Relax.

APPLICANT

But –

INTERVIEWER

Inhale... exhale.

APPLICANT

It's –

INTERVIEWER

We have all the time in the world.

APPLICANT

I just –

INTERVIEWER

One of the best parts of heaven is that nobody's in a hurry.

