

COVID'S HERE, BUT SO ARE WE  
a monologue

Rich Rubin  
[www.richrubinplaywright.com](http://www.richrubinplaywright.com)  
[rhjarubin@aol.com](mailto:rhjarubin@aol.com)  
1019 SE Harney Street  
Portland, OR 97202  
(503) 841-5675

They say William Shakespeare wrote *King Lear* during the time of the plague.  
Well, if I've learned one thing during covid, it's this:  
I'm not William Shakespeare.  
I'm joking.  
I kind of knew that already.  
Actually, I've learned *more* than one thing.  
I've learned that people can be amazingly resilient.  
Also amazingly stupid.  
Honestly, just wear a mask, people!  
It's "liberty *or* death," remember?  
Not "liberty *and* death."  
But I digress.  
Let's get back to resilient.  
And Shakespeare.  
Well, not Shakespeare, exactly.  
Me.  
And writers like me.  
Writers today.  
We're just like writers yesterday.  
And hopefully tomorrow.  
We write.  
That's what we do.  
That's what we *have* to do.  
Why?  
Well, because –  
    *(beat)*  
It's not all that easy to explain.  
It's kind of hard, actually.  
Even for a writer.  
Think of it this way:  
When you're happy, you smile, right?  
And when you're sad, you frown.  
And when you're angry, you probably raise your voice.  
At least just a little.  
You do.  
You can't *help* doing it.  
And we're no different.  
Writers, I mean.  
Except for this:  
Our happiness, our sadness, our anger –  
All those feelings and more –  
Well, somehow, as if by magic, they turn into –  
Well, words.

Not just for us to speak.  
For *actors* to speak.  
And those words turn into Scenes.  
And those Scenes turn into Acts.  
And then – if we're lucky, *very* lucky –  
And sweat blood just a little –  
In the end, there's a play.  
That's how we raise our voice.  
By writing plays.  
When times are good, when times are bad – either way, we write.  
And who can say?  
Maybe that's when writing is most important.  
When times are bad.  
Like now.  
So what's the message here?  
What's the bottom line?  
Well, the bottom line is this:  
Covid's here, but so are we.  
Writers.  
And the plays we're writing now.  
The stories we're telling now.  
Stories about you.  
And us.  
All of us.  
What we're all going through.  
So many stories to tell.  
For us.  
Our children.  
Our children's children.  
*King Lear?*  
Maybe not.  
But check back with us in a week.  
In a month.  
In a year.  
We're just getting started.