

# OIL

## (Olio)

Full length play in two acts by Marco Calvani

“There are only two tragedies in life.  
One is not getting what one wants,  
and the other is getting it.”  
(*Oscar Wilde*)

### Characters:

LEO, male, 30-35, actor  
JO, female, 45-50, agent  
MIKEY, male, 50, lawyer

### Plot and author's notes:

Leo, an ambitious Stage actor, gives in to temptation and signs a contract with Television. He feels certain it would lead to a succession of prizes that should bring him true public acclaim and unquestioned financial security. Indeed, he begins his climb towards success just as predicted, but he also begins a descent into the underworld from which it will be difficult to escape. Accompanying him are his friend Mickey, a brilliant lawyer obsessed with the idea of restoring order to the world and Jo, a pushy, social climbing agent, a slave to work and to money, a victim of her own ambition and her own loneliness. OIL weaves together the lives of these three protagonists, who struggle, more or less consciously, to retain what little humanity they still possess in order to secure some love, some attention, a piece of eternity. These three people, unsettling yet familiar images of ourselves, crudely force themselves onto our stage.

### Production history:

Italian première: 14 October 2008, Teatro Out Off (Milan).

Directed by Marco Calvani. With: Monica Scattini, Mauro Marino, Michael Schermi.

American première (staged reading): 20 June 2013, Robert Moss Theater (New York).

Directed by Glory Kadigan. With: Randy Graff, D.C. Anderson, Jason Emanuel.

Originally written in Italian  
Available also in English, French, Spanish and Catalan