

## Scene Two

*We are at a press conference at Heathrow Airport featuring JEFFERSON STEEL. JEFFERSON is an ageing Hollywood star, good looking, charming, arrogant and insecure. He is good at being a celebrity and enjoys the showbiz spotlight. During the conference flash bulbs pop and the JOURNALISTS shout his name to try and get his attention.*

JEFFERSON It's great to be back. I love this place.

FIRST JOURNALIST (o.s.) What, Heathrow?

JEFFERSON And your crazy English sense of humour! You guys slay me.

SECOND JOURNALIST (o.s.) Mr. Steel, Mr. Steel - this is a pretty big departure for your career isn't it?

JEFFERSON Not really. I'm an actor. Acting's what I do. Theatre has always been my first love. And deep down I've always wanted to repay my debt to the muse.

FIRST JOURNALIST (o.s.) Ever since they cancelled your last movie?

JEFFERSON (*laughs without amusement*) No...the Ultimate Finality franchise had reached the end of its natural life and I had been looking for fresh challenges.

SECOND JOURNALIST (o.s.) What made you say "yes" to Shakespeare?

JEFFERSON I get sent hundreds of scripts every week. This one stood out.

THIRD JOURNALIST (o.s.) Why?

JEFFERSON The writing. Showed real talent.

FIRST JOURNALIST (o.s.) But can an American action hero really be King Lear?

JEFFERSON To be, or not to be. That is the question.

JEFFERSON *is pleased with himself despite getting the wrong play.*

Besides, my agent tells me I get all the good lines and I'm in every scene.

FIRST JOURNALIST (o.s.) Yeah. But isn't it going to be a bit of a comedown for a star like yourself performing in such a small theatre?

JEFFERSON If there's only one person out there, then I'll play to them. And I follow in illustrious theatrical footsteps. Many fellow Hollywood stars have performed in England. Nicole, Dustin, Gwyneth, Spacey. But none before have performed Shakespeare in... Stratford. This marks the pinnacle of my career. Jefferson Steel is at the top of his game.

SECOND JOURNALIST (o.s.) But you'll be acting with amateurs.

JEFFERSON You guys are too hard on yourselves. Some British actors aren't so bad.

THIRD JOURNALIST (o.s.) So are you really going to save the theatre?

JEFFERSON *gives them a big Hollywood smile.*

JEFFERSON It's a tall order, but as Jack Finality says to the president at the end of Ultimate Finality Four - I'll give it my best shot.

STEEL *mimes shooting a gun and blowing away the smoke. Press conference footage ends. Darkness.*