

**You Can Never Be Too Safe**  
**by Martin Settle**

**Setting:** Plain stage

**Characters**

LEFT: person stage left

RIGHT: person stage right

**Costumes:** something with pockets; surgical face masks (even more elaborate masks)

**Props:** bogus cell phones that look alike; hand sanitizer; sanitary wipes; surgical gloves; and a tape measure

The characters LEFT and RIGHT enter the stage from left and right. Both have face masks. They are looking at their phones as they walk, not paying attention to one another. They bump into one another and end up touching each other in an attempt to avoid falling. In the process, they drop their cell phones.

Suddenly they realize their proximity and back off six feet, leaving their phones in the middle. They simultaneously take out their hand sanitizers and wipe themselves down. Then simultaneously go into their pockets and take out surgical gloves to retrieve their phones.

When they go to retrieve their phones, they approach the phones together and then realize they'll be in proximity again and back off.

LEFT holds up one finger; he has an idea. He takes out a tape measure and measures off six feet to the phones. Then reels it in, wiping the tip of the tape measure with a sanitary wipe. When he's through, he places the tape measure on the ground as a marker.

Then, he signals he'll go 1<sup>st</sup> and RIGHT will go second. He **runs** to his phone, picks it up and returns to his 6-foot spot.

RIGHT does the same.

They clean off their phones with sanitary wipes, then take off their gloves, turning them inside out and then look at their phones. It takes a moment, but they realize they have the wrong phones. (The phones look very much alike.) They slap their heads and then signal to each other that they have the wrong phones.

They put down their phones, take out their hand sanitizers, and wipe their hands. They put on surgical gloves again.

RIGHT signals he'll go first in replacing the phone, while LEFT will go second.

RIGHT goes leaving the phone; next

LEFT goes next both leaving and taking a phone.

RIGHT retrieves his phone.

As RIGHT goes to retrieve his phone, we see LEFT searching himself to find sanitary wipes. He begins to panic and texts RIGHT (he knows his phone number now from when he recovered the wrong phone), who is wiping down his phone and taking off his gloves.

RIGHT looks at his text message and then looks across to LEFT.

LEFT shows him he's out of wipes.

RIGHT shows LEFT that he has a hefty package of wipes and shakes his head "no." Then does a little taunting dance.

LEFT takes out his wallet and holds up a one-dollar bill and one finger.

RIGHT shakes his head and holds up ten fingers.

You can see that LEFT is angry. But he takes another bill from his wallet and crumples it up.

LEFT runs to the middle ground and places the "ten" on the ground.

RIGHT then proceeds to take the "ten" and leave a wipe.

LEFT cleans his phone while RIGHT uncrumples the bill and realizes it's a one.

RIGHT quickly texts LEFT

LEFT receives the text, starts to laugh, and gives RIGHT the finger.

RIGHT starts aggressively approaching LEFT, and LEFT in turn starts approaching RIGHT. They throw their phones at each other, and then start wrestling each other to the ground, each trying to strangle the other. As they're fighting, they smear hand sanitizer on each other.

Pretty soon they wear out and lie on their backs exhausted. As they sit up, they both take off their masks and looks at each other. Then they put their arms around each other and decide to die with laughter.

The End