

preparing for the final curtain

actors wrestle filling the stage for a noisy moment
with representations of anger motivating staged violence

they will pull back to stage right and left
when my character erupts into the drama
taking our play in a surprising direction

in less than five minutes I make my entrance
I dawdle in the corridor
chatting up friends
script blocking mechanisms
of performance pushed
to the back of my mind

faces signal my friends' worry

what are you doing here? didn't Emily start your cue?

what's the matter with me?
the unsaid but clearly stated question
even if never an entrance missed

the rush to arrive on time yet
fearing I must be a beat or two late
heightens the sense of urgency
driving my first line

METHOD DEMANDS RISK

audience will sense a rip in the dream
and listen to *me*
actors will slip from character

and grab *me*

trying to pull me back into the machinery

they will stop gliding from beat to beat

hesitation adds stress to our movements

counterbeats with unexpected moves

to ward off a thrust or take advantage of an opening

aggressive postures pregnant with surprise