

"ABSTRACTION"

by
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Short Plays:

"Something Smells"

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LIGHTS UP

ART GALLERY.

ACROSS THE STAGE THERE ARE TEN ART PIECES. THE MUSEUM EMPLOYEE IS DUSTING ONE PIECE AS A PATRON STANDS IN FRONT OF THE FIRST ART PIECE TO HIDE THE MALE ANATOMY PAINTING. TWO NUNS ENTER. AS THEY GET TO THE FIRST ART PIECE. THE PERSON LEAVES REVEALING THE PAINTING OF THE MALE ANATOMY. THE PAINTING IS QUITE NOTICEABLE DUE TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE A MAN'S PENIS IN THE CENTER.

THE NUNS WALK BY AND DO NOT NOTICE THE PAINTING AT FIRST. THEN THEY STOP, LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND THEN GO BACK TO SEE IF WHAT THEY SAW IS REALLY WHAT THEY SAW. THEY EXAMINE THE PAINTING FOR A FEW SECONDS.

NUN #1

What would possess someone to paint that, and then display it so prominently in the center of this museum?

NUN #2

Satan.

NUN #1

I suppose.

THEY KEEP LOOKING AT IT.

NUN #2

You know, it might be a mushroom.

NUN #1

What?

NUN #2

Look.

THE NUN BEGINS TO DEMONSTRATE WITH HER HANDS.

NUN #2 (CONT'D)

No male organ looks like that. It's too skinny. I think it may be a skinny mushroom.

NUN #1

(Judgemental) And just how many male organs have you seen?

NUN #2

(Defensive) Oh... I mean... I've heard that they aren't... THAT skinny.

THEY START LOOKING AT THE PAINTING AGAIN.

NUN #1

Okay... now I see something different.

NUN #2

What?

NUN #1

I see a rocket coming back down to earth.

NUN #2

Very interesting, OR!!! It could be a missile about to blow up an entire country.

NUN #1

Oh, that's good too.

THEY START LOOKING AT THE PAINTING AGAIN. A PRIEST WALKS BY, DOES A DOUBLE TAKE AND THEN COMES OVER TO THE NUNS.

PRIEST

Sisters! What are you doing?

BOTH NUNS ARE VERY SCARED AND DO THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

NUN #1

I'm so sorry Father.

NUN #2

Sorry, Father.

PRIEST

Well... I'm willing to forget what I saw if the two of you move on and we don't discuss this further.

NUN #1 & NUN #2

Thank you, Father.

NUNS BEGIN TO EXIT, WHILE THE PRIEST CONTINUES TO LOOK AT THE PAINTING.

PRIEST

Wait!

NUNS STOP IN THEIR TRACKS.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

It could be a sword. An odd one, but it could be.

NUNS COME BACK OVER.

NUN #2

We were willing to give the artist the benefit of the doubt, before we started to pray for their soul.

PRIEST

What do you see?

NUN #1

We both think it could be a rocket or a missile...

NUN #2

Or maybe a mushroom.

PRIEST

OR!!! An oddly formed cross.

NUN #1

OH... that's good Father.

NUN #2

Well done.

PRIEST

Well... let's leave it at that, and do 20 "Hail Marys" for our mischievous thoughts.

THE THREE OF THEM EXIT.

TWO GAY MEN WALK IN AND START TO LOOK AROUND.

GAY MAN #1 COMES OVER AND STARTS TO ADMIRE THE PAINTING.

GAY MAN #1

Well, BRAVO!!!

HE STARTS TO CLAP.

GAY MAN #2

Which one? Which one?

GAY MAN #1

Over here, Sweetie! It's about time somebody is celebrating the cazzo!!! I must buy this piece.

GAY MAN #2

And just where would you put it?

GAY MAN #1

In the living room, above the couch, next to your picture of the shirtless Bruno Mars.

GAY MAN #2

Oh no you don't! Bruno Mars should be all by himself. Plus the colors of this painting will clash with my brand new throw pillows.

GAY MAN #1

I'm going to buy this piece whether you like it or not! This is one of the best art pieces I've seen in a very long time. I haven't been so excited about anything since Neal Patrick Harris hosted the Tonys.

GAY MAN #2

Which time?

GAY MAN #1

The third time of course! I need this painting, it is satisfying to my soul!

GAY MAN #1 COMES OVER AND PUTS HIS ARM AROUND GAY MAN #2. THEY TAKE ANOTHER MOMENT TO LOOK AT THE PAINTING. GAY MAN #2 IS SUDDENLY VERY UPSET.

GAY MAN #2

WAIT A MINUTE!!! That is not a *bicho*!

GAY MAN #1

What are you talking about? IT'S A CAZZO!

GAY MAN #2

NO! I'm deeply offended! (He starts to cry) This is an absolute disgrace to both you and I! This disrespectful painting is clearly celebrating the Tea Party!

GAY MAN #1

WHAT?!?

GAY MAN #2

Look...

GAY MAN #2 WALKS TO THE PAINTING.

GAY MAN #2 (CONT'D)

There's a large "T" with banners behind it. I see it and it says "Tea Party". Not a *bicho*!

GAY MAN #1 STARTS TO OBSERVE THE PAINTING ONCE AGAIN.

GAY MAN #1

Well I still see a *cazzo*!

GAY MAN #2

Well I for one am going to complain. Let's go find the Curator's office and get this whole matter settled.

GAY MAN #2 EXITS. GAY MAN #1 STAYS FOR A SECOND AND PULLS OUT HIS CELL PHONE. HE TAKES A SELFIE WITH THE PAINTING BEHIND HIM. HE THEN EXITS.

A MUSEUM EMPLOYEE COMES WALKING BY, HE STOPS, LOOKS AROUND AND THEN TURNS THE PAINTING UPRIGHT.

THE PAINTING NOW LOOKS LIKE A MAN SLEEPING AND THE MALE ANATOMY NOW LOOKS LIKE HIS NOSE.