

Puppets Galore

A ten-minute play

by

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Draft #2

Hannaford Career Center/ Addison Repertory Theatre

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CHARACTERS: RICK, a middle aged man who's going through a really tough break up, his puppet is an orange (like the fruit) with a stick stuck in it, a smiley face drawn in sharpie on one side, and a frowny face on the other.

JOHN, a middle aged man who is Rick's best friend. His puppet is an apple with a stick stuck in it, a smiley face drawn in sharpie on one side and a frowny face on the other.

ANABEL, a little girl sitting in the audience.

CHAD, Anabel's father.

SCENE: A black box theater, with a small block that RICK and JOHN can hide behind to play with their puppets.

AT RISE: RICK and JOHN are behind the block, holding up their puppets. The puppets are named Juan and Jose, respectively. To start, they are both wearing tiny sombreros.

JOHN:

(In a high pitched, offensive spanish accent.)

Well, Juan, I don't know about you but I could really go for some chipotle right now.

RICK:

(Also in a high pitched offensive accent.)

I would love to, Jose but unfortunately, we're simple fruit. We can't eat food from our wonderful heritage.

JOHN:

But Juan, what about that cute grapefruit who runs the register? Wouldn't you like to see her tacos?

RICK:

Well, of course, too bad she's a LYING WHORE. JUST LIKE ALL OTHER WOMEN EVER. THEY ALL SUCK.

JOHN:

(Stands up, still holding his apple stick.)

Hey man, come on, you know this is a kid's show.

RICK:

John, you literally just asked Jose if he wanted to see a grapefruit's tacos. Why are you trying to oppress my creativity?

JOHN:

Okay, hey, we came up with that joke together and it is a very clever innuendo. What we can't do is scream naughty words at children and make them cry.

RICK:

But why noooooottttttt?

JOHN:

Because it's very inappropriate.

RICK:

You're inappropriate!

JOHN:

You're going through a break-

RICK:
DON'T YOU DARE BRING UP VANESSA.
(Starts crying)
I miss her so much.

JOHN:
I know man, I know. But you gotta get your feces cohesive.

RICK:
(Sniffing)
You're right. I'm sorry, I'm gonna go fix my mascara, you can go ahead and do the introduction.
(Rick exits, JOHN sighs and pauses for a dadent before turning to the audience and smiling at them. He greets a few, as if it was a real show.)

JOHN:
Hello, and welcome one and all to Puppets Galore! This puppet show is something my colleague, Rick Hazmat and I have been working on for about six years now. We're very excited to show it to you all this time. Unfortunately, we only have a limited amount of time, but we are very excited to show you what professionals like us are capable of. This show will have our wonderful puppets that we have put much work into, Juan and Jose and it will showcase their wonderful adventures. This show will also have a lot of puns, I guess you could call it a PUNNet show. *(pause)* Uh, okay, now is usually the part that Rick says some stuff so I'll just tell you guys some jokes before he gets back, I guess. So, uh, what's the difference between bird flu and swine flu? If you have bird flu, you need tweetment. If you have swine flu, you need oink-ment.A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.What did the green grape say to the purple grape? Breathe, idiot! BRE-

RICK:
Sorry, hello, everyone! Welcome to puppets galore-

JOHN:
Already did that bit.

RICK:
Did you talk about the punnet show?

JOHN:
Yeah.

RICK:
Dude you took all the best lines.

JOHN:
Well, you were gone forever, what did you expect me to do?

RICK:
Okay, fine, whatever, let's just do the first bit. Go behind the thing and grab the puppets.

JOHN:
Okay, okay.
(He ducks behind the block, holding up his puppet.)

RICK:
Alright, I guess we better get started! This first bit is actually based off of the first time we ever played with Juan and Jose, way back when we were just children. Enjoy!

(Rick ducks behind the block and allows his puppet to join JOHN's. He then again dons the high pitched, offensive spanish accent.)

Ohhh, hello, Jose, how are you on this fine hot day?

JOHN:

Boy, Juan, I'm great but I'm afraid my sombrero will melt. Ahahaha. It's as hot as a jalapeno up in here.

RICK:

Oh, Jose, you silly silly fruit! Your sombrero can't melt, it's what keeps you cool!

JOHN:

Then why isn't it working?

RICK:

Because you're wearing it upside down!

(They pause for laughs, whether or not the laughs occur.)

JOHN:

(Peers up from behind the block to look at the audience before whispering to Rick.)

This is comedy gold man, I'm so proud of us.

RICK:

Me too, for a second there I almost for-for-forgot....

(He starts to tear up.)

JOHN:

Oh god, come on, don't do this to me now.

RICK:

No, no you're right, I'm good. It's just that... V-Vanessa never liked our bits....I miss her so much. God, she was right, I should have taken that job in Hobokin! At least then I would have benefits!

JOHN:

Hey man, pull yourself together, come on, we're in the middle of a show and we've got like five minutes left. Let's do the audience bit, okay?

RICK:

O-okay.

(JOHN stands up and looks at the crowd, now speaking at a normal volume.)

JOHN:

Sorry for the brief pause, folks, but we're going to make some adjustments to our show. Can we get a volunteer from the audience please?

ANABEL:

I'll do it!!!! Pick me!!!! Pick me!!!!

CHAD:

Anabel, no!

ANABEL:

Yes, yes, yes!!!!!! Pick me!!!!!!

JOHN:

Alright, I guess we'll take the little shouting girl in the front row, come on up honey.

(Anabel and Chad stand up from their seats and join the men on stage.)

Oh, I, uh didn't expect your dad to come with us, that's okay, I guess, we can make it work. What's your name sweetie?

ANABEL:

I'm Anabel and this is my daddy, Chad! Sometimes I call him Chaddy like mommy does and sometimes I hear mommy call him daddy like I do!

CHAD:

Anabel! That's not something you should share!

RICK:

Are you sure that's your dad? People lie a lot, you know.

CHAD:

Oh, shut your mouth, you miserable old man.

RICK:

Don't tell me what to do, overprotective, di-

JOHN:

OKAY! Let's stay civil, Rick, these are people who paid to see us perform.

CHAD:

This was a free show.

JOHN:

That's not important, so, Anabel, we have a very special job for you.

ANABEL:

Yes, yes, what is it???????

JOHN:

We're going to have you stand right behind this block and answer some questions from Juan and Jose, okay?

ANABEL:

Okay!!!!

(Anabel runs behind the block, happy as a clam. Rick joins her to pick up his puppet.)

CHAD:

Is this all going to be safe?

JOHN:

Yes, of course.

CHAD:

Is this all going to be offensive?

JOHN:

None of what we do is offensive, I'm personally offended that you would even suggest a thing.

CHAD:

Are you seriously trying to tell me that you think your sombrero wearing fruits aren't offensive? For real?
(Soft crying is heard from Rick.)

JOHN:

They're sombrero wearing fruits! That's cute and funny! How is it offensive?
(The crying gradually gets louder.)

CHAD:

Are you kidding me? Did you not listen to the voices and accents you two were doing?

JOHN:

We were going for accurate representation! What's that noise?
(The two turn around to see Rick kneeling in front of Anabel and crying and looking at her.)
What the hell, man?

RICK:

She-she looks like Va-Vanessa's b-b-baby pictures!!
(Rick starts sobbing uncontrollably.)

JOHN:

Oh my god, are you kidding me?

RICK:

Why would I joke about something like this????? Do you find people's pain and heartbreak funny????
(He continues his gross sobbing.)

CHAD:

In this case, definitely. You're ridiculous.

JOHN:

Hey! Don't talk to him like that.

CHAD:

I'll talk to him however I want, this show is awful and you two have wasted the last six years of your life. Anabel, sweetie, let's go.
(At this point Anabel is touching Rick's face, she wipes off one of his tears and licks it with her finger.)

ANABEL:

Daddy, this tastes good! I wanna make more boys cry!

CHAD:

And I'm sure you will sweetie, come on.
(On their way out, Anabel accidentally steps on one of the puppets.)

ANABEL:

Oh no!!!!!! Juan!!!!!! I killed him!!!!!!
(She starts crying.)
DADDY!!!!!!!!!! I killed him!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CHAD:

Good riddance, come on darling.

JOHN:

Hey! You have to pay for that!

CHAD:

It's a fruit, just buy a new one at the grocery store.

JOHN:

Do you know how expensive those sombreros are though??

(He picks up Jose and turns him around so the apple is frowning at him before doing his high pitched offensive voice.)

I can't believe you wouldn't even care about my friend!!

CHAD:

Come on, Anabel, let's go.

(He takes his daughter's hand and walks out of the theater, Anabel's sobbing is heard until there's a sound of a door slamming.)

JOHN:

I'm sorry, Rick. I know you were looking forward to this, and after everything with Vanessa, this must have been really tough.

RICK:

It's okay, it's almost a fitting end. It seems like Juan is taking his final breaths though, I think Jose would like to say goodbye.

JOHN:

I think he would too.

(He lays the apple next to the orange, and begins speaking in the offensive accent once more.)

Juan.. Juan, stay with me, amigo.

RICK:

(Also in the offensive accent.)

I.. I believe that this.... is..... goodbye, my.....amigo.

JOHN:

I will n-never forget you... my amigo. Tell me what you see.

RICK:

I see the light... I see sombreros as far as the as the eye can see. I see tacos and burritos, and I... I can eat them now. I have teeth. It is truly wonderful.... my amigo.

JOHN:

I will miss you so much. Gracias, for everything.

RICK:

You're welcome in spanish. Te amo..... my amigo.

JOHN:

Te amo, my amigo.

RICK:

Goodbye in spanish.

JOHN:

Goodbye... my amigo. Enjoy yourself in the great chipotle in the sky.

RICK:

(Dying noises.) (In spanish.)

JOHN:

NOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!! IN SPANISHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!

[FIN]