

TRIBES - USA

Book and lyrics by Alan Jeskin
Music by Ethan Algazi & Brian Sidders

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CAST:

Stan.....*50ish, over-the-hill news producer looking to get through the day's assignment*
Jason*late 20's, ambitious reporter looking to boost ratings of his focus group*
Elaine.....*early 20's, bi-racial, brash, culturally extreme left, focus group Panelist #1*
Florence.....*early 50's, outspoken college professor, culturally far left, Panelist #2*
Lamar.....*early 40's, race conscious African-American dad, culturally left, Panelist #3*
Clara.....*early 30's, Latina, content single mom, culturally center-left, Panelist #4*
Clayton.....*30-ish, optimistic engineer, cultural centrist, Panelist #5*
Cristy.....*30-ish, cheery doctor, cultural centrist, Panelist #6*
Craig.....*30-ish, stoic cop, culturally center-right, Panelist #7*
Rachel.....*early 60's, conservative Christian grandma, culturally right, Panelist #8*
Frank.....*50-ish, conservative writer and podcaster, culturally far right, Panelist #9*
Eric.....*20-ish, gun-toting white nationalist, culturally extreme right, Panelist #10*

TIME:

Present

PLACE:

Polling Station, Anytown, USA

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ACT ONE

Scene One

EXT. COURTYARD OUTSIDE A POLLING STATION. ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 2016. LATE AFTERNOON.

STAN, a producer for a news network, directs two stagehands setting up for a broadcast. In the background, VOTERS stand in line to vote.

JASON, the reporter, walks onto the set with a cup of coffee in each hand and approaches Stan.

JASON

(handing Stan a cup)

Stan, my man, here ya go. Little cream, little sugar, right?

STAN

Ooo, thank you, sir.

(takes a sip and coughs)

What the hell?

JASON

(smiling and talking with an exaggerated Irish accent)

And a wee bit of Irish whiskey, to warm the blood, boyo.

STAN

A wee bit? There's got to be two shots in here.

JASON

There ARE two shots in there... AND you're welcome.

(STAN stares at Jason and shakes his head)

(JASON smiles, takes a long swig from his own cup, closes his eyes tightly, suppresses a cough, shakes his head, opens his eyes widely and raises his eyebrows.)

Whoa. That'll put some hair on your chest.

STAN

You realize it's five thirty in the afternoon, right?

JASON

(deadpanning)

Happy hour goes from five to seven, what's your point?

(STAN stares at Jason)

You having a bad day?

STAN

Well, let's see. Lighting at the moment is a pain in the ass, one of the cameras is glitching, audio is so-so, and we only got one working generator with no backup. Oh, and my hemorrhoids are flaring up somethin' fierce. Other than that, I'm having a GREAT day.

Let's get a final sound check and we'll be ready to roll.

JASON

(looking at the eight basic black folding chairs
arrayed in two rows of four in the center of the set)

Wait, hold on. What's up with these chairs? This is not the setup we agreed to.

STAN

Yeah, I know. I changed my mind. We'll just use the standard set up. The whole color-coded chair thing was an interesting idea, but it was pretty cliché - don't you think?

JASON

No, I don't. We already bought the new chairs. Let's get 'em out here.

STAN

Hey, new guy. It's my call. We're using these chairs. I produced a lot of these on-location focus groups before you showed up, you know.

JASON

I do know. And how did they do, ratings-wise?

STAN

(barely audible)

They did well enough.

JASON

No, Stan, nobody watched them. No offence, but they were boring. You always have eight people giving the politest version of their opinions, and the audience tunes out after five minutes. We're not gonna do that today. The network hired me to spice things up, so we're gonna do something different. Bring out the new chairs, please.

STAN

So, you think it's not enough to have people on set with opposing political views. You want them to sit in color-coded chairs to amplify those differences?

JASON

Yes, I do. Look, today's election is unlike any other in American history. You got two candidates who couldn't be more different. You got Clinton, a super-smart, barely likeable, battle axe of a politician who's been running for president since she was six years old. Then you got Trump, a tangerine-colored, self-promoting, businessman and former reality TV star who's been running for attention since he was born. You got an electorate that's more divided than ever, and politics is like tribal warfare right now. Conflict is exciting. That's what people want to see. I need those color-coded chairs.

STAN

And you think amplifying conflict is a good look for us?

JASON

Absolutely! Why wouldn't it be a good look?

STAN

How about because we're part of a news organization and not the Jerry Springer Show.

JASON

Yeah, but we're part of a larger FOR PROFIT entertainment conglomerate that pays our salary. And by the way, Jerry Springer does six to nine million viewers daily. What was your best focus group segment ever? Three, four-hundred thousand?

STAN

(barely audible)

Two-fifty.

JASON

Sorry, did you say THREE-fifty?

STAN

No, I said two-fifty.

JASON

Oh, TWO-fifty. Well, uhh... .. that's... ..that's not a good number. Stanley, my manly, I know you've been doing this way longer than I have, but gimme some room to maneuver here. If we don't put up better numbers than two-hundred-fifty thousand, we're both gonna be out of a job. All I'm asking for is color-coded chairs. It's not gonna be the Jerry Springer show, I promise. No fist fights, no baby momma drama, no paternity test reveals...

STAN

(sighs)

Alright, Jason, you win. But if this goes sideways, it's on you.

(to stagehands)

OK guys let's do the color-coded set.

(STAGEHANDS begin removing the eight black chairs. They bring in ten brightly colored directors chairs and arrange them in a wide semicircle facing audience. From left to right - chairs 1 through 3 are blue, 4 through 7 are purple, and 8 through 10 are red.)

JASON

Now we're talkin'. Let's take this up a notch.

(JASON smiles broadly. **1. Turn It Up.**)

1-Turn It Up

(Verse 1)

JASON

IN A WORLD FILLED WITH THE ROUTINE,
WE SLEEPWALK THROUGH LIFE LIKE IT'S A DREAM.
IT'S MINDLESS AND OH, SO MUNDANE.
WE GO THROUGH EACH DAY AND THE NEXT IS THE SAME.

WE ALL NEED A TIME TO ESCAPE
FROM THE TEDIOUS AND INANE.
WE NEED TO FIND THE MOMENTS THAT MAKE
THE DOPAMINE RUSH TO THE BRAIN.

LIFE'S MONOTONOUS AND BORING.
YOU'RE NODDING OFF AND YOU'RE SNORING.
IT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DRIVE YOU INSANE, TO DRIVE YOU
INSANE.

WE NEED TO BE MORE EXCITED,
MORE INTRIGUED, MORE DELIGHTED.
WE'RE DOWNRIGHT DESPERATE TO BE ENTERTAINED, TO BE
ENTERTAINED.

COMPANY

TURN IT UP!
TURN IT UP!
TURN IT UP!

(Verse 2)

JASON

WE'RE HERE ON ELECTION DAY.
THE CONDITIONS ARE JUST RIGHT.
WE'VE PREPARED THIS STAGE IN SUCH A WAY
TO PROMOTE A PARTISAN FIGHT.

BLUE CHAIRS FOR THE LEFT, RED FOR THE RIGHT,
PURPLE FOR FOLKS IN BETWEEN.
SOME FOLKS ARE BRILLIANT, SOME NOT SO BRIGHT
SOME POLITE, AND SOME DOWNRIGHT MEAN.

SOCIALISTS AND THE SUPER WOKE

FIGHT NEOCON AND ALT RIGHT FOLKS.
WE'RE GONNA SET OFF FIREWORKS TONIGHT!

(Chorus)

CUE THE MUSIC, THE LIGHTS AND THE VIBES.
(COMPANY: TURN IT UP!)
BRING THE PASSION, AND HEAT FROM THE TRIBES.
(COMPANY: TURN IT UP!)
BRING THE RHYTHMS, THE BEATS, AND THEN
HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS, MY FRIENDS.
WE'LL TAKE YOU ON THE RIDE OF YOUR LIVES.
(COMPANY: TURN IT UP!)

(Bridge)

TEN PANELISTS, EACH ONE IS A SMALL SLICE,
NUMBERED ONE THROUGH TEN MOVING LEFT TO RIGHT.
IT'S OUR POLITICAL SPECTRUM.
NOW IT'S TIME TO SELECT SOME
FOLKS TO AIR THEIR AFFAIRS,
LET'S PUT SOME BUTTS IN CHAIRS!
(COMPANY: TURN IT UP!)

SEATS FOUR THROUGH SEVEN - MILD MANNERED CENTRISTS,
THE ENGINEERS, TEACHERS, THE SOCCER MOMS, AND DENTISTS.
SMART AND TOLERANT, EVEN-TEMPERED AS WELL
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE BORING AS HELL!
(COMPANY: TURN IT UP!)

SEAT THREE ON THE LEFT, SEAT EIGHT ON THE RIGHT
ARE PARTISANS, BUT NOT BATTLE-SCARRED.
THEY'RE CALM, BUT PASSIONATE AND WILLING TO FIGHT
BUT THAT'S ONLY IF THEIR BUTTONS ARE PUSHED REAL HARD.
(COMPANY: TURN IT UP!)

SEAT TWO ON THE LEFT AND NINE ON THE RIGHT,
ARE PURE HARDLINERS, BOTH CUT AND DRIED.
THESE ARE TWO TRIBAL ZEALOTS WHOSE GREATEST DELIGHT
IS ENGAGING THE OTHER SIDE.
(COMPANY: TURN IT UP!)

SEAT ONE AND SEAT TEN, THE FEISTY EXTREMES,
VITRIOLIC, IF A TAD SLOW.
THESE LOW BROW FIREBRAND MISFITS ON BOTH TEAMS
WILL TURN THIS SET INTO A SHOW!

(Chorus)

CUE THE MUSIC, THE LIGHTS AND THE VIBES.

(COMPANY: TURN IT UP!)

BRING THE PASSION AND HEAT FROM THE TRIBES.

(COMPANY: TURN IT UP!)

BRING THE RHYTHMS, THE BEATS, AND THEN

HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS, MY FRIENDS

WE'LL TAKE YOU ON THE RIDE OF YOUR LIVES

(COMPANY: TURN IT UP!)

(STAN ushers the centrists into seats 4 through 7 and then walks to the side of the stage. JASON downs the remainder of his coffee, discards the cup, and takes his place center stage facing the audience.)

STAN

Quiet on set! And five, four, three, two.

JASON

(with a game show host level of animation)

Gooooo afternoon, I'm Jason Proctor outside Polling Station seven in Wexler County. It's Tuesday, election day twenty-sixteen, the final day of the historic contest between Hillary Clinton and Donald J Trump for the presidency of the United States. My producer is rounding up ten volunteer voters to give their opinions on election issues - four centrists, three liberals, and three conservatives. We'll start with the centrists.

(JASON walks back to the centrists. HE approaches Clara in chair #4 and discovers he's very attracted to her. He stops to stare at her for a second before continuing on, pretending he's not enchanted.)

JASON

(to Clara)

Hello, tell me your name, occupation, and something really interesting about yourself.

CLARA

(smiling broadly)

My name is Clara, and I'm a manufacturing supervisor.

JASON

Ok, Clara, the supervisor, what about the really interesting part?

CLARA

Oh, um, I'm a single mom.

JASON

Single mom, AND?

CLARA

And what?

JASON

(deadpanning)

You're askin' me? I don't know, lady. It's YOUR life. You're supposed to tell ME.

(CLARA laughs)

What's so funny? I'm trying to do a real show here, and you're laughing at me.

(directed to Stan off stage)

Hey Stan? Stan!

(STAN walks onto the edge of the set)

STAN

Yeah.

JASON

Hey, Panelist number four has a real attitude problem. Can you find a replacement please?

STAN

I'll see what I can do.

JASON

Thank-you. They don't pay me enough to put up with this crap.

(smiles wryly at Clara)

(to Clayton)

And you sir? Name, occupation, and something REALLY interesting about yourself.

CLAYTON

(smiling broadly)

My name is Clayton. I'm an engineer... ..and uh...

(glancing at Cristy)

... and I'm single.

(Cristy blushes)

JASON

Dude. Seriously? You're single? Well clearly you're single AND thirsty.

(to Cristy)

Ma'am? Name, occupation, and something REALLY interesting about yourself - please.

CRISTY

(smiling)

My name is Cristy. I'm a doctor at University Hospital.

(glancing at Clayton)

And I'm single too.

JASON

OK, so you two realize this is a focus group and not a dating show, right? We brought you out here for your intellect and not your pheromones, thank you very much.

(to Craig)

You sir. Name, occupation, and let's skip the interesting part. I'm already oh for three on that front.

CRAIG

(smiling)

My name is Craig, and I'm a...

JASON

(interrupting)

Wait!! Don't tell me your occupation. Let me guess. Let's see... uniform... gun... taser... radio... handcuffs... badge. I'm gonna go out on a limb and say... you're a cop. Am I right?!

CRAIG

(laughing)

You nailed it.

JASON

Yes! How did I know that? I must be clairvoyant.

(to the panelists)

Alright people, thanks for volunteering to answer some questions for us today. I've gotta say up front that you may not be the brightest or most interesting people on the planet, but you are clearly the four CHEERIEST voters I've seen all day. Most people who stand in line for an hour to cast a ballot are not in such a good mood. Why so happy?

Clara?

CLARA

As a second generation American on my mother's side, I'm glad I was born in a country where I can vote without fear and know my vote will count.

JASON

Yeah? Where's your mother from?

CLARA

She's from Columbia. She immigrated here in 1984.

JASON

Wait, are you saying that in Columbia in the 1980s, during all the conflict between the guerrilla militias, the Colombian government, and the drug cartels, that they were NOT having peaceful, free, and fair elections?

CLARA

I don't think so.

JASON

Shocking.

Clayton, what's your excuse for excessive cheeriness?

CLAYTON

(excitedly)

Well, democracy's been around for less than one percent of human history, and even today, less than ten percent of governments are true democracies. So, having the privilege to vote and have it count makes us more fortunate than ninety-nine point nine percent of all humans who have ever lived. That's cause for celebration, isn't it?

(JASON stares blankly at Clayton. CLAYTON smiles broadly.)

JASON

(deadpanning)

Are you high right now, Clayton?

CLAYTON

(smiling)

What?

JASON

Did you pop a Molly before you left the house?

CLAYTON

(laughing)

Uh, no.

JASON

Smoke some of that sticky icky oooh wee?

CLAYTON

(laughing)

No.

JASON

Ok, so you just LOOK and ACT high but you're actually sober and just naturally happy?

CLAYTON

(smiling)

I guess.

JASON

Ok, just checkin'.

How 'bout you there Cristy? What is it about voting that's got you smiling?

CRISTY

I'm like Clara - second generation American on my mother's side. I appreciate the fact that voting is a privilege a lot of people don't have.

JASON

And your mother is from where?

CRISTY

Vietnam.

JASON

OK, but I think Vietnam has elections, though, right?

CRISTY

Um, yes, but it's a one-party political system. All the candidates must be approved by the Communist Party of Vietnam.

JASON

So, you're implying that voting in a country subject to the iron grip of a single communist political party falls short of your democratic ideals?

CRISTY

We'll, if you put it that way, yes.

JASON

(deadpanning)

Snob.

(to camera)

Anyhoo, I'm overdosing on happy out here. You got two second generation Americans, grateful to have been born in the US, and an engineer who I'm pretty sure is high on something - all giddy about voting.

(to Craig)

Craig, balance me out with just a tiny bit of good old fashion cop cynicism. Voting lines too long? Voting machine didn't work?

CRAIG

(smiling)

Nope. It's all good. I'm happy for the privilege, too. My only complaint is too many people don't bother voting and then they bitch when they don't like the people who get elected.

CLAYTON

I agree. Only half of eligible voters actually cast a ballot.

CLARA

That's pathetic. Between mail-in ballots, early in-person voting, and today, there's no excuse not to vote.

JASON

Ok, so, now you guys are starting to sound like a super cheesy public service announcement.

(music queues)

No, wait. Seriously? Please, no singing about voting.. Real people do not sing about voting! Oh Jeez..

(CRISTY stands up. **2. Make it Happen**)

2-Make It Happen

(Verse 1)

CRISTY

(Singing and dancing with Clara, Craig, and, mostly,
Clayton)

ON TUESDAY DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS,
HOW DO WE THE PEOPLE FLEX PEOPLE POWER?
WHETHER CENTRIST, OR ALT RIGHT OR WOKE.
GO PUT ON YOUR COAT
MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE.

IT'S THE FOUNDING FATHERS' INTENTION
IN THE WORDS THAT THEY MENTION
IN EVERY VOLUME THEY WROTE
THAT ALL OF YOUR BOLD INTERVENTIONS,
AGREEMENTS, DISSENSIONS
BE EMBODIED BY YOUR VOTE.

YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN...

(Verse 2)

CLARA

(Singing and dancing with Cristy, Craig, and Clayton.
Teasing Jason playfully as well.)

HOW DO WE PROTECT OUR DEMOCRACY?
PREVENT AN AUTOCRACY
AND KEEP THE THREAT OF TYRANNY REMOTE?
THE SUCCESS OF OUR NATION
DEMANDS PARTICIPATION
OF EACH AND EVERY PASSENGER IN THIS BOAT.

TO CHART YOUR DESTINATION
GRAB A PADDLE AND A STATION.
MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE!

MAKE IT HAPPEN...

(Verse 3)

CLAYTON

(Singing and dancing with Clara, Craig, and, mostly,
Cristy)

HOW DO YOU HONOR OUR FOREFATHERS' DREAMS?
THROUGH ROUGH TEMPEST SEAS OR TEMPERATE STREAMS?
HOW DO YOU KEEP FREEDOM'S PROMISE AFLOAT?
YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN

AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION
AND KEEN CONSIDERATION
WE CHOOSE OUR LEADERS AND WE HOPE
THAT THEY ASCEND TO THEIR STATION,
DELIVER INSPIRATION
YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE!

MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE

(Bridge)

CRISTY	CLARA/CLAYTON/CRAIG
YOU WANT THINGS TO CHANGE	MAKE IT HAPPEN
OR JUST STAY THE SAME YOU'RE GIVEN A CHOICE	MAKE IT HAPPEN
GO SEND OUT YOUR VOICE	MAKE IT HAPPEN
YOU WANT THINGS TO CHANGE	MAKE IT HAPPEN
OR JUST STAY THE SAME YOU'RE GIVEN A CHOICE	MAKE IT HAPPEN
GO SEND OUT YOUR VOICE	MAKE IT HAPPEN
YOU WANT THINGS TO CHANGE	MAKE IT HAPPEN
OR JUST STAY THE SAME YOU'RE GIVEN A CHOICE	MAKE IT HAPPEN
GO SEND OUT YOUR VOICE	MAKE IT HAPPEN
YOU WANT THINGS TO CHANGE	MAKE IT HAPPEN
OR STAY THE SAME FOR EACH AND EVERY PASSENGER IN THIS BOAT	MAKE IT HAPPEN MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE

(Verse 4)

CRAIG

(slow tempo, near acapella)

WE CHOOSE THE FREE WORLD'S NEW LEADER TODAY
SO, IT'S HILARY OR DONALD J
THE DIFFERENCE IS STARK, SO TAKE NOTE
DON'T LEAVE IT TO CHANCE
GO AND VOTE
GO AND VOTE

CRISTY

CLARA/CLAYTON/CRAIG

YOU WANT THINGS TO
CHANGE
OR JUST STAY THE SAME
YOU'RE GIVEN A CHOICE
GO SEND OUT YOUR VOICE

MAKE IT HAPPEN
MAKE IT HAPPEN
MAKE IT HAPPEN
MAKE IT HAPPEN

YOU WANT THINGS TO
CHANGE
OR STAY THE SAME
FOR EACH AND EVERY
PASSENGER IN THIS BOAT

MAKE IT HAPPEN
MAKE IT HAPPEN
MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR
VOTE

(Panelists walk back to their seats)

JASON

OK, are we done yet? What is this, Sesame Street? How about each and every passenger in THIS boat grab their seat, so I can do my job. Jesus!

(points to Clara as she walks past)

And Stan, why is THIS person still here?

(Clara laughs)

You people are waaay too happy. We need some conflict here or I'm going to get fired. So, let's try this - for each of you, who did you vote for today and why? Let's start with Clara since she'll be gone soon, and then we'll work our way down the line.

CLARA

I voted for Hilary because I think she's more qualified than Trump.

CLAYTON

Hilary, for the same reason. Hilary is a lot more qualified than Trump and should make a much better president.

CRISTY

Same answer. Hilary.

CRAIG

Um, this was a tough one for me, but I voted for Trump because I think he's stronger on immigration, the economy, and support for law enforcement. He's not what I would call a polished statesman, but I'm sure he'll get there with time in the job.

JASON

Trump, a polished statesman with time in the job. LOVE the optimism! Ok, thank you centrists.

(STAN approaches the edge of the set with four new panelists in tow.)

JASON

Woah! Looks like my producer has some partisans here to spice things up and salvage both our jobs. Now we're talkin'.

(STAN sends Rachel to Jason and holds up eight fingers, then sends Frank and holds up nine fingers. RACHEL and FRANK join Jason center stage.)

JASON

Hello Red Team! Alright you two, tell us your names and occupations.

(to Rachel)

You first.

RACHEL

My name is Rachel and I'm a retired school bus driver and grandmother of three.

JASON

Nana Rachel, how lovely.

(JASON notices Rachel's necklace and points to it.)

Wait, is that a miniature replica of an Iron Age torturing device you have hanging around your neck?

RACHEL

(alarmed)

A what?!

JASON

An Iron Age torturing device. Right there.

RACHEL

(holds and lifts her crucifix)

What, this? No, this is a crucifix, silly.

JASON

Oh, OK, so a crucifix is NOT an Iron Age torturing device. What was I thinking?

(JASON points Rachel to Red Chair #8 and turns to Frank)

And you sir, what's your story?

FRANK

I'm Frank, and I'm a conservative podcaster.

JASON

Conservative podcaster. OK, Rush Limbaugh Junior, we can work with that.

(JASON gives Stan an exaggerated wink and thumbs up, and points Frank to Red Chair # 9)

(STAN sends Lamar to Jason and holds up three fingers, then sends Florence and holds up two fingers. Lamar and Florence join Jason center stage.)

JASON

Hello Blue Team! Tell us your names and occupations.

LAMAR

My name is Lamar and I work for the DMV.

JASON

The DMV? Ooo, so sorry to hear that. But don't lose hope. Someday life will get better.

(JASON points Lamar to Blue Chair #3 and turns to Florence)

FLORENCE

My name is Florence and I'm a professor of Women's Studies at Central University.

JASON

Ooo, direct from the ivory towers of Central U, we got academia in the house - we can DEFINITELY work with that.

(JASON points to Stan, pats his own heart and points Florence to Blue Chair #2)

JASON

OK, partisans, unlike our independents, there should be NO mystery about who you voted for today but tell us anyway and tell us why. Let's go with Florence, then Lamar, then Nana Rachel, then Frank. Florence?

FLORENCE

I voted for Hilary, of course. She's the most qualified person that has run for the presidency in my lifetime. Also, Trump is unfit for the job and absolutely unworthy of the office.

LAMAR

I voted for Hilary 'cause Trump is a racist gangster.

RACHEL

I voted for Trump because he's pro-life and stands up for Christian values and religious freedom.

FRANK

I voted for Trump because he's going to take on the deep state and restore the country back to greatness. That, and Hilary would be the most dangerous president in our history. If she wins, she will be the final, corrupt, liberal straw that breaks this country's back.

JASON

Ok, so the partisans do not disappoint. They are bringing the heat and saving my job. The sentiments I'm hearing from the four of you are a lot more intense and a lot less circumspect than

those from the four independents. What would you say to those who feel you may be too partisan, too disparaging of the other side?

FLORENCE

I'd say this election is a fight to preserve our democracy or lose it. We cannot be partisan enough.

FRANK

Stakes are too high to be a centrist. You gotta pick a side and go tribal, man.

(STAN approaches the edge of the set with last two panelists in tow. ERIC, in a red Trump sweatshirt, and ELAINE, in a Black Lives Matter sweatshirt, are looking askance at one another. STAN sends Elaine and Eric to Jason at center stage. JASON looks at each of them, smiles broadly, does a dab, and holds the pose for five seconds.

JASON

(To Elaine)

Okay, young lady - your name, occupation, who you voted for, and why.

ELAINE

My name is Elaine, I'm a waitress, and I voted for Jill Stein because of her strong support for Black Lives Matter.

(All LEFT and CENTRIST PANELISTS silently express their consternation or amusement. ERIC and FRANK laugh out loud. JASON stares at Elaine for several seconds)

JASON

Umm, Elaine, some on the left may say you wasted your vote considering Jill Stein has NO chance of winning the presidency and Hilary needs your vote. What do you say to that?

ELAINE

I say I voted for who my heart told me would make the best president. And that's Jill Stein.

JASON

I hear the words coming out of your mouth, young lady, but I have no words of my own to respond. Please have a seat right over there.

(JASON points Elaine to Chair #1 and turns to Eric)

Hello, sir. Your name, occupation, who you voted for, and why.

ERIC

My name is Eric. I'm an auto mechanic and a patriot. I voted for Donald J Trump to make America great again.

JASON

(pointing to the holstered Glock pistol on Eric's thigh)

Eric, I see you're packin' heat there. Did you expect to have to shoot your way through some hostile voters to get to the ballot box today?

ERIC

Hey, you never know right? You gotta be prepared. This is an open carry state, so I open carry just in case. Second Amendment!

JASON

Eric, I hear the words coming out of YOUR mouth, buddy, but once again I have no words of my own to respond. Please have a seat over there.

(JASON points Eric to Chair #10. As ERIC walks to his seat, JASON looks toward Stan and slowly mouths the words 'what the f***?' STAN shrugs.)

(to the six partisans)

So, Frank was just saying, for this election everybody must pick a side and go tribal. Do all of you on the Red and Blue teams feel that way?

SIX PARTISANS

(in unison)

Absolutely!

(RACHEL stands up. - **3. Go Tribal.**)

3-Go Tribal

(Verse 1)

RACHEL

TODAY WE FIGHT
TO MAINTAIN OUR TRADITIONS,
DEFEND WHAT'S RIGHT,
OUR VALUES AND RELIGION.
WE FIGHT FOR FAMILY, FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,
FOR JESUS AND RIGHT TO LIFE.

FLORENCE

Not quite.

TODAY WE FIGHT
TO MAKE REAL AND LASTING CHANGE,
DEFEND WHAT'S RIGHT,
AND KEEP FREEDOM WITHIN RANGE
FOR WOMEN, BLACK, AND BROWN FOLKS TOO
FOR L-G-B AND T AND Q.

(Chorus)

FLORENCE

WHEN THE STAKES ARE RUNNIN' HIGH
EVERY VOTE IS DO OR DIE.
(SIX PARTISANS: YOU GO TRIBAL)
YOU STAND UP TALL AND PICK A SIDE
FOR YOUR COUNTRY TO SURVIVE
(SIX PARTISANS: YOU GO TRIBAL)

(Verse 2)

FRANK

TODAY WE FIGHT
TO RESTORE THE DAYS OF OLD.
TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
FOR THE FREE, THE BRAVE, AND THE BOLD.
RECLAIM THIS LAND OF OURS FROM SEA TO SEA
THIS IS GOD'S GIFT TO YOU AND TO ME

LAMAR

Nah.

TODAY WE FIGHT
TO KEEP ON MAKING PROGRESS
AND REIGNITE
THE FIGHT FOR EQUAL JUSTICE
TODAY WE RIGHT THE TRANSGRESSIONS OF THE PAST
SO WE CAN ALL BE FREE AT LAST

(Chorus)

LAMAR

OH, WHEN THE STAKES ARE RUNNIN' HIGH
EVERY VOTE IS DO OR DIE.
(SIX PARTISANS: YOU GO TRIBAL)
YOU STAND UP TALL AND PICK A SIDE
FOR YOUR COUNTRY TO SURVIVE
(SIX PARTISANS: YOU GO TRIBAL)

(Bridge)

CLAYTON

NOW GOING TRIBAL MAY GET BATTLES WON
BUT GO TOO FAR AND IT'S ALL UNDONE
WHEN RIVALRY TURNS TO HATE FOR SOME,
AND ONLY HATE SURVIVES.

CRISTY

WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW IS EVERYONE
WANTS FREEDOM, LOVE, AND TIME IN THE SUN.
WE'RE ALL JUST HUMAN WHEN THE DAY IS DONE,
MEMBERS OF A SINGLE TRIBE.

(Verse 5)

ERIC

Nope!

TODAY WE FIGHT
TO REINSTATE OUR NATION.
OUR FOUNDERS WERE WHITE.
YOU'RE NOT IN THE DECLARATION.
IT'S OUR BIRTHRIGHT, AND OUR DESTINY
FOR OUR WHITE CHRISTIAN PROGENY

(Verse 6)

ELAINE

Uh uh!

(ELAINE points to panelists on the right.)

TODAY WE FIGHT
NEO NAZIS SCUMBAGS
THE PRIVELEDGED RIGHT
THAT WAVE THEIR THIN-BLUE-LINE FLAGS

FIGHT THE BIBLE THUMPING, OIL PUMPING, RIFLE HUMPING,
DONALD TRUMPING
FOLKS JUST SO DAMN OUT OF TOUCH

(ELAINE points to Centrists.)

AND THESE CENTRISTS WHO SMILE WAY TOO MUCH!

(Chorus)

ELAINE

OH, WHEN THE STAKES ARE RUNNIN' HIGH
EVERY VOTE IS DO OR DIE.

(SIX PARTISANS: YOU GO TRIBAL!)

ELAINE

YOU STAND UP TALL AND PICK A SIDE
FOR YOUR COUNTRY TO SURVIVE

(SIX PARTISANS: YOU GO TRIBAL!)

JASON

OK, so looks like the temperature of the conversation just went up a few degrees. Let's continue. You all have told us who you're voting for and why. Next question is what are your concerns if the OTHER candidate wins - the one you are NOT voting for?

Let's start with the Purple team. Clayton, you voted for Clinton. Any significant concerns if Trump wins?

CLAYTON

I'm a little concerned 'cause I don't think Trump has the temperament to be an effective president. But if he surrounds himself with the right people, it could work out.

(JASON stares at Clayton for a few seconds. CLAYTON smiles broadly)

JASON

Are you sure you're not high on something? Mushrooms maybe?

(CLATON laughs)

Definitely mushrooms.

(to Craig)

Craig, you voted Trump. Any significant concerns if Clinton wins?

CRAIG

Nothing significant with Hilary, but Bill being back in the White House with way too much time on his hands - that could be a problem.

JASON

(Jason impersonates Bill Clinton by squinting his eyes, biting his lower lip and wagging his finger)

Craig, I... ..I did NOT have sexual relations with that woman.

(in his own voice)

OK, Red team, significant concerns if Clinton wins today?

Frank?

FRANK

Hillary Clinton, President of the United States? Oh, hell no.

FLORENCE

(interrupting)

Oh, hell yes. She's going to win, you know.

FRANK

Nope, not today, not ever.

FLORENCE

OK, and why not?

FRANK

I'll tell you exactly why not.

(FRANK stands. **4. Ambition in a Pantsuit and Heels.**)

4-Ambition in a Pantsuit and Heels (A rap battle)

(Chorus)

FRANK

BECAUSE SHE PLANS, SHE PLOTS, SHE WHEELS, SHE DEALS,
PUSHING A LOT OF LEFT-WING IDEALS,
BUT ALWAYS CONCEALS WHAT SHE REALLY FEELS,
AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

FLORENCE

YEAH, SHE PLANS, SHE PLOTS, SHE WHEELS, SHE DEALS,
BUT DOES IT TO ADVANCE VERY NOBLE IDEALS.
WITH EXPERIENCE, MOXIE, AND RIGHTEOUS ZEAL.
AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS

(Verse 1)

FRANK

SHE'S THE EVIL EMPRESS OF FEMINIST PRIDE,
ENTITLED, BOSSY, SINISTER, SNIDE
SHADY SINCE THE NINETIES WHEN HER LAWYER FRIEND DIED,
BUT THE RULES DON'T APPLY, SHE GOT THE FBI
CLAIMING THAT HIS DEATH WAS JUST A SUICIDE,
IT ALL SEEMED FISHY; SHE HAD SOMETHING TO HIDE.
SO, SHE DID WHAT SHE ALWAYS DOES - SHE LIED

(Verse 2)

FRANK

FAST FORWARD TO BENGAZI WHERE HER PEOPLE TRIED
PROTECTING OUR EMBASSY, BUT FOUR OF THEM DIED
WAITING FOR SECURITY SHE FAILED TO PROVIDE.
THAT'S NEGLIGENCE SHE CAN'T BRUSH ASIDE.
AND THEN YOU GOT THE ISSUE THAT CAN NEVER BE DENIED,
DESTROYING ALL THE EMAILS THAT SHE TRIED TO HIDE.
SETTING ALL THE DOCUMENTATION RULES ASIDE.
EVEN FOR THE EMAILS THAT WERE LABELED CLASSIFIED.

(Verse 3)

FRANK

SHE'S TAKING EVERYBODY IN THIS COUNTRY FOR A RIDE.
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND IT AND I'M FRANKLY HORRIFIED
HOW IT IS ALL YOU LIBS WOULD ACTUALLY DECIDE

TO GIVE BILL CLINTON AND HIS SCARY ASS BRIDE
OF FRANKENSTEIN A PASS GETTIN' BACK INSIDE
THE WHITE HOUSE WHERE NO DOUBT THEY WILL PRESIDE,
SHE THE BOSS BONNIE TO HIS WOMANIZING CLYDE,
SPREADING THEIR INCREDIBLE CORRUPTION FAR AND WIDE.
I HEARD SHE LOOKS TO THE DEVIL AS HER GUIDE,
KIDNAPING KIDS, INNOCENT AND TEARY-EYED,
SEXUALLY ABUSING THEM UNTIL THEY'RE TRAUMATIZED,
COOKING AND EATING THEM UP WITH FRENCH FRIES.
IF SHE BECOMES PRESIDENT, JUSTICE DIES.

(Chorus)

FRANK

SHE PLANS, SHE PLOTS, SHE WHEELS, SHE DEALS,
PUSHING A LOT OF LEFT-WING IDEALS,
BUT ALWAYS CONCEALS WHAT SHE REALLY FEELS,
AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

(Verse 4)

FLORENCE

(speaking to Frank)

Are you quite done, sir?

FRANK

For now, sure. Go ahead.

FLORENCE

OK, my turn.

GOOD LORD, YOUR PERCEPTION OF THE WORLD IS SKEWED,
YOU GOTTA DO BETTER WITH THE SOURCES THAT YOU CHOOSE
FOR INFORMATION YOU USE TO SHAPE YOUR VIEWS,
BREITBART, DAILY WIRE, AND FOX NEWS
ARE PLACES WHERE REALITY AND REASON LOSE.
TRUTH, FACTS, AND HONESTY ARE CONSTANTLY ABUSED,
LIKE CLAIMING HILARY STEALS KIDS FOR SEX AND FOOD.
COLLUDING WITH THE DEVIL? DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE,
BUT THAT'S SOME BATSHIT CRAY-CRAY YOU JUST SPEWED.

FRANK

DID YOU SAY, "BATSHIT CRAY-CRAY I JUST SPEWED?"

FLORENCE

YEP, THAT'S SOME BATSHIT CRAY-CRAY YOU JUST SPEWED."

(Verse 5)

FLORENCE

HILARY BY FAR IS THE BEST CANDIDATE,
WITH A BOSS RESUME YOU CAN'T REPLICATE.
TWO TERMS AS FIRST LADY, SIMPLY FIRST RATE.
AS NEW YORK SENATOR, PROVED SHE WAS GREAT.
WAS TOP NOTCH AS SECRETARY OF STATE,
THEN KICKED TRUMPS ASS IN ALL THREE DEBATES.

(to Lamar)

LAMAR, HELP ME OUT CUZ.

(Verse 6)

LAMAR

OH, FLO FOR SHO, YOU GOT TO KNOW,
YOUR BOY LAMAR IS RET TO GO.
NOW LET'S DISCUSS TRUMP SO WE'RE NOT CONFUSED
ABOUT WHOSE BAD BEHAVIOR WE CAN'T EXCUSE,
STARTING WITH HIS BIGOTRY AND RACIST VIEWS.
HE STEREOTYPES, WOMEN, BLACKS, AND JEWS.
THE LIST OF VIRTUES HE LACKS INCLUDES
HONOR, SELF-CONTROL, AND RECTITUDE.

A DRAFT DODGING, SELFISH, AND RECKLESS DUDE,
CONTRACTORS, BANKERS, AND LAWYERS ACCUSE
HIM OF BEING A DEADBEAT - WON'T PAY HIS DUES.
THROUGH INCOMPETENCE AND CAPITAL MISUSE,
WENT BANKRUPT FOUR TIMES BY NINETEEN NINETY-TWO.
SPENT YEARS MARINATING IN THE TABLOID NEWS,
CHEATING ON HIS WIVES LIKE NOTHING TO LOSE,
WITH TWENTY-FIVE WOMEN CLAIMING SEXUAL ABUSE.

(Verse 7)

ELAINE

HE'S SCANDALOUS AND CORRUPT THROUGH AND THROUGH.
EVERY MOVE MADE IS A CON OR A RUSE
TO FEED HIS GREED FOR MORE MONEY TO MISUSE.
KING OF SCOUNDRELS FROM HIS HAIR TO HIS SHOES.
MALIGNANT CLOWN WE NEED TO REFUSE
AND SEND BACK TO THE HOLE FROM WHICH HE OOZED,

LIKE A THICK BLACK BUBBLIN' CON MAN'S BREW,
INTOXICATING HIS DEPLORABLE CREWS
OF SICK WHACK DUMB ASSES WITH LOOSE SCREWS,
CHRISTIANS, CONSERVATIVES, AND FOLKS WHO CHOOSE
TO VOTE FOR A MAN WHO PLANS TO ABUSE
THEIR TRUST BECAUSE HE DOESN'T SHARE THEIR VIEWS.

(Verse 8)

FLORENCE

COMPARED TO TRUMP AND HIS MALEVOLENT WAYS,
HILARY, EVEN ON HER WORST OF DAYS
STILL HAS VIRTUES WORTH OUR PRAISE.
POISED TO ASTOUND, IMPRESS, AND AMAZE,
MOTIVATE, LEAD, ASSESS, AND ENGAGE
FROM OVAL OFFICE TO THE WORLD STAGE.
THE BEST TO RESET AND TURN A NEW PAGE.

(chorus)

FLORENCE

SHE PLANS, SHE PLOTS SHE WHEELS SHE DEALS,
BUT DOES IT TO ADVANCE VERY NOBLE IDEALS.

FRANK

NOPE, SHE'S PUSHING A LOT OF LEFT-WING IDEALS.
BUT ALWAYS CONCEALS WHAT SHE REALLY FEELS,

FLORENCE

YEAH, WITH EXPERIENCE, MOXIE, AND RIGHTEOUS ZEAL.
AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

FRANK

AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

LAMAR AND FLORENCE

AMBITION, HA HA, AMBITION OH, YEAH
AMBITION, AMBITION, AMBITION, AMBITION

FLORENCE AND FRANK

AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

JASON

(to camera)

Well, there you have it. The partisan take on the opposition candidates.

OK, looks like the election results are rolling in.

(JASON puts his finger up to his earpiece)

I'm hearing Hillary just won North Carolina Virginia and Colorado folks!

(Blue team celebrates, Red team despairs)

..hang on... Trump just won Ohio, Florida and Iowa!

(Red team celebrates, Blue team despairs)

Just in, Hilary has won Nevada!

(Blue team celebrates, Red team despairs)

...hold on. Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have been called for Trump. Trump has surpassed the two-hundred-seventy votes needed. He's won the presidency. He's the man, he's the one. He's hit the home run! He's gonna be the president! Son of a gun!

(Red team goes wild, Blue team despairs)

RACHEL

(looking up, hands raised to the sky)

Thank you, Jesus!

STAN

And cut!

(Panelists leave their seats. FRANK walks over to Florence)

FRANK

(to Florence)

Hey, I guess Ambition's gonna have to trade in her pantsuit and heels for an orange jump suit and a pair of Crocs, huh?

FLORENCE

Were you BORN this distasteful, or did you have to practice a lot?

ERIC

(walks up close to Elaine in mock sincerity)

Hey, Beyonce, on behalf of all Trump supporters, I wanted to say thank you for your Jill Stein vote. That meant the world to us.. really. Don't mind what people say. You keep doin' you boo.

ELAINE

Boy, if you don't get out my face!

(ERIC Turns and jaunts away laughing, high fives Frank)

(JASON and STAN huddle at the front of the stage. STAN thumbs his cell phone.)

JASON

Alright buddy, how'd we do today?

STAN

Hold on a minute.

Oooo, three-hundred-fifty-thousand viewers. Not bad!

JASON

Not bad, but not good either. We need to push past half a million next time if we're gonna keep our jobs. We need to turn this thing up even more, and I got just the thing.

STAN

Well, we already got your color-coded chairs. What else you got?

JASON

OK, so, check this out. What if we get these same ten people back next time? Like the cast of an ongoing reality show.

STAN

I like it. I think we can swing that.

JASON

Awesome! And then, next time, what if we get everybody together for a happy hour before we shoot. Giv 'em some food, some

drinks, you know, couple Long Island Iced Teas to get 'em feelin' good, feelin' free to REALLY express themselves.

STAN

(feigning delight)

Ooo, give these guys booze before the show so they REALLY express themselves. Lemme think about that for a second. Hmm...

(sternly)

NO! Have you lost your mind? You don't think they were really expressing themselves enough today? Florence called Frank batshit crazy for God's sake! You want to add booze to the equation?

JASON

Stan, my man, first of all, Florence did not call Frank batshit CRAZY, she called him batshit CRAY CRAY. Second, you gotta trust me on the happy hour thing. It will work.

STAN

Nope. No way.

JASON

(puts his arm around Stan's shoulders)

Stan, my man, hear me out...

STAN

Absolutely not. Booze?! No freakin' way. Can you imagine Florence, Frank, Elaine, and Eric, all half in the bag, having a conversation? Now THAT'S batshit crazy.

JASON

No, it's CRAY CRAY.

STAN

Yeah, exactly.

JASON

No, I meant the WORD is CRAY CRAY, not the booze. The booze makes perfect sense.

(STAN turns and walks away, shaking his head)

Stan, wait, hear me out. Do you have any idea how much more entertaining people are after just one Long Island Iced Tea...

(Stage goes dark. Curtain Falls.)

ACT ONE

Scene Two

EXT: MUNICIPAL PARK AT THE EDGE OF A WOMEN'S MARCH PROTEST THE DAY AFTER TRUMP'S INAUGURATION IN JANUARY 2017. EARLY AFTERNOON.

JASON and PANELISTS are mingling on set. Jason and all panelists except Craig are drinking alcohol. All are in a jovial mood.

Cristy playfully tries to convince Clayton to wear a pink protest hat. He relents and they kiss.

Jason and Clara are engaged in conversation and laughing together.

STAN

OK everybody, one minute to camera. Please put away your drinks and take your seats.

(PANELISTS comply and take their seats. JASON takes a final swig of his drink, puts it down and takes his position center stage.)

STAN

Quiet on set! And five, four, three, two.

JASON

(quite animated to camera)

Gooooo afternoon, I'm Jason Proctor at Wexler Municipal Park where a local crowd has gathered in support of the worldwide Women's March demonstration just one day after the inauguration of Donald J. Trump as the forty-fifth president of the United States. The demonstration is in support of several issues including gender equality, reproductive rights, and LGBTQ rights.

We're here with the same ten voters we spoke to a few weeks back on election day who represent the full breadth of the cultural-political spectrum from left to right. Some of them are clearly in support of this rally and others are clearly against it. Thank you all for your time once again.

Starting on the left, we have the Blue team - Elaine, Florence, and Lamar. In the center, we have the Purple team - Clara, Clayton, Cristy, and Craig. And on the right, we have the Red team - Rachel, Frank, and Eric.

OK, let's jump right into this. I see several of you are wearing these pink hats in support of the demonstration. First question is, what do the hats represent? Elaine?

ELAINE

(clearly feeling good)

Well, they call 'em pussy-hats, so, they represent pussies.

(All PANELISTS laugh and struggle to maintain composure)

JASON

Uhhh... better from your lips than mine.

(PANELISTS all laugh.)

Wait, that was a very poor choice of words on my part. Absolutely no pun intended. Florence, your take on the hats?

FLORENCE

(also clearly feeling good, but in her most professorial tone)

Well, the pussy hats represent women's unity and empowerment, gender equality, and reproductive freedom. They're also a repudiation of our new president's fondness for grabbing women by the pussy.

(PANELISTS all laugh.)

JASON

Ok then. Seems the p-word is completely off-leash right now. Clayton, I see you're the only guy wearing a, umm, pink hat. What does the pink hat mean to you?

CLAYTON

(stifling laughter)

Ummm... it means what Florence just said. Women's empowerment and gender equality. Also, on a personal note, Cristy asked me to wear it.

JASON

Cristy asked you... oh, wait a minute! Hold the front door! Are you and Cristy an item now?

CLAYTON

Well, yes.

JASON

Cristy, you sly devil, you. But you know he has a substance abuse problem, though, right? So, he's definitely NOT a keeper. Just use him for sex for a few months and then move on, OK? Promise?

Let's see. Lamar, do YOU support the demonstration today?

LAMAR

Absolutely.

JASON

Ok, so why aren't you wearing a pink hat to show your support?

LAMAR

Uhh. I fully support... you know... women's rights and pussy and everything. Matter of fact, I'm a big fan of pussy, but ummm... I'm just not comfortable... you know... wearing one on my head... at least not in public.

JASON

Thank you, Lamar. Big fan of uh, the p-word but will NOT put one on your head in public. I hear you and I feel you, dawg.

(JASON holds out his fist for a fist bump. LAMAR obliges)

OK let's get some thoughts from the Red team. Nana Rachel, no hat. I take it you do NOT support the demonstration today?

RACHEL

I do not.

JASON

And what specifically do you disagree with? Gender equality, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, or reproductive rights?

RACHEL

I disagree that men and women are the same. I disagree with gay marriage. I disagree that people can change the sex they were born with. I disagree with killing innocent unborn babies because they are inconvenient to the mother. And I think it's inappropriate to walk around with a giant vagina on your head.

JASON

OK, soooo much to unpack there. Where do we start? I know. Let's go with reproductive rights for four-hundred Alex!

Abortion - one of the most contentious issues in American politics. There are several ways to frame the debate, but I find the most effective is to ask the following question: At what stage of pregnancy should the government restrict a woman's right to choose an abortion. Let's see what our panel has to say.

Rachel, at what stage of pregnancy should the government restrict a woman's right to choose an abortion?

RACHEL

From conception.

JASON

And why is that?

RACHEL

Because no one has the right to kill an innocent baby, without a really good reason.

JASON

And you consider an unborn baby to be a person at conception?

RACHEL

Of course it's a person at conception. It's not a kitten or a puppy.

JASON

Uhh, I think a fertilized human egg is a ZYGOTE, then it becomes a FETUS, and then only at birth does it become a person.

(to Cristy)

Right doc?

CRISTY

Umm. Well, to be scientifically precise, a newly fertilized human egg is a single cell called a ZYGOTE. At five days it's a microscopic ball of cells called a BLASTOCYST. At ten days it's an EMBRYO. At eleven weeks it's a fetus. And only at birth, is it a person per se.

RACHEL

I got three precious grandbabies, and I don't care what they were called from conception to birth. From the day they were conceived, they were human beings and children of God.

(RACHEL stands - **5. 22 Weeks.**)

5-22 Weeks

(Verse 1)

RACHEL

FROM THE MOMENT OF CONCEPTION
A NEW LIFE IS FORMED
THAT'S WORTHY OF PROTECTION
EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT YET BORN.

UNLESS IT WAS CONCEIVED IN VIOLENCE
DOOMED TO UNTOLD PAIN AND STRIFE
(FRANK: A LIFE IS STILL A LIFE)
OR PUTS ITS MOTHER'S LIFE AT STAKE,
(FRANK: NONE OF THIS MATTERS)
WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO END ITS LIFE.

(Chorus)

UNBORN BABIES ARE PEOPLE TOO.
WE MUST PROTECT THEIR RIGHT TO LIFE.
END ALL ABORTIONS FROM CONCEPTION.
WITH ONLY THE RAREST OF EXCEPTIONS,
(FRANK: NO, ZERO EXCEPTIONS)

RACHEL AND FRANK

CHOOSING LIFE IS GODLY AND RIGHT.

RACHEL

(speaking to Frank)

Alright, sit down Frank.

(Verse 2)

FLORENCE

WOMEN SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN VOICES,
THEIR OWN BODIES, MINDS, AND HEARTS,
THEIR OWN SOULS AND THEIR OWN CHOICES.
AND THEIR OWN DAMNED REPRODUCTIVE PARTS.

WE GET PREGNANT AND GIVE BIRTH.
YIELDING TO MEN IS JUST ABSURD.
OH, WE'LL LET YOU CHIME IN FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH,
BUT WOMEN MUST HAVE THE FINAL WORD.
WOMEN HAVE THE FINAL WORD

(Chorus)

WOMEN ARE PEOPLE TOO.
WE MUST PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE
ENDING A PREGNANCY AT ANY TIME
FOR ANY REASON, ANY RHYME.
WE MUST STAND UP AND FIGHT OR LOSE.

FRANK

(speaking to Florence)

No one should have the right to choose to murder a baby. That's what abortion is - murdering babies!

FLORENCE

Really? And from what fount of wisdom did you drink that Kool-Aid? Wait, don't tell me. You're Catholic, aren't you?

FRANK

I AM Catholic, and proud of it. My fount of wisdom is God.

FLORENCE

No, Frank, your fount of wisdom is not God. It's a bunch of old white men in gaudy religious drag who claim to speak for God. So, until they get medical degrees, or can get pregnant and give birth, none of them is an authority on abortion. We will not allow the thoughts and dictates of pious pedophiles and their enablers anywhere near our reproductive organs. You do realize women are not as passive and helpless as the poor altar boys your horny clergy's been abusing for centuries.

FRANK

You're a vile, obscene woman!

FLORENCE

No, Frank, I'm just a woman. A woman who was once diagnosed with an ectopic pregnancy at nine weeks. The embryo inside me was less than an inch long, incapable of conscious thought, and had ZERO chance of survival. I was at risk of DYING, leaving my two living children motherless. What was I supposed to do, Mr. 'No Excuse'?

FRANK

That was a tough situation, but there's no good excuse to murder a baby.

FLORENCE

Yeah? Well, you're a good excuse to murder an ass!

JASON

OK, let's all take a breath and lower the temperature a bit. The question is, at what stage of pregnancy should the government restrict a woman's right to choose an abortion? Anyone else care to weigh in?

CRISTY

Not before twenty-two weeks.

JASON

Sorry?

CRISTY

I said not before twenty-two weeks. Abortion for ANY reason through at least twenty-two weeks, and then MAYBE restrictions. But no restrictions before twenty-two weeks.

JASON

OK, doc. What's special about twenty-two weeks?

CRISTY

(Verse 5)

WE SHOULD START FIRST BY DEFINING
JUST WHAT A PERSON IS
BEFORE WE GO ASSIGNING
RIGHT TO CHOOSE OR RIGHT TO LIVE.

A PERSON IS A BODY AND A MIND
IN A SENTIENT BLEND
WITH A CONSCIOUSNESS AND WILL COMBINED,
AND INTENT TO LIVE AND TRANSCEND.
INTENT TO LIVE AND TRANSCEND.

(Chorus)

WOMEN ARE PEOPLE, THAT'S FOR SURE,
AWARE, DRIVEN, AND MORE.

WHILE WE ALL HAVE AGENCY, INTENT, AND THOUGHT,
A FETUS, QUITE HONESTLY, DOES NOT
THROUGH TWENTY-TWO WEEKS, AND NOT BEFORE.
THROUGH TWENTY-TWO WEEKS.

(Bridge)

MEDICAL SCIENCE HAS SHOWN
BEFORE THE TWENTY-TWO-WEEK MILESTONE,
A FETUS'S BRAIN
CANNOT CONCEIVE PAIN,
AND IT CAN'T SURVIVE ON ITS OWN.

IT ISN'T YET CONSCIOUS OR SELF-AWARE.
IT HAS NO MIND, NO WILL, NO CARE,
NO CONSTRUCT FOR STRIFE,
NO CONCEPT OF LIFE,
NOT A THOUGHT, NOT A WANT TO SHARE.

(Verse 6)

DESPITE PRIMAL INTUITIONS
THAT DRIVE FOLKS TO VIEW
ABORTION AS A CRUEL DECISION
TO REJECT AND MAKE TABOO,

FOR SCIENCE AND FOR FREEDOM'S SAKE,
LET WOMEN DECIDE WHAT TO DO,
A CHOICE THAT MUST BE OURS TO MAKE
UNRESTRICTED THROUGH WEEK TWENTY-TWO.
UNRESTRICTED THROUGH WEEK TWENTY-TWO.

(Chorus)

WOMEN ARE PEOPLE TOO.
WE MUST PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE.
TO HAVE AN ABORTION WITHOUT RESTRICTION
THROUGH TWENTY-TWO WEEKS OF GESTATION,
THEN REQUIRE A GOOD EXCUSE.

JASON

Ok, Cristy. Since you're the only doctor on the panel, AND
you're a woman, I'll let that be the last word on this topic.

Let's move to LGBTQ rights. Last year the Supreme Court made gay
marriage legal in all fifty states. Thoughts on that?

Eric?

ERIC

I think that's messed up. The Supreme Court can't force us to accept gays and lesbians getting married. God intended marriage to be between a man and a woman. I mean, just look at our body parts and how they fit together. It's obvious.

JASON

(to camera)

Ooo, I should let this one go... ..but I can't help myself.

(to Eric)

So uh, can you expound on that last point a little bit?

ERIC

What, body parts fitting together?

JASON

That's the one, yes.

ERIC

Aw c'mon you know. Men are born with like a willy, you know, your junk, bratwurst, meatstick? And then women are born with like a vajayjay, you know, a love box, hot pocket, baloney flaps, pink taco, whatever. So, like a man and a woman, that's a meatstick slidin' into a pink taco, touchdown! That's how it's supposed to be.

But then you got deviant people who wanna be different. For example, let's say you got two homos. They got two meatsticks with nowhere to put 'em except some unnatural places - ya know what I mean?

If you got two lesbos, they got two pink tacos with nothing to put in 'em. Either they gotta smash their tacos together or buy like a fake meatstick to make it work.

Then you got your bis. They like everything - meat sticks, pink tacos, whatever - doesn't matter, they're ready to party.

Then you got your dude trannies who were born with like a meat stick and a daddy bag but don't want 'em. They want to trade 'em in for a man-made pink taco and a fake pair of milk sacks.

Then you got your chick trannies who were born with like a pink taco and two milk sacks but want to trade 'em in for a meatstick and a daddy bag..

(JASON interrupts)

JASON

OK, let's call it there. We get the picture. Thank-you Eric for that unique stream of consciousness. You ever consider becoming a philosopher?

ERIC

Uh, no.

JASON

Good answer!

Anyone want to respond? Elaine.

ELAINE

(to Eric)

First of all, it's not homos, lesbos, and trannies. It's gay, lesbian, and transgender.

ERIC

Hey, if the strap-on fits - wear it.

ELAINE

Second of all, everyone has a right to identify themselves as whatever gender they feel comfortable being. And everyone should love and marry whoever they want.

Third, I'm bisexual, but the only deviant out here is you. Nobody else is walking around with a gun like some fake wannabe soldier who is too chicken-shit to be around people in broad daylight without a weapon. And until you GROW a meatstick, you will never get within ten feet of anybody's pink taco. Stupid.

ERIC

(pointing at Elaine)

Hey, don't call me stupid, freak!

(JASON retrieves a whistle from his pocket, blows it sharply, takes the pocket square from his jacket and throws it in the air like a football referee's penalty flag.)

JASON

(mimicking a football ref announcing a penalty call, including echo and hand gestures)

Personal foul-foul, calling a panelist stupid-stupid, number one, Blue-Blue. Personal foul-foul, calling a panelist freak-freak, number ten, Red-Red. Penalties offset, fourth down-down.

(in his normal voice)

OK, let's stop the personal attacks and keep the discussion civil. Anyone else want to comment on LGBTQ rights?

FRANK

I have something to say.

JASON

Rush, I mean Frank has something to say - I'm shocked. Go ahead.

FRANK

This all boils down to whether or not your sex, your gender, and your sexual orientation align according to God's natural order, OR if people are free to change any or all these three things based on how they feel on any given day.

(FRANK stands up - **6. Not Enough.**)

6-Not Enough

(Verse 1)

FRANK

YOU'RE BORN EITHER A GIRL OR BOY,
JUST AS THE LORD ENDOWED.
NO DO OVERS, BUYER'S REMORSE,
NO EXCHANGES ALLOWED.
GENDER'S NOT FLUID, IT'S SET AT BIRTH
AND IT REFLECTS YOUR SEX.
BOYS MUST BE BOYS, AND GIRLS THEY MUST BE GIRLS
JUST AS THE LORD EXPECTS.

BOYS WEAR PANTS, PLAY VIOLENT GAMES,
AND HANG OUT WITH THEIR CREW,
WHILE GIRLS WEAR SKIRTS, PLAY DOLLS, BAKE CAKES,
AND DO WHATEVER ELSE GIRLS DO.
BOYS DATE GIRLS WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT,
GET MARRIED, HAVE KIDS, AND THRIVE,
A FAMILY UNIT LED BY A MAN AND HIS WIFE,
KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE.

(Chorus 1)

FRANK

THAT'S GOD'S PLAN,
HE KNOWS WHAT'S BEST,
BUT THEY WANT THE OPTION TO CHANGE THEIR SEX.
THEY WANT THE FREEDOM TO BE CROSS-DRESSED.
THEY WANT THE RIGHT TO GO MARRY SAME SEX,
BUT THAT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH.
(RIGHT) BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

THEY WANT TRANS WOMEN TO GO COMPETE
AGAINST NATURAL BORN WOMEN ATHLETES.
SO FORMER MEN, WITH THEIR JACKED PHYSIQUES
CAN GO GLOAT OVER ALL THE WOMEN THEY BEAT.
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

THEY WANT TO PUSH FOR LAWS TO DECREE
THAT ANYONE CAN BE A HE OR A SHE,
AND ALL THE GOOD GOD-FEARING PEOPLE LIKE ME
MUST ACCEPT THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE.

BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

(FLORENCE: THAT'S RIGHT, NOT ENOUGH)
IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR THEM.
(FLORENCE: IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR US)

(Verse 2)

FLORENCE

FIRST OFF, ALL THESE SELF-RIGHTEOUS BIGOTS
DON'T KNOW GOD, DON'T KNOW GOD'S PLAN
THEY BLOVIATE AND BULLSHIT ABOUT
THINGS THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND
THEY TRY TO DICTATE THE RULES OF LOVE
SAY WHO, WHAT, HOW, AND WHEN.
THEY THINK THAT FREEDOM ONLY MEANS FREEDOM
FOR THE PEOPLE JUST LIKE THEM.

ELAINE

SEXUAL EXPRESSION AND GENDER ROLES
ARE NOT ONE SIZE FITS ALL
WHAT MIX IS DEEMED ACCEPTABLE
CAN NEVER BE THEIR CALL
EACH ONE OF US HAS THE RIGHT TO DEFINE
WHO WE ARE MEANT TO BE
WHO, WHAT, WHERE, AND WHEN, AND HOW TO LOVE,
THIS IS OUR OWN DESTINY.

(Chorus 2)

FLORENCE

THAT'S OUR PLAN,
AND WE KNOW WHAT'S BEST.
WE ALL DESERVE THE BASIC RESPECT
AND FREEDOM TO EMBRACE AND EXPRESS
OUR CHOICES OF PARTNER, GENDER AND DRESS,
BUT THAT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH.
(LEFT: THAT'S NOT ENOUGH)

ELAINE

WE'LL PUSH HARD FOR LAWS THAT DECREE
THAT WHETHER YOU'RE L, G, B OR T,
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE, TO BE FREE,
AND TO BE WHO YOU WANT TO BE.
(COMPANY: BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH)

FLORENCE

WE WANT EVERY WOMAN TO BE FREE,
WHETHER TRANS OR CIS-GENDER LIKE ME
TO PARTICIPATE AND TO COMPETE
SIMPLY AS A WOMAN ATHLETE.

(RIGHT: BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.)
(LEFT: THAT'S RIGHT, NOT ENOUGH.)
(RIGHT: IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR THEM.)
(LEFT: IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR US.)

JASON

Thank you, professor. Anyone from the center? Clayton.

(Verse 3)

CLAYTON

FOR TRANS GIRLS PLAYING WOMEN'S SPORTS
THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE, WE SHOULDN'T CARE.
THEN PUBERTY STARTS TO STACK THE DECK.
THAT'S WHEN THE GAME STARTS TO GET UNFAIR.

TRANS WOMEN GET A GENETIC EDGE
IN SPORTS, THIS MEANS A LOT.
THEY GROW TO BE STRONG, AND FAST IN WAYS
CISGENDER WOMEN JUST DO NOT.

OUTSIDE THIS TINY EXCEPTION,
IN EACH AND EVERY WAY,
LGB AND T AND Q SHOULD BE FREE
TO LIVE AND LOVE AS THEY MAY
AND IF WE STRAIGHT FOLKS HAVE A PROBLEM
WITH LGBTQ AFFAIRS,
THE CHANGE REQUIRED TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT
IS OURS TO MAKE, NOT THEIRS.

(Chorus 3)

CLAYTON

THAT'S MY PLAN,
MY OWN WILD GUESS.

WE ALL DESERVE THE BASIC RESPECT
AND FREEDOM TO EMBRACE AND EXPRESS
OUR CHOICES FOR SEX GENDER AND DRESS
AND THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
(CENTER) SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY
WITH GREAT PRIDE AND IN THE LIGHT OF DAY,
WITHOUT SHAME OR SCORN OR PRICE TO PAY,
I AM WHO I AM, AND THAT'S OK.
(CENTER) SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

NOT ENOUGH TODAY, 'CAUSE WE'RE STILL HERE
FIGHTING THROUGH OUR BIGOTRY AND FEAR.
(CENTER) SHOULD BE ENOUGH
BUT ENOUGH IS AHEAD, AND IT'S NEAR.
NOT ENOUGH NOW, BUT SOON, THAT'S CLEAR.

(FRANK) BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.
(FLORENCE) THAT'S RIGHT, NOT ENOUGH.
(RIGHT) IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR THEM.
(LEFT) IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR US.

JASON

(To camera)

Well, there you have it on LBGTQ rights. That will do it for us here today. See you again at the polls in twenty-eighteen.

STAN

And cut!

(PANELISTS leave their seats, get drinks, and mingle in the background in three huddles. Huddle 1 - Elaine, Florence, and Clara. Huddle 2 - Lamar, Clayton, and Cristy. Huddle 3 - Craig, Rachel, and Frank. ERIC wanders around and tries unsuccessfully to get into Huddle 3, then Huddle 2. As HE approaches Huddle 1, all three women turn and glare at him. HE does an about face and heads in the other direction.

(JASON and STAN huddle at front center stage. Jason has drink in hand.)

JASON

That went well, don't cha think?

STAN

No. I think it was too rowdy.

JASON

Too rowdy? Are you kidding me? That was perfect.

(takes a drink)

STAN

No. Too rowdy. And the football referee schtick with the whistle and the flag? Seriously?

JASON

How epic was that, huh? I knew those two would get into it, and sure enough boom! - like it was scripted.

(takes a drink)

So, how'd we do?

(STAN glares at Jason, shakes his head, and checks his cell phone)

STAN

Gimme a minute...

...Whoa. Six-hundred-twenty-seven thousand viewers.

JASON

Yes! Stan, my man! Don't want to say I told you so, but... ..I told you so. Right? C'mon, up top.

(Jason holds his hand up for a high five. Stan reluctantly obliges.)

That's what I'm talkin' about. Next time, more schtick, more booze, and we'll top a million. You with me or what?

(Stan shakes his head and walks away)

JASON

No, wait. Stan, hear me out.. Whatever.

(JASON walks back to mingle with the panelists. Clara gives him a big playful hug.)

(Stage goes dark. Curtain Falls.)

ACT ONE

Scene Three

COURTYARD OUTSIDE A POLLING STATION. ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 2018. LATE AFTERNOON.

Panelists are putting away their drinks and settling into director's chairs. Jason takes a final long swig from his cup before setting it down. He takes his position center stage.

STAN

Quiet on set! And five, four, three, two.

JASON

(to camera)

Goood afternoon, I'm Jason Proctor outside Polling Station Seven in Wexler County. It's Tuesday, November sixth, election day twenty-eighteen, and we have a focus group of the same ten voters we met here back in twenty-sixteen. On the left-leaning Blue Team we have Elaine, Florence, and Lamar. On the purple team in the middle, we have Clara, Clayton, Cristy, and Craig. And on the right-leaning Red Team we have Rachel, Frank, and Eric.

Eric, the meatstick man. How ya doing today?

ERIC

Trump is president - I'm doing great!

JASON

Glad to hear it.

Anyhooo. Thank you all for coming out to vote and giving us some of your time. Since our last conversation two years ago, a lot has happened on the political scene. The Trump administration has made significant policy shifts on immigration, climate change, taxation, and gun control, so we have a lot to discuss.

Let's start with immigration. President Trump campaigned on the promise to build a wall on our southern border that the Mexicans will pay for. He attempted to restrict citizens from majority Muslim countries from traveling to the US. To deter illegal

immigrants through our southern border, he has implemented a policy of separating families who entered the US unlawfully. The parents and children of these families are placed in separate detention centers with no clear process for reunification. He questioned why we allow so many immigrants from what he called 'shithole countries' like Haiti and African nations rather than places like, say, Norway.

So, first question for the panel is, how is President Trump doing on immigration so far? Eric.

ERIC

I think he's doing a great job.

JASON

So, you support separating families and putting kids in cages?

ERIC

Hell yeah. You gotta have a deterrence to keep illegals from coming into the country. You gotta stop the flow. Plus, those families are not suffering that bad, and it was Obama who built those cages in the first place.

JASON

OK, so you're for whatever it takes to stop the flow of illegal immigration from the southern border. How about LEGAL immigration?

ERIC

You gotta stop that flow too. We got over three-hundred-million Americans in this country already. We don't need any more.

JASON

When you say STOP the flow of LEGAL immigration do you mean stop it completely?

ERIC

Yeah, completely. We gotta take care of our own first.

ELAINE

That's stupid.

ERIC

Hey! That's the second time you called me stupid. Don't make it a third.

ELAINE

Or what? Boy, please.

JASON

OK, Eric says stop the flow. Elaine says maximize the flow. Cristy, as the daughter of an immigrant mother, what's your opinion on legal immigration?

CRISTY

I think legal immigration is critical to the health of this country. If people like my mother or Clara's mother didn't come here, my hospital would have one less doctor and Clara's manufacturing plant would have one less supervisor.

But the larger point is this. Unless you're Native American, you're a descendant of immigrants. So, without immigration throughout the history of this country you'd have ten empty chairs in here..

(pointing to Eric)

...including chair ten over there.

ERIC

Hey, history or not, they got seven billion people trying to come to this country. Right now, we're full. We can't afford to let anybody else in.

CLAYTON

No, we actually need the flow of legal immigrants to stay at current levels to sustain our economy. We should keep the flow where it is - right around a million people a year.

JASON

OK, Clayton says keep the legal flow where it is. Anyone else?

RACHEL

Did he say we need a MILLION legal immigrants a year?

JASON

He did indeed. Do you have an issue with that number?

RACHEL

Well, yes. That number seems awfully high to me. If you already got millions of illegal immigrants in the country, plus thousands more illegals coming in everyday, then you add a million more legal immigrants every year, at some point, you're gonna have more immigrants in the country than natural-born Americans.

JASON

Uum, I don't think that's mathematically possible, but let's roll with the thought. More immigrants than natural-born Americans..that would be terrible because..?

(RACHEL stands - **7. The Flow.**)

7-The Flow

(Verse 1)

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW
POURING THROUGH THE SOUTHERN BORDER
BY THE THOUSANDS THEY'RE DESTROYING OUR LAW AND ORDER.

FRANK

SLOW THE FLOW.
BRINGING DRUGS AND PROBLEMS,
THEN THEY CRY AND EXPECT US TO SOLVE 'EM.

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW.

FRANK

THEY COME HERE AND THEY GO ON WELFARE
FORCING US TO FUND THEIR HOUSING AND PAY FOR HEALTHCARE.

ERIC

STOP THE FLOW.
CHEAPER LABOR WILL SUPPRESS OUR WAGES.
ENOUGH! PUT THEIR CHILDREN IN CAGES.

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW.
INDIAN AND ASIAN FACES
TAKING OVER ALL OF THE
TECH JOBS AND COLLEGE
SPACES

FRANK

SLOW THE FLOW
LATINOS WITH THEIR AWFUL
HABITS
NO ENGLISH AND THEY
BREED LIKE RABBITS

ERIC

STOP THE FLOW
OF AFRICANS, AND HAITIANS
FROM SHITHOLE COUNTRIES AND THIRD WORLD NATIONS

(Right chorus)

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW - THEY'RE FLOODING IN DROVES THROUGH THE
GATE.

FRANK

SLOW THE FLOW - OR THE PROBLEM WILL GROW.

ERIC

STOP THE FLOW - BUILD THE WALL BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

RACHEL/FRANK/ERIC

IT'S THE FLOW, SLOW THE FLOW, STOP THE FLOW.

(Verse 2)

LAMAR

IT'S THE FLOW
THAT BUILT THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF OURS.
ENHANCING ITS CULTURE, WEALTH, AND POWERS.

FLORENCE

SPEED THE FLOW-
BRINGING THOSE WHO ARE WILLING
TO STAFF ALL OF THE JOBS THAT NEED FILLING.

LAMAR

IT'S THE FLOW-

FLORENCE

IMMIGRANTS WHO BUILT THIS NATION
WHO WORK HARD AND THEN FLY HIGH ABOVE THEIR STATIONS

ELAINE

MAX THE FLOW-
THEY'LL BRING MORE OF THEIR ENERGY AND ZEAL
INSTEAD OF JUST GUNS, GERMS, AND STEEL.

LAMAR

IT'S THE FLOW
OF IMMIGRANTS THAT MAKE
US STRONGER.
THEY PAY TAXES, WORK
HARDER AND EVEN LONGER.

FLORENCE

SPEED THE FLOW-
THEY DON'T NEED CHARITY
OR FAVORS,
FINE CITIZENS AND GOOD
NEIGHBORS.

ELAINE

MAX THE FLOW-
BRING THE TIRED THE POOR AND HUDDLED MASSES,
AS WELL AS THE RICH UPPER CLASSES.

(Left Chorus)

LAMAR

IT'S THE FLOW - A PLUS SO OPEN THE DOOR.

FLORENCE

SPEED THE FLOW - SO WE PROSPER AND GROW.

ELAINE

MAX THE FLOW - THEY NEED US, BUT WE NEED THEM MORE.

LAMAR/FLORENCE/ELAINE

IT'S THE FLOW, SPEED THE FLOW, MAX THE FLOW.

(Bridge)

CLARA

IF YOU GO BACK FAR ENOUGH IN EVERY FAMILY TREE
YOU WOULD SEE
THROUGH DESIRE, FATE, DESPERATION, OR FEAR,
OUR ANCESTORS FLOWED TO THESE SHORES EVERY YEAR.

CRISTY

WE DESCEND FROM CENTURIES OF FOLKS FROM EVERYWHERE
ACROSS THE WORLD
WE ARE ALL A PART OF THE FLOW THAT CREATED SOMETHING GREAT.

CLAYTON

BUT HOW MUCH FLOW DO WE NEED TO ENSURE
OUR TOMORROWS WILL BE JUST AS BRIGHT?
TODAY IT'S A MILLION A YEAR.
THAT NUMBER IS JUST ABOUT RIGHT.

(Verse 3)

CLARA

IT'S THE FLOW-
A MILLION VIBRANT SOULS COMING YEARLY.
A MILLION HOPES AND DREAMS THAT THEY HOLD SO DEARLY.

CLAYTON

KEEP THE FLOW-
A MILLION NEW PAIRS OF HANDS TO START ROWING
TO PROPEL THIS BOAT THAT KEEPS GROWING.

CRISTY

IT'S THE FLOW-
A MILLION PEOPLE WAITING AT THE GATE
THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BE LEAVING IT UP TO FATE

CRAIG

IN CONTROL-
LEGAL ENTRY IS THE ONLY WAY,
AND LEGAL PATHWAYS IF YOU'RE GONNA STAY.

(Center Chorus)

CLAYTON

IT'S THE FLOW - ESSENTIAL JUST DO THE MATH.

CRISTY

KEEP THE FLOW - AT ONE MILLION OR SO.

CRAIG

IN CONTROL - LEGAL ENTRY, THE ONLY PATH.

CLARA/CLAYTON/CRISTY/CRAIG

IT'S THE FLOW, KEEP THE FLOW, IN CONTROL.

(Right Chorus)

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW - THEY'RE FLOODING IN DROVES THROUGH THE
GATE.

FRANK

SLOW THE FLOW - OR THE PROBLEM WILL GROW.

ERIC

STOP THE FLOW - BUILD THE WALL BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

RACHEL/FRANK/ERIC

IT'S THE FLOW, SLOW THE FLOW, STOP THE FLOW.

(Left Chorus)

LAMAR

IT'S THE FLOW - THEY'RE A PLUS SO OPEN THE DOOR.

FLORENCE

SPEED THE FLOW - SO WE PROSPER AND GROW.

ELAINE

MAX THE FLOW - THEY NEED US BUT WE NEED THEM MORE.

LAMAR/FLORENCE/ELAINE

IT'S THE FLOW, SPEED THE FLOW, MAX THE FLOW.

(Finale)

RACHEL/FRANK/ERIC

IT'S THE FLOW, SLOW THE FLOW, STOP THE FLOW!

LAMAR/FLORENCE/ELAINE

IT'S THE FLOW, SPEED THE FLOW, MAX THE FLOW.

CLARA/CLAYTON/CRISTY/CRAIG

IT'S THE FLOW, KEEP THE FLOW, IN CONTROL!

JASON

OK, let's change... THE FLOW... of the conversation and talk gun control. How's that for a segue, huh? Pretty darn clever if you ask me.

Anyhoo, every year there are about forty-thousand gun deaths in the US. We have twenty times the gun homicide rate of the European Union, and seven times more guns per capita. In the past few years high profile mass shootings have intensified the debate about proposed solutions to gun violence. The question is, which, if any, of these gun control measures should we enact. Let's start over here with the meatstick man, Eric.

(pointing to assault rifle hanging on his shoulder)

Hey! It looks like you've added something to your arsenal since the last time you were with us. You had just the pistol before. What's this?

ERIC

Yep. This is my new AR-Fifteen. It's got a custom buttstock, custom pistol grip, custom handguard, and a red-dot sight. Pretty sick, right?

JASON

Pretty sick, YES, good description, let's go with that. So, the handgun alone was not enough for this election?

ERIC

Hey, you can never be too prepared, right?

JASON

Apparently not. Anyway, your thoughts on gun control?

ERIC

Second Amendment.

JASON

OK. Can you expand on that?

ERIC

Sure. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall NOT be infringed.

JASON

Ok, that IS the second amendment. Thanks for the recitation.

Let's try this. The supreme court says the right to bear arms does NOT prevent the government from regulating gun ownership. Do you support any gun regulations, like universal background checks?

ERIC

Nope.

JASON

Red flag laws? Raising the minimum age to buy a firearm to twenty-one?

ERIC

Nope and nope.

JASON

Ban on assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, armor piercing bullets, silencers?

ERIC

Nope, nope, nope, and nope.

JASON

How about common-sense gun exclusion zones like schools and government buildings? Licensing requirements to carry firearms, national gun registry?

ERIC

Nope, nope, and HELL no on the registry.

JASON

Should there be ANY restrictions at all on the type of firearms available, who can carry them, and where?

ERIC

The right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall NOT be infringed.

JASON

Should everyone be able to buy a fully automatic machine gun?

ERIC

The right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall NOT be infringed.

JASON

How about a rocket launcher?

ERIC

Shall NOT be infringed.

(CRAIG raises his hand and interrupts)

CRAIG

(to Eric)

OK, I think we get the picture. How about carrying the rocket launcher into a courthouse or a pre-school?

ERIC

Shall NOT be infringed.

CRAIG

Thought so. Ok, so, I support the Second Amendment too, but you can't have every Tom, Dick, and Eric walking around with bazookas and unlimited access to all public spaces. That's a recipe for anarchy.

ELAINE

No, that's a recipe for stupid.

(ERIC leaps out of his seat, and points at Elaine)

ERIC

Hey, I told you about calling me stupid, didn't I?!

(ELAINE stands with hands on hips)

ELAINE

And what you gonna do? Nobody's scared of you.

(ERIC starts to walk toward Elaine. CRAIG moves to stand in front of Eric and blocks his path.)

CRAIG

Hold on there. I think you need to take a breath and have a seat.

(ERIC stops then walks backward to his seat while glaring at Elaine. HE points at her again.)

ERIC

You keep it up.

ELAINE

You need to sit down...

...stupid.

ERIC

(pounds arm of his chair)

God damit! You just don't know!

(JASON smiles broadly and retrieves a whistle from his pocket, blows it sharply, takes an actual football penalty flag from his jacket and throws it in the air.)

JASON

(mimicking a football ref)

Personal foul-foul, calling a panelist stupid-stupid, chair number one, Blue-Blue.

Personal foul-foul, threatening behavior, requiring law enforcement intervention-vention, chair number ten, Red-Red.

Penalties offset, fourth down-down.

(in his normal voice)

OK, kids, if you can't play nice, we'll have to send you to your rooms.

The question is, which, if any, of the proposed gun control measures should we enact. Eric's answer is none. Anyone else?

(ELAINE raises her hand.)

Elaine, be nice.

ELAINE

This is madness.

JASON

I'm sorry what?

ELAINE

This is madness.

JASON

What is madness?

ELAINE

This debate. This conversation is madness.

(ELAINE stands. **8. Madness.**)

8-Madness

(Verse 1)

ELAINE

WHAT DO YOU CALL THE SLAUGHTER OF BABIES
BY GUN TOTING MASS-MURDERING CRAZIES-
VIRGINIA TECH AND COLUMBINE, THEN
SANDY HOOK, PARKLAND, AGAIN AND AGAIN?

ALL LEFT + CLARA

MADNESS!

FLORENCE

WHAT DO YOU CALL THE FACT THAT GUNFIRE RINGS
IN A BAPTIST CHURCH OUT IN SUTHERLAND SPRINGS-
A NIGHTCLUB IN ORLANDO ON ORANGE AVENUE,
AND A CONCERT ON THE STRIP IN LAS VEGAS TOO?

ALL LEFT + CLARA

MADNESS!

(Verse 2)

LAMAR

WHAT DO YOU CALL A HUNDRED DEATHS A DAY
FROM THESE BULLETS CAUSING FLESH TO RIP AND BLOOD TO SPRAY-
STAINING MEAN STREETS, SAD HOMES, AND CHURCH HOUSE WALLS
SPREADING PANIC AND PAIN IN SCHOOLHOUSE HALLS?

ALL LEFT + CLARA

MADNESS!

(Verse 4)

CLARA

WHAT DO YOU CALL THE FLOOD OF GRIEVOUS HARMS
FLOWING FORTH FROM FOUR HUNDRED MILLION ARMS
IN THE HANDS OF THUGS, ABUSERS, AND VENGEFUL TEENS
AND MONSTERS WITH HATE-FILLED, MURDEROUS SCHEMES?

(Left Chorus)

ALL LEFT + CLARA

WE KEEP DISAVOWING IT

WHILE THOUSANDS KEEP ON DYING.
WE KEEP ON ALLOWING IT
AND MOTHERS KEEP ON CRYING.

FLORENCE

WE KNOW WE SHOULD STOP IT.
BUT WHAT'S SO DAMNED ABSURD,
THE GUN DEALERS' PROFITS
ALWAYS GET THE LAST WORD.

(Verse 5)

FRANK

WHAT DO YOU CALL THE HYSTERICAL CLAIM
THAT GUNS, NOT PEOPLE, SHOULD BEAR THE BLAME,
NOT THE THUGS, OR THE NUT JOBS, THE LOSERS, OR THE FOOLS.
YOU THINK THEY'RE GONNA LISTEN TO YOUR HALF-BAKED RULES?

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

FRANK

WHAT DO YOU CALL YOUR FAILURE TO SEE
THAT FORCING ALL YOUR DAMNED GUN RESTRICTIONS ON ME
WON'T SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT YOU'RE POINTING OUT
OR REDUCE THE VIOLENCE THAT YOU'RE WHINING ABOUT?

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

(Verse 4)

ERIC

HALF OF ALL GUN DEATHS ARE SUICIDAL ACTS
AND HALF OF THE REST, I'M HERE TO ATTEST,
ARE JUST BLACKS KILLING BLACKS-
GUNS PASSING FROM ONE THUG TO THE NEXT.
DO THOSE PEOPLE CARE ABOUT BACKGROUND CHECKS?

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

ERIC

YOU FIXATE ON ASSAULT WEAPONS BANS.

INSTEAD, PUSH FOR BETTER MENTAL HEALTH PLANS,
MORE COPS, MORE JAILS, LONGER SENTENCING TIME,
IT'S PEOPLE, NOT GUNS, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRIME.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

(Right Chorus)

FRANK

WE'RE MISDIAGNOSING IT
THOUGH THOUSANDS KEEP ON DYING.
WE'RE OVEREXPOSING IT
AND LEFTIES KEEP ON CRYING.

ERIC

BUT THEY KNOW THEY SHOULD STOP IT
BUT WHAT'S SO DAMNED ABSURD-
ALL THESE FAKE LEFT-WING PROPHETS
SET ON HAVING THE LAST WORD.

(Bridge)

CRAIG

AS A COP I DEAL WITH GUNS ALL THE TIME
AND THE BEST WAY I CAN THINK OF TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AND
CRIME
IS NOT A SINGLE SOLUTION THAT'LL FIT LIKE A GLOVE
IT'S GONNA BE A COMPROMISE THAT INCLUDES ALL OF THE ABOVE.

RIGHT AND LEFT

MADNESS!

CRAIG

WE DEFINITELY NEED A BETTER MENTAL HEALTH PLAN
OF COURSE, HIRE AS MANY COPS AS YOU CAN
AND PLEASE, BLACK PEOPLE, USE YOUR POWER TO STOP BLACK ON
BLACK CRIME,
AND FOR GUN VIOLENCE GIVE PEOPLE MORE JAIL TIME.

LEFT

MADNESS!

CRAIG

I'LL ALWAYS SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

BUT IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT WE BALANCE THE BENEFITS AND THE HARMS.

THIS CLAIM THAT WE CAN'T PUT SIMPLE LIMITS IN PLACE IS JUST UNTRUE AND ABSURD ON ITS FACE.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

CRAIG

FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, NO ONE SHOULD OUTGUN THEIR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT. IF SOMEONE HAS MORE FIREPOWER THAN THE COPS, IT'S A SERIOUS FLAW. IT'S A NIGHTMARE: WE CAN'T FORCE HIM TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

CRAIG

YOU CAN'T HAVE FLAME THROWERS, TANKS OR GRENADES- NO ROCKETS, MORTARS, MACHINE GUNS, OR BAYONET BLADES. NO SILENCERS TO MUFFLE ALL YOUR WEAPON SOUNDS, AND ABSOLUTELY NO EXPLODING OR ARMOR PIERCING ROUNDS.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

CRAIG

NO C-FOUR EXPLOSIVES, CLAYMORES, OR LAND MINES NO ASSAULT STYLE RIFLES OF ANY KIND. WE'VE GOTTA PLACE A TWENTY-ROUND LIMIT ON ALL MAGAZINE CLIPS, AND A BAN ON AMMO FITTED WITH INCENDIARY TIPS.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

CRAIG

GUNS ARE DEADLIER THAN CARS, THAT'S FOR SURE FOR CARS THERE'S TRAINING, PRECAUTIONS AND TESTS TO ENDURE YET WE CAN'T SEEM TO PUT GUN OWNER REGULATIONS IN PLACE TO ENSURE THEY'RE ALL SANE, LAW ABIDING, AND SAFE.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

CRAIG

WE ALL KNOW THAT WE NEED BACKGROUND CHECKS AND PERMITS AND
LICENSED USERS.

A SERIES OF RED FLAG LAWS FOR HOT HEADS AND ABUSERS
THAT WILL ALLOW US TO TAKE AWAY THEIR GUNS,
SAVE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS.

OH, AND INCREASE THE AGE TO OWN TO TWENTY-ONE.

(Chorus)

RACHEL

WE KEEP DISAVOWING IT
WHILE THOUSANDS KEEP ON
DYING.
WE KEEP ON ALLOWING IT
AND MOTHERS KEEP ON
CRYING.

FRANK

WE'RE MISDIAGNOSING IT
THOUGH THOUSANDS KEEP ON
DYING.
WE'RE OVEREXPOSING IT
AND LEFTIES KEEP ON
CRYING.

ALL

MADNESS!

(Eric and Frank are next to Elaine by the end of the
song)

JASON

Well, Frank and Eric, it seems you're outnumbered seven or eight
to two on this one. What do you think about that?

ERIC

(Smiling broadly)

I like them odds. Long as I got the NRA, the Second Amendment,
and this right here (taps rifle), we're gonna be OK.

ELAINE

That's just stupid.

ERIC

(instantly irate, turns to Elaine)

God damit! I told you not to call me that!

(ELAINE walks right up to Eric and leans in so her face is inches from his.)

ELAINE

And I told you I'm not scared of you!

(ELAINE and ERIC glare at one another for a few seconds and Elaine feints a lunge toward Eric. Eric flinches and steps back.)

ELAINE

Yeah, that's what I thought, bitch.

(All other PANELISTS converge to separate Elaine and Eric. LAMAR restrains Elaine and coaxes her away. CRAIG ushers Eric away. FRANK and FLORENCE converge and begin to bicker. CLAYTON steps between them. JASON blows his whistle and throws a penalty flag.)

STAN

Cut! Cut! Cut!

(STAN and JASON converge on the crowd and usher panelists off set. JASON gets a drink. JASON and STAN walk to front of the stage to confer in a huddle.)

STAN

(to Jason)

Hey, that was VERY Jerry Springer-ish. Next time we do this, no more happy hour. We have to temper the discourse - turn it down some.

JASON

Turn it down? Are you kidding me? Stan, my man, this right here is ratings gold. We need to keep turning it up. Check the score.

(takes a drink)

STAN

It's not all about the damned score. There's real danger here.

JASON

I hear you. I got it. Now check the score.

(STAN checks his cell phone.)

JASON

What are we lookin' at? A million? A million one?

STAN

Gimme a second!

(STAN thumbs his cell phone and then his eyes go wide.)

Holy shit. Two point seven million.

JASON

Boom! That's what I'm talkin' about! Up top.

(JASON holds hand up for high five. STAN shakes his head and does not oblige.)

C'mon, not even for two point seven million viewers?

(STAN smiles, shakes his head, and gives Jason high five.)

There we go!

And we're sticking with the happy hour next time, right?

STAN

Absolutely not! You need help.

(STAN walks away.)

JASON

(calling after Stan)

Stan, my man, wait! Hear me out. We gotta keep the happy hour. And we need bigger, better chairs too. Plush leather ones that swivel. And we should make the set look more like a studio.

(Clara walks up to Jason)

CLARA

You know, Stan is right, right? This IS getting kinda crazy, babe.

(JASON smiles broadly. **9. Turn It Up Reprise.**)

9-Turn It Up Reprise

JASON

WE'RE HERE ON ELECTION DAY.
THE CONDITIONS ARE JUST
RIGHT.
WE'VE PREPARED THIS STAGE
IN SUCH A WAY
TO PROMOTE A PARTISAN
FIGHT.

BLUE CHAIRS FOR THE LEFT,
RED FOR THE RIGHT
PURPLE FOR FOLKS IN BETWEEN
SOME FOLKS ARE BRILLIANT,
SOME NOT SO BRIGHT
SOME POLITE, AND SOME
DOWNRIGHT MEAN

SOCIALISTS AND THE SUPER
WOKE
FIGHT NEOCON AND ALT RIGHT
FOLKS
WE'RE GONNA SET OFF
FIREWORKS TONIGHT

CUE THE MUSIC, THE LIGHTS
AND THE VIBES.
BRING THE PASSION, AND HEAT
FROM THE TRIBES.
BRING THE RHYTHMS, THE
BEATS, AND THEN
HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS, MY
FRIENDS
WE'LL TAKE YOU ON THE
RIDE OF YOUR LIVES

CLARA

GOING TRIBAL MAY GET BATTLES
WON
BUT GO TOO FAR IT'S ALL
UNDONE
WHEN RIVALRY TURNS TO HATE
FOR SOME,
ONLY HATE SURVIVES

WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW IS
EVERYONE
WANTS FREEDOM, LOVE, AND
TIME IN THE SUN.
WE'RE ALL JUST HUMAN WHEN
THE DAY IS DONE,
MEMBERS OF A SINGLE TRIBE.

(CLARA and JASON embrace and she looks into his eyes)

CLARA

I sure hope you know what you're doing.

JASON

Don't worry. It's all under control.

(takes another drink)

Curtain Falls.

ACT TWO

Scene One

COURTYARD OUTSIDE POLLING STATION. ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 2020.
LATE AFTERNOON.

JASON, with surgical mask on, stands center stage on set. The set now has a large partition across the back to cordon it off from the rest of the polling station exterior. A large monitor hangs on the partition and displays 'The Proctor Panel with Jason Proctor' and a picture of Jason's face with an open-mouth smile. The panelists settle into their seats - high back leather executive swivel chairs. The chairs are color-coded and arranged in the standard wide arc across the set, but each chair is facing away from the audience, displaying a large number on the back corresponding to its position from 1 to 10. Frank's and Eric's chairs have an extra six feet of separation from the rest. Jason pulls down his mask, takes a long swig from his cup and disposes of it just off stage. JASON pulls his mask back up.

STAN

Quiet on set! And five, four, three, two.

JASON

(to camera)

Goood afternoon, and welcome to the Proctor Panel. I'm Jason Proctor outside Polling Station seven in Wexler County. It's Tuesday, November third, election day twenty-twenty - the final day of voting to determine whether Donald Trump will serve a second term, or if Joe Biden will become the forty-sixth president of these United States.

Let's introduce our panel of ten voters we met here back in twenty-sixteen, and again in twenty-eighteen.

(As each panelist is introduced, his/her picture appears on the giant monitor, he/she is spot-lighted and swivels to face the audience)

In the left-leaning Blue Tribe we have Elaine, an assistant restaurant manager. Florence, a dean at the local university. And Lamar, a DMV customer service supervisor.

In the centrist Purple Tribe we have Clara, a manufacturing manager. Clayton, an engineering supervisor. Cristy, a medical doctor. And Craig, a sergeant with the local police department.

In the right-leaning Red Tribe we have Nana Rachel, retired school bus driver and grandmother. Frank, a conservative podcaster. And Eric, a lead auto service technician. Frank and Eric have refused to wear masks despite the raging pandemic, so we've given them a little more distance on the end there.

Let's get right to it with a quick round robin of who you voted for today and very briefly, why. Let's start with the Purple Team. Clayton?

CLAYTON

I voted for Biden because he's experienced, he's a moderate who will reach across the aisle to work with Republicans, and he'll help bring the country together.

JASON

Ok, Cristy?

CRISTY

I voted for Biden because he believes in science and has plans to deal with Covid and climate change.

JASON

(staring at Cristy's mid-section)

Doctorrrrr? Did you swallow a volleyball or is that a baby bump you're sportin'?

CRISTY

(blushing)

Clayton and I are married and expecting.

JASON

Wait, Clayton, look at you, dude! You married the doctor, got down to business, shot that fade away jumper - swoosh! Nothin' but net! And you put a bun in the oven. Yes! Up top!

(JASON holds up his hand for a high five. CLAYTON smiles broadly and obliges. CRISTY covers her face with both hands and shakes her head.)

JASON

(deadpanning)

OK, Clayton, all joking aside. You're gonna be a father soon. Everyone here knows you've had a substance abuse problem since we met you four years ago. That HAS to change now. Can you commit to yourself, your wife, and your unborn child that you'll stay clean and sober moving forward?

(Clayton laughs and shakes his head)

Clayton? Can you do it for the baby? For the baaaybeeeee!

OK, back to politics. Craig. Who'd you vote for today, and why?

CRAIG

This was another tough one for me, but I voted for Trump again. I still think he's stronger on immigration, the economy, and support for law enforcement.

JASON

Back in twenty-sixteen you said Trump was not a statesman, but you thought he would become one after some time on the job. After four years how do you think he's doing on that front?

CRAIG

As a statesman?

JASON

Yes.

CRAIG

Oh, he sucks as a statesman, but he gets stuff done.

JASON

Fair enough. Clara?

CLARA

I voted for Biden because he supports gun control and women's reproductive rights.

JASON

Alright. That's the relatively positive Purple perspective. Let's see what the partisans have to say. Let's start with Lamar.

LAMAR

I voted for Biden 'cause Trump is a racist gangster.

JASON

Well, if nothing else, you are consistent. Nana Rachel?

RACHEL

I voted for Trump. He's not a racist, and he's not a gangster. He's a strong Christian leader and he cares about all Americans regardless of their race.

JASON

Of course he does. Florence?

FLORENCE

I voted for Biden because Trump IS a racist gangster. He's also a corrupt, self-interested con man, a fascist kleptocrat, a cult leader, and a buffoon. If he wins again, our democracy may never recover.

JASON

Yikes. Frank?

FRANK

I voted for Trump because he's an American patriot who is dismantling the deep state and restoring the country back to greatness. BIDEN is the buffoon. He's an old, senile, life-long politician who has sold his soul to the radical left. He's a slave to identity politics, weak on immigration, and weak on the economy.

(FRANK points to Rachel)

And the only CULT in this equation is the anti-American global elite leftist cult that YOU are in.

FLORENCE

No, the only cult in this equation is the one that goes out in public in the middle of a deadly pandemic without masks! What's wrong with you people?

FRANK

(mockingly cupping his hand behind his ear)

I'm sorry, can you repeat that? You were muffled.

FLORENCE

Really, you think this is funny?

(FLORENCE stands. **10. What's Wrong with You?**)

10-What's Wrong with You (A rap battle)

(Chorus)

FLORENCE

WHAT, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
WHAT, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
WHAT, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
ARE YOU NUTS?

(Verse 1)

FLORENCE

COVID IS REALITY, IT'S NOT A JOKE.
IT'S NOT CONSPIRACY, IT'S NOT A HOAX.
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE INFECTED EVERY DAY,
THOUSANDS MORE ALREADY PASSED AWAY.

YET YOU DON'T WEAR MASKS AT PUBLIC EVENTS,
THEN WONDER IN STUPEFYING SUSPENSE,
WHY YOU'RE DYING IN HURT AND PAIN,
LIKE THE TRAGIC TALE OF HERMAN CAIN.

WHILE PEOPLE ARE DYING, LOVED ONES ARE CRYING.
RESPONDERS ARE TRYING TO DO THEIR VERY BEST.
BUT YOU'RE NON-COMPLYING, CONSTANTLY DENYING
REALITY AT DONALD TRUMP'S BEHEST.

LAMAR, HELP ME OUT CUZ.

(Verse 2)

LAMAR

OH FLO, FOR SHO', YOU GOT TO KNOW
YOUR BOY LAMAR IS RET TO GO.

TRUMP WAS RECKLESS.
MASKS HE REJECTED.
HE GOT SO INFECTED,
THIS FOOL ALMOST DIED.

BUT HE WAS INJECTED
WITH THE BEST DRUGS COLLECTED,
AND JUST AS EXPECTED,
TOOK YOU MAGA FOOLS FOR A RIDE.

FIRST, HE SAID TAKE HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE.
THEN TRIED TO SELL YOU IVERMECTIN.
NEITHER WAS APPROVED BY THE FDA
FOR PEOPLE TO USE IN ANY KIND OF WAY.

FLORENCE

BUT THEN HE WENT FULL BATSHIT CRAY CRAY.
STOOD UP AND TOLD THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD ONE DAY.

LAMAR

(mimicking Donald trump)

INGEST OR INJECT A BLEACH IN SOME WAY
TO JUST DISINFECT THE VIRUS AWAY.
OR, GO INSIDE THE BODY WITH A POWERFUL LIGHT,
TURN IT ON THEN MAKE IT SHINE REAL BRIGHT,
TO KILL ALL THE COVID COOTIES IN SIGHT.

FLORENCE

AND YOU SIT THERE THINKING THIS IS ALL RIGHT?

(Chorus)

FLORENCE

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

LAMAR

WHAT, WHAT?

FLORENCE

DING DONG, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

LAMAR

WHAT, WHAT?

FLORENCE

DING DONG, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

LAMAR

WHAT, WHAT?

FLORENCE

DING DONG. ARE YOU NUTS?

(Verse 3)

FRANK

THE PROBLEM IS YOU SHEEP
TRUST WHAT YOU SEE
FROM DR TONY FAUCI
AT N-I-A-I-D.

PHARMA, FDA, AND CDC
CONSPIRE TO PROFIT FROM THIS DISEASE,
INFLATE THE DEATH TOLLS WEEK AFTER WEEK
AND HYPE ALL THE STATS THAT THEY RELEASE.

FIRST OF ALL, COVID, IS JUST A HOAX.
IT'S LIKE A BAD COLD, A FLU AT THE MOST.
THE CHANCE COVID KILLS YOU IS SO REMOTE,
BUT WEAR A DAMN MASK IF THAT FLOATS YOUR BOAT.

THEY'RE A WASTE OF TIME AS A MATTER OF FACT.
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR THIS VIRAL ATTACK.
UNLESS YOU'RE OLD, UNHEALTHY, OR FAT,
YOU'RE AS GOOD AS GOLD. IT'S SIMPLE AS THAT.

ERIC, HELP ME OUT CUZ.

(Verse 4)

ERIC

OH, FRANK FA SHO, I'M BOUT TA THROW,
DOWN ON THESE CLOWNS, AND IF THEY DON'T KNOW..
THEY BETTER AX SOMEBODY.

AS FOR HYDROXY AND IVERMECTIN,
YOU'RE SO NAÏVE, IF YOU'RE EXPECTIN'
TO LEARN ABOUT CURING THIS INFECTION
FROM BUREAUCRATS AND DAMN POLITICIANS.

THEY'LL NEVER TELL YOU WHAT THE REAL TRUTH IS
ABOUT EFFECTIVE DRUGS AND THEIR USES.
THE DEEP STATE AND PHARMA COLLUSION
JUST MISINFORM AND SOW CONFUSION
TO FEED YOUR LEFT-WING GRAND DELUSION,
BUT WE'RE NOT BUYING THAT DAMN ILLUSION.

(Chorus)

ERIC

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

FRANK

WHAT, WHAT?

ERIC

DING DONG, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

FRANK

WHAT, WHAT?

ERIC

DING DONG, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

FRANK

WHAT, WHAT?

ERIC

DING DONG. ARE YOU NUTS?

(Verse 5)

LAMAR

HOLD UP, HOLD UP.
MISINFORMATION, SOW CONFUSION?
THESE WORDS LEAD TO JUST ONE CONCLUSION.
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE
WITH THE WORDS YOU STATE OUT YOUR MASKLESS FACE.
GIMME A BREAK, YOU'RE FAKE, A BIG DISGRACE.
YOU TAKE THE CAKE WITH A STRAIGHT GASLIGHT UP IN THE PLACE.

ELAINE

YOU LOST YOUR MIND AND NOW YOU'RE PROJECTING
THE CULT BEHAVIOR YOU'RE NOW REFLECTING
FLOWS FROM THE LEADER YOU HERE ELECTING.
LET'S CONNECT DOTS YOU'RE NOT CONNECTING.

LAMAR

TRUMP'S DISHONEST YET YOU ADORE HIM.
THIRTY-THOUSAND LIES TOLD IF NOT MORE, DAMN.
MOST OF HIS STAFF - ROTTEN TO THE CORE AND
THE HONEST FEW, WALKED OUT THE DOOR, MAN.

(Verse 6)

ELAINE

NOW LET'S CHECK TRUMPS OWN CHARACTERISTICS,
STARTING WITH HIS WHITE NATIONALISTIC
TENDENCY TO BE REVERED BY RACISTS,
AND WHAT HE SAYS ON A ROUTINE BASIS.

FLORENCE

LIKE THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CLASH HE DESCRIBED
AS VERY FINE PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES.
HIS RACIST CONNECTIONS CAN'T BE DENIED.
HE TOLD THE PROUD BOYS, STAND BACK, STAND BY.

ELAINE

NOW LET'S START LISTING THIS MAN'S CORRUPTION.

FLORENCE

FIFTY YEARS GRIFTING, NO INTERRUPTION,

ELAINE

STIFFING CONTRACTORS ON CONSTRUCTION,
SHAFTING INVESTORS AT HIS INSTRUCTION.
PAST SIX YEARS THE SCAMMING CONTINUED,

FLORENCE

SAME OLD CON MAN, DIFFERENT VENUE,

ELAINE

BRAND NEW ITEMS ON THE SCAM MENU,
MILLIONS SCAMMED AND MILLIONS SPENT TOO.

FLORENCE

FUNDRAISERS THAT THE FAT CATS WENT TO.
DONATIONS HIS CULT MEMBERS SENT THROUGH,

ELAINE

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS HIJACKED AND SENT TO
TRUMP PROPERTIES THE CASH FLOWED INTO.

FLORENCE

TRUMP LOVES AUTOCRATS, 'CAUSE THEY HELP HIM
WIN ELECTIONS, AND CHIPS TO CASH IN.

ELAINE

LIKE RUSSIA'S PUTIN, NORTH KOREA'S KIM,
SAUDI'S CROWN PRINCE, CHINA'S XI PING.

FLORENCE

ALL HAVE THE POWER TO BENEFIT HIM.
MORE SO THAN ALL THE LEADERS WITHIN
LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES WITH THE VALUES
TRUMP DESPISES BUT WE'RE SO USED TO.

ELAINE

LIKE FAIR ELECTIONS, AND A FREE PRESS,
THE CONSTITUTION, KEEPING POWER IN CHECK.
NO ONE BACKING ILLEGAL HACKING
OF EMAIL SERVERS AND SHIT LIKE THAT.

FLORENCE

AND NO ONE BACKING ILLEGAL HACKING
OF RENOWNED JOURNALISTS LIKE THAT.

ELAINE AND FLORENCE

JAMAL KHASHOGGI,
REST IN PEACE LIKE THAT.

ELAINE

TRUMP MADE DECISIONS ONLY GUIDED
BY THE BENEFITS THEY PROVIDED
FOR HIM AND HIS OWN PERSONAL GAIN.
HE LEFT AN INTERNATIONAL STAIN
ON THE REPUTATION U.S. MAINTAINED
FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE HE CAME

TO SHAME THE COUNTRY AND ITS GOOD NAME.
SO, WE IMPEACHED HIS ASS ALL THE SAME.
SINCE YOU ELECTED HIM, YOU'RE TO BLAME
AND YOU'RE STILL VOTING FOR HIM AGAIN?

(Chorus)

ELAINE

WHAT'S WRONG WIT CHA?

FLORENCE

WHAT, WHAT?

ELAINE

DING DONG, WHAT'S WRONG WIT CHA

FLORENCE

WHAT, WHAT?

ELAINE

DING DONG, WHAT'S WRONG WIT CHA?

FLORENCE

WHAT, WHAT?

ELAINE

DING DONG. ARE YOU NUTS?

(Verse 8)

ERIC

NOPE!

THAT WAS A LONG ASS DISSERTATION
ON YOUR STEADFAST CONSTERNATION,
ON TRUMP'S CORRUPTION, THIS AND THAT,
ON HIS DISRUPTION, YICKITY YAK.

MOST OF THAT WAS JUST FAKE-ASS NEWS,
WHINY DISHONEST LIBTARD BLUES.
BUT EVEN IF EVERY BIT WAS TRUE,
WE LOVE TRUMP 'CAUSE WE DON'T LIKE YOU!

TRUMP IS ALL WE WANT HIM TO BE.
HE'S THAT GREAT BIG UGLY FIST THAT WE
CHOOSE TO USE ON A DAILY BASIS
TO PUNCH YOU IN YOUR SMUG-ASS FACES.

THEN WE SIT BACK AND WATCH YOU CRYIN',
ALL THE WHILE LAUGHING 'TIL WE'RE DYIN'.
TRUMP'S MY FRUSTRATION, I AIN'T LYING.
TRUMP'S MY HATRED, THERE'S NO DENYING.

TRUMP'S MY EMOTION MANIFESTED.
THE ONLY LEADER INTERESTED
IN HOW I FEEL, SO I'M INVESTED
IN TRUMP FOR LIFE. MY CASE IS RESTED.

(Chorus)

ERIC

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

FRANK

WHAT, WHAT?

ERIC

DING DONG, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

FRANK

WHAT, WHAT?

ERIC

DING DONG, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

FRANK

WHAT, WHAT?

ERIC

DING DONG, ARE YOU NUTS?

JASON

Well, OK! Let's bring the energy down just a little bit with this next relatively uncontroversial topic - police reform!

The killing of George Floyd six months ago, was followed by nationwide protests against police brutality, the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement, and calls for police reform, some going as far as saying we need to defund the police.

So, let's start there. By show of hands, who thinks defunding the police is a good idea?

(ELAINE and FLORENCE raise their hands)

Ok, just the two of you. Elaine, when you say defund the police, do you mean defund them completely?

ELAINE

Yes. All that money we spend on police can pay for better schools and help poor people.

JASON

OK, and who will respond to traffic accidents, burglaries, civil unrest, and homicides?

ELAINE

Well, you don't need cops for traffic accidents, you need the fire department or EMS. And if you put more money into the community, you get less crime.

JASON

Elaine, I hear the words coming out of your mouth, but once again, I have no words of my own to respond. Florence, do you think police should be completely defunded?

FLORENCE

I don't. I'm for partial defunding though. There will always be a need for SOME policing, but right now we spend way too much on it. We should reallocate a lot of the police budget to social services.

JASON

Okay, anyone else want to comment?

(FRANK raises his hand)

Frank. Go ahead.

FRANK

The whole defund the police thing is just dumb.

(points to Florence and Elaine)

If those two want most or all the police in their neighborhoods to be replaced by teachers and social workers, good luck to 'em walking to their cars at night.

JASON

Okay, no surprise there. Anyone from the Purple team on defunding the police? Clayton.

CLAYTON

I'd say defunding the police is an ill-conceived slogan and a bad idea.

JASON

You and me both. Ooo, did I just say that out loud? Bad host!

Moving on, let's talk about LESS RADICAL police reform. In light of all the high-profile police killings of unarmed black men and

women over the past few years, is police reform desperately needed, or a non-issue? Who wants to start? Lamar.

LAMAR

Every couple of months we see a new video of cops killing black people for no good reason. Eric Garner, Michael Brown, LaQuan McDonald, Walter Scott, George Floyd. It's like open season out here for black men. I think we need police reform bad.

(FRANK raises his hand)

JASON

Frank, go ahead.

FRANK

This whole police reform thing is manufactured hysteria. Police arrest THOUSANDS of people every day without incident. The few times things get out of hand because some knucklehead resists arrest and gets himself killed, the lamestream media runs the video on a loop for two weeks straight. This fools everybody into thinking this stuff happens every day. It doesn't.

And by the way, they only show footage of BLACK knuckleheads getting killed. There are a whole bunch of WHITE knuckleheads who get killed by cops too, but you never see that on the news. That ruins the liberal narrative that cops are biased against black people. They're not. They're biased against knuckleheads, regardless of the color of their skin.

LAMAR

You can't be serious. How do you explain the fact that black people are shot and killed by police at twice the rate of white people?

FRANK

Well, that's easy. Black people commit violent crimes at twice the rate of white people and are twice as likely to be knuckleheads.

LAMAR

That's racist!

FRANK

No, sir. That's a FACT. Look it up.

JASON

All right gentlemen, thanks. Let's hear from the Purple Team on this. Craig, as the only law enforcement officer on the panel, you've been oddly quiet so far. Any thoughts?

CRAIG

Yeah, I've got a few.

(says nothing more for several seconds)

JASON

Okaaaay. Any you care to share?

CRAIG

(sighs)

Well. Let's start off with a few stats. Police perform around ten million arrests in the US every year. Less than sixty of those arrests result in the death of an unarmed person. Less than twenty of those sixty are black. That's less than twenty unarmed black people a year out of the forty MILLION black people in the US. So, if you are an unarmed black person, the likelihood of being killed by the police is less than one in a million.

But as unlikely as it is to get killed by a policeman, there IS something everyone can do to make it virtually impossible to get killed, or tased, or beaten, or even wrestled to the ground by police. It's simple, foolproof, and works no matter what kind of police you're dealing with.

JASON

(after five seconds waiting for Craig to say what the 'one thing' is)

Well, what is it!?

CRAIG

Comply.

JASON

What?

CRAIG

Just comply.

(queue music)

JASON

No wait. Please don't tell me you're gonna sing about complying..
..He's gonna sing about complying.

(CRAIG Stands. **11. Just Comply.**)

11-Just Comply

(Verse 1)

CRAIG

SOME FOLKS THINK THAT ALL POLICE
ARE MALCONTENTED WHO MISBEHAVE,
MOTIVATED BY THE FOLKS WE HATE
AND THE POWER WE SEEM TO CRAVE.

I'M CONVINCED MOST POLICE
ARE DISCIPLINED, FORTHRIGHT, AND BRAVE,
MOTIVATED BY THE FOLKS WE SERVE
AND BY THE LIVES WE HELP TO SAVE.

(Verse 2)

WHETHER COPS ARE GOOD OR NOT,
OR WHETHER THEY'RE POLITE OR RUDE,
IF YOU FIND YOURSELF ENGAGED WITH US
THERE'S ONE THING YOU HAVE TO DO.

IT REQUIRES NO FEAT OF STRENGTH,
NO CONCEPT THAT'S TOUGH THINKING THROUGH.
IT'S SIMPLE, EASY, EFFORTLESS,
AND IT PRECLUDES US FROM HURTING YOU.

(Chorus 1)

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF MY LIGHTS ARE FLASHING BEHIND YOU,
DON'T JUST KEEP DRIVING LIKE NOTHING IS WRONG.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I ASK FOR DOCUMENTATION,
DON'T PLAY DUMB GAMES, OBFUSCATE OR PROLONG.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I TELL YOU, TO EXIT THE CAR,
YOU MAY ASK WHY, AND I'LL PLAY ALONG.
I WILL TELL YOU, BUT IF I REPEAT
MY COMMAND TO STEP OUT BY AND BY,
DON'T DEBATE DON'T RETREAT,

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

(Verse 3)

CRAIG

SOME FOLKS THINK THAT MOST POLICE
ARE MEMBERS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN
TRYING TO ARREST, LOCK UP, AND KILL
ALL THE BLACK PEOPLE THAT WE CAN.

I'M CONVINCED THAT MOST POLICE
ARE FAIR AND WE DON'T GIVE A DAMN
WHAT RACE YOU ARE WHEN WE LOOK AT YOU,
WE JUDGE YOUR CHARACTER AS YOU STAND.

(Verse 4)

BUT WHETHER YOU THINK ALL POLICE
ARE KLAN MEMBERS OR COLOR BLIND,
ALL OF US ENFORCE THE LAWS AND KEEP THE PEACE
ON THAT POINT, WE ARE ALIGNED.

WHEN COPS GIVE YOU COMMANDS,
DON'T OVERTHINK OR LOSE YOUR MIND.
DON'T GET BEAT DOWN AND CONFINED.

(Chorus 2)

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I TELL YOU SHOW ME YOUR HANDS,
DON'T DISOBEY ME AND ASK ME WHAT FOR.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I TELL YOU, NOT TO MOVE, AND TO KEEP STILL OR TO CALM
DOWN,
DON'T PLAY THE FOOL, PULL AWAY, AND IGNORE.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I SAY YOU'RE UNDER ARREST,
DON'T RESIST AND THEN MAKE IT A WAR.
THAT JUST OPENS THE DOOR TO A PLACE
MACE IS SPRAYED, TASERS TASE, BULLETS FLY
THEN YOUR BLOOD IS ON THE FLOOR.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

(Verse 5)

CRAIG

WE'RE NOT PERFECT, THAT'S FOR SURE
BUT PUBLIC SERVICE IS OUR GOAL
SOMETIMES WE FALL SHORT, WE LEARN, MOVE ON
WE IMPROVE AND GROW AS A WHOLE.

AS WE ALL DO OUR PART
WE ASK THAT YOU DO YOUR PART TOO

(Chorus 1)

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF MY LIGHTS ARE FLASHING BEHIND YOU,
DON'T JUST KEEP DRIVING LIKE NOTHING IS WRONG.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

JASON

OK, that was an important public service announcement from Sergeant Craig. Any comments? Lamar.

LAMAR

So, lemme get this straight. "Option One - Do what police tell you to do, or Option Two - They beat you, mace you, tase you, or shoot you, and then throw you in jail?" That's some bullshit.

CRAIG

No sir. If you and your family want to enjoy the benefits of living in a peaceful, civil and orderly society, that's some REAL shit.

JASON

(in full English accent and overblown Shakespearian theatrics)

To comply, or not to comply - that is the question! Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the PSYCHOLOGICAL slings and arrows of bending to the will and commands of...

(points to Craig)

...An agent of the law, OR...

(gestures with open hand to Lamar)

... to RESIST said commands and suffer the PHYSICAL anguish of blows to the head, tasers, bullets, handcuffs, and incarceration. Perhaps even to die - to sleep and dream for an eternity knowing...

(doing an exaggerated Lamar impersonation)

...I didn't take shit from no cop!

(ALL PANELISTS except Lamar laugh.)

LAMAR

(trying, but failing to sound serious)

Yo, that's messed up. You know that, right?

JASON

(doubling down on the Lamar impersonation)

...Yeah, that's messed up... ...but I still didn't take no shit from no cop!

(JASON smiles wryly at Lamar. LAMAR grimaces trying to suppress laughter but fails. He chuckles and shakes his head.)

JASON

OK, on a serious note, polls have just closed out on the West coast. Let's see where we stand with the election.

(reading the giant monitor on the rear panel of the set)

So far, it appears Biden has two-hundred-thirty-eight electoral votes and Trump has two-thirteen, with eighty-seven electoral votes that are too early or too close to call.

Several states are saying they may be counting ballots well into tomorrow, and President Trump is claiming massive voter fraud. So, this thing could drag out for a while.

We're going to wrap up the Proctor Panel by asking each panelist for final thoughts on the election in fifty words or less - starting with Elaine.

ELAINE

As a black and Hispanic, bisexual woman, this election is a really big deal. If Trump wins, like, I don't know if I could deal with that for another four years.

JASON

Eric?

ERIC

Trumps gonna win this election unless they cheat.

(pointing to Elaine)

So, half 'n half, over there may wanna start packing her bags.

ELAINE

Half 'n half? Are you serious?

ERIC

Nah, just joshin'... ..Mocha latte.

ELAINE

(points to Eric)

Keep playin'!

JASON

(suppressing laughter)

Never gets old.

Florence, final thoughts?

FLORENCE

The numbers are pointing to a Biden victory, so our long Trump nightmare should soon be over.

JASON

Frank?

FRANK

The only way Trump loses to Sleepy Joe Biden is if the election is rigged. If that happens, there's gonna be hell to pay.

JASON

Lamar?

LAMAR

Trump's gonna lose this election but he's not gonna leave... 'cause he's a racist gangster. You watch.

JASON

Rachel?

RACHEL

President Trump is God's choice for president, so he's going to win again.

JASON

Clara, and then Clayton.

CLARA

Whoever wins, I hope they start to bring the country together.

CLAYTON

I agree, and I think Biden will do a better job at that than Trump.

JASON

Cristy?

CRISTY

I hope the country can heal after this election, but I'm afraid a lot of people have become so politically tribal that, for them, hurting the opposition is now more important to them than helping the country.

JASON

And Craig, you get the last word.

CRAIG

Whoever wins, support your local police.

JASON

And do what they say, if you don't want a beating, right?

CRAIG

(Laughing)

That's right. Don't be a knucklehead. Just comply.

JASON

Alright, thank you panel for another lively discussion. That'll do it for this year's Proctor Panel. This is Jason Proctor, signing out.

STAN

And cut!

(All PANELISTS except Clara leave their chairs and slowly migrate off set. JASON grabs a drink then HE and STAN huddle center stage. STAN checks his phone.)

JASON

(sipping and pacing manically awaiting viewer numbers from Stan)

I think that went pretty well. The set was awesome, but the debate was lukewarm. We should've served alcohol. Damned Covid policy. How are people supposed to be entertaining when they're sober?...

..Well, what's the score?

STAN

(still thumbing his phone)

Settle down, will ya? It's comin'.

(looks up momentarily at Jason)

And we're NOT bringing alcohol back. These folks are colorful enough when they're sober.

(looks back down at his phone)

There we go. Oh, my, take a guess.

JASON

Four and a half million.

(STAN motions higher with his thumb)

Five point two million?

STAN

Six point eight.

JASON

Boom, let's go!! Six point eight million is Jerry Springer territory, baby! AND without any booze. Wait until twenty-twenty-two when Covid's gone, and the Long Island Iced Teas are flowin' again. We could be talkin' eight, eight and a half mill easy. Hell, we can break Springer's record of nine million. C'mon, gimme some, up top.

(STAN stares blankly at Jason's raised hand, turns, and walks off set)

Hey! Stan, my man. You gonna just leave a brutha hagin' like that? What, you don't like Long Island Iced Tea?

(CLARA walks over to Jason)

CLARA

Did I hear right? Six point eight million viewers. That's fantastic, Mr. Proctor. Congrats.

(CLARA and JASON hug one another)

JASON

YOU'RE fantastic, MRS. Proctor.

(JASON gives Clara a short kiss)

CLARA

So, what was Stan upset about?

JASON

Eh! Same ol' story. Loves the ratings, hates doing what it takes to GET the ratings. He doesn't want to bring back happy hour in twenty-two.

CLARA

Well, everybody was sober today and you did six point eight million. You think maybe he's got a point?

(JASON and CLARA start walking off set arm in arm)

JASON

He's got a point IF we want to stay at six point eight. We need to do eight or nine million next time. That means happy hour is back in twenty-two. Long Island Iced Teas for everybody.

Everybody except you. You're cut off. You get a half a glass of water... lukewarm tap water, no ice... unfiltered from the faucet in the women's bathroom...

(Curtain falls)

ACT TWO

Scene Two

COURTYARD OUTSIDE POLLING STATION. ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 2022.
LATE AFTERNOON.

PANELISTS are mingling on set. ALL except Craig are drinking alcohol. ALL are in a jovial mood and their banter is louder than usual. STAN pulls Jason away from the crowd for a huddle at front center stage.

STAN

Hey, the natives are looking pretty restless. I think we overdid it on happy hour today.

JASON

(With cup in hand.)

Relax. It's all under control.

(STAN and JASON are momentarily distracted by PANELISTS laughing in the background.)

I bet we do over eight million viewers today.

(takes sip from his cup)

STAN

That would be nice, but what's more important is that you don't go full Jerry Springer on me today.

JASON

I promise, no full Springer. Half-Springer, only.

(STAN and JASON are distracted again by PANELISTS laughing in the background.)

OK, three quarter-Springer, max.

STAN

Hey, no joking around. This year these people probably hate each other even more than before. They can't even agree on a common

set of facts. AND by the looks of things, they're gonna be three sheets to the wind by the time we get rolling.

JASON

No problem. I got this.

(singing 'Turn it Up' chorus acapella)

CUE THE MUSIC, THE LIGHTS AND THE VIBES.
BRING THE PASSION, AND HEAT FROM THE TRIBES.
BRING THE RHYTHMS, THE BEATS, AND THEN
HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS, MY FRIENDS
WE'LL TAKE YOU ON THE RIDE OF YOUR LIVES.
TURN IT UP!

(STAN shakes his head slowly. JASON raises his hand to Stan for a high five.)

JASON

C'mon Stan. My man. Up top.

STAN

(sternly)

Hey, how many drinks have you had? Seriously? Don't let this get out of control.

JASON

I said I got this. Three quarter Springer, max.

(STAN squints his eyes at Jason, turns and walks away.)

STAN

Alright everybody, places! Camera in one minute.

(PANELISTS put drinks away, take their seats and swivel to face away from audience. JASON finishes his drink, discards his cup just off stage, and takes his place standing center stage facing camera)

STAN

Quiet on set! And five, four, three, two.

JASON

Gooooo afternoon, and welcome to the Proctor Panel. I'm Jason Proctor outside Polling Station seven in Wexler County. It's Tuesday, November eighth, election day twenty-twenty-two.

This mid-term election is an important one because it will determine which political party will control the house and the senate. The expectation for this election is that the Republican opposition will sweep into power in both chambers of congress in what many are calling a Red Wave. We will see how that pans out.

Let's introduce our Proctor Panel. These are ten voters we met every two years for the past six years.

(As each panelist is introduced, his/her picture appears on the giant monitor, he/she is spot-lighted and swivels to face the audience. Asterisk* indicates playful one and a half turns rather than just the half turn required.)

In the left-leaning Blue Tribe we have Elaine*, Florence*, and Lamar. In the centrist Purple Tribe we have Clara, Clayton*, Cristy*, and Craig. In the right-leaning Red Tribe we have Nana Rachel, Frank*, and Eric*.

Each time we assemble the Proctor Panel, the conversation gets more interesting as the worldviews of the various camps continue to diverge.

Each group has its own tribal information sources, its own tribal facts, its own tribal beliefs, and ultimately, its own tribal TRUTHS. How close a TRIBAL truth is to OBJECTIVE truth varies. Tribal truth can align perfectly with objective truth, or it can be so far from objective truth it can be officially classified as batshit cray-cray.

Since the last election two years ago, a lot has happened. A lot of tribal truths have evolved to describe all of it. Let's get into those tribal truths right now. Buckle up. This should be a fun ride.

(JASON walks to the left of the stage and retrieves a coffee mug. He takes a sip and smiles broadly. **12.**
Tribal Truth.)

12-Tribal Truth

(Intro)

JASON

THERE WAS A TIME WE ALL GOT FACTS
FROM JUST THREE CHANNELS ON TV
WHEN INFORMATION, DATA, STATS
WERE TRUTHS ON WHICH WE'D ALL AGREE

BUT NOW WHEN WE ALL GET OUR NEWS
A THOUSAND DIFFERENT WAYS.
SOME MAY BE VETTED, TRIED AND TRUE,
WHILE OTHERS TRULY BATSHIT CRAY-CRAY.

WE CHOOSE THE DATA THAT WE TRACK,
NOT BASED ON WHAT IS TRUE OR REAL,
NOT BASED ON SCRUTINY OR FACT,
BUT RATHER HOW IT MAKES US FEEL.

(Chorus)

WE WANT OUR FACTS WITH THAT FLAVOR
THAT TRIBE MEMBERS CRAVE--
A BITTER TASTE TO OUR RIVALRY
SO SKEWED AND SO TRIBAL

GIMME THAT-- THAT PARTISAN KOOL-AID
THAT-- THAT GROUPTHINK VODKA-LEMONADE
THAT FULLY BIASED GIN AND JUICE
YOU GOTTA GIMME THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL TRUTH
(JASON takes a sip from the mug.)

THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL TRUTH.

OK let's try this out. Red Tribe - gimme some good ol' tribal truth about whether the twenty-twenty election was fair or rigged. Hit me!

(Verse 1)

FRANK

GOOD GOD, THE TRUTH IS CLEAR AS DAY.
THE LAST ELECTION WAS A SHAM IN EVERY WAY.
IT WAS RIGGED, THEN HIJACKED AND STOLEN AWAY
BY FORCES BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

YOU GOT BIG CITY FOLKS WHO LIKE TO CHEAT,
WHEN THERE'S NO ONE ELSE WATCHING IN THE COUNTING SUITE.
LATE NIGHT, STUFFING BALLOTS IN DECEIT
FOR SLEEPY JOE BIDEN, AND THAT'S JUST A FRAUD.

(Verse 2)

ERIC

YOU GOT DEEP STATE ACTORS WITH FOREIGN TIES.
YOU GOT BILLIONAIRE BACKERS AND CYBER SPIES.
ALL WORKING OVERTIME WITH THE CASH AND THE MEANS,
TO SWITCH VOTES IN VOTING MACHINES.

YOU GOT THOUSANDS OF FRAUDULENT VOTES MAILED IN,
BY ILLEGALS CASTING FAKE BALLOTS THAT CHINA SAILED IN
BY THE MILLIONS, STACKED HIGH IN THEIR SHIPS SMUGGLED
THROUGH,
FULL OF PAPER THAT WAS MADE WITH BAMBOO.

JASON

Now that's what I'm talking about! OK, Blue Team - Give me some
good ol' Tribal Truth on the twenty-twenty Election. Fair or
rigged? Hit me!

(JASON takes a sip from the mug)

(Verse 3)

FLORENCE

GOOD GOD, THE TRUTH IS NOT TRIBAL ON THIS,
BUT YOU'RE INFECTED WITH THE MAGA VIRUS.
SO, THE TRUTH JUST CAN'T SURVIVE INSIDE YOUR BRAIN.
ALL THE SAME, I'LL EXPLAIN AS IF YOU'RE SANE.

BIDEN BEAT TRUMP, THE ELECTION WAS FAIR.
SO SAID TRUMP'S VP, AND HIS CAMPAIGN CHAIR.
EVEN HIS FAMILY, HIS OWN FAVORITE DAUGHTER,
HIS STAFFERS AND HIS WHITE HOUSE LAWYERS.

(Verse 4)

LAMAR

SO SAID THE D-O-J, SO SAID THE FBI
SO SAID THAT ELECTION CYBERSECURITY GUY
WHO CALLED IT MORE SECURE THAN
ANY ELECTION HE EVER SAW AND

EVEN BILL BARR WAS FORCED TO ADMIT THE TRUTH, MAN.

TRUMP CHALLENGED THE RESULTS IN COURT AND TRIED
OVER SIXTY TIMES BUT HE WAS DENIED,
WHEN JUDGES SAID IN EVERY SINGLE CASE,
"GET THIS RIGGED ELECTION BULLSHIT OUTTA MY FACE."

(Chorus)

JASON

WE WANT OUR FACTS WITH THAT FLAVOR
THAT TRIBE MEMBERS CRAVE--
A BITTER TASTE TO OUR RIVALRY
SO SKEWED AND SO TRIBAL

GIMME THAT-- THAT PARTISAN KOOL-AID
THAT-- THAT GROUPTHINK VODKA-LEMONADE
THAT FULLY BIASED GIN AND JUICE
YOU GOTTA GIMME THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL TRUTH
(JASON takes a sip from the mug.)

THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL TRUTH!

Okay Red Team. How 'bout some Tribal Truth on the January sixth
capital incident? Was it an attempted coup? A peaceful patriotic
protest? A peaceful protest that turned into a riot? A false
flag operation by the FBI and ANTIFA? Give it to me!

(JASON takes a sip from the mug)

(Verse 5)

FRANK

JANUARY SIXTH IS PATRIOTS DAY
WHEN WE FOUGHT THE DEEP STATE PLOT TO TAKE AWAY
OUR VOTES, OUR FREEDOMS, OUR RIGHTS, OUR LIVES.
WE FOUGHT SO OUR WAY OF LIFE SURVIVES.

IT WAS PEACEFUL PROTEST
THAT'S OF COURSE UNTIL THE FBI
INCITED A RIOT AND THEN THEY STOOD BY
AFTER UNLEASHING THEIR CRUEL SUBVERSIVE PLAN
AND WATCHED THE PROTEST GET OUT OF HAND

JASON

Yeah baby. That was grain alcohol-grade tribal truth. That'll put some hair on your chest. Blue team - January 6 - Come on!

(JASON takes a sip from the mug)

(Verse 6)

FLORENCE

JANUARY SIX WAS A CLEAR COUP ATTEMPT
AN ATTACK ON DEMOCRACY IN PURE CONTEMPT
BY A DESPERATE MAGA MOB THAT WAS SENT OUT
TO DESTROY WHAT THIS COUNTRY IS ALL ABOUT

FROM THE DAY THE VOTERS EXPRESSED THEIR WILL
TRUMP AND HIS ENABLERS CONSPIRED TO KILL
THE DEMOCRACY THAT TOLD HIM TO STEP ASIDE
AND WOUNDED HIS EGO AND HURT HIS PRIDE.

JASON

Ok let's do lightning round shots of single-verse tribal truth.
First round - describe President Joe Biden, the man. Blue team -
Hit me!

(JASON drains the mug, walks to the left side of the
stage and trades it for a fresh mug)

(Verse 7)

ELAINE

TOO OLD

FLORENCE

TOO CENTRIST

LAMAR

BUT STILL A GOOD MAN.

FLORENCE

TOO MUCH OF A BIG TECH, BIG BUSINESS FAN,

ELAINE

HE'S WAYYY TOO CHUMMY WITH THE OTHER SIDE.

LAMAR

BUT WILLING TO FIND A COMPROMISE.

JASON

(speaking)

Red Team - Joe Biden, the man - Come on!

(JASON takes a sip from the mug)

(Verse 8)

ERIC

MORALLY BANKRUPT AND CORRUPT AS HELL.

FRANK

HE'S A PUPPET OF THE RADICAL LEFT AS WELL.

RACHEL

HE'S OLD, HE'S GOT JUST A FEW YEARS LEFT,

ERIC

SIX MONTHS TO LIVE.

FRANK

A YEAR AT BEST!

JASON

(speaking)

Purple Team - Joe Biden, the man. Let's go!

(JASON takes a sip from the mug)

(Verse 9)

CLARA

HE'S OLD BUT BASICALLY A DECENT GUY.

CLAYTON

HE'S OLD BUT EFFECTIVELY GETTING BY.

CRISTY

HE'S OLD BUT SEEMS TO GET THINGS DONE.

CRAIG

HE'S WAY OLD - DUDE'S PUSHING EIGHTY-ONE!

JASON

(Speaking)

OK, I've got a serious buzz now. How about one last shot of Tribal Truth before I close the bar for good. Joe Biden, domestic performance as president the past two years. Blue Team - Hit me!

(JASON takes a sip from the mug)

(Verse 10)

LAMAR

GOT AN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL PASSED AND SIGNED.

ELAINE

HE GOT US THE VACCINE IN RECORD TIME.

FLORENCE

GOT THE SPREAD OF COVID SLOWING.
AND HE KEPT THE ECONOMY GROWING.

JASON

Red Team - Tribal truth, one time!

(JASON takes a sip from the mug)

(Verse 11)

ERIC

HE LET FAUCI SHUT THE WHOLE COUNTRY DOWN
KILLED BUSINESS, LET THE ECONOMY DROWN

FRANK

INFLATION SPIKED WHEN HE PAID PEOPLE NOT TO WORK
AND THEN HE LET CRIME RATES GO BERSERK.

(Chorus)

JASON

WE WANT OUR FACTS WITH THAT FLAVOR
THAT TRIBE MEMBERS CRAVE--
A BITTER TASTE TO OUR RIVALS
SO SKEWED AND SO TRIBAL.

GIMME THAT-- THAT PARTISAN KOOL-AID,
THAT-- THAT GROUPTHINK VODKA-LEMONADE.

THAT FULLY BIASED GIN AND JUICE.
YOU GOTTA GIMME THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL TRUTH.
(JASON takes a sip from the mug.)

THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL--TRUTH!

THAT PARTISAN KOOL-AID.
THAT-- THAT GROUPTHINK VODKA-LEMONADE.
THAT FULLY BIASED GIN AND JUICE.
YOU GOTTA GIMME THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL TRUTH.

THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL--TRUTH!
(JASON drains the mug, walks to the left side of the stage and sets the cup down. HE walks back to center stage, smiling broadly. HE addresses the camera.)

JASON

Well, that was kinda fun. The whole metaphor of partisans getting wasted from drinking too much of their isolated perceptions of reality and calling it Tribal Truth. That is some damned good entertainment.

But here's the thing..

(JASON, clearly a little buzzed, takes a deep breath and exhales audibly through his nose. His smile fades and HE continues in an uncharacteristically somber tone)

We all know there's no such thing as TRIBAL truth, right? There's only truth. Everything else is unknown, speculation, misperception, or flat out lies. In fact, some tribal truth I've heard on this set over the past six years was so obviously UNTRUE, they should be called tribal LIES. Yeah, I said it. Bad host. But at some point, you gotta call this stuff what it is. Tribal LIES. And all you partisans are guilty of it. Some clearly worse and more dangerous than others, but ALL of you have told tribal lies.

(PANELISTS, confused by the stark shift in Jason's tone, look at each other quizzically. JASON scans the panelists slowly and stops on Rachel.)

For example, Rachel. Beloved Nana Rachel. The idea that the Jesus described in your Bible wants TRUMP to become the leader of the free world - that's a theological tribal lie. Sorry.

(FLORENCE gasps. JASON turns to Lamar)

Lamar, my dawg. The idea that getting killed by a cop is among the top ten threats to your well-being - sorry, that's a racial tribal lie.

LAMAR

What the hell?

JASON

Frank, alt right provocateur. The claim that the twenty-twenty election was rigged and stolen by Joe Biden is a tribal lie that may well pose the greatest threat to this country since the Civil War.

FRANK

Where is this coming from?

FLORENCE

It's coming from his heart, Frank, you need you be quiet and listen.

JASON

Thanks, professor, it does FEEL like it's coming from my heart, but we both know that's just an illusion. The human heart is a just a muscle that pumps blood, so it cannot produce thoughts. No, the seat of consciousness, and the wellspring of understanding and ideas is the human brain. This is all coming from electro-chemical processes in my brain.

And by the way, professor, the idea that trans women have no advantage over cisgender women in sports - that's a well-meaning but blatantly unfair tribal lie.

FRANK

(to Florence)

Ha! How do you like them apples?

(FLORENCE glowers at Frank)

JASON

Eric, the meatstick man. The idea that the founding fathers wrote the Second Amendment to guarantee every citizen the right to walk around the street with enough firepower to kill fifty

people in less than a minute - that's a deranged and dangerous tribal lie.

ERIC

Dang, who pissed in YOUR Cheerios this morning?

JASON

And, finally, Elaine, firebrand social justice warrior. The notion that completely defunding the police will benefit ANYbody or ANYthing YOU care about - that is a self-defeating tribal lie.

(ELAINE stares at Jason blankly)

(STAN walks to the edge of the set and gestures to Jason with his arms out and palms up in a what-the-hell-are-you-doing pose.)

JASON

Ok, so now that I got all that off my chest let me get back on script before my producer's head explodes.

So, Red and Blue teams, any chance we can find some common ground on ANY issue we have not covered yet? Climate change, income inequality, taxation, affirmative action, healthcare?

Frank, the diplomat, I challenge you to find ONE thing to say about any political topic that both you and the Blue team can agree on. Just one.

FRANK

I don't think that's possible. The left has their heads so far up their own liberal echo chamber ass, all they can hear is their own ideological farts.

(Eric laughs out loud, pointing derisively at the Blue team)

JASON

Super helpful as always. Anyone from the Blue team wanna..

(FLORENCE stands up abruptly and raises her hand.)

OK, here we go. Seatbelts everyone, please keep hands inside the vehicle until we come to a complete stop. Florence, please go ahead.

FLORENCE

(addressing Red team)

You know, each time we've done these forums over the past six years, I've tried as hard as I could to figure you people out and maybe find common ground. I am now convinced that's a fool's errand. You all are incorrigible, too far out there, you're gone.

(FLORENCE walks toward Red team. **13. You're Gone.**)

13-You're Gone

(Verse 1)

FLORENCE

I NEVER LIKED WHAT YOU PEOPLE STOOD FOR,
BUT AT LEAST YOU TALKED A GOOD GAME
ON RULE OF LAW, FAMILY VALUES, AND MORE,
BUT NOW THAT CHARADE'S UP IN FLAMES.

WHATEVER PRINCIPLES YOU USE TO CLAIM
ARE GONE AND WHAT DRIVES YOU IS CLEAR.
IT'S NOT RULE OF LAW, NOT VALUES, NOT SHAME.
RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE DRIVEN BY ANGER AND FEAR.

(Verse 2)

ELAINE

YOU'RE ANGRY THAT THE NEW AMERICAN DREAM
IS NOW ACHIEVED MORE BY FOLKS BEING BRIGHT,
FORWARD THINKING, TECH SAVVY, AND GREEN,
THAN BY BEING CHRISTIAN, STRAIGHT, OR WHITE.

YOU FEAR YOU'RE LOSING YOUR RIGHT TO RETAIN
ALL THE POWER AND THE REIGNS OF CONTROL.
YOU FEAR DEMOCRACY'S A LOSING GAME,
SO, YOU'RE JUMPING SHIP AND LETTING THAT GO.

(Chorus)

FLORENCE AND ELAINE

YOU'RE GONE.
YOU'RE TOO MUCH, YOU'RE JUST UNSOUND,
YOU'RE GONE
OUT OF TOUCH AND OUT OF BOUNDS,
YOU'RE GONE.
YOU'RE SO FAR OUT OF LINE.
YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE GONE
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND!

(Verse 3)

FRANK

WE'RE NOT CRAZY AND WE'RE NOT OUT OF TOUCH.
WE KNOW WHAT OUR COUNTRY IS ALL ABOUT
WE'VE JUST PUT UP WITH YOU FOR LONG ENOUGH.
SO PACK UP YOUR CRAP AND GET THE HELL OUT.

ERIC

GO FIND A PLACE WHERE TRANNIES AND GAYS
CAN LIVE IN THEIR TRUTH WITH NOTHING TO FEAR
FLY RAINBOW FLAGS AND MARCH IN PRIDE PARADES
EVERY GOD DAMNED DAY OF THE YEAR!

FRANK

FIND A PLACE WHERE LOWLIFE THUGS AND ZEROS
LIVING LIVES AS FAILURES AND FLOPS
ARE WORSHIPPED AS MARTYRED SAINTS AND HEROES
'CAUSE THEY WERE BLACK AND KILLED BY THE COPS.

(Chorus)

FRANK AND ERIC

YOU'RE GONE.
YOU'RE TOO MUCH, YOU'RE JUST UNSOUND,
YOU'RE GONE
OUT OF TOUCH AND OUT OF BOUNDS,
YOU'RE GONE.
YOU'RE SO FAR OUT OF LINE.
YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE GONE
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND!

(Bridge)

ERIC

GO FIND A PLACE THAT'S NOT A SHITHOLE NATION
WHERE ALL BLACK PEOPLE GET AN INVITATION
TO DO POORLY IN SCHOOL,
AND BREAK ALL THE RULES,
AND THEN BLAME IT ON DISCRIMINATION.

(ELAINE walks slowly toward Eric. SHE closes gap
between them to 15 feet during next stanza.)

(Verse 4)

ELAINE

(to Eric)

WE'RE NOT LEAVING, NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY.
A NATION BUILT BY THE BLOOD AND SWEAT OF SLAVES.
CANNOT BELONG TO JUST FOOLS LIKE YOU
IT BELONGS TO BLACK PEOPLE TOO!

(ERIC moves toward Elaine. HE Closes gap between them
to 10 feet during next stanza.)

ERIC

IF IT BELONGS TO YOU, THEN ACT LIKE IT.
CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS, EITHER OWN IT, OR YOU DON'T.
REAL OWNERS TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR OWNERSHIP.
YOU BLACKS SHOULD DO THAT, BUT I KNOW YOU WON'T.

(Verse 5)

(ELAINE and ERIC walk slowly toward one another and
close the gap between them to 5 feet during next
stanza.)

ELAINE

DON'T TALK ABOUT PRIDE
OR WHAT BLACK PEOPLE
NEED.
IT'S NOT YOUR PLACE TO
MAKE THAT CALL.
YOU'RE NOT PROUD OF THIS
COUNTRY OR ITS CREED.

ERIC

YOU PEOPLE MISBEHAVE.
COMMIT VIOLENT ACTS.
KILL TWICE AS MANY
WHITES
AS WHITES KILL BLACKS.

(ELAINE and ERIC move slowly toward one another and
close the gap between them to 1 foot during next
stanza.)

ELAINE

YOU'RE ON MY LAST NERVE, KEEP ON TESTIN' ME!

ERIC

YOU CAN'T STAND A LITTLE HONEST CRITIQUE!

ELAINE

YOU'RE A WEAK RACIST SOLDIER WANNABE!

ERIC

YOU'RE A HALF-BREED SEXUAL FREAK!

(PANELISTS gasp. CRAIG runs and places himself between Elaine and Eric. LAMAR runs to Elaine, restrains her, and begins moving her back toward her chair. FRANK runs to Eric, restrains him, and begins moving him back toward his chair.)

ELAINE

(yelling at Eric as she's being pushed backward by Lamar)

Stupid ass white boy!

ERIC

(Yelling at Elaine as he's being pushed backward by Frank)

I told you about calling me stupid, didn't I?! You half nigger bitch!

(LAMAR stops pushing Elaine and turns toward Eric.)

LAMAR AND ELAINE

(simultaneously)

What did you just say?

(LAMAR and ELAINE walk slowly toward Eric. CRAIG steps in front of them and spreads his arms to stop their advance.)

CRAIG

(to Lamar and Elaine)

Turn around and walk away, now!

ELAINE

(to Craig)

Naw. Let him say that shit one more time.

(to Eric)

Say it again, I dare you!

(ERIC pulls his pistol out of his holster and holds it down by his thigh.)

ERIC

I said..

(ERIC pulls the pistol slide back to chamber a round then holds the pistol down by his thigh again.)

..you're a half nigger bitch, and I'm standing my ground.

(CRAIG, hearing Eric chamber a round, turns to see Eric holding the gun by his thigh. CRAIG pulls his own pistol and points it at Eric.)

CRAIG

(to Eric)

Drop the gun, now!

(ELAINE walks rapidly toward Eric with fists balled. LAMAR follows and attempts to stop her.)

ELAINE

(walking rapidly toward Eric)

I told you; you don't scare me, bitch!

CRAIG

Don't do it, son, drop the gun, now!

(When Elaine gets within 3 feet of Eric, ERIC aims his pistol at her chest and shoots once. ELAINE falls. CRAIG shoots Eric three times in rapid succession. ERIC falls. CRAIG walks rapidly to Eric while keeping his pistol trained on Eric's body. CRAIG kicks Eric's pistol away, turns Eric's limp body over onto its back, and hand cuffs him.)

(CRISTY walks over to Elaine's body and begins administering CPR.)

CRAIG

(into his radio)

Four-eight-six-five to dispatch, shots fired! Shots fired!
Wexler municipal building. Two down, send EMS times two! Ten-fifty!

(CRAIG administers CPR to Eric. CRISTY directs Jason to kneel and cradle Elaine's head in his hands so her head is slightly elevated. Other PANELISTS scurry around the stage in shock and panic.)

(Stage lights dim to silhouette level.)

(EMTs arrive and tend to victims.)

(The victims are placed on stretchers and rolled off set. PANELISTS weep and console one another.)

(Spotlight on Jason. JASON places his hand over his mouth, walks over to Chair 1 and sits down. He lowers his hand from his mouth revealing he unwittingly smeared Elaine's blood over the lower half of his face. He hunches over with his forearms resting on his knees. He stares blankly in the distance. STAN approaches slowly, while thumbing his cell phone, and stands in front of Jason.)

STAN

(still looking at his cell phone)

Hey, in case you were wondering, I got the score for ya. Nine point three million viewers. We beat Springer. Quite an accomplishment. Of course we got two people killed as well. So, there's that.

(STAN grimaces and looks up to fight back tears. HE shakes his head, turns and walks away. JASON watches Stan leave, and then buries his face in his hands. Lights dim.)

(Queue music.)

(Spotlight on Clayton and Cristy at center stage. Actors are dressed in off-white outfits distinct from their character costumes, and it is clear they are no longer in character. They sing to the audience as their authentic selves.)

14. Turn It Down.)

14-Turn It Down

(Verse 1)

CRISTY ACTOR

WHEN CONVERSATIONS TURN
AND ANGRY VOICES RISE
WHEN PASSIONS START TO BURN
AND CIVIL DISCOURSE DIES
OPINIONS GIVE WAY TO BLOWS
AND WE CHOOSE VIOLENCE OVER PROSE
IT MIGHT BE TIME TO STOP
AND LOOK WITHIN

WHEN THE TRIBES GO TRIBAL
WITH A LUST FOR STRIFE AND WAR
WHEN DIATRIBES AND RIVALRIES
DEVOLVE INTO SLURS AND GORE
WE TURN FROM CORDIAL TO PROFANE
ALL THAT FOLLOWS IS GRIEF AND PAIN
WHEN THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE OR GAIN
IT'S UP TO US TO CHOOSE TO...

(Chorus)

CLAYTON ACTOR

TURN IT DOWN.
TURN IT DOWN.
TURN IT DOWN.
TURN IT DOWN.
TURN IT DOWN.

CRISTY ACTOR

TURN DOWN THE STATIC,
THE TENSION, THE STRESS.
TURN DOWN THE ANGER THAT
MAKES US REGRESS.
TURN DOWN THE CLAMOR AND
THE STRIFE.
HEAR THE SWEETER SOUNDS
OF LIFE.

CLAYTON AND CRISTY ACTORS

WON'T YOU PLEASE TURN IT DOWN.

(Verse 2)

CLAYTON ACTOR

WHEN WE'RE COMPELLED TO FIGHT

BECAUSE IT'S LIFE OR DEATH,
IT'S YOUR DUTY AND YOUR RIGHT
UNTIL YOUR DYING BREATH,
TO FIGHT FOR PEOPLE'S LIVES THAT WAY
GO AS HARD AND LOUD AS YOU MAY,
BUT IF IT'S JUST DEBATE,
IT'S JUST DEBATE.

DEBATE WITH HEARTFELT GIVE AND TAKE
WHERE NO ONE'S LIFE'S AT STAKE.
THERE'S NO IMPENDING DOOM IN STORE,
IT SHOULDN'T BE WORTH BLEEDING FOR, SO..
(Chorus)

CRISTY ACTOR

TURN IT DOWN.
TURN IT DOWN.
TURN IT DOWN.
TURN IT DOWN.
TURN IT DOWN.

CLAYTON ACTOR

TURN DOWN THE STATIC,
THE TENSION, THE STRESS.
TURN DOWN THE ANGER THAT
MAKES US REGRESS.
TURN DOWN THE CLAMOR AND
THE STRIFE.
HEAR THE SWEETER SOUNDS
OF LIFE.

CLAYTON AND CRISTY ACTORS

WON'T YOU PLEASE TURN IT DOWN.

(Bridge Part 1)

(Spotlight on Clara actor walking from left of stage
to join Clayton and Cristy actors center stage)

CLARA ACTOR

WE HAVE SO MUCH MORE IN COMMON
THAN THINGS THAT TEAR US APART.
THE TIES THAT BIND US ALL TOGETHER
CONNECT US EACH FROM HEART TO HEART.

(Spotlight on Craig actor walking from right of stage
to join Clayton and Cristy actors center stage)

CRAIG ACTOR

WE ALL SHARE A COMMON COUNTRY,
COMMON LANGUAGE, COMMON CREED,
COMMON PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS,
AND COMMON DESIRE TO SUCCEED.

(Bridge Part 2)

(Spotlight on Lamar actor walking from left of stage
to join the other actors center stage)

LAMAR ACTOR

WE ALL SUPPORT THE FOLKS WHO SERVE
WITH HONOR IN HARM'S WAY,
SO WE CAN LIVE SECURE IN PEACE
AND PROSPER EVERY DAY.

(Spotlight on Rachel actor walking from right of stage
to join the other actors center stage)

RACHEL ACTOR

WE'VE SEEN OURSELVES AS A NATION
DO GREAT THINGS AND SWELL WITH PRIDE
AS TEARS WELL UP WHEN RAY CHARLES SINGS
OH, BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES.

(Bridge Part 3)

(Spotlight on Florence actor walking from left of
stage to join the other actors center stage)

FLORENCE ACTOR

WE ALL LIVE TO SEE OUR CHILDREN
START AS BABIES WITH EAGER EYES,
GROW IN SAFETY, JOY, AND LAUGHTER,
THEN MOVE OUT ON THEIR OWN AND THRIVE.

(Spotlight on Frank actor walking from right of stage
to join the other actors center stage, forming a tight
semicircle)

FRANK

WE ALL SHARE THE FORTUNE TO LIVE
AT A TIME AND IN A PLACE
WHERE WE'RE BOUND MORE BY IDEAS
THAN BY ETHNICITY OR RACE.

(Semicircle parts in the middle. ACTORS playing Elaine and Eric step forward, holding hands.

(Verse 3)

ERIC ACTOR

YET, WE IGNORE THE COMMON GROUND
FORGO A FUTURE, BRIGHT
PROMOTE THE HALF-TRUTHS AND CONFOUND
WHAT'S EASY WITH WHAT'S RIGHT

WE GO TRIBAL OVER TRIFLING THINGS
IGNORING THAT THE CONFLICT BRINGS
MORE MISERY THAN ANYTHING
IT'S ENOUGH TO LOSE YOUR MIND.

ELAINE ACTOR

IF WE MUST BE TRIBAL
THEN CAN WE AT LEAST AGREE
THAT FOR OUR OWN SURVIVAL,
IT'S IMPERATIVE FOR US ALL TO BE
WHETHER WHITE OR BLACK OR BROWN
OR BI OR STRAIGHT, OR GAY,
MEMBERS OF ONE SINGLE TRIBE,
TRIBE USA.

(ACTOR who played Jason steps forward from behind the semicircle and joins actors who played Elaine and Eric.

(Chorus)

ELAINE AND ERIC ACTORS

TURN IT DOWN.

TURN IT DOWN.

TURN IT DOWN.

TURN IT DOWN.

TURN IT DOWN.

JASON ACTOR

TURN DOWN THE STATIC,
THE TENSION, THE STRESS.
TURN DOWN THE ANGER THAT
MAKES US REGRESS.
TURN DOWN THE CLAMOR AND
THE STRIFE.
HEAR THE SWEETER SOUNDS
OF LIFE.

COMPANY ACTORS

WON'T YOU PLEASE TURN IT DOWN.
WON'T YOU PLEASE TURN IT DOWN.

(Go dark. Curtains)

THE END