



Tribes USA
A New Musical

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Music by Ethan Algazi & Brian Sidders

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SYNOPSIS

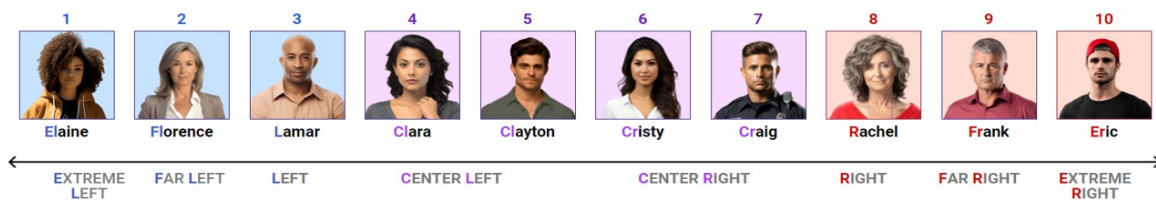
An ambitious director, Stan, and charismatic TV personality, Jason, host a focus group of ten voters on Election Day, November 2016. The voters are seated in color-coded chairs representing their politics – blue chairs for the left, red for the right, and purple for the center. To create excitement Stan directs Jason to promote intense debate, and the voters spar over the hot-button issues of the day. The show is a hit and becomes a recurring series.

Over the course of six years, Stan and Jason boost ratings by encouraging increasingly contentious and alcohol-fueled exchanges between panelists. The show becomes a national blockbuster. Eventually the rancor boils over and gun violence erupts on set. The tragedy exposes how the exploitation of political conflict as sport blinds us to all we share as Americans, and that we must acknowledge and celebrate our common humanity if we ever hope to thrive.

CHARACTER SUMMARY

The characters include Jason (the reporter), Stan (the producer), and ten focus group panelists. The panelists represent, in rough proportion, the US electorate across the following demographics: gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, and education level. On the focus group set, the panelists are seated in chairs designated #1 to #10 from left to right. The seating arrangement represents the cultural-political spectrum. Seat #1 is the extreme left (EL), and seat #10 is the extreme right (ER). Between the extremes are, in ascending order, far left (FL), left (L), center left (CL), center right (CR), right (R), and far right (FR). The first letters of each character's name match the abbreviation of his / her cultural-political orientation.

The panelists:



CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

STAN (Male, mid 50s) *No singing parts*. Non-race specific. Ambitious, 50-ish TV director / producer of political debate show. Pushes increasingly contentious discourse on set to boost ratings.

JASON (Male, late 20's) *Tenor*. Caucasian, handsome, charismatic, ambitious TV personality who hosts debate show. Eager to get ahead by delivering good ratings, he encourages heated exchanges between panelists. With his alcohol-enhanced charm and personality, he is a youthful blend of one part John Mulaney, one part Jim Carey, and one part Long Island Iced Tea. He has enough charisma and snarky wit to power a small building, but also a deep understanding and passion for all the issues discussed.

ELAINE (Female, early 20's) *Mezzo*. Panelist #1 - Culturally Extreme Left. The daughter of multigenerational African-American father and Mexican-American mother, this 20-ish biracial and bisexual waitress thinks the US is a fundamentally racist and greed-driven society in need of radical change. She is youthful rebellious exuberance personified. At 5'-9", she is an attractive, but intimidating young woman with a hot temper.

FLORENCE (Female, early 50's) *Soprano*. Panelist #2 - Culturally Far Left. The daughter of multigenerational European Americans, this heterosexual mother of two and professor of Women's Studies is an unabashed feminist, democratic socialist, and anti-racist who finds nearly every aspect of US mainstream culture shamefully unjust and corrupt, including its history, economic system, politics, and establishment institutions.

LAMAR (Male, early 40's) *Baritone / Bass*. Panelist #3 - Culturally Left. The son of multigenerational African-Americans, this 40-ish heterosexual father of one is a mid-level government administrator. He defines himself primarily as a black man navigating in a society that still has cultural and institutional structures that benefit whiteness.

CLARA (Female, early 30's) *Alto*. Panelist #4 - Culturally Center Left. The daughter of a multigenerational Puerto Rican father and Columbian immigrant mother, this 30-ish heterosexual single mother of one is a manufacturing supervisor. She leans left on fiscal and social issues, but in her work- and child-centric life, politics is rarely top of mind. Cheery disposition.

CLAYTON (Male, early 30's) *Tenor*. Panelist #5 - Culturally Center Left. The son of multigenerational European- and Jewish- Americans, this heterosexual single engineer is a fiscal centrist who leans left on social issues. He is exceptionally cheery and has a positive take on just about everything. He's a highly intelligent rationalist who respects all ideologies and belief systems that fit within the boundaries of reason and that promote the flourishing of a free and democratic society.

CRISTY (Female, early 30's) *Soprano*. Panelist #6 - Culturally Center Right. The daughter of a multigenerational European-American father and first generation Asian-American mother, biracial and heterosexual single medical doctor is a fiscal and social centrist. She defines herself primarily by her close-knit family, and her friendships. Based on visits to her mother's impoverished hometown in Vietnam, she recognizes how fortunate she is to have been born in the US to parents who ensured she developed the capacity to realize the American dream. Cheery disposition.

CRAIG (Male, mid-30's) *Baritone*. Panelist #7 - Culturally Center Right. The son of multigenerational Irish-American parents, this heterosexual father of two is a policeman who defines himself primarily as a husband, father, patriotic US citizen, and peace officer. He's a fiscal centrist, leans libertarian on social issues. He views people primarily through a law enforcement lens as either 'on the job' (police), 'civilians' (law abiding) or 'perps' (criminal). He further subdivides civilians and perps into 'standard' and 'asshole'. All other classifications are secondary. Cheery disposition.

RACHEL (Female, early 60's) *Alto*. Panelist #8 - Culturally Right. The daughter of multigenerational European-American parents, this heterosexual mother of three and grandmother of three is a retired school bus driver. She's a God-fearing Christian conservative who thinks liberalism, moral decay, and abandonment of traditional Christian values are ruining the country.

FRANK (Male, mid-50's) *Bass*. Panelist #9 - Culturally Far Right. The son of multigenerational European-Americans, this heterosexual father of two is a conservative writer and podcaster. He's a Christian conservative who thinks liberalism, socialism, affirmative action, identity politics, and open borders have ruined the country. He considers it his patriotic duty to save and restore the country to its former greatness by motivating 'real' Americans to fight and defeat the degenerate liberal forces and ideologies responsible for its ruin.

ERIC (early 20's) *Tenor*. Panelist #10 - Culturally Extreme Right. The son of multigenerational European-Americans, this single heterosexual is an auto mechanic and gun-toting white nationalist. He believes the US was founded by and for Christian people of European decent. Further, this birthright is being stolen and sullied by undeserving, inferior, and degenerate non-white, non-Christian people who originate from shithole countries with backward cultures and religions. At 5'-6'' he augments his diminutive stature with a façade of macho confidence. He is of average intelligence but is hypersensitive to being perceived as less than bright.

SETTING

Auditorium

MUSICAL NUMBERS

1-Turn It Up.....	Jason and Company	p 1
2-Make It Happen with Your Vote.....	Clara, Clayton, Cristy and Craig	p 10
3-Go Tribal.....	Company	p 19
4-Ambition in a Pantsuit and Heels....	Florence, Elaine, Lamar, Frank, Eric	p 23
5-22 Weeks.....	Florence, Cristy, Frank, Rachel	p 35
6-Not Enough.....	Company	p 42
7-The Flow.....	Company	p 53
8-Madness.....	Company	p 60
9-Turn It Up Reprise.....	Jason and Clara	p 68
10-What's Wrong with You.....	Florence, Elaine, Lamar, Frank, Eric	p 73
11-Just Comply.....	Craig	p 84
12-Tribal Truth.....	Jason and Company	p 95
13-You're Gone.....	Florence, Elaine, Lamar, Frank, Eric	p 104
14-Turn It Down.....	Company	p 110

ACT ONE - SCENE 1

INT. TEMPORARY TV PRODUCTION SET IN AN AUDITORIUM, ELECTION DAY,
NOVEMBER 2016. EARLY EVENING

STAN, a director for a TV network, busily directs two stagehands setting up ten brightly colored directors chairs on stage in a wide arc facing audience. From left to right – chairs 1 through 3 are blue, 4 through 7 are purple, and 8 through 10 are red. JASON, the host, walks onto the set with a cup of coffee in each hand.

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 did you put in here?

JASON

(smiling and talking with an exaggerated Irish accent)

Double shot of Jameson's to warm the blood and get this party started, boyo.

(Stan stares at Jason, shakes his head, takes another sip, and returns to work.)

Cue music.

(JASON 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.

SONG 1 "TURN IT UP"

(Verse 1)

JASON (CONT'D)

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)

JASON (CONT'D)
CUE THE MUSIC, THE LIGHTS AND THE VIBES.

COMPANY
TURN IT UP!

JASON
BRING THE PASSION, AND HEAT FROM THE TRIBES.

COMPANY
TURN IT UP!

JASON
BRING THE RHYTHMS, THE BEATS, AND THEN
HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS, MY FRIENDS.
WE'LL TAKE YOU ON THE RIDE OF YOUR LIVES.

(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!

JASON
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!

JASON
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!

JASON

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!

JASON

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!

JASON

BRING THE PASSION AND HEAT FROM THE TRIBES.

COMPANY

TURN IT UP!

JASON

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!

(JASON, at center stage, picks up his coffee and takes a long
drink. STAN walks up to Jason.)

STAN

Hey, Panelists one and ten are running late, and we got a hard start in five minutes, so here's what we're gonna do. We'll open the show with the Purple folks in place, you'll do your intro, then chit chat with each Purple. Then we'll bring out the Blues and the Reds in the second segment after one and ten show up.

JASON

One and ten ARE gonna show right?

STAN

They better show. They're the main attraction.
I'll fetch the Purples now, and we'll kick things off.

(JASON looks around the set. Behind him, STAN ushers the centrists, single file, toward the Purple seats 4 through 7.

JASON, unaware people are behind him, turns to walk off stage and bumps into Panelist #4, Clara, who is at the end of the line.)

JASON

Oh, I'm so sorry. You OK?

(THEY lock eyes and smile at one another)

CLARA

I'm fine. Are YOU OK?

JASON

Um, I think I'm OK, but my therapist says I have a few issues. I'm pretty sure he's wrong though.

(CLARA smiles demurely and continues to Seat # 4. JASON watches her walk away, places his hand over his heart and whispers..)

Whoa.

(JASON downs the remainder of his coffee, discards the cup just off stage, walks back downstage and huddles with Stan.)

STAN

(to the set)

Alright, people, we go live in two minutes!

(to Jason)

You ready?

JASON

Hey, I was born ready.

STAN

That's good, cause if you're NOT ready, this will be our first AND last show, and we all get to be homeless. But no pressure.

JASON

That's SO inspirational. If the TV director thing doesn't work out for you, you should do motivational speaking.

STAN

Oh, and one more thing.

JASON

What's that?

STAN

Don't screw this up.

(STAN pats Jason hard on the back and turns to walk off stage.

JASON smiles and shakes his head.)

Ten seconds! Quiet on set! Roll cameras! And five, four, three, two.

JASON

(with a gameshow host level of animation)

Gooooood afternoon, I'm Jason Proctor coming to you live from our studio 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.

Over the past four weeks we screened over four THOUSAND voters in Wexler to find ten people who best represent the demographics of the United States electorate. This includes gender, age, race, sexual orientation, education level, and of course, socio-political orientation.

Those ten voters are here tonight to give their opinions on election issues. My job is to facilitate colorful political debate and make this whole exercise far more entertaining than it would be without me.

Let's ease into this with our four Purple centrists.

(JASON walks back to the centrists. HE approaches Clara in chair #4. HE stops to stare at her for a second before continuing)

JASON (CONT'D)

(to Clara)

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

CLARA

(smiling)

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 half Puerto Rican and half Columbian.

JASON

That's nice. What else you got?

CLARA

I don't know. That's not enough?

JASON

(playfully)

I don't think so, but we'll let you slide if you promise to do better next time, OK?

(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)

...I'm single.

(CRISTY blushes)

JASON

You're single. Really? Is that the best you can do? That's not interesting, Clayton, that's sad. Sad 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 something interesting about yourself.

CRAIG

My name is Craig, and I'm a law enforcement officer.

JASON

And something interesting, please.

CRAIG

Well, I'm a law enforcement officer.

JASON

OK. You're a cop. What's interesting about that?

CRAIG

(chuckling)

WELL, I carry a firearm, even when I'm off duty, AND it's loaded.

JASON

WELL... uh... ...THAT, my friend, IS truly fascinating. In fact, screw that guy in the Dos Equis commercial, I think YOU may be the most interesting man in the world.

(to camera)

I may be dumb, but I ain't stupid.

(to the panelists)

OK, let's talk about the election. Who voted early?.

(CLARA and CRAIG raise their hands)

And who waited to vote in-person today?

(CLAYTON and CRISTY raise their hands)

Who thought their voting experience was a positive one?

(All four panelists raise their hands enthusiastically)

Whoa! Why so enthusiastic? 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

Clayton, why are YOU so jazzed about voting?

CLAYTON

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!

(JASON stares blankly at Clayton. CLAYTON smiles.)

JASON

(play fully looking deep into Clayton's eyes)

Clayton, are you high right now?

CLAYTON

What?

JASON

Did you pop a Molly before you left the house?

CLAYTON

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

I guess.

JASON

Ok, just checkin'.

How 'bout you there, Cristy? What about voting has you smiling?

CRISTY

I'm like Clara – second generation American. MY mother's from Vietnam where you can only vote for candidates approved by a single communist political party. So, I feel fortunate.

JASON

(to Craig)

Craig, you voted in person today. Any issues?

CRAIG

(smiling)

Nope. It was all good. 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. And even though we have mail-in ballots, early in-person voting, and election day voting, only half of eligible voters actually cast a ballot.

JASON

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

Cue music.

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

(CRISTY stands up.)

SONG 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

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

CLARA/CLAYTON/CRAIG

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

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 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

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

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

CLARA/CLAYTON/CRAIG

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

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

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

(PANELISTS walk back to their seats.)

JASON

OK, how 'bout each and every passenger in THIS boat get back in your seat, so we can have a meaningful conversation. You people are waaay too happy.
Next question - for each of you, who did you vote for today and why? Let's start with Clara and then 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.

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!

(to camera)

Ok, those were the cheery centrists, or as we call them, the Purple people. We'll take a quick commercial break, and when we come back, we'll have some Blue and Red people join the conversation and spice things up. See you on the other side.

STAN

And cut! OK, two minutes to the next segment!

(STAN ushers Panelists 2,3,8, and 9 to their seats and then walks over to Jason)

Panelists one and ten are still five minutes out. We'll start with the two Blues and two Reds that are here and send in one and ten while you're live.

JASON

Got it. How am I doing?

STAN

Well, we won't know THAT until we see viewer numbers at the end of the show, will we?

JASON

Yeah, but how do YOU think I'm doing so far?

STAN

Not bad. I'd give you a C plus.

JASON

Are you kidding me? A C plus? What am I missing?

STAN

If we're going to hit our numbers, you need to set off more fireworks, kid. More edge, more snark, more conflict.

JASON

What? I'm not edgy and snarky enough already? I'm practically INSULTING these poor people.

STAN

They signed up for this and we paid them to be here, so... more edge, more snark, more conflict... Oh, and one more thing.

JASON

Yeah, what's that.

STAN

Don't screw this up.

(STAN pats Jason on the back, turns, and walks toward the edge of the stage. JASON watches him leave, smiles, and shakes his head)

Thirty seconds!

(Jason closes his eyes, rubs his temples, and takes a deep breath.)

JASON

(to himself)

Ok, more edge, more snark, more conflict. You got it.

STAN

Ten seconds! Quiet on set! Roll cameras! And five, four, three, two.

JASON

Welcome back, Jason Proctor here, live from Wexler County with our voter panel. Let's meet our four NEW panelists, starting with the left-leaning Blue Team.

(JASON walks over to Lamar in seat 3)

Hello! Tell us your name and occupation.

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.

(to Florence)

And you ma'am? Name and occupation?

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 walks over to Rachel and Frank in seats 8 & 9)

Hello Red Team! 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 squints at Rachel's necklace and points to it.)

Wait, is that a tiny, tortured corpse hanging from your neck?

RACHEL

(alarmed)

A what?!

JASON

A little dead guy stuck to an Iron Age torturing device, right there.

RACHEL

(holds and lifts her crucifix)

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

JASON

Oh, it's a crucifix. Duh. What was I thinking?

(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 (CONT'D)

OK, partisans, 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 Rush... I mean 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. If Hilary wins, she will be the final, corrupt, liberal straw that breaks this country's back.

JASON

Ok, so the partisans are bringing the heat. The sentiments I'm hearing from the four of you are a lot more intense than those from the four independents. What would you say to those who feel you may be TOO partisan and 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.)

JASON

Speaking of going tribal, looks like the first-round draft picks have arrived.

(STAN sends Elaine and Eric to Jason at center stage. JASON eyes each of them from head to toe, smiles, does a dab, and holds the pose for five seconds.)

JASON (CONT'D)

(To Elaine)

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 needed your vote. What do you say to that?

ELAINE

(with much attitude)

I don't care. 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 pistol on Eric's thigh)

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

ERIC

Hey, you never know right? You gotta be prepared. This is an open carry state, so I open carry. 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 you Red and Blue folks agree?

SIX PARTISANS

Absolutely!

Cue music.

(RACHEL stands up.)

SONG 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 (CONT'D)

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

SIX PARTISANS

YOU GO TRIBAL!

FLORENCE

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 (CONT'D)

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

SIX PARTISANS

YOU GO TRIBAL!

LAMAR

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 PRIVILEGED 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 (CONT'D)

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!

ELAINE
FOR YOUR COUNTRY TO SURVIVE

SIX PARTISANS
YOU GO TRIBAL!

JASON
OK, looks like the temperature of the conversation just went up a few more degrees. Let's continue. You all 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?

(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, Frank. Significant concerns if Clinton wins today?

Cue music.

FRANK
Hillary Clinton, President of the United States? Oh, hell no.
(FLORENCE interrupts)

FLORENCE
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.

ERIC

That's right, Frank. Educate that woman!

***SONG 4 - AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT
AND HEELS.***

(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
CORRUPT SINCE THE NINETIES WHEN HER LAWYER FRIEND DIED
FROM A HOMICIDE SHE AND THE FBI CONNIVED
THEN LIED AND TRIED TO SAY IT WAS SUICIDE,
TO HIDE AND SLIDE BY THE FACT THAT SHE TRIED
TO SUPPLY ALL HER CRONIES AND CORRUPT ALLIES
WITH ALL THE PRIZED WHITE HOUSE JOBS SHE COULD PROVIDE

ERIC

FAST FORWARD TO BENGAZI WHERE GOOD PEOPLE TRIED TO GO
GUARD THE US EMBASSY, BUT FOUR OF THEM DIED, YOU KNOW,
WAITING FOR SECURITY SHE FAILED TO PROVIDE, AND SO,
THAT'S NEGLIGENCE SHE CAN'T BRUSH ASIDE, OH NO,
THEN YOU GOT THE ISSUE THAT CAN'T BE DENIED, THE HO
PURGED HER PRIVATE EMAIL SERVER A WHILE AGO,
SETTING ALL THEM DOCUMENTATION RULES ASIDE, YA KNOW.
EVEN FOR THE EMAILS THAT WERE LABELED CLASSIFIED, BRO.

(Verse 2)

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,

ERIC

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,
THEN COOKIN' 'EM PU WITH A SIDE OF RENCH FRIES.
IF SHE BECOMES PRESIDENT, JUSTICE DIES.

(Chorus)

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

(speaking to Eric)

Are you quite done, sir?

ERIC

Go on. Say what you gotta say.

FLORENCE

OK, my turn.

(Verse 4)

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.

ERIC

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

FLORENCE

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

(Verse 5)

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

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 (CONT'D)

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
AMBITION, AMBITION, AMBITION, AMBITION

FLORENCE AND FRANK

AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

JASON

(to camera)

Well, there you have it. That's all the time we have. So, we will close out our special live broadcast this evening as we await the outcome of the election that is too close to call at this point. I'm Jason Proctor, good night.

STAN

And cut! That's a wrap! Thank you everybody!

(PANELISTS leave their seats. JASON fetches a fresh cup of Irish coffee. FRANK walks over to Florence)

FRANK

(to Florence)

Hey, looks like Trump's on track to win this thing tonight. So, I think Ambition's gonna have to trade in her pantsuit and heels for an orange jump suit and a pair of Crocs.

FLORENCE

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

ERIC

(walks up close to Elaine in mock sincerity)

Hey, um, 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 downstage.)

JASON

So, was that edgy enough for you?

STAN

(checking his cell phone.)

Hold on. I'll let you know in a minute...

Here we go - Five hundred and fifty-thousand viewers by the end of the second segment.

That's enough to greenlight another show, so I'll call that a B minus.

JASON

Just a B minus? How do we get an A?

STAN

Score a MILLION viewers next time.

JASON

OK, how do we do that?

STAN

Simple. We'll bring these same ten people back - like the cast of an ongoing reality show.

We'll find the hottest of hot-button issues for them to tackle, and we'll market it as the most raw and entertaining hour of political debate in a generation. So, all YOU gotta do is get these ten people to REALLY express themselves.

JASON

Wait, you don't think these guys were really expressing themselves today? I mean Elaine called Eric a Neo Nazi scumbag, and Florence called him batshit crazy. That's not expressive enough?

STAN

(Smiling)

Not for a million viewers. To get that we need to deliver more edge, more snark, more conflict.

Go dark. Curtains.

ACT ONE - SCENE 2

INT. TEMPORARY TV PRODUCTION SET IN AN AUDITORIUM, THE DAY AFTER TRUMP'S INAUGURATION IN JANUARY 2017. EARLY EVENING.

JASON and PANELISTS are mingling.

Huddle 1, stage right: ELAINE, FLORENCE, and LAMAR

Huddle 2, stage left: CRAIG, RACHEL, and FRANK. ERIC is doing pushups nearby.

Huddle 3, upstage: CRISTY playfully tries to convince Clayton to wear a pink knit protest hat. HE relents and SHE applauds him.

Huddle 4, downstage: JASON and CLARA.

JASON

(Coffee cup in hand. To Clara)

Good to see you again. Back for more drama?

CLARA

No, I'm actually hoping for LESS drama this time around. Last time it started to get a little crazy in here. I think you guys should dial it back some today.

JASON

Uh, so here's the thing. The plan is to dial it UP some. We need to boost ratings for the show to survive past today. Sorry.

CLARA

Hey, don't apologize to ME. I'm just the person you guys pay to sit in Purple Chair number four.

JASON

Oh no, no, no. You're WAY more than that. We picked you out of four thousand people to represent 10% of the American electorate.

(with excessive dramatic flair)

JASON (CONT'D)

You're an ambassador, a political and demographic avatar for sixteen MILLION Center Left voters. And even more important than ALL that – you're my favorite half Puerto Rican, half Columbian panelist.

(in the thickest Spanish accent he can muster)

La Bouricua paisa muy caliente!

CLARA

(smiling and shaking her head)

Oh, my God. Seriously? You might want to cut back on the caffeine there.

JASON

Oh, no. I need all the caffeine in here I can get. Otherwise, the double shot of whisky I put in would knock me right out.

CLARA

Okaaay. That explains a LOT actually.

STAN

(walking downstage from the right wing)

OK, two minutes! Positions everyone!

CLARA

Gotta go. See you on camera.

(CLARA turns and heads to her seat, passing by Stan. STAN looks back over his shoulder after he passes Clara.)

STAN

(to Jason)

You got good taste. I'll give you that. Now, let's focus and get your head in the game. If we hit a million viewers today, we get a contract for six more shows through twenty-eighteen. What I need from you is...

JASON

Yea, yeah, I know. Edge, snark, conflict - got it.

STAN

Oh, and one more thing.

JASON

Yep. Don't screw it up. Got that too.

(STAN pats Jason on the back, turns and walks toward the left wing)

STAN

Ten seconds! Quiet on set! Roll cameras! And five, four, three, two.

JASON

(quite animated to camera)

Gooooo afternoon, I'm Jason Proctor, live from our studio in Wexler County. Today, in cities across the country, thousands of people have gathered in support of the worldwide Women's March. This is a demonstration in support of several issues including gender equality, reproductive rights, and LGBTQ rights. It comes just one day after the inauguration of Donald J. Trump as the forty-fifth president of the United States. We're here with the ten voters we spoke to a few weeks back on election day who represent the full breadth of the cultural-political spectrum. Some of them are clearly in support of today's demonstration, 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

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

(All PANELISTS struggle to maintain composure)

JASON

Uhhh... better from your lips than mine.

Wait, that was a very poor choice of words on my part. Absolutely no pun intended.

Florence, your take on the hats?

FLORENCE

(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.

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.

JASON

And you think the pink hat is a good look for you? Bro, you gotta get off the drugs.

CLAYTON

Actually, Cristy asked me to wear the hat.

JASON

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

(CLAYTON and CRISTY look at one another and giggle)

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

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

Do 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.

(Cristy raises her hand)

CRISTY

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.

Cue music.

RACHEL

I got three precious grandbabies. I don't need science to tell me when they became people.

SONG 5 - 22 WEEKS

(Verse 1)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

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.

RACHEL

OR PUTS ITS MOTHER'S LIFE AT STAKE,

FRANK

NONE OF THIS MATTERS

RACHEL

WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO END ITS LIFE.

(Chorus)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

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 not before twenty-two weeks.

JASON

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

(Verse 3)

CRISTY

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)

CRISTY (CONT'D)

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)

CRISTY (CONT'D)

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 4)

CRISTY (CONT'D)

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

A what now?

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 and a football referee's penalty flag from his pocket. He throws the flag in the air and blows the whistle sharply.)

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 raises his hand)

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.

Cue music.

SONG 6 - NOT ENOUGH

(Verse 1)

FRANK (CONT'D)

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 THAT'S LED BY A MAN AND HIS WIFE,
KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE.

(Chorus 1)

FRANK (CONT'D)

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.

FRANK

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

FRANK

IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR THEM.

FLORENCE

IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR US

(Verse 2)

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

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.

LEFT

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

LEFT: IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR US.

(Verse 3)

CLAYTON

FOR TRANS WOMEN PLAYING WOMEN'S SPORTS
THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE, NO ONE SHOULD 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 (CONT'D)

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.

CLAYTON

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.

CLAYTON

NOT ENOUGH TODAY, 'CAUSE WE'RE STILL HERE
FIGHTING THROUGH OUR BIGOTRY AND FEAR.

CENTER

SHOULD BE ENOUGH

CLAYTON

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. Until next time,
I'm Jason Proctor, good evening.

STAN

And cut! That's a wrap! Thanks everybody!

(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

How was THAT for edge, snark, and conflict?

(takes a drink)

STAN

Apparently, not bad. We got one point three million viewers. You did it. We're good for six more shows.

JASON

What?! No way! How awesome is that!

STAN

That was a good effort but there's still room for more color. I'd give you a solid B.

JASON

Are you kidding? I delivered color in spades today. I let Eric do a full dissertation on pink tacos and meatsticks for crying out loud. Any more color, and we'd be the damn Jerry Springer Show.

STAN

Hey, Jerry Springer does six to nine million viewers daily. Until you deliver numbers like that, don't bad mouth Jerry. To grow an audience of six to nine million, we need to ENTERTAIN people more.

JASON

(mimicking Russell Crowe in Gladiator)

Are they not entertained enough already?

STAN

No, Maximus, they're not. But here's how we get there.
First, we get all ten panelists to sign on for the season. We got enough budget to get all of them to say yes.
Second, we give the new show an edgy title - Tribes USA.
Third, the football referee schtick with the whistle and the flag - I love it. We keep that.
And finally, you'll love this, before each broadcast, we'll get everybody together for a happy hour, prime 'em with a couple drinks, and voila, more edge, more snark, more conflict, and big numbers.

JASON

Umm. So, I was right there with you until the drinking part. Now, don't get me wrong - I'm all for ME knocking back a couple drinks before a show.

(points to his cup)

And then a couple more AFTER the show. But that's ME. I'm a super high-functioning alcoholic. Question is, how do we control a conversation between Elaine, Florence, Frank and Eric when they're half in the bag?

STAN

Well, we're gonna find out soon enough. Giddy up!

(STAN pats Jason on the back and walks to the stage wing)

JASON stares at his cup and takes a long drink. CLARA walks up to Jason)

CLARA

Hey there. Looks like you can use a friend.

JASON

What? Oh hey, no, I'm good. I mean, I can always use a friend, but I'm good.

CLARA

You sure?

JASON

Yeah, yeah. We got approved for six more shows through twenty-eighteen. So, you and I get to work together again.

CLARA

Hey, congrats on the new shows, but I'm not sure I want to be a purple avatar for millions of voters for two more years.

JASON

Of COURSE you do. Think about it. They're gonna pay you a ton of money for a few hours of your time, you'll get millions of fans, AND here's the best part - You get two years to try to seduce me. Now that I'm a big star, I'm a long shot for you, but hey, at least you'll have a chance, right?

(CRISTY shakes her head.)

Curtains.

ACT ONE SCENE 3

INT. TV PRODUCTION STUDIO, ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 2018. EARLY EVENING.

The set now has a large monitor at the back of the stage. It displays 'Tribes USA with Jason Proctor' and a picture of Jason's face with an open-mouth smile. JASON and PANELISTS are mingling. ALL are drinking alcoholic beverages except Craig and Eric.

Huddle 1, stage right: ELAINE, RACHEL, and CRAIG

Huddle 2, stage left: CLAYTON, FRANK, FLORENCE and LAMAR. ERIC is doing pushups nearby.

Huddle 3, downstage: JASON, CLARA, and CRISTY.

(STAN walks from the left wing to downstage.)

STAN

Five minutes, everybody! Last show of the season. Let's make it another good one!

(to CLARA and CRISTY)

Ladies. You ready to go? We're counting on you to really mix it up. Big numbers tonight means big numbers on your contracts for next season.

CLARA

Hey Stan, we get it, but some of us think there's too much

(making air quotes)

"mixing it up" already, and we don't need more.

CRISTY

Yeah, some of the exchanges are getting out of hand. Especially between Elaine and Eric. And the alcohol is not helping either.

STAN

(Pointing to Clara and Cristy's cups)

Well, clearly you two don't mind the alcohol THAT much. The good news is, I've never seen Eric take a drink on set.

CLARA

Oh, OK. I'm completely at ease now that I know the guy over there, with that big-ass rifle, doing push-ups, is stone cold sober.

STAN

We'll talk more about this later, but right now, we got a show to do.

(to the set)

Two minutes! Places!

(to Clara and Cristy)

Ladies. Conversation to be continued AFTER we wrap.

(CLARA puts her hand on Jason's arm momentarily and smiles.

SHE and CRISTY head for their seats.)

(to Jason)

OK, we need four million viewers tonight. Everything above that means bigger budget, more shows, more pay and more bonuses. You know the drill – Edge, snark, conflict, and what?

JASON

Don't screw this up.

STAN

Good man!

(STAN pats Jason on the back, hard, and heads to right wing.

JASON walks to the left wing, discards his cup, and returns

downstage)

Ten seconds! Quiet on set! Roll cameras! And five, four, three, two.

JASON

(to camera)

Gooooo evening, welcome to the season finale of Tribes USA, I'm your host, Jason Proctor. It's Tuesday, November sixth, election day twenty-eighteen, and we have our full panel of political avatars from left to right ready to mix it up as always. In the Blue Tribe we have Elaine, Florence, and Lamar. The Purple Tribe - Clara, Clayton, Cristy, and Craig. And the Red Tribe - Rachel, Frank, and Eric.

Tonight's first topic – immigration.

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

JASON (CONT'D)

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

ERIC

I think he's doing a great job.

JASON

Do you support separating families of illegal immigrants?

ERIC

Hell yeah. You gotta punish 'em to stop the flow into the country.

JASON

OK, stop the flow of ILLEGAL immigration. What do you think 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

We can't afford to stop legal immigration. That's stupid.

ERIC

Hey. I told you about calling me stupid, I won't tell you again.

ELAINE

Boy, please.

JASON

OK, Cristy, as the daughter of an immigrant mother, what's your opinion on legal immigration?

CRISTY

Every one in here is a descendant of immigrants, legal and illegal. Without the flow of immigrants throughout this country's history, there would be ten empty chairs in here...

(pointing to Eric)

...including chair ten over there.

ERIC

Hey, history or not, they got seven billion people in the world, all trying to come to this country. We're FULL. We can't afford to let anybody else in.

(CLAYTON raises his hand)

CLAYTON

No, we actually need a steady flow of legal immigrants to sustain our economy. We need to keep the flow where it is – right around a million people a year.

(RACHEL raises her hand)

RACHEL

I think a MILLION legal immigrants a year is too much. At some point, we're gonna be overrun.

Cue music.

SONG 7-THE FLOW

(Verse 1)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

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?

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

(pointing to assault rifle hanging on Eric's shoulder)

Hey! It looks like you've added something to your arsenal today. 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.
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? Ban on assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, armor piercing bullets, or silencers?

ERIC

Nope, nope, and nope.

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

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

ERIC

What part of 'shall not be infringed' don't you get?

(ELAINE jumps out of her seat and yells at Eric, startling the other panelists and Jason)

ELAINE

Hey! You think this is a joke?
Six people in my high school got shot one day by a weak-ass punk with a gun. He looked
JUST like you, weirdo. Sittin' up here playing toy soldier and talking about the Second
Amendment. Get a life!

(to everyone)

This is madness.

JASON

I'm sorry, what?

ELAINE

This debate. This conversation is madness.

Cue music.

SONG 8 - MADNESS

(Verse 1)

ELAINE (CONT'D)

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!

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 leaps out of his seat, and points at Elaine)

ERIC

Hey, you just don't know when to quit do ya!

(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, calm down, 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 the whistle and penalty flag from his pocket. He blows the whistle sharply and throws the flag in the air.)

JASON

(mimicking a football ref)

Personal foul-foul, calling a panelist stupid-stupid, not once, but twice-twice, 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)

Let's call that the end of the gun control debate, and the final word this evening on Tribes USA. I'm Jason Proctor, good night, and see you next season.

STAN

Cut! That's a wrap! Thanks everybody!

(Panelists leave their seats and mingle. Huddle 1, stage right: ELAINE, FLORENCE, CRAIG, FRANK and ERIC engage in animated discussion. Huddle 2, upstage: CLAYTON, LAMAR, and RACHEL. Huddle 3, stage left: CLARA, and CRISTY.)
(JASON gets a drink. and walks downstage to confer with Stan.
STAN checks his phone.)

JASON

Hey, we almost went full Jerry Springer at the end there. I know we want Springer numbers, but a physical altercation on set is a bridge too far – even for me. Next season we need to put some controls in place or somebody's gonna get punched in the mouth.

(STAN still checking his phone)

Hey, are you listening to me?

STAN

Six point eight million.

JASON

What?

STAN

(to the set)

Six point eight million viewers people! Well done!

JASON

No way! Yes! Are you not entertained?!?!

(JASON gestures for a high five. STAN obliges.)

JASON (CONT'D)
(All PANELISTS applaud and then return to their respective conversations. CRISTY and CLARA walk to JASON and STAN)

STAN

Ladies! How 'bout the numbers?

CRISTY

Numbers are great, Stan, but we need to finish our conversation about the tone of the show. What happened today with Elaine and Eric was unacceptable.

STAN

I hear ya, but there are six point eight million people who think it WAS acceptable and want to see more next season.

CLARA

Well, if you decide to give them more than what they got today, you might have to do next season without us.

STAN

OK, OK, let's not do anything rash here. What was so awful about today anyway? It was just colorful debate. No one threw a punch, no one got hurt. I mean look over there. Elaine and Eric are having a perfectly civil conversation right now.

(ELAINE and ERIC are animated and pointing at one another.

FLORENCE and CRAIG try to calm them)

OK, it's KINDA civil. Look, how 'bout this. If we can put some behavior boundaries in place to ensure those two don't cross the line, will you feel comfortable staying on? And before you answer that, you should know that the numbers we delivered this season mean the compensation in your new contracts is going to be obscene. Not to mention all the other ways you can cash in on your celebrity. Obscene.

(CRISTY and CLARA stare incredulously at STAN)

Jason, help me out cuz.

JASON

He does have a point. Look, we spent two years building something special here. We're giving people what they want to see and we're getting ridiculous amounts of money for it. All we gotta do is figure out how to keep things under control next season and it's all good.

CLARA

And what makes you think it's just that simple?

Cue music.

SONG 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 (CONT'D)

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 (CONT'D)

I sure hope you know what you're doing.

JASON

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

(takes another drink)

Curtains.

ACT TWO SCENE 1

INT. TV PRODUCTION STUDIO, ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 2020. EARLY EVENING.

The set has new high-back leather executive swivel chairs for the panelists. JASON, with surgical mask on, stands downstage. The panelists settle into their seats - The chairs are color-coded and arranged in the standard wide arc across the set. Frank 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

Ten seconds! Quiet on set! Roll cameras! And five, four, three, two.

JASON

(to camera)

Gooood evening, and welcome to Tribes USA. I'm Jason Proctor. Today is 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.

As always, we got the Tribes here to say out loud what most of us only dare to think in the privacy of our own minds.

(As each panelist is introduced, his/her picture appears on the giant monitor, he/she is spot-lighted.)

In the 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 Purple Tribe we have Clara, a manufacturing manager. Clayton, an engineering supervisor. Cristy, a cardiologist. And Craig, a sergeant with law enforcement.

In the Red Tribe we have Nana Rachel, retired school bus driver and grandmother of five. Frank, a conservative podcaster with over two million followers. And Eric, an 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 Tribe. 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)

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

CRISTY

(blushing)

Clayton and I are expecting.

JASON

Wait, Clayton, look at you, dude! You got down to business with the doctor, shot that fade away jumper – swoosh! Nothin' but net! And you put a bun in the oven. Yes! Up top! JASON gestures for a high five. CLAYTON smiles broadly and obliges. CRISTY covers her face with both hands and shakes her head.

(deadpanning)

OK, Clayton, all joking aside. You're gonna be a father soon. Every one in the country 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)

CLAYTON

Yes. I promise.

JASON

That's wonderful. Do it for the baby, Clayton. Do it for the baby.
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

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 woke 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?

Cue music.

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?

(SHE stands)

SONG 10 - WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

(Chorus)

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

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

(Verse 1)

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

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 (CONT'D)
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?

FRANK
Oh no, not nuts. I'm not nuts.

(Verse 3)

FRANK (CONT'D)
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 (CONT'D)

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?

Stop music.

JASON
Oh my. Looks like the Blue and Red Tribes are not holding back at all tonight. Ding Dong are you nuts.

Cue music.
Wait, they're not done yet. OK, get it all out of your system.

(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 (CONT'D)

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 (CONT'D)

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

OK, are we done now? Done, done? Great. 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, 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. 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 you two want to replace police in your neighborhoods with social workers, good luck walking to your cars at night.

JASON

Okay, Purple Tribe - defunding the police – thoughts? 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. Considering 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

Police reform is manufactured hysteria. The few times 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 would ruin the false 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

Yeah? Then how do you explain the fact that black people are shot and killed by police at twice the rate of whites?

FRANK

Simple - 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 Tribe on this. Craig, you're the law enforcement officer. Your thoughts?

CRAIG

(sighs)

Every year, police have over sixty million interactions with civilians. Less than sixty of those interactions result in the death of an unarmed person.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

So, if you are unarmed, the likelihood of being killed when interacting with 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 man-handled by police. And it works no matter what kind of police you're dealing with.

JASON

(after five seconds of waiting)

Well, what is it!?

CRAIG

Comply.

JASON

What?

CRAIG

Just comply.

Cue music.

JASON

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

SONG 11 - JUST COMPLY

(Verse 1)

CRAIG

SOME FOLKS THINK THAT ALL POLICE
ARE MALCONTENTS 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 (CONT'D)
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 either a very important public service announcement from an earnest cop OR the very dark musings of an authoritarian sadist. Or, maybe it was both, I don't know. 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 we all 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 suppress a smile)

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

JASON

...Yeah, that’s messed up....

(doubling down on the Lamar impersonation)

...but I STILL didn’t take no shit from no cop!

(JASON smiles wryly at Lamar. LAMAR chuckles and shakes his head.)

JASON (CONT’D)

OK, on a serious note, polls have just closed out on the West coast. Several states are saying they may be counting ballots well into tomorrow, and President Trump is claiming massive voter fraud. So, this thing may drag out for a while.

We’re going to wrap up Tribes USA twenty-twenty 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

Trump's 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

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, then Rachel.

LAMAR

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

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, and then Craig.

CRISTY

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

CRAIG

Whoever wins, support your local police.

JASON

That's right. And do what they say, or you'll get a beatdown.

Alright, thank you panel for another lively discussion. That'll do it for Tribes USA in twenty-twenty. This is Jason Proctor, signing out.

STAN

And cut! That's a wrap! Thanks everybody!

(All PANELISTS leave their chairs. CLARA, CLAYTON, and CRISTY, huddle with JASON downstage. ALL OTHERS slowly migrate off set.)

CLAYTON

I think that went pretty well. Everybody was sober, and the conversation was less contentious than usual. I liked it.

CRISTY

I liked it too, honey bunny.

(CRISTY and CLAYTON pull down their masks for a short kiss and then pull the masks back up.)

JASON

Oh, my God! I think I just threw up in my mask! How old are you guys, eighty? Today's show was lukewarm, at best. I'll be shocked if we break five million.

(STAN approaches the huddle, checking his phone)

STAN

(without looking up from his phone)

Hell, I'll be shocked if we break FOUR million... ...Ok, here we go. Four point two. That's crap. Lowest number in three years. TERRIBLE way to end the season.

JASON

Yeah, but we're in the middle of a pandemic. Maybe four point two million is the best we can hope for. If COVID is gone next season, we can ditch the masks, bring back happy hour, and get our mojo back.

CRISTY

Or maybe, we DON'T bring happy hour back next season, and we keep having sober, civil conversations with four point two million viewers. That's a respectable number.

STAN

Ha! Respectable to who? Not our advertisers and the folks signing our checks. If we don't clear six million viewers every show, next season will be a very short one. We are DEFINITELY bringing happy hour back.

CLARA

Really, Stan? That's the choice? We drink and yell at each other, or get cancelled?

STAN

People don't tune in to Tribes USA for high-minded, sober, civil conversations. They tune in to see high contrast, colorful debate. They tune in for edge, snark, and conflict. Now, nobody HAS to drink to deliver that, but boy it's so much easier after a couple margaritas.

CLARA

Well, drunk or sober, don't expect me to be edgy or snarky.

STAN

Oh, no one ever expected that from you Purples. All you gotta do is be your thoughtful, measured, reasonable selves, and let the Blues and Reds deliver the goods. You all get paid the same crazy amount for two hours of work per show. So, if I were you, I'd have a couple drinks, enjoy the process, and then laugh all the way to the bank. Jason, help me out cuz.

(CLARA puts her hands on her hips and stares at Jason)

JASON

I wanna help you, but see that look on my wife's face? That means the smart play for THIS conversation is to keep my mouth shut and leave you hangin'. Sorry, cuz.

Curtains.

ACT TWO SCENE 2

INT. TV PRODUCTION STUDIO, ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 2022. EARLY EVENING.

PANELISTS are mingling on set. ALL except Craig are drinking alcohol. ALL are in a jovial mood and their banter is louder than usual. Reggaeton music is playing in the background.

Huddle 1, stage right: LAMAR and CRAIG are talking.

Huddle 2, upstage: ELAINE and CLARA are dancing Reggaeton., FLORENCE, CRISTY, and RACHEL are cheering them on.

Huddle 3, stage left: CLAYTON and FRANK are talking. ERIC is nearby, drinking from a red cup. HE is wearing earphones and nodding his head to a beat he alone can hear.

STAN and JASON are downstage. JASON is drinking from a large coffee mug.

STAN

(to the set)

OK, six minutes, people! Let's start winding it down!

JASON

(with the slightest hint of a slur)

Looks like we got our mojo back this season for sure.

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

Maybe even a little TOO much mojo, today.

STAN

Nah, this is the last show of the season. No such thing as too much mojo. We got just enough mojo to hit eight or nine million today. Are you ready?

JASON

Absolutely. Edge, snark, conflict, don't screw it up.

STAN

Right. Two more things. One, keep an eye on our boy Eric today. I have no idea what he's been drinking out of that red cup. And two, I think you've had enough to drink so pace yourself until we wrap.

(to the set)

Three minutes! Places!

(PANELISTS put drinks away, take their seats and swivel their chairs to face away from audience. JASON sets his mug down in the left wing, and returns downstage)

Ten seconds! Quiet on set! Roll cameras! And five, four, three, two.

JASON

Gooooo afternoon, and welcome to Tribes USA, I'm Jason Proctor. 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 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. As always, we got the Tribes here to say out loud what most of us only dare to think in the privacy of our own minds.

(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.)

The Blue Tribe – Elaine*, Florence*, and Lamar.

The Purple Tribe – Clara*, Clayton*, Cristy* and Craig.

The Red Tribe - Nana Rachel*, Frank*, and the meatstick man himself, Eric.*

Each time we assemble the Tribes USA panel the conversation gets more interesting as their worldviews continue to diverge.

Each tribe has its own information sources, its own facts, its own 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, and 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 (CONT'D)

(JASON walks to the left wing and retrieves his coffee mug. He takes a sip and smiles broadly. Option here: JASON takes a seat at piano / keyboard and plays through this song) 12. Tribal Truth.)

Cue music.

SONG 12 - TRIBAL TRUTH

(Intro)

JASON (CONT'D)

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!

JASON (CONT'D)

(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’D EVER SEEN
EVEN BILL BARR WAS FORCED TO ADMIT IT WAS CLEAN.

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!

(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

LAMAR

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

Alright, 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
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 MORE MONTHS TO LIVE.

FRANK
A YEAR AT BEST!

JASON
(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
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 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!

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 wing and sets the cup
down. HE walks back downstage, showing hints of intoxication.)

JASON (CONT'D)

(to camera)

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, 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 Blue and Red people 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.

JASON (CONT'D)

The idea that the Jesus described in your Bible would vote for Trump – 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 a meaningful risk you need to worry about – 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 to 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 just a muscle that pumps blood, so it cannot produce thoughts. Nope. 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 ya like them apples?

(FLORENCE glowers at Frank)

JASON

Eric, the meatstick man. The idea that the founding fathers wrote the Second Amendment so you can 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 steps into stage left from the left wing and gestures to Jason with his arms out and palms up in a what-the-hell-are-you-doing pose.)

Ooo, it appears I may be delivering a little too much edge, snark, and conflict for my director. That's a first. So I'm going to dial it back some.

OK, Red and Blue Tribes, 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 tribe 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.

Cue music.

SONG 13 - YOU'RE GONE

(Verse 1)

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

I NEVER LIKED WHAT YOU PEOPLE STOOD FOR,
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
HAVE ALL BUT DISAPPEARED AND NOW WHAT DRIVES YOU IS CLEAR.
IT'S NOT RULE OF LAW, IT'S NOT VALUES, OR SHAME.
RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE DRIVEN BY ANGER AND FEAR.

(Verse 2)

ELAINE

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

YOU FEAR YOU'RE LOSING YOUR RIGHT TO RETAIN
ALL THE POWER ON THE REIGNS OF CONTROL.
YOU FEAR THAT 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 / ERIC / FLORENCE / 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

(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 YOU 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 CRITQUE!

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!
(FRANK grabs Eric by the collar with one hand and points at his face with the other)

FRANK

Enough! Don't you fucking say it!

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

(FRANK releases Jason's collar and steps back.)

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!

CRAIG

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

(When Elaine gets within 3 feet of Eric, ERIC aims his pistol at her and shoots once, hitting her in the stomach. 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. FRANK and JASON run over to help.)

CRAIG (CONT'D)

(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 (CONT'D)

(CRAIG administers CPR to Eric. CRISTY directs Frank to kneel and cradle Elaine's head in his hands so her head is slightly elevated. SHE directs Jason to put pressure on the stomach wound. Other PANELISTS stare in shock.)

Stage lights dim to silhouette level.

(EMTs arrive and tend to victims, place them on stretchers, and roll them off set.)

Spotlight on Clara, Florence, and Rachel

(CLARA, FLORENCE, and RACHEL console one another. FRANK walks up to them, shaking his head.)

FRANK

I'm so sorry. I could have been better. I could have been so much better.

(FRANK puts his hand over his mouth and strains to hold himself together. FLORENCE steps forward and gives Frank a consoling hug and weeps with him.)

FLORENCE

We all could. We all could.

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 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.)

JASON

I got two people killed tonight. All for eight or nine million viewers?

STAN

Twelve point eight.

JASON

What?

STAN

We got twelve point eight million viewers.

JASON
Seriously? You checked the god damned score?

STAN
Force of habit.

JASON
You need to walk away now.
(STAN turns and walks away. JASON watches Stan leave, and then JASON buries his face in his hands. Lights dim.)

Cue 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.)

SONG 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 (CONT'D)
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
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 (CONT'D)
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.

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

(Bridge Part 1)

CLARA
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.

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

(Bridge Part 2)

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.

*Spotlight on Florence actor walking from left
of stage to join the other actors center stage.*

(Bridge Part 3)

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 others center stage,
forming a tight semicircle.*

FRANK ACTOR

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.)

FRANK ACTOR (CONT'D)

(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. There is no longer blood on his face. HE 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