

4-15-2005

POOOOOFFFF

John Steven Paul
Valparaiso University

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholar.valpo.edu/soul_purpose

Recommended Citation

Paul, John Steven, "POOOOOFFFF" (2005). Soul Purpose Liturgical Drama. Paper 19. http://scholar.valpo.edu/soul_purpose/19

This Liturgical Drama is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Theatre at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Soul Purpose Liturgical Dramas and Essays by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

POOOOFFFF

A play for actors and singers by John Steven Paul
Developed in workshop by Soul Purpose,
The Liturgical Drama Troupe of the Valparaiso University Theatre
April 14, 2005

Characters:

Cleopas
Unnamed Disciple
Mary
Simon
Thomas
Shepherd
Bartender (Piano Player optional)

So, a SHEPHERD walks into a bar, right? And Mary, SIMON PETER, and THOMAS are there throwing back a couple. BARTENDER is pouring.

SHEPHERD

Hey. Barkeep. Have you seen two sheep?

BARTENDER

Sheep?

SHEPHERD

Yeah. I've lost two sheep. I was minding my flock, and, well, two of them ran away. I've got to find them.

SIMON

So where are the rest of your sheep?

SHEPHERD

Oh, I had to leave them back there. 'Bout five miles back.

SIMON

Five miles? You left your entire flock, five miles away? Won't they get cold, how will they be protected; what about wolves? Aren't you worried?

SHEPHERD

That's what flocks are for.

THOMAS

Oh boy.

SHEPHERD

Well, just keep an eye out for them, okay?

He exits as CLEOPAS and UNNAMED DISCIPLE walk into the bar.

BARTENDER

Hey guys. What can I get for you tonight?

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

Uh, nothing for me yet.

CLEOPAS

Nope, I'm good. Thanks. (*Seeing THOMAS, etc*) Hey guys!

THOMAS

You'll *never* guess what happened. (*sarcastically*) The Lord has risen indeed! And – get this – he has appeared to Simon!

SIMON

No, he really did.

CLEOPAS

I know!

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

We just saw him –

CLEOPAS

-and he was on the road –

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

And he was breaking the bread –

CLEOPAS

-but first he explained all of the prophets to us –

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

-well, right, but we didn't know it was him yet –

CLEOPAS

-yeah, and as soon as we knew it was him, he disappeared –

UNNAMED DISCIPLE and CLEOPAS

(quick waves of hands)

-Poof!

MARY, SIMON and THOMAS are dumbfounded.

THOMAS

Oh really.

SIMON

What?

MARY

Slow down!

CLEOPAS and UNNAMED DISCIPLE

(obnoxiously slow waving of hands)

CLEOPAS

Uh, he doesn't have too many lines.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

I'm the strong silent type.

CLEOPAS

So okay, we're walking on this road, right? Like... like this. (*CLEOPAS and MARY walk in indeterminate directions*). And all of a sudden, here comes this stranger. (*UNNAMED DISCIPLE joins them.*)

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?

CLEOPAS

What! Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

What things?

CLEOPAS

Oh. I forgot this part. You actually do have a line.

CLEOPAS whispers into MARY's ear.

MARY

The things about Jesus. Of Nazareth... line?

CLEOPAS whispers again.

MARY

Who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. And how our chief priests and leaders... line?

CLEOPAS whispers again.

MARY

Okay. And how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death. And... they crucified him. But we had hoped... I'm sorry. Line?

CLEOPAS

I'll just take it from here. Thanks though.

MARY smiles.

CLEOPAS

But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. MOREOVER: Some women of our group astounded us.

MARY beams with pride as CLEOPAS gestures toward her.

CLEOPAS

They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said.

SIMON

Yep.

MARY

But they did not see him there.

CLEOPAS

Right.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets had declared!

CLEOPAS

What?

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

That's what Jesus said.

CLEOPAS

Oh, right.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

And then: Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?

CLEOPAS

And then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to us the things about himself in all the Scriptures.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

(crosses to BARTENDER)

All this reenacting is making me thirsty. Can you pour me a cold one?

BARTENDER pours him a cold one.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

Thanks.

SIMON

Hey, you were telling us your story....?

THOMAS

Yeah, come back to us. The day is almost over. They're about to close it down.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

Okay, we can get back and finish the story in a second. But I'm hungry. *(To BARTENDER)* Can we get a pizza or something over here?

BARTENDER

How about some bread?

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

Yeah, that'll do.

She takes a loaf of Chapel™ Communion bread and breaks it, and gives it to UNNAMED DISCIPLE and CLEOPAS; they distribute the rest of the bread to the rest of the disciples. As they eat and talk, BARTENDER escapes unnoticed.

MARY

So, I was pretty good at that acting game. Maybe I should look into a vocation in the-at-re.

THOMAS

Yeah, that's what you should do. I mean, the way you asked for your lines – very authentic.

CLEOPAS

(turns toward bar)

Hey, can I get a refill?

Notices that she is absent.

Where'd she go?

THOMAS

(with a hint of sarcasm)

She must've disappeared. Poooooff.

CLEOPAS

No, she can't poooff, only Je...

Pause.

All disciples will stand when they "Get It."

CLEOPAS

Oh.... I get it.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

Get what?

CLEOPAS

Don't you get it? You have to get it.

CLEOPAS looks at UNNAMED for response.

SIMON

Wait, I think I get it.

Claps hands, impressed with himself, stands.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

What?

SIMON points to where bartender was, makes act of breaking bread.

MARY

Ah, that's pretty tricky...

THOMAS

What, what do you get, uh?

Smiling, she got it, stands, looks at THOMAS, he gets it.

THOMAS

OHHH!

THOMAS & MARY

(look at SIMON)

We get it!!!

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

I still don't get it.

All do the breaking of the bread.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

Ah. Got it.

CLEOPAS

It was suddenly so clear to us.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

We had been listening all day, talking about Jesus.

THOMAS

But we hadn't really been looking for Him at all.

SIMON

We were thinking about Him, certainly, and we were so scared that we couldn't help but think about Him with every breath we took.

MARY

But we weren't looking for Him, not any more.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

We never for a moment considered that he might be there with us. We were so concerned with what His death meant to us...

CLEOPAS

That we had forgotten what His life meant. We had forgotten what he said of being his disciples.

UNNAMED DISCIPLES

He told us that to follow Him we had to leave everything, to make Jesus our world. But we never realized that if we made Jesus our world, if we left everything to follow Him...

MARY

Then, in a strange way we *were* Him, to each other and to the world we left behind for His sake.

SIMON

That's what we realized that evening...

MARY

We looked into that woman's eyes and we saw Christ, as clearly as we ever had.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

To another person it may have looked like nothing more than a simple act of serving.

THOMAS

But to us, it was as clear as daylight... as impossible as it was to believe...

SIMON

This was Christ. These were His words, His love reaching out to us through another of his followers.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

That's what we'd been doing wrong all through that lonely trip to Emmaus.

CLEOPAS

We'd been talking about Christ, but we hadn't been seeing Him.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

We came all the way from home alone, even though He was with us.

SIMON

But in that moment we saw Jesus, and we knew how blind we had been.

THOMAS

We knew that if we look for him, if we are willing to see Jesus in a kind woman at a Tavern, in a glass of beer and some stale biscuits...

MARY

If we are willing to see Him where we are, rather than demanding that He take us somewhere else, we need never be alone again.

CLEOPAS

Not all of us saw His messengers at the tomb, but we all saw that the stone was removed.

THOMAS

Not everyone touched His wounds, and looked into His eyes to see the pain and triumph and love in them.

MARY

But we all felt them, and wherever we participate in them, there He is.

THOMAS

Only our own disbelief and blindness can block it out.

UNNAMED DISCIPLE

Two people went to Emmaus, even though Jesus was with us all the time.

CLEOPAS

But three people went back, even though we were as alone as ever.

END