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Sloppy Seconds: A Play and How it Came to Be

Michèle N. Strachota
michele.strachota@valpo.edu

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Presentation Outline

Personal introduction/background:

- Michèle Strachota
- Junior, Creative Writing Major
- My writing background

Playwriting:

- Playwriting class in high school
- Playwriting class at Valpo
- The process of Playwriting

Sloppy Seconds:

- How *Sloppy Seconds* came to be
 - Plot: taking risks, knowing I needed that extra oomph, "What is it About?"
 - Design choices: spotlights, no scene breaks, no races
- Sloppy Seconds at ACTF

Scene Reading:

- Explain what a reading is and what it's purpose is in the theater world
- give pre-reading notes: language, character background
- Allison, Danny, Stage directions (me?)

Closing Statement:

- Going forward
- Being a playwright in the world

Scene Being Read

(SLIM JIM and ELAINE exit the theater door. As they walk the light follows them around the stage)

ELAINE

I'm glad Mick don't like sci-fi stuff.

SLIM JIM

Why's that?

ELAINE

'Cause then I wouldn't get to hang out with you.

SLIM JIM

You shouldn't say nothing like that.

(Elaine tucks her arm into SLIM JIM's. SLIM JIM politely puts her arm back by her side)

SLIM JIM

I don't think that's such a good idea.

ELAINE

Don't be silly, it don't mean nothing.

SLIM JIM

Maybe not to you.

ELAINE

That's not what I meant. I just mean Mick is totally fine with it.

SLIM JIM

What does he think he's being fine with.

ELAINE

Us hanging out and being friends and stuff.

SLIM JIM

You ain't treating me like no friend.

ELAINE

Yeah and just a little while ago you was telling me how straight you was. What's the difference?

SLIM JIM

I don't know. Maybe I'm just done being jerked around.

ELAINE

It's just a little fun.

SLIM JIM

Right.

ELAINE

Don't you like me?

SLIM JIM

Don't be that way.

ELAINE

What way?

SLIM JIM

Making me say stuff you already know is true.

ELAINE

All right, fine.

(They walk in silence for a moment)

ELAINE

What if I said I wasn't gonna jerk you around no more?

SLIM JIM

I'd say that ain't true but I'm listening.

ELAINE

You could be with me.

SLIM JIM

You don't wanna be with me.

ELAINE

Maybe I do.

SLIM JIM

I don't understand what you're getting at.

ELAINE

I might wanna be with you if you prove yourself.

SLIM JIM

Prove myself how?

ELAINE

If you kill Mick we can be together.

SLIM JIM

What?!

ELAINE

Don't sound so shocked.

SLIM JIM

What the fuck do you mean don't sound shocked?! I am! You have to be kidding!

ELAINE

I'm not.

SLIM JIM

No, 'cause you got to be.

ELAINE

I thought you would understand.

SLIM JIM

Understand what?! You just told me to kill your boyfriend so I could be your boyfriend instead!

ELAINE

So you do understand then.

SLIM JIM

No, I don't!

ELAINE

It's not as if it's unusual.

SLIM JIM

I've never killed anyone!

ELAINE

Then you must be the exception.

SLIM JIM

Elaine, do you hear yourself right now? What is going on? Is this some kind of sick joke?

ELAINE

I told you I wasn't kidding.

SLIM JIM

Fuck. That's insane.

ELAINE

Call it what you want.

SLIM JIM

I should call the cops.

ELAINE

I haven't done anything wrong. What are they going to do?

SLIM JIM

I have to go warn Mick.

ELAINE

Go ahead, then it will be a fair fight.

(SLIM JIM stares at ELAINE for a moment and then runs off stage.)