

BRAVE NEW WORKSHOP THEATRE

DATE: 08.23.00
SHOW: Dull Man Running
TITLE: "Tiger!"
DRAFT: FINAL

PREMISE:

Clueless suburban school board member reveals her ignorance and racist beliefs in an emotional testimony regarding an urban exchange with a Minneapolis high school.

SETTING:

School Board meeting at Apple Valley Middle School library in Apple Valley, a typical, mostly white, modern-day "Leave It to Beaver"-type suburb.

CHARACTERS:

Susan Plunkett: a young white woman who fancies herself a liberal minded intellectual. Susan sells Pampered Chef and has tons of friends who look like her. Married with three kids.

Morton Grazer: School Board President. Fifty-three years old, white, married with two kids in college. Morton has lived in Apple Valley for twenty-five years. Morton has a comb-over.

Jan Nelson: School Board member for twelve years. She's a retired gym teacher.

Various school board members.

(Lights up on school board meeting.)

MORTON

Alrightee then! It looks like the teacher's lounge will get a new microwave. I'll inform the Apple Valley Lounge Boosters to move forward on that one. (*shifts uncomfortably*) Now...it seems that, uh, we have one more action item on our list today and, uh, I think we all know how we feel about this one. Yeah, this action item is real different. Its been proposed that the Apple Valley school district—that's us!—do an (*starts reading from notes*) urban exchange with some schools over there in Minneapolis. So, okay, let's vote! All opposed--

JAN

(suspiciously) Whoa, I'm sorry. What is an "urban exchange" exactly?

MORTON

Yes, that's a good question, Jan. Real helpful. *(reading from notes)* "An urban exchange will challenge suburban and metropolitan schools alike to participate in a learning operative meant to bridge cultural and educational differences along diverse lines of color, race, and creed."

(Silence)

JAN

Okay, I'm confused. What is this Morton? You said "exchange" in there somewhere. What are we exchanging?

MORTON

Uh...students, Jan, students.

JAN

Exchange them for what?

MORTON

Other students.

JAN

Students from Minneapolis?

MORTON

Yes!

JAN

(getting it) Oh my God!

MORTON

(reading) Students from Minneapolis North, Roosevelt—that's where Governor Ventura went I might add *(no response from board)* ... So, any discussion...*(as if expecting)* Susan?

SUSAN

(already standing—seems surprised that she's been called on so quickly) Oh, well! Good! Here I am! *(pause)* Well, this is exciting. Don't you think? Yes, very exciting and different. Minneapolis schools are very rich in diversity and that's a good thing. I am not one of those racist people. I am not a racist. In fact, I love black people.

I really, really do. I love that Tiger Woods. I think he is just so...wonderful and...just wonderful. (*starts getting revved up*) I'd invite him in my home, that's how wonderful I think he is. I wish he were mine. I would trade one of my own sons for Tiger—that's how much I love black people! Let's just say, I'm comfortable with them, with those people... All people!...I don't even notice color. I'm color-blind, really. Color-blind! All I see is white! I watch Oprah every day and I forget she's black. Absolutely forget! And that Halle Berry, you know her right? An African-American actress—so beautiful. I mean, she looks white! I would love to be as pretty as Halle Berry. And that Tiger is just so wonderful, too.

(*Susan sits. Silence. Scattered claps.*)

MORTON

Thank you, Susan. Okay, so, just to clarify, you are in favor of inner city kids coming to our school?

SUSAN

Oh, no! No!

(*Blackout or transition.*)

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