

CROSSROADS
A play in 5 moments

by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

OGGY.....a young businessman, (25)
FRIDA.....a pretty girl in her early 20s
INTERVIEWER..... a person who tries to interview people on
the train station for his field study.
TRICKSTER.....a genderless, childish-acting “spirit,”
who changes and plays with reality

TIME: No specific time. (In our case 2014)

SETTING: The story takes place in a train station. **On stage:** Images of trains are projected in the background and sounds of trains are being played.

MOMENT 1: Birth of the Trickster

(A person, the trickster, covered in two sacks lies in the middle of the dark stage while a poem is being projected on the wall:

“You to the left and I to the right,
For the way of men must sever,
And it well may be for a day and a night,
And it well may be forever,
But whether we meet or whether we part
For our ways are past our knowing
A pledge from the heart to its fellow heart
On the ways we are all going
Here’s luck
For we know not where we are going”¹

Slowly music starts playing [Instrumental version of “Where is my mind” by The Pixies]. The trickster starts moving in the sacks, turns on the flashlights it has inside and breaks free. As soon as the trickster is born, the song stops, stage light is on and casual train sounds are played in the background. The trickster itself does not recognize the changes on stage for it is amazed by the fact that it is alive. It takes a close look at its own hand and feet and suddenly people enter the stage. They carry suitcases and bags and seem to be in a hurry. They pass by the trickster and do not notice it.

One of the people on stage carries a clipboard and tries to convince the passing people to take part in an interview.)

INTERVIEWER

“Excuse me... do you have a minute to take part in a short interview for my field study?”

People pass by and don’t react to the interviewer. The trickster, who watched this CLAPS and all the people on stage freeze. The trickster makes another move in order to make them go backwards.

Then it changes the speed to slow-motion and finally it pulls Oggy towards the interviewer. It looks like the trickster uses invisible strings to pull him. Oggy stops close to the interviewer.

INTERVIEWER

“Sir, may I interview you for my field study? It will only take a few minutes, I promise!”

OGGY

“Okay, but quick, my train to work goes in 15 minutes.”

Interviewer leads Oggy towards backstage. Then the trickster pulls Frida towards the interviewer.

INTERVIEWER

“Could I maybe interview you for my project?”

FRIDA

“Yeah, I guess I still have some time...”

¹ „At the Crossroads“ by Richard Hovey

MOMENT 2: Interview

Interviews are shown as a video on the projector. They are cut together.

INTERVIEWER

Welcome thank you so much for this, I will ask you just a couple of questions, are you ready?

OGGY

Yes, sure!

FRIDA

Of course honey!

INTERVIEWER

Alright, please tell me your name, your age, where you are from and what you do.

OGGY:

My name is Ogulcan I'm 23 years old, I'm Portuguese but I live in Spain and I have a bachelor in Economics.

FRIDA:

My name is Frida McDouglas I'm 22, I'm English I have a bachelor degree in marketing and a Masters in PR.

INTERVIEWER:

Okay, do you work?

OGGY:

Yes, I am a Finance assistant in Spanish Company.

FRIDA:

Yes, I'm the marketing coordinator in one of the most prestigious PR agencies in New York.

INTERVIEWER:

Is it a good job?

OGGY:

Well I cannot complain, I'm not allowed to, and after all- being the coffee guy is not that hard. (laughs)

FRIDA:

Is the perfect job, and they have the best manager. (laughs)

INTERVIEWER

Why are you laughing?

OGGY:

C'mon man. It was a joke.

FRIDA:

Because honey it's the truth, nobody else can do what I do.

INTERVIEWER:

So your job is a joke or what is so funny?

OGGY:

No, I'm just saying; don't try to make it look that way.

INTERVIEWER:

What do you do that makes you so good at it?

FRIDA:

Well I work very hard... I don't think you can imagine how hard it is, but you know I still have dreams just as everyone else, the only difference between me and other people is that I have the courage to face the world and fight for what I want.

INTERVIEWER:

Do you feel that you have accomplished everything you could?

OGGY:

Yes...I guess so... Yes!

FRIDA:

Definitely!

INTERVIEWER:

Are you happy?

OGGY:

...mmm that's an interesting question, I don't know....

FRIDA:

....I don't know....

MOMENT 3: Freak out

(Spotlight is on Frida. She seems to be very upset and walks up and down the stage. She speaks, but it's not quite clear whether she is talking to herself or the audience.)

FRIDA

Am I happy? What the fuck does happy even mean? I am 25 years old. I am 5.7 and I weight 130lbs.

Look at me. I'm perfect. Young, pretty, rich- society's definition of perfection

But I am scared of butterflies and I don't know my mother's date of birth. I cannot keep my flowers alive. I suck at relationships. And I'm even worse with friendship. Don't trust me.

I have a degree in business marketing, but still need to sleep with every man in my company in order to build up my career and self-esteem.

I drink champagne, but it is never bubbly enough. I bleach my teeth, but they are never white enough. I do cocaine, but somehow, I am never high enough.

Caught in a circle of starving, binging and purging. Look at me, see how pretty I am?

But don't look inside. Inside I rot! You think you failed in life? You think you are suffering? I am sick of it! But now it's too late. There is no way out. Straight ahead till the end is the only direction I have left. No matter where I go, I will never be able to escape from myself.

(Light goes off)

MOMENT 4: Apple Tree

(As soon as Frida's stage light goes off, Oggy's light goes on.)

OGGY:

Jump to the moment when I was running late to the corporate world at 7:40, feeling completely out of place. I was so stressed out because there you are never on time as they need you 24/7 even if you are just the coffee guy.... Don't get me wrong there is nothing bad about it. It's just that right now my supposed happiness doesn't make any sense....Jump to the time when I thought this is what I wanted.

There was a time when I pushed myself constantly.... Be the best in school, learn languages, relate to people, don't go out, save money, work very hard- because one day all this will have its reward and it does but something is just not fittingSuddenly I see myself filling all those business gods with caffeine. They wouldn't hesitate to take over thousands of small companies leaving thousands of people unemployed, or to destroy landscapes, buying entire villages – their inhabitants included...for money and for power? Thank God for the holy capitalism... and it's ok there are people who have done remarkable things, but lately I've been having the sick thought that I have sold my own soul to this ...I'm sorry don't get me wrong maybe I'm just having a chemical reaction in my brain the one that protects you from having panic attacks and maybe I'm having a panic attack right now and this is the moment when I think about my dad, he used to say:

(Imitates his father's voice)

Always, remember that - adversity is not a detour. It is part of the path.

You will encounter obstacles. You will make mistakes. Be grateful for both. Your obstacles and mistakes will be your greatest teachers. And the only way to not make mistakes in this life is to do nothing, which is the biggest mistake of all. But honestly I'm so tired of living from mistakes

(Oggy sits down on the bench in the background. Lights go off.)

MOMENT 5: Self-Liberation

(Frida walks up to Oggy who is sitting on the bench waiting for his train. They stare at each other. Then, slowly, Frida sits down next to him and starts flirting. In this moment the trickster appears, claps his hands and makes both freeze. → Colour of Light changes. Last Train to Ufordia plays from minute 8.30.

The trickster changes Frida into a homeless/crack head by making her hair messy, taking her shoes off, covering her with a blanket etc.

Trickster claps again and makes unfreezes them. The second Oggy sees the changed Frida; he stands up and walks a few steps away from her. The look on his face is a mixture of fear and disgust. The crack head now acts really mad. Picks up a cigarette from the floor and lights it.)

CRACKHEAD:

You are afraid.

OGGY:

Afraid? Really?

CRACKHEAD:

Who are you afraid of? Me or yourself? You're afraid because you see reality- Have you got a light? *Oggy lights her cigarette.*

OGGY:

I'm not afraid!! I just...

CRACKHEAD:

Sshhhh... tell me honey, how are you ever going to find yourself if you are not willing to lose yourself? Tell me, what is it you are doing? Is it living, or just dying in ecstasy?

(Oggy looks up and a very warm and powerful light shines on his face. In the background you see a projection of his eyes and another projection of an explosion on top of it. This symbolises the SELF-LIBERATION MOMENT in Oggys life.

While Oggy is hypnotised by the light shining on him and the classical music playing in the background, the CH walks off the stage. The classical music gets interrupted by sounds of a leaving train, which makes Oggy wake up from his trance as well. He looks around, smiles, and runs off the stage.)

(The trickster appears on the empty stage, while the poem from the beginning is being projected on the wall again. The trickster walks towards it, and rips it off the wall, for there is a white paper taped on the wall.

The trickster rips the piece of paper apart and puts the party randomly back together. It looks at the new creation and acts, as if it would smack it back to the wall. The changed poem appears on the wall.

“And I to the right you to the left

Men must server for the way
For a day and a night, And it well may be
 May be forever,
Whether we die, whether we meet
Past our knowing for our ways are
Hearts and the open sky, pledge from the
 I'll wind blowing! On the ways
 Luck? Here
Winds blowing for we know not"

The trickster claps and the lights go off.)

THE END

Works Cited

Hovey, Richard. "At the Crossroads." *Last Songs from Vagabodia*. Boston: Small, Maynard and Company Publishers, 1900. 1-2. *American Verse Project*. Web. 12 August. 2014.