

Command Forgiveness

A short play

By Jarred Corona

AT RISE: A table of some sorts.

MIKE enters. He carries a bottle of liquor and a cup. He kneels before he gets to the table and performs the sign of the cross.

MIKE

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

He kisses the bottle. Rises. Goes to the table.

He pours a glass. Lifts it.

MIKE

Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned.

(To the audience:)

No priest here, so might as well do it the big guy Himself, right? He probably counts as the ultimate priest. Well, maybe not. Doesn't do much proselytizing himself. Well, maybe. How you guys doing? Nice night? Yeah. Yeah, me too. Nice night. I should probably get on with it, you know? Don't want to keep the big guy waiting. He's not really known for His patience, is He? Not real big on the...

(To God:)

I don't like Shakespeare. Like, I know, I know. He's the "greatest of all time," but my God--sorry--Jesus it's--sorry--Jeez...

(To the audience:)

Jeez is fine, isn't it? I know it's based on Jesus, but Jesus is based on Dionysus. The wine-wine thing? Like, come on. That's pretty on the nose. Wait. No, that's fine, yeah. Yeah, sorry. Like, for a second, I was thinking, "Is it a faux pas to say on the nose when talking about Jesus?" But like obviously I wasn't saying on the palm or on the crucifix or back or, you know, the places they whipped him and stuff. That would be insensitive. Who wants that brought up to them, you know?

(To God:)

Anyway, I just can't stand Shakespeare. Or like, I can't stand is plays. I've tried to like them. I watch them over and over and over thinking maybe this time it won't make me want to kill myself--sorry--but every single time, it's like, "Come on. Why are using your voice like that? It's annoying." And every single time it's just so annoying and long and boring and then everyone talks about it like it's the best thing in the world and no one has any time or care for people making stuff today because obviously they can't be the next Dickie Shakes.

(To the audience:)

Dickie Shakes is a great porn name. Or a drag king name. I'm just making this connection, but have you ever noticed how that's almost always the case? A really good porn name for a guy would also make for a really good drag king name. Are drag kings offensive when talking to God? Not because He's a homophobe or whatever, but like, Jesus had to carry that cross, right? I mean like, when he hears drag king, does he have a flashback to that? Yikes.

(To God:)

Anyway, forgive me, Father. I see a production of *Macbeth* and I think the historic curse is that people keep performing it and all the bad luck is the actors trying to off themselves before having to humiliate themselves on stage like that. So. Yeah.

He downs the liquor. Pours another glass.

MIKE

(To the audience:)

I hate this stuff. Tastes like... Well, people who hate alcohol always compare it to battery acid, but for some reason I've never felt compelled to lick leaking batteries, so I wouldn't know. Whatever it tastes like, it's nasty. So. Penance.

He lifts the glass.

MIKE

Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. I'm supposed to be entertaining these people right now, but I look out at the crowd, and I see all those faces--

(To the audience:)

You guys are all real cute.

(To God:)

--and I'm like, "Oh, wow. This is a real group of stinkers. I mean those faces. Christ. Only a mother could love, and that's unfortunate because I'm talking to you, and you're the Father, not the Mother, so even you don't love these people."

(To the audience:)

Really, you're all so cute. I'd fuck you all right now if I could, but I really can't.

(To God:)

And they're making me think maybe it'd be the right choice to go into chastity, you know? Like I walked out on stage and my dick just *whoop* all the way inside. And when you're wondering if you're suddenly dickless, it's real hard to want to entertain people, right? I saw some shocked looks when I said I hate Shakespeare. Ugly *and* Shakespearean? Pick a struggle.

(To the audience:)