

**Another Motherfucker Play**

a vacation

by Kev Berry

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ANOTHER MOTHERFUCKER PLAY was commissioned and first produced by The Tank (Meghan Finn + Rosalind Grush, Co-Artistic Directors) as a part of The Fast and the Furious at The Tank in New York City on January 8, 2019. It was performed by Kev Berry.

**Who**

Man

**When**

Today

**Where**

Here

America

The void

**What It Looks Like**

A music stand

He wears a white t-shirt and dark pants

For Alex

-kb

\*

“This is not just about Donald Trump. This is about all of us. In the face of this constitutional crisis, we must rise.”

@RashidaTlaib

Before the show  
Quiet  
Darkness

\*\*\*

MAN

The other night on Scruff  
A man asked me to shit in his mouth  
And he meant it

And there he is  
Man

This is the Orange Terror Cycle Part 2  
Chapter 22

It's official  
We've made it  
Next year we elect a new President  
And it seems so far away but here we are  
Next year we elect a new President  
And you know what  
I deserve a vacation  
I am currently on the final day of my first vacation in over a year and a half  
And let me tell you  
Well first let me make something clear  
It was a staycation as opposed to a vacation to somewhere warm like the Philippines  
It was a staycation and I stayed uptown for most of the week doing  
Absolutely fucking nothing and it was absolutely the fucking best  
I went for some runs and watched a ton of movies and slept a ton  
It took me four requests for time off to finally be given the vacation  
I had the hours built up for a while  
I put the request in for mid-November but two managers had requested off that week  
I put the request in for the first week of December but one of my coworkers got fired  
I put the request in for the week between Christmas and New Year's but  
There were existing requests or whatever  
I basically had to get on my hands and knees and beg because I was experiencing  
Serious burnout because have you ever not had more than two days off in a row  
For nearly two years I was experiencing serious burnout and it was time for a shutdown

My friend Zach made me for the New Year what's called an accountability calendar  
It's very simple it's just the numbers 1 through 365 arranged on a canvas in rows of 21  
Every day of the year you are supposed to work towards a goal  
And cross off every day when you do something to work towards that goal  
And circle in red every day when you don't

My goal for the year is day 306 which is November 3 which is the New York Marathon  
So I have a wackier system in place in addition to the circles and x's  
On days where I do my core and abs workouts as scheduled in my planner  
A green line above the number crossed out or circled  
On days where I just don't get around to it a green line below  
On appointed days off for body rest usually a Saturday or Sunday it's highlighted yellow  
This is all to work towards a goal and this has been particularly hard on this vacation  
One of my resolutions for the new year is to run the New York Marathon  
It's been on my bucket list for two years now  
This year I am hoping for it to actually work out in my favor  
And I'll be able to run and raise some cash for a charity of some sort  
And think of someone else for a change

New Year's Resolutions are hard and mine always get written in my planner  
On the first page of my planner the same planner I get every year just in a different color  
This year on the first page of my planner my resolutions are listed  
Make more theatre  
Moderate my vices drinking sex pasta caffeine  
Read 35 books  
Last year I said I reached my goal of 30 but I really finished book 30 on Sunday  
Run the New York City Marathon  
Be healthier again with the pasta and the drinking and the sex and the caffeine  
Be happier which isn't quite in my control but I'll do my fuckin best  
Remain exuberant again I'll do my fuckin best  
Remain fabulous this is a given and not a difficult task  
And of course and finally  
Remain a twink and become extremely hot

I think these are all doable this year just because the Marathon ties them all together  
This is accidentally becoming a preview of the show I'm writing for PrideFest this year  
But fuck it let's talk about the grabable parts of my lower torso  
The marathon ties them all together and pushing towards that goal for 11 months  
Starting an even heavier running regimen will force me to handle these other goals  
And this morning was the first morning of the year where I had to circle the day in red  
Which made me feel like shit but I was just too tired and I barely slept last night  
Because my radiator is a slice of Satan's gaping fiery asshole  
And I had to meet my dad for lunch at 1 and I was just too tired and sore  
I'll be better tomorrow I'll do better tomorrow  
I'm climbing a mountain here guys  
I'm not even officially running the thing or registered yet but I'm already training  
Trying to get my endurance up so I don't burnout quickly come November 3

I had almost burnt out before this week  
Completely  
Just completely shut down I was so close to just completely shutting down  
And then I finally started my long-requested vacation

Staycation's all I ever wanted  
And on January 1 at 10pm when I got off work for the next week  
I went home and slept for 16 hours 16 well needed well deserved hours  
And I woke up the next day  
Oh fuck where am I and then figured out where I was  
And said oh vacation this is vacation  
I had nothing to do this week purposefully besides go to the gym and see one play  
And relax and watch movies and write a little bit and read some books and drink wine  
A true recharge and it was fucking amazing to cash in on my PTO and  
You see here's the difference between me and the United States government  
One is a faggot who works in theatre and the other is the United States Government  
I took the week to recharge myself and to catch up on lots of lost sleep  
The United States Government has been shut down for three weeks  
And now furloughed workers are going to have to work to make up all that lost cash  
While Senators eat ribeye and scoff at the plight of the less thans  
To me it seems like the difference between a shutdown and a vacation is very little  
In the eyes of the Grand Ole Party  
And it will never cease to crack me up that over the course of these 18 days  
Or whatever it is now of the shutdown they've wasted so much money  
That by the time the closed sign on the Capitol is flipped back to open  
We won't even have enough money for the wall or whatever it is now  
A series of sharpened sticks like a fort in some antebellum Mississippi treehouse

At least the new representatives are hard at work  
At least there's that  
Working to impeach the motherfucker  
Working to impeach him

I'll be honest  
Which is of course not to say that I've been dishonest up until now  
I'll be honest  
I'm having a hard time after the midterms  
I don't quite know where to go with the politics of my work  
Before the midterms I was furious all the time  
Just  
So angry and scared and boiling over  
And now that it's happened now that the change that we were aiming for has happened  
It's like I'm like and I think I talked about this last month  
Like where's the change  
Like why hasn't he been impeached yet  
Like get to work  
And of course I know they've gotten to work but it doesn't feel like it yet which is

I was having lunch with a friend the other day and I described the work I've been doing  
Here in this room and there in the old room where we used to do the work  
I described the work I've been doing by saying

Oh I'm old hat at it at this point  
And I was having lunch with my dad today and I said to him  
When he asked what kind of work I'd be making tonight  
And I said the same stuff I make every month I'm old at it at this point  
And I told a new friend of mine this 61 year old woman from Maine  
Who I met at a gay bar last year I said to her oh this project I'm old hat at it at this point  
And it hit me like a ton of bricks that that's a bad thing  
It's not a dope feeling to realize the work you've made is maybe possibly stagnating  
Standing in front of a room of friends and family over and over every month  
Preaching to the choir and I understand that sometimes the choir needs a sermon but

To make work that feels old hat is  
To make work that digs yourself deeper into the status quo

And that's what I've been struggling with lately  
In response to the news  
How do I keep this work this project this evergrowing cycle  
From becoming stagnant and becoming old hat and becoming status quo  
How do I dig myself out from being buried alive  
How do I bring back characters  
Like the talking abortion and Lip Sync Angela Merkel into this thing  
Without seeming like I'm not taking all of this seriously  
How do I make work that makes people laugh in times of darkness  
Why is comedy looked down on as easier than serious writing

It feels like I'm in some weird final stage of grief  
DABDA  
Denial I'm not old hat I'm not this work is fresh and exciting  
Anger fuck I'm old hat aren't I fuck  
Bargaining well maybe if I go for a run I'll get inspired and be less old hat  
Depression fuck I'm old hat aren't I fuck  
Acceptance I'm old hat I'm old hat I'm old hat  
And then I die  
Art dies  
Art dies once it becomes old hat

And then I think to myself  
In this ambivalence is buried some new way of forward motion  
Right  
Maybe we have to let our old hat ways die before we can move forward  
Like a potato  
You pluck a potato from the ground and cut it up and put it back in the ground  
In chunks  
And that's how a potato grows right  
Partially I think I didn't google how a potato grows  
I think I remember that from third grade or college whenever we learned about potatoes

In the physics class I took in sophomore year of college a final project option  
Was to make a flute out of a carrot  
I think that's how a potato grows anyway  
So you pluck the old hat potato from the garden  
And take it to the cutting board  
Or the slate countertop next to the barbecue in your parents' backyard  
You look at it and you take a butcher's knife and cut it back up and plant it  
And then you put those chunks back in the dirt and you come back the next day  
And it's a garden of new potatoes  
And you've cured the Irish Old Hat Potato Famine  
Which then fuck  
Which then fuck  
Which then fuck  
Because fuck you've just grown a garden of all new Old Hat Potatoes  
Which then fuck  
Because the only solution here is to burn it all to the ground and start fresh  
I hear the nursery down the road is selling some wonderful Inspired Bell Peppers

So I've felt stuck  
And trapped in a loop of neverending if thens and but sos  
Looping back around every time I feel like I have a good angry political thought  
And I think wow that belongs in a good angry political play  
I realize it's a thought I've hashed rehashed and rerehashed in one of these other plays  
And now we're in Part 2 so something has to happen  
Perestroika  
The act of restructuring a political and economic system

Something has to happen  
At least we've made it here  
And at least we're electing a new president next year  
A lot of my plays in this project end with something like  
So I guess there's hope right that things will change I guess there's hope  
But that's old hat

Maybe I should add a new New Year's Resolution to my list  
To rediscover my own anger  
To find new ways to tell these stories in my body  
And to find new ways to listen

We've made it  
We've made it this far  
Now where do we go from here

The lights snap out

**End of Play**