

© 2008. Anne Phelan. Sample. Brooklyn Lighthouse: A Ten-Minute Play. For scripts or performance rights, contact anne@annephelan.com.

Characters

- A A man in his 20s/30s; spends too much time living in his head
- B A woman; SHE looks like SHE's in her 20s/30s, but she's much older than that

Setting: An art galley in South Brooklyn. Early evening. Present.

This play was premiered at the Open Source Gallery, 255 17th Street, Brooklyn, New York on October 10th and November 9th 2008 as part of "Painted Space," an installation by Jacob Ouillette. It was directed by Ramona Pula and featured Andrew Rothkin as A and Jennifer Boehm as B.

Production note: The only essential piece of the set is brushstrokes of blue, red, and green in some kind of pattern, that B refers to at the end of the play. The gallery window and door are not essential.

(B stands in a storefront gallery window.
The door to the gallery is open. A enters
and walks over to the open door)

A:

Hello.

B:

Good evening.

(Waits for her to say something else. SHE doesn't.
Simultaneously, A and B each cross into the
doorway. THEY stand facing each other. A tries to
go left as B goes right; B tries to go left as A goes
right. It's awkward- the proximity, the fact that
they're strangers, etc. After what seems an eternity,
A steps back and lets B out onto the street. A
stands in the doorway)

Are you the curator?

B:

No.

A:

Artist?

B:

No.

A:

What do you do?

B:

I wait.

A:

For whom?

B:

Him.

A:

What do you do?

B:

“Red sky at morning, sailors take warning. Red sky at night, sailors' delight.

A:

(Indicates inside the door)

Can you see the Gowanus Canal from there?

B:

(Out, not to A)

The canal to the bay to the river. The river to the sea.

A:

You wait for him. How long has he been gone?

B:

Years.

A:

Are you certain he'll come back?

B:

Yes.

A:

What's your name?

B:

Penelope.

A:

Don't you ever get tired?

B:

Weaving all day, unweaving all night.

A:

Don't you ever lose heart?

B:

Waiting for Odysseus.

A:

"The wine-colored sea"- isn't that it? The wine-colored sea of Greece?

B:

I stand here. I scour the horizon.

A:

The highest point in Brooklyn?

Nearly. B:

A:
Of course, if the building had a widow's walk-
(SHE gives HIM a withering look)
you'd have a better view.
(B turns her back on HIM)
Aren't you exhausted, with all the waiting and weaving?

Warp, woof. B:

A:
(In a canine-like way)
Woof, woof.

Vertical, horizontal. B:

A:
Line A crosses Line B.

B:
(Turns back to A)
Penelope intersects Odysseus.

A:
Telemachus?

B:
(Shrugs her shoulders)
You know these kids today.

A:
(Behind the window)
You can watch the world go by. It's only when you want to look for Odysseus you need to go out on the sidewalk.

B:
Or walk to Eagle Provisions to buy a ham sandwich. I try to imagine the Dutch farmers here-

A:
Sipping their hot chocolate. The Dutch love their chocolate.

Droste. B:

Exactly. A:

Before anyone has heard of New York. B:

Pieter Stuyvesant had a peg leg, y'know. A:

Really? B:

Swear to God. A:

Gangrene? B:

In the sea- a really, really hungry shark. A:

Why so hungry? B:

Ever seen a picture of Stuyvesant? A:

Not that I can recall. B:

Or the statue in Manhattan in the square named after him? A:

I'm tied here. B:

He appeared a man of commerce, law and order. Upright, stringy and tough. A:

The shark was starving. B:

A:

Exactly! And in the Dutch West Indies.

B:

But when you imagine the Caribbean, don't you think of abundance?

A:

Cornucopia!

A:

(To the tune of "Tea for Two")

HERE WE ARE
BESIDE THE SEA

B:

(HE takes HER hands and THEY dance)

THE WARP FOR YOU

A:

THE WOOF FOR ME

A & B:

WHAT A WEAVE
BETWEEN US
THERE CAN BE!

B:

(Too intimate for B- SHE breaks away from HIM. Turns
HER back and walks to the opposite side of the space)

Go-wa-nus. It sounds dream-weavy, doesn't it?

A:

But it's Native American.

B:

Of course it is. The question is what it might be if it was a mystery.

A:

But it isn't a mystery.

B:

All of life is about posing the question. What weaves into where and why.

A:

Oh?