

THE ART OF LOVE

A Short Play

By Mike Folie

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THE ART OF LOVE

CHARACTERS:

A SHYGUY

VOICE ON TAPE (Voice only)

A YOUNG WOMAN

TWO YOUNG MEN (Non-Speaking)

SETTING:

An art museum.

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AT RISE:

An art museum. A SHY GUY enters holding a taped audio tour cassette player. HE adjusts the earphones and presses the play button. We hear the cultured VOICE ON TAPE as the SHY GUY listens.

VOICE ON TAPE

Welcome to our exhibit, "Post-Post-Modernism -- Trend or Fad?" This exhibit has been made possible by a grant from Hustler Magazine and Suntory Liquors. The first work in the exhibit is "The Agony of the Crucified Chipmunks" by Kruger Haas. But don't waste your time looking at it. Take a look instead at what just walked into the room!

(A YOUNG WOMAN enters and begins to look at art.)

VOICE ON TAPE (CONT.)

Now admit it, you didn't come here today to look at Post-Post-Modern art. You came here looking for a little Post Modern lovin'! Isn't that right?

(SHY GUY shrugs, reluctantly admitting that HE wouldn't mind meeting a nice woman.)

VOICE ON TAPE (CONT.)

Well I'm here to help. Just kind of amble your way over to that luscious Babe-a-rino and stand right behind her. Pretend to look at the same piece she is. Go on, do it!

(SHY GUY ambles over and stands near YOUNG WOMAN.)

VOICE ON TAPE (CONT.)

Now, get some quiet rapture in your voice and say "Glorious, isn't it, how he's managed to stretch the boundaries of formalism to create this effect, this piercing irony."

SHY GUY

What the hell does that mean?

(YOUNG WOMAN turns and smiles at HIM.)

VOICE ON TAPE

No! You idiot! Say what I told you to say!

SHY GUY

Uh, G-glorious, isn't it? The way he's, uh, stretched formalism to, uh, to . . . to . . .

VOICE ON TAPE

"To create this effect, this piercing irony!" Say it!

SHY GUY

To achieve this effect, of pissing irony.

VOICE ON TAPE

Piercing irony!

SHY GUY

I mean, piercing irony.

(The YOUNG WOMAN looks disappointed and moves away. SHY GUY shrugs, starts to go the other way.)

VOICE ON TAPE

You're not giving up that easily, are you? Oh, look! She's looking at the awful sculpture by Gotzel. Perfect. Go look at it too. But not too close! We don't want to scare her away.

(SHY GUY ambles over towards YOUNG WOMAN.)

VOICE ON TAPE

Now say, "It breathes a sensuality of the spirit, does it not?"

SHY GUY

Oh, come on! That's stupid!

YOUNG WOMAN

My sentiments exactly.

SHY GUY

Huh?

YOUNG WOMAN

Whatever was this guy thinking of when he made this monstrosity?

SHY GUY

Uh, you got me. I don't really understand this kind of art.

VOICE ON TAPE

Don't say stuff like that! That's not how you get babes!

YOUNG WOMAN

Were you kidding before? That nonsense about "piercing irony?"

SHY GUY

Uh, yeah. I guess so. My little stab at at humor.

YOUNG WOMAN

Well it's refreshing! There are so many pretentious idiots walking around here.

SHY GUY

I can't resist poking fun at this stuff. I guess it's just defensiveness on my part. Because I know so little about it.

VOICE ON TAPE

Oh, forget it! If you think honesty is going to get you laid, just forget it!

SHY GUY

(Shouts)

I'm not looking to get laid! I'd just like to meet somebody nice!

(Pause)

YOUNG WOMAN

Well that's straightforward enough, I suppose. But why limit your options?

SHY GUY

Uh, one second, please.

(HE takes off the cassette player and headphones and hangs them on the sculpture.)

YOUNG WOMAN

A definite improvement!

SHY GUY

I don't think I'll be needing it anymore.

YOUNG WOMAN

I don't know why people rent those things in the first place.

SHY GUY

I thought it might help. I don't know much about art.

YOUNG WOMAN

Well I know enough to know this stuff is garbage. Come on, let's go find out where they keep the real art in this place.

(SHE takes HIS hand and THEY exit. A YOUNG MAN enters with a self-guided tour cassette player and headphones. HE presses the play button.)

VOICE ON TAPE

Welcome to our exhibit, "Post-Post Modernism, Trend or Fad." But don't waste your time looking at it. Take a look instead at what just walked into the room.

(ANOTHER YOUNG MAN enters. The two YOUNG MEN smile at each other. Blackout.)

THE END