

Slam Quartet

by

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Slam Quartet

DESCRIPTION

Slam poetry is all the sonic rage, and the final quartet of Jugger, Jukie, Pagan, and Mikey aim to bring the decibel level up a notch or two as they go for the championship of the "Doo-Dah, Doo-Dah Slam Poetry Contest."

CHARACTERS

- JUGGER: Short for "Juggernaut," he has a very forward personality.
- JUKIE: Latina with Nuyorican shadings.
- PAGAN: (pronounced "pah-GAHN"): Proud of her "built-in, shock-proof shit detector," androgynous.
- MIKEY: Somewhat of a "guy" but also a poet -- the poet who played football in high school.

NOTE: Except for JUKIE, ethnicity does not matter; however, there should be a mix of colors and accents. In other words, they should not look "beige."

SETTING/TIME

- Slam poetry competition: finals

MISCELLANEOUS

- A banner which reads "The Doo-Dah, Doo-Dah Slam Poetry Finals" or a large poster on an easel.
- Music, something percussive, such as a Gene Krupa drum solo.
- Lighting should always reflect the mood of the words and actions.

NOTES

- Clothing and accouterments can be individual choices of the actors, but in no instance should they be "safe" or conventional.
- The director/actors must incorporate stylized movements: think of old-style declamatory acting, the Temptations doing dance routines, etc. This means some knowledge of choreography.

Slam Quartet

Music, loud. Lights up, banner revealed. ACTORS come on in single file, any order they choose, and take their places downstage center.

How to begin? JUGGER

Where to begin? JUKIE

What to begin? PAGAN

Who to begin? MIKEY

With Jugger. JUKIE
(pointing to JUGGER)

With Pagan. JUGGER
(pointing to PAGAN)

With Mikey. PAGAN
(pointing to MIKEY)

With Jukie. MIKEY
(pointing to JUKIE)

Sperm to worm. JUKIE

Womb to tomb. JUGGER

Birth to earth. MIKEY

Lust to dust. PAGAN

This is how all our absurdities begin. ALL

With conception. MIKEY

That messy broth of four elements. JUGGER

JUKIE
The four elements of mirth --

PAGAN
Prayer --

MIKEY
Desire --

JUGGER
And slaughter.

PAGAN
The mewling infant --

JUGGER
The spewing child --

JUKIE
Under deconstruction --

PAGAN
Dissolution --

MIKEY
Disconnection --

JUGGER
Diminution --

MIKEY
From the first --

MIKEY makes a popping sound with his finger in mouth.

MIKEY
-- out of the chute.

ALL
Absurd! Absurd! Absurd! Absurd! Go, Albert
Camus!

JUKIE
(pointing to JUGGER)
This is you, Jugger.

JUGGER
Ancestors screaming down my blood, DNA gestapo
chaining me down, down, down with failures I will
defeat but did not choose!!
(pointing to MIKEY)
This is you, Mikey.

MIKEY

My father plunged me with manhood --
(grabs his crotch)
-- toxic androgens, testosteroned to within six
inches of my life, and I did not choose!!
(pointing to JUKIE)
This is you, Jukie.

JUKIE

Latina-ism stuck down my throat like a cracked
and leaking cock --
(swings her hips back and forth)
-- made to measure to the man who buys me with
his eyes and I did not choose!!
(pointing to PAGAN)
This is you, Pagan.

PAGAN

Dyke-femme bullshit, on top up under, who the
fuck cares, give me a strap-on to put on, slap on
the desire and get it on, life is short, get
naked! and slice and dice everything I did not
choose!!

ALL

Thus ends our first act.

Movement.

PAGAN

To be fully --

MIKEY

American --

JUGGER

You need to --

JUKIE

Throw up.

ALL

(as if puking)

Blehhehhh!!

JUKIE & MIKEY

Upchuck the conditioning --

JUGGER & PAGAN

Like a baby begin renewed with the --

ALL

(in a Martin Luther King, Jr. voice)
Dream of freedom.

ALL singing, striking the classic John Travolta pose.

ALL
Stayin' alive, stayin' alive, ah, ah, ah, ah --

PAGAN
Absurdity of the cum-guzzling bourgeoisie mode of
fucking capitalist consumerism --

MIKEY
Chockful of commodified body parts -- blessed be
Karl Marx --

JUGGER
Leading to the flatlining of the planet --
blessed be Frederick Engels --

JUKIE
In -- our -- fucking -- lifetimes --

ALL
Thank -- you -- very -- much -- Adam -- Smith!!

JUKIE
Here's the invisible hand to you.

They make a "fuck you" gesture. Two beats held with frustration.

PAGAN
No wonder we're hip-ironic --

MIKEY
Spiritually catatonic --

JUGGER
In need of a high colonic --

JUKIE
Chronically demonic.

JUGGER
Morally spastic --

JUKIE
Hooked on plastic --

ALL
Pomo and retro and televisionized --

PAGAN
Deodorized.

MIKEY
Maximized by McDonald's fries.

ALL
Neuterized. Euphemized.

JUGGER
Until --

MIKEY
Until --

JUKIE
Until --

PAGAN
We don't know the real stories anymore.

ALL
We don't know the real stories anymore.

JUKIE
Anymore.

MIKEY
Anymore.

PAGAN
No more -- the real stories have fled to the cave
of the desert wind --

JUGGER
And there they wait patiently for us --

MIKEY
For our tongues to plow their syllables --

JUKIE
For our bodies to discover --

PAGAN
Recover --

JUGGER
Uncover --

MIKEY
The simple brilliance of the fact --

JUGGER
The simple fact --

JUKIE & PAGAN
That we exist --

JUGGER & MIKEY
Against all odds.

PAGAN & MIKEY

And evens.

ALL

End of our act two.

They all change places; lights change. In the next lines, finishing with "who arrive hungered by freedom," the ending and beginnings should closely follow one another.

ALL

Put yourselves --

JUKIE

Put yourselves in this place --

MIKEY

This place of expectant warmth --

JUGGER

Warmth fetal and filled with --

PAGAN

With the raw-boned cawing of the trickster ravens
--

JUKIE

Ravens sharp-eyed --

JUGGER

And dismissive --

MIKEY

And waiting to feed all of us --

PAGAN & JUKIE

Who cross the border --

ALL

Who arrive hungered by freedom.

JUKIE & JUGGER

We have so many borders to erase.

PAGAN & MIKEY

But the map is in our bones.

PAGAN

You --

JUKIE

You --

JUGGER
You --

MIKEY
You --

ALL
We all know these stories.

JUGGER
Our thin blood aches to thicken on them --

PAGAN
Our thin breath aches to sing velocity --

ALL
Why have we let ourselves --

JUGGER
Be taught to forget?

JUKIE
Why have we forgotten --

ALL
Our selves? Our eureka!! Our om!! Our hey
nonny nonny!! Our ha cha cha!!

Lights change.

JUKIE
Epilogue.

JUGGER
Y3K.

MIKEY
The linear calendar horsewhipping us up to the
millennium.

PAGAN
Unless, of course, Chinese --

MIKEY
Hindu --

JUGGER
Muslim --

JUKIE
Jewish.

ALL
But who cares about them?

JUKIE
It's only about our millennium.

JUGGER
Our transformation into --

ALL
What?

JUKIE
Jittery American junkies of 21st century jujubes.

ALL
(to JUKIE)
Well done!

JUGGER
HDTV.

MIKEY
Palm Pilots.

PAGAN
Cell phones implanted in our ears and tongues.

JUKIE
Smart houses --

PAGAN
For dumb tenants.

JUGGER & MIKEY
And cars with geo-stationary satellite maps --

PAGAN & JUGGER
So we can go to the fucking convenience store --

ALL
And still be lost!!

JUGGER
In other words --

ALL
-- nothing different!

JUKIE
Linear calendar horsewhipping us into oblivion.

ALL
Yippee high-yo high-yay!!

PAGAN
But make the circle --

Circle -- JUKIE

Circle -- JUGGER

Circle -- MIKEY

ALL
Back to the desert cave.

JUKIE
Where the stories wait --

MIKEY
To hijack our tongues.

JUGGER
Where the stories wait --

PAGAN
To unpack our hearts.

MIKEY
Where the stories wait --

JUKIE
To round off the anger.

JUGGER
Where the stories wait --

PAGAN
To lick us till our brains melt in ecstasy --

ALL
-- and spawn the sky.

JUKIE
(pointing to JUGGER)
You will die.

JUGGER
(pointing to PAGAN)
You will die.

PAGAN
(pointing to MIKEY)
You will die.

MIKEY
(pointing to JUKIE)
You will die.

ALL
(pointing into the audience)
And so will all of you!

JUKIE
The question then --

JUGGER
Becomes --

MIKEY
How --

PAGAN
To die well.

ALL
By living well, dumkopfs!!
(smack their foreheads like a "V8" moment)
Sheesh!!

JUGGER
As if you already didn't know that!!

ALL
Life is short -- get naked!!
(synchronized dance step)
Get naked!! Get naked!!

JUKIE
That's what the stories will do for you.

JUGGER
To you.

MIKEY
With you.

PAGAN
In you.

They speak quietly. Lights change.

ALL
If only you let the time take you --

JUKIE
Back to your original face.

JUGGER
How do you we forgive ourselves?

MIKEY
And what do we do when the forgiveness comes?

PAGAN
Can you imagine what life feels like if forgiven
--

ALL
If forgiven --

JUKIE
Blessed --

MIKEY
Sacred --

JUGGER
Complete as a thimble --

PAGAN
Solid as an autumn acorn.

JUKIE
Imagine --

PAGAN
Imagine --

JUGGER
Imagine --

MIKEY
Imagine.

They do the following gesture: clap the hands together at chest level, and then raise them in an outward arc as if the clap caused them to rebound upwards. Their eyes follow their hands. Then, at the highest point, point sharply into the audience with both index fingers.

ALL
Imagine!!

Lights bump out.