

**Being in a wheelchair just means
I can't walk, but that doesn't
make me a bad person,
like my dead husband said...**



**10 Breakthrough Plays
by Tina Clay**

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people who drink, should not drive

The Conspiracy Play

Maybel and Marsha stand in line at the 7-11 to buy lotto tickets. Marsha has just been hit in the head with a rock hammer, which juts out and makes her hat sit funny on her head.

Maybel: I'm picking 16-78-34 and 2

Marsha: You won't win. Being hit in the head with this rock hammer has made me psychic and I know now that you won't win.

Maybel: I always pick these same numbers and I never win. You don't have to be psychic or have a rock hammer sticking out of your head to know that. I like that hat though.

Marsha: But this time I'm sure. I know the winning numbers.

A commotion breaks out in the crowd as word spreads that the lady with the rock hammer in her head knows the truth. This idea changes slightly as it passes down the line.

Second to Last Person in Line: (whispering) The woman with the rock hammer in her head knows who killed Kennedy.

Last Person in Line: Really? Did you notice all the milk in the dairy section is way past due?

Marsha collapses from blood loss as Maybel once again purchases her set of losing numbers.

THE END

The Family Play

ACT I

Ed comes home from work wearing a large flank steak tied to his head with a piece of string. His wife Mary meets him at the door wearing two chicken breast fillets as earrings.

Ed: Honey, I'm home.

Mary: Are you happy? Are you? I hope you are because I am NOT!

Ed: What's wrong Mary? Did I forget to take out the trash?

Mary: Trash, trash, trash. Everything's about trash for you isn't it?

Ed: Calm down. I don't understand.

Mary: You've disgraced this family for the last time. Come on kids. We're leaving!

Mary exits.

Ed: Wait... I'll change... I promise.

ACT II

Mary is in a car with two small children in the front seat who both have whole frying chickens tied to their heads.

Child 1: Mommy? What's wrong with Daddy?

Mary: I don't know baby. You just never know with some people, I guess.

Child 2: Daddy smells bad.

Mary: Yes he does, baby. Yes, he does.

THE END

The Lynching Play

A young boy is wandering through an apple orchard and finds a man hung from a branch. The boy immediately starts to hit the man with a handy stick thinking that if he cracks the man that open candy will fall out.

Man: Ouch! Stop that!

Boy: You should stop talking. You're dead.

Man: I'm not dead. I've only been dangling here by the neck for half an hour.

Boy whacks man harder with stick.

Man: Ouch! You little... When I get down you are in trouble young man.

Boy: You won't ever get down. They leave people like you for the birds to eat. Now give me some candy.

Boy whacks him again.

Man: Damn! Do you even know why I'm up here?

Boy: Cause you're black.... or you're full of candy.

Boy whacks again.

Man: Stop hitting me you little idiot. I'm not black. You can see that for yourself.

Boy: Must be full of candy then.

Boy whacks man several times.

Man: Aaaaaaah. I am not full of candy!

Boy: Must be black then.

Man: I'm your father damn it! Are you black? Are you full of candy?

The boy beats the man continuously until he's unconscious and large amounts of candy fall out of him to the ground. The boy scoops up the candy and eats it all before anyone else can come by.

Boy: Well... I'm full of candy now.

Boy saves one piece of candy for his sister, because she really likes caramels.

THE END

The Balloon Play

A Man in an expensive suit and football helmet is waiting for a bus. A little boy wearing a dress and carrying a long balloon enters. The Man pushes the boy down. Every time the boy gets up the man pushes him back down.

THE END

This repeats as many times as you like.

There's no talking in this play but it would be good to fill up time while sets are getting changed or actors are changing costumes.

The Patio Restaurant Play

Emma and Amanda are having lunch at a patio restaurant. Amanda is putting on make-up from a compact.

Amanda: I have a forehead!

Emma: Everyone has a forehead.

Amanda: That guy doesn't.

Emma winces in disgust.

THE END

The Hot Dog Play

Act I

Al and Ray are playing jacks. Both are large hairy tough looking men wearing dance leotards and brightly colored sun bonnets. Susan sits between them her hands tied with ropes and duct tape over her mouth.

Al: So are you and Bonnie having that garage sale this weekend?

Ray: Oo twoies--

Ray takes a jack and stabs it into Susan's cheek.

Ray: -- Yeah. We've got to get rid of all that old tennis equipment before Bonnie's mother shows up. Your go.

Al does threeies and jabs a jack in susan's other cheek.

Al: Does she still have that fear of tennis. I thought she saw a doctor about that.

Ray does fouries and sticks another jack in Susan's face.

Ray: She did but it didn't seem to help.

Al is about to go again when Bonnie enters. She's wearing a flowered apron. Her long blonde hair is poking out the back of a welder's mask.

Bonnie: Come on boys. Lunch is on the table.

Ray: Thanks honey. Let's eat Al.

Al jabs the whole handful of jacks into Susan's leg.

Al: Sounds good to me. I'm so hungry, I could eat a--

Al: Ray & Bonnie together: Hot dog!

They all laugh together.

Bonnie: Well they're up on the table. Go!

Al: Alright!

Ray and Al leave.

Act II

Bonnie takes off the welder's mask and the blonde hair is attached. She is completely bald. She pulls the tape from Susan's mouth.

Bonnie: So how we doing?

Susan: Fine. I guess.

A Juggler enters wearing a cowboy hat and juggles three balls off to one side.

Bonnie: (to Susan) Would you like a cold drink?

Susan: Ok.

Bonnie: Super.

Bonnie goes to the fridge and opens a can of motor oil.

Susan: Could you untie my hands? I'm getting a cramp.

Bonnie: You know what's good for that? Yoga. It's super. Very relaxing.

Juggler: I don't think yoga's for everyone.

Bonnie: Well, nobody asked you. Now did they?

The juggler turns to face the wall. Bonnie takes a sip of the motor oil, unties Susan's hands and gives her the can.

Bonnie: There we go. Super. Now let's see if we can get those muscles loosened up.

Susan: Thanks.

Bonnie and Susan start doing yoga positions. The Juggler sits down, lights a cigarette and starts counting in French.

Bonnie: Now keep your back straight.

Susan: Like this?

Bonnie: Yeah. Super. Can't you just feel all the tension leaving your body?

Susan: I really can.

Act III

The Juggler is still counting and Bonnie and Susan continue doing yoga. Al and Ray burst in fighting and rolling on the floor hitting each other.

Al: I'm fatter!

Ray: No you're not. I'm fatter.

Al: You're not even fat. You just carry a lot of change in your pockets.

Ray: That's a lie! Take it back!

Bonnie: (to Susan) Are you afraid of tennis?

Susan: I don't think so why?

Juggler: I had an Aunt once who was scared of badminton.

Bonnie: (sarcastically) That's VERY interesting.

The juggler goes back to counting. The men stop fighting as Ray's body goes limp.

Al: Oh my Lord! Ray's dead!

Bonnie: He is?

Bonnie picks up a pool cue and everyone gathers around Ray's body. She pokes at him.

Bonnie: Well that doesn't seem right.

Al: You don't think my hitting him in the throat had anything to with this do you?

Juggler: Not likely. It looks like a heart attack.

Bonnie: What? You're a doctor now?

Juggler: No. I'm not a doctor. I'm just saying it was more than likely the--

A black Baptist choir enters singing the Oscar Meyer hotdog theme song. Bonnie starts tap dancing and swinging the pool cue around wildly hitting everyone. Al does the jogging dance from the movie Flashdance. Susan and the Juggler start to kiss passionately and several small children enter dressed as angels waving sparklers in the air. The lights go out and everything goes silent. The sparklers burn out.

Act IV

The lights come on to a long section of an aluminum air conditioning duct. Two men's feet stick out from either end. It's Ray and a man named Carl.

Ray: Where am I?

Carl: You're jammed inside a 10 foot section of air conditioner duct.

Ray: Why is that exactly?

Carl: Because you're dead.

Ray: Well that's not good news is it?

Carl: I'd have to say no pal.

Ray: Is this supposed to be heaven or hell?

Carl: No such luck.

Ray: What do you mean?

Carl: When you die, you get jammed into a 10 foot long section of air conditioner duct and that's it.

Ray: That's a bit of a let down.

Carl: Tell me about it.

Ray: And you're stuck here forever?

Carl: Well of course not. It would be pretty stupid to be jammed in an air conditioning duct forever. Wouldn't it?

Ray: Yes it would.

A very long silence.

Ray: So?

Carl: So what?

Ray: So how long do I have to stay in this thing?

Carl: About 45 minutes.

Ray: And then what?

Carl: Then you're reborn as a household appliance.

Ray: Appliances aren't born you idiot!

Carl: Aren't they? Aren't they?

Ray: How long have you been in here?

Carl: Oh it's been over 3 hours. Seen a bunch of you fellers come and go.

Ray: I thought you said people were only in here for 45 minutes?

Carl: Oh, I'm not dead. I'm the janitor. Somebody last night threw up in here and I'm just finishing up. You have a nice rebirth now you here.

Carl crawls out of the duct and leaves.

Ray: Wait. Come back.

There's another long silence. Ray starts to whistle and tap his feet. This continues until the full 45 minutes has past then the lights go out.

Act V

Bonnie and Al are in the kitchen playing three sided trivial pursuit with a blender. Susan and the Juggler are rolling around on the floor kissing passionately. Some of the jacks from Susan's face have transferred over to the Juggler. The children dressed as angels are smoking big cigars and pulling jacks out to play on the floor.

Bonnie: Hey Al. It was a great idea to use this blender to fill in for Ray. It's almost like he's here.

Al: I know. It's eerie how the blender can answer all the same questions as Ray. Do you miss him?

One of the children's cigars sets another's angel costume on fire. They run around screaming and setting the drapes and tablecloth on fire.

Bonnie: Sometimes I really do.

Al: Do you think you'll ever be together again.

Bonnie shakes the die and rolls. The flames are covering everything.

Bonnie: I'm sure I-- oh look a 3. I'm going for a piece of pie. Science and nature.

The lights go out.

Act VI

In the center of the stage is a small plastic model of the house that's burning. It's allowed to melt and burn completely out filling the theater with horrible black smoke. 45 minutes pass in complete darkness.

Act VII

The lights come up on a blender, a toaster, a coffee maker, a fax machine covered in jacks and a wooden butter churn wearing a cowboy hat.

THE END

The Raisin Play

Gary and Roger are two bums warming themselves by a burning trash can.

Gary: Umm-um. I do love raisins. You want one?

Roger: No. You only like raisins because they can't fight back. You're a sadist.

Gary: What in the hell are you talking about. They're just raisins.

Roger: Exactly.

THE END

The Vacation Play

Alan Thicke and Tina Yothers are tied to two large inflatable pool rafts on the floor of a well decorated living room. A homeless man enters dressed in tin foil and starts flipping through the channels on the TV. Alan Thicke's mom enters and picks up the phone.

Alan Thicke's Mom: Hi... Ellen. I can't stand it here anymore. Do you mind if I stay at your house tonight? No it's nothing in particular. I just get the feeling I'm not welcome here.

Homeless Man: Hello! I'm right here. You know I hate it when people talk like I don't exist.

Alan Thicke's Mom: I'm feeling a bit.. alienated here. Like I'm a stranger in my own home.

Homeless man holds up an empty bowl.

Homeless Man: Popcorn...

The phone beeps.

Phone: If you'd like to make a call, please hang up and try your number again. If you'd like to make a call, please...

THE END

The Drier Play

Act I

A mother is pushing her young son on the swings. They are both wearing plastic garbage bags for clothes. A clown is sitting in the swing next to them whittling a stick with a large kitchen knife.

Son: Mommy, Jimmy's family gets to go to Sea World.

Mother: Well, I guess Jimmy's father isn't a drunk who sleeps with every woman in town.

Son: And Jimmy's family has a dog named Arthur.

Mother: Well, I guess Jimmy's family didn't have to eat their dog when your father lost his job.

Son: Mommy, why does Jimmy get to go to school and I have to stay home?

She stops pushing him on the swing.

Mother: Because. You are severely retarded.

Son: No I'm not.

Mother: Yes you are. Now let's go home.

As the two are walking off.

Son: And why does Jimmy's mom have a washer and drier?

Mother: I don't know. I guess Jimmy's family's clothes won't melt if you put them in the drier

Act II

The clown stops whittling and sighs. A man wearing a gas mask and contamination suit sits in the swing next to him. Both sit in silence for a long time.

Man: So. You done with that stick?

Clown: I guess so. Here.

Man: Thanks.

The Clown starts walking off.

Clown: No buddy. Thank you.

Both laugh hysterically.

THE END

The Fish Play

Bill and Bob are in a canoe heading towards a waterfall. Bob is holding a butterfly net. Bill opens a plastic lunch box.

Bob: That is a fish.

Bill: It is not. I've seen a fish and that is not a fish.

Bob: I'm sure it is.

Bill: You can think whatever you want, but it's not a fish.

Bob: Let's just agree to disagree, alright?

Bill: No!

At this point Bill stabs Bob in the chest with a screwdriver and Bob falls out of the canoe happily knowing that it was a fish, because Bill never gets that violent unless he's wrong.

THE END