Celebrating Australian Playwriting

Australian Script Centre

Statues of David

by Julia Lewis

EXTRACT

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This script is distributed by The Australian Script Centre
77 Salamanca Place Hobart 7004 Tasmania Australia
email admin@ozscript.org
www.ozscript.org
ph +61 3 6223 4675
fax +61 3 6223 4678

SCENE 1

DAVID Three?
GINA Four. What's going on?
DAVID Same as yesterday.
GINA Come home.
DAVID There it is.
GINA Same as all the others.
DAVID Always on the doormat.
GINA Standing there.
DAVID Waiting.
GINA The first one I thought was a joke.
DAVID You did?
GINA But they keep arriving.
DAVID They do.
GINA One every day.
DAVID For four days. So I see. A veritable stream. And...?
GINA They'll probably stop soon.
DAVID Why do you say that, Gina?
GINA Whoever's doing it will..../
DAVID /Do you have a rational basis for that statement?
GINA Bertrand Russell and the turkey.
DAVID Fill me in on that one again.
GINA The flaw of induction. Just because something happens every day for four days, it doesn't mean that it will happen on the fifth day.

David looks intrigued. He makes a turkey sound and they both laugh

SCENE 2

DAVID Picture this. An anonymous psycho for reasons unknown decides to leave a statue of David on a random doorstep.
GINA Five statues? Five days in a row?
DAVID You are suggesting it's not random? Hmmmm. Once is probably random.
GINA Twice...
DAVID Possibly random. Three or four times...
GINA Looking shaky.

DAVID And five times is definitely...
DAVID And five times is definitely...
GINA Second scenario?
DAVID A mistake. They're meant for someone else. But the phantom statue dropper got confused by the lime green shag pile in the corridor and the smell of sweet and sour pork wafting up the stairwell. And left

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them outside the wrong door.

GINA Unconvincing.

DAVID Bet you six donkeys and a fig leaf it's you.

GINA Bet you seven donkeys and a sling shot it's not.

DAVID Bet you eight donkeys and a second hand lute.

GINA I don't want a lute.

David opens his mouth to kiss her and Gina kisses the statue instead.

SCENE 3

DAVID It's him, isn't it?

GINA Who?

DAVID What's-his-name.

GINA The boy next door.

DAVID (sings) How can I ignore...

GINA (joining in) The boy next door...

DAVID He’s interested in Leonardo da Vinci. Not him, the other one.

GINA He's a vet student.

DAVID Michelangelo. That's the one.

GINA He’s writing a thesis about bovine digestive systems.

DAVID He's not normal, is he? He's obsessed.

GINA With what?

DAVID Doesn't matter with what. It's got to be him. Wandering round the landing in that skimpy little towel. You're telling me you haven't noticed?

GINA I would if I wanted to.

DAVID For all I know you leave the flat every morning, hoping to be spotted by Mr Bovine Digestive System.

GINA I wouldn't go that far.

DAVID I wasn't going to ask how far you would go.

GINA But you'd like to know, wouldn't you? I hear him turning on the taps. The hot water is streaming down. The temperature is....

DAVID Steady.

GINA He's leaning back in the bath, letting the steam coat him with moisture.

DAVID Normal people take showers. Don't do this to me.

GINA He runs a bath every morning. I can't help it if I hear him.

DAVID I never do.

GINA It's the sound. The sound of him. It's like sight. It's like touch. It's enough.

DAVID Really? Don't laugh like that, Gina.

SCENE 4

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