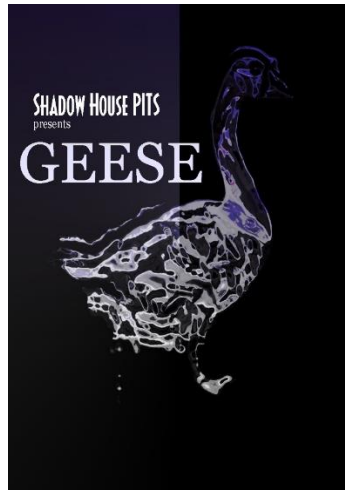


SAMPLE TEXT



GEESE

by
Joe Woodward

a fantasia on belief, cultural neurosis
and euphoric nightmares

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derived from two songs

Geese ©1969

Paint Me A Picture ©1972

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THE MINDSET OF GEESE and the cultural allegory of a leftist mindset from revolt to obliteration

The mindset of the Bali bombers is more understandable when considered in light of the radical mindset of a revolutionary from any time period. GEESE explores the mindset of Simon Weigl (later Rodez) who spends his adult lifetime expunging his cultural and family past in order to transform himself into a new human being free of religious and cultural attachments. This journey connects him to people who, like the Bali bombers and today's Islamic terrorists, have seen death as a kind of romantic ideal and offering for whatever the cause.

The three key women in his life were all concerned with forms of sacrifice: the mother as a kind of suffering martyr for her Jewish faith; the radical girl, Eva, sharing his journey from Maoist revolutionary and the extreme left to the ultimate sacrifice of death; and Green who sought transformation of self through art as a revolutionary act in the tradition of Antonin Artaud. There is irony as his life is shattered through the barbarism of another kind of idealism and belief as the Balinese night club in Kuta is bombed.

The play is an Australian cultural allegory of a leftist mindset that began with revolt in the sixties and ended with intellectual death at the time of the Bali bombing. The fragmentation of idealism into a kind of suicide is explored through the meeting of a young girl, Anais, with what is left of Simon Weigl at a railway station. She is more than a stranger; more than some angel of death.

The geese that lived around the station, the train and the eerie connection with the last moments of the aging Weigl all merge into a screaming moment that will echo around the girl for the next ten years.

The memory of an all but forgotten Australian revolutionary character may well find a source of expression through the chronicles of Anais as she re-assembles the past in order to find a way of explaining; of picturing a complex interweaving of lives.

In the meantime, new waves of radicals try to reshape and recreate themselves into the means for new revolution and a new human being shaped this time by the mind of Allah ...

Joe Woodward

Characters

Anais:	A young woman / likely daughter of Green and Simon
Simon/Rodez:	A former revolutionary / ghost
Mother:	Simon's mother
Geese:	A bird seen at the point of death
Eva:	A revolutionary girl who suicided for the cause
Green:	A French woman who travelled with Simon

1

An ISOLATED RAILWAY STATION.

ANAIS

An apparition of a man
strangely calming
soothing like a snake with its prey
yet not a snake
and I wonder if a man
a daemon perhaps
or maybe just a demented loser
stripping off the fabric
of his confinement
his paranoia

thirteen years old
and accidentally alone
waiting at a railway station
located some distance from nowhere
a little girl with dreams

dreams of being an actress
auditioning for a movie
supposed to have been picked up
by her parents
now waiting for a train

and that was where
I first met Simon Rodez

RODEZ

shouldn't be alone

SILENCE

RODEZ

what are you reading?
reading for the film?
"The Great Silence"
you an actress?

ANAIS

want to be

RODEZ

when I was younger
I dreamed of acting in films
being a movie star
and famous

SILENCE

RODEZ

your parents should be here . . .
leaving you alone out here . . .
it'll be dark soon
sometimes the train is late

ANAIS

I'm all right

RODEZ

shouldn't talk to strangers
you have no idea what they want
what they might do
intend
you have no idea what is inside
behind the smile
the enquiring eyes
or endearing voice . . .

SILENCE

RODEZ

a child was murdered
only metres from here
not long ago
someone killed a child
and was never caught

SILENCE

ANAIS

did he say it to frighten me?
aware his very presence
on that silent platform
was my terror
my shaking and paralysis?
I hadn't actually looked at him
only noticed a general shape
an obscure image
more frightening than the

characters in the text
held tightly in my hand
“The Great Silence”
was now real
if I got the part,
I would have my own reference
my own connection

RODEZ

Of course
I frighten you
sorry
sorry
really am sorry
a child was murdered
and killers return to the scene
the scene plays out
and no one knows the outcome
no one cares
until it is too late

SILENCE

RODEZ

so I am here
I care
watching
waiting
protecting
a panther
a batman
swooping from the heavens
an avenging angel
you like the batman?

ANAIS

at last
the train
and a slight confidence
“Who are you”

RODEZ

I know who you are
you are an angel
a glimmer of what ever is perfect
an inkling of artistic imagination

ANAIS

hurry the train
as he approached me
and placed his hand

into his jacket
a knife?
please sir ...

RODEZ

Please

ANAIS

a pencil in his hand
he signed my script
"Simon Rodez"
and he was gone

but that was not the only time
I would meet Simon Rodez
that little girl on the railway station
from ten years ago

now
now at this very precise moment
now as the question of mortality
begins to reek
into the point of departure

now

Rodez
that is not his real name
is haunted by words
words spoken
commitments left unanswered ...
past questions never answered
past ideals once lived
now buried
haunting
his cell
separating body and mind
flesh and spirit
devil and god

he listens to me

RODEZ

I hear you

ANAIS

he listens to me now

RODEZ

listen

ANAIS
you know who I am?

RODEZ
I know who you are

RODEZ MUSIC THEME PLAYS

RODEZ
“qui suis-je?
D’ou je viens?
Je suis Antonin Artaud
et que je le dise
comme je sais le dire
immédiatement
vous verrez mon corps actuel
voler en éclats
et se ramasser
sous dix mille aspects notoires
un corps neuf
ou vous ne pourrez
plus jamais m’oublier”

As Anais speaks the translation, Rodez repeats ...

ANAIS
“Who am I?
Whence do I come?
I am Antonin Artaud
and I proclaim it
as loud as I know how
instantaneously
you’ll see my real body
shatter
and reassemble
in ten thousand shining shapes
in a new body
in which you will never be able
to forget me.

SUDDEN FLASH. SILENT SCREAM. GEESE SCRAMBLING. TRAIN.
REPEAT. PAINT IS SPLATTERED LIKE BLOOD ON TO THE REAR WALL.
REPEAT. ANAIS, as a little girl, screams uncontrollably. RODEZ goes still. DOCTOR
manipulates him into a chair.

2

ENTER the women. RODEZ is being painted or prepared by the DOCTOR as if being prepared for burial.

WOMEN and
RODEZ (over)

paint me a picture
in your mind
paint me a picture
and if you don't like it
paint me a picture
then play a tune
paint me a picture
of golden parlours
paint me a picture
where music charms
paint me a picture
of diamond chandeliers
paint me a picture
like shining armour
paint me a picture
of timeless dreams
paint me a picture
aligning ageless stars
on high

RODEZ

... ah fuck you
it's no accident I came across
monsieur Artaud
... monsieur Artaud
life is such a strange anomaly
a strange anomaly
forcing one to keep stepping
into increasingly strange
unfathomable layers
ever increasingly strange
and bizarre
a strange and bizarre
universe

He is tapping. Agitated.

RODEZ

a body without organs?
how ridiculous
a body without a brain
a mind without
without shit
without faeces
without urine
without food
without nourishment
a non person
a spectre
perhaps that's what I am
simply a spectre
something that merely exists
and haunts a room
doesn't really matter to
anyone or anything really ...

Distracted and with an inner panic.

RODEZ

monsieur Artaud
no wonder I am with you
perhaps I too am going mad
and should be tied up
incarcerated with little electrodes
stuck to my brain
bzzzzzzzzzziiiiittt

He buzzes like electrical wires burning.

RODEZ

so tying it all up
tying me up
tying up everything ...
if only it was just a dream
the things that one feels nostalgia for
in the past
one's childhood
childhood connections
perhaps it IS all just a dream
no wonder monsieur Artaud
wrote so many words
then decried words
said words were just
basically shit ...

3

A sound like a shot rings out. BACK to the same moment. ANAIS SCREAMS.
RODEZ SPASMS.

TRAIN rushing past. The sound of GEESE gabbling loudly.

ENTER GEESE with wings.

SCREAMS a terrifying scream; an accusing scream; with a face that is of nightmarish horror. GEESE is multiplied on to the walls and spaces around Rodez. GEESE pounces on to Rodez and rips into his torso ... defying all attempts from Rodez to defend himself.

EVA breaks from the other women who are convulsing. She tries to pull GEESE from Rodez. She is violently repulsed. She tries again.

GEESE turns attention to her. CIRCLING.

CHANGES.