

Oops
a play

by
judithS bauer

c/o SEBASTIAN

playslater28@gmail.com

DRAFT 1.0

CAST OF CHARACTERS

MEL, a geeky kid
 BOBBY, another geeky kid
 BOBBY, an old geezer
 KAMRI
 JAX
 LIMU
 RISAO
 ANXAO
 TSINGDA

The play takes place in an indeterminate place and time.

And some of the time on a bus.

Mid right is a bus - this can be an actual bus with the side facing the audience removed, or it can be represented by seats and benches arranged to some degree as per a transit bus- see attached diagram- a bus door with mechanism would be a nice addition to this.

HUM OF TRAFFIC

SCENE 1: ALGORITHMS

(Lights up. There is an empty chair down stage far right. Mel and Bobby sit on a bench at a bus stop front left. Mel is doing something on a device about the size of a tablet or large telephone. Bobby is bouncing a tennis ball on the ground and catching it, over and over. Old Bobby enters stage left, walks down and takes a seat in a chair stage mid right, points to the two on the bench and addresses the audience.)

OLD BOBBY

If you had told me before, I'd never have believed it and in some ways, well... anyway... you'll see. I guess..., maybe. Anyway, the kid with the pad, that's Mel. The other one, that's me. We sorta knew each other since 2nd grade when Mel's Mom left Mel's Dad and brought the whole family here from Saint - something or other. Some small nothing place out around Sherbrooke, I think. I've never -

(Mel looks up.)

MEL

You always did talk too much y'know.

BOBBY

Yeah, I know. That's what everyone tells me. It's who I am. Some people are qui-

SOUND: TRAFFIC NOISES,
CARS GOING PAST, THE
EXHALATIONS OF A BUS
APPROACHING.

(Mel suddenly grabs Bobby by the arm and pulls with a yank.)

MEL

Pay attention man. Here comes the bus.
Let's get going.

SOUND: TRAFFIC NOISES,
CARS GOING PAST, THE
SOUND OF BUS DOORS
OPENING & CLOSING, AND
THE BUS PULLING AWAY
AND DRIVING OFF.

(Mel and Bobby board the bus. Mel looks down again and moves a hand over the tablet while walking to the back of the bus.)

MEL

oops

(By the time they reach the seats, the gadget is giving of a huge corona of light and lots of strange noises.)

INCREASING LIGHTS &
CLICKING AND WHIRRING
AND HUMMING NOISE FROM
MEL'S TABLET.

BOBBY

Hey Mel, what are you doing?!

MEL

It's the algorithm for tomorrow's C12 assignment. It's supposed to make a griphy that will put itself in two systems at -- holy shit! This is not --

(Blackout. End of Scene 1)

SCENE 2: STELLAR SHIT

(Lights Up. Mel and Bobby look exactly the same and are in the same seats on the bus. There are still half a dozen others on the bus but they all have a scaly fishy look about them and several have their eyes on the sides of their head.)

KAMRI

Hey driver, be careful on the brakes. I almost spilled my glurt!

(Kamri turns and looks toward the two in the back.)

KAMRI

Hey dirt bug! Don't you answer when someone speaks to you?!

MEL

Me?!

KAMRI

Yes you. Who else would i be speaking to do you think. Do you see anyone else here with a Fingle Drive?

(Kamri gets up and walks to the back, looks sternly from Mel to Bobby and back again.)

BOBBY

Are you -

KAMRI

Which begs the question who exactly you are??

(KAMRI looks pointedly at Mel.)

BOBBY

I'm Bobby. That's Mel. that's Mel. Mel and I we sorta knew each other since 2nd grade when Mel's Mom left Mel's Dad and brought their whole family here from Saint -something or other. Some small nothing place out around Magog, I think. I've never been there but Mel's Mom always said it was a hole. Anyway, even though we lived across the street, we never went to the same school until grade 7. Before that Mel was at École Saint-Léon and I was at Westmount Park School. Then we both started at F.A.C.E. for high school but Mel was on the French side and I was on the English side so the only classes we had together were Gym and Computer Science. We became lab partners

and from that I guess we became friends used to meet up after school, grab the bus and go to that greasy spoon what used to be onna corner of Fort and de Maisonneuve. I always thought –
I –

(LIMU and JAX get up while Bobby is nattering and approach.)

LIMU

Donkey's teeth what a lot of inane blather! Which is the responsible?

(KAMRI turns to MEL with a grimace.)

KAMRI

Indeed! Does this one ever be quiet?

MEL

Not very often.

KAMRI

Hmmph.

(KAMRI reaches into the folds of his-her-it's voluminous robes and pulls out a glowing orb.)

KAMRI

Here, try this.

(Kamri passes a glowing orb to Bobby who immediately begins to stare into it. Bobby's voice gets slower and slower)

BOBBY

Anyway, Mel and I, we both decided to follow the comp sci stream and by grade 10 Mel was on track for a scholarship at F.I.T.C. while I had accepted that I just don't have the right genetics to
interrrrfaaacce iiiinnnnnnnn thhheeee
neeeeccccceeeeeessssssarrryyyy waaaaayys.
So I switched to music and – oh – hey Mel
thiiiiis isssss some stelllllar shit man.

MEL

Nice trick. What is it?

LIMU

Merely a toy. It will amuse for a time.

(Jax addresses MEL. RISAQ, ANXAO, AND TSINGDA are standing in the middle of the bus doing something that looks vaguely like a football huddle.)

JAX

You. You are the responsible yes?

MEL

Responsible?

JAX

Yes. For the folding.

MEL

Folding?

JAX

Yes! The folding.

MEL

ummmm...

LIMU

Jax, these do not know. Can you not tell what is to me so obvious. These are lunkers and the folding must have been accidental. They are too stupid to have done so on purpose.

KAMRI

Yes. I think Limu is correct. We should straighten this out. Smooth them down and send them back. They'll only cause trouble. And even if they don't, this one is too tiresome to keep around.

JAX

Maybe Dinel wants them as pets?

LIMU

Listen to Kamri, Jax. Send them back.

(JAX grimaces and raises an arm slowly up and in the direction of Mel and Bobby.)

JAX

As you wish...

(Blackout. End of Scene 2)

SCENE 3: FOUND, OR DOWN TO EARTH

(Lights Up. Mel and Bobby look exactly the same and are in the same seats on the bus. There are still half a dozen others on the bus but they all appear strangely doglike and very human at the same time.)

MEL

You always did talk too much y'know.

BOBBY

Yeah, I know. That's what everyone tells me. It's who I am. Some people are qui-

(Mel and Bobby are on the bus. Mel looks down and moves a hand over the tablet.)

MEL

oops

(The gadget is giving off a huge corona of light and lots of strange noises.)

INCREASING LIGHTS &
CLICKING AND WHIRRING
AND HUMMING NOISE FROM
MEL'S TABLET.

BOBBY

Hey Mel, what are you doing?!

MEL

It's the algorithm for tomorrow's C12 assignment. It's supposed to make a griphy that will put itself in two systems at -- holy shit! This is not -

BOBBY

Hey Mel, y'know I'm just not feeling so good today. And I'm confused and I think if you had told me before, I'd never have believed it and in some ways, well... anyway... anyway, me and Mel, we go way back...we uh, we know each other since 2nd grade when Mel's Mom left Mel's Dad and brought the whole fandamly here from Saint -something or somewhere. Some small nothing place out around Lennoxville, I think. I've never been there but Mel's Mom always said it was a hole. Anyhoo, even though we lived across the street, we didn't go to the same school until grade 7. Before that Mel was at École Saint-Léon and I was at Westmount Park School. Then we both started at LCC for high school but Mel was uh, Mel was uhh, I, I always thought - I - uh

KAMRI

Hey driver, be careful on the brakes. I almost spilled my grog!

(Kamri, a dog-like looking creature, turns and looks toward the two in the back.)

KAMRI

Hey dirt bug! Don't you answer when someone speaks to you?!

MEL

Me?!

KAMRI

Yes you. Who else would i be speaking to do you think. Do you see anyone else here with a Manifold Machine?

(Kamri gets up and walks to the back, looks sternly from Mel to Bobby and back again.)

BOBBY

Are you -

KAMRI

Which begs the question who exactly you are??

(KAMRI looks pointedly at Mel.)

BOBBY

That's Mel. that's Mel, Mel and uh I, I'm Bobby. we um... we've... we've been, been, been friends, friends a long time. I really don't understand , I really don't but Mel said it was the algorithms, and that guy, y'know the ugly one with the fish head... yeah, that one coming now, Jacks. Jacks told us we entered something called a multiple superfolding universe.

MEL

I told you Bobby, it's a Multifold superposition. Jax told me that in effect we were (or are?) in 11 to the power of something universes all at once. From what I understand, it means every time I do something, there are 11^n mes doing it it all in the same moment, or point in the framework, and likewise for each of those 11 mes. Quite the mindfuck really if you think on it too much. It appears to be endless but -

BOBBY

You're making my head hurt Mel!

(LIMU and JAX get up while Bobby is nattering and approach.)

LIMU

Donkey's teeth what a lot of inane blather! Which is the responsible?

(KAMRI turns to MEL with a grimace.)

KAMRI

Indeed! Does this one have spiders on the ceiling? And does it not ever be quiet?

MEL

Not very often.

KAMRI

Hmmph.

(KAMRI reaches into the folds of his-her-it's voluminous robes and pulls out a glowing orb.)

KAMRI

Here, try this.

(Kamri passes a glowing orb to Bobby who immediately begins to stare into it. Bobby's voice gets slower and slower)

BOBBY

Anyway, Mel and I, we both decided to follow the comp sci stream and by grade 10 Mel was on track for a scholarship at F.I.T.C. while I had accepted that I just don't have the right genetics to interrrfaaacce iiiinnnnnnn thhheeee neeeeeccccceeeeeessssssarrryyyy waaaaayys. So I switched to music and - oh - hey Mel thiiiis isssss some stellllllar shit man.

MEL

Nice trick. What is it?

LIMU

Merely a toy. It will amuse for a time.

(Jax addresses MEL. RISAQ, ANXAO, AND TSINGDA are standing in the middle of the bus doing something that looks vaguely like a football huddle.)

JAX

You. You are the responsible yes?

MEL

Responsible?

JAX

Yes. For the folding.

MEL

Folding?

JAX

Yes! The folding.

MEL

ummmm...

LIMU

Jax, these do not know. Can you not tell what is to me so obvious. These are lunkers and the folding must have been accidental. They are too stupid to have done so on purpose.

KAMRI

Yes. I think Limu is correct. We should straighten this out. Smooth them down and send them back. They'll only cause trouble. And even if they don't, this one is too tiresome to keep around.

JAX

Maybe you want to keep them as pets?

LIMU

No thanks! Listen to Kamri, Jax. Send them back.

(JAX grimaces and raises an arm slowly up and in the direction of Mel and Bobby.)

JAX

As you wish...

(Blackout. End of Scene 3)

SCENE 4: LOST

(Lights Up. Mel and Bobby look exactly the same and are in the same seats on the bus. There are still half a dozen others on the bus but they all have a pale zombieish look about them and wear identical uniforms.

MEL

You always did talk too much y'know.

BOBBY

Yeah, I know. That's what everyone tells me. It's who I am. Some people are qui-

SOUND: TRAFFIC NOISES,
CARS GOING PAST, THE
EXHALATIONS OF A BUS
APPROACHING.

(Mel suddenly grabs Bobby by the arm and pulls with a yank.)

MEL

Pay attention Bobby. Here comes the bus.
Let's get going.

SOUND: TRAFFIC NOISES,
CARS GOING PAST, THE
SOUND OF BUS DOORS
OPENING & CLOSING, AND
THE BUS PULLING AWAY
AND DRIVING OFF.

(Mel and Bobby board the bus. Mel looks down again and moves a hand over the tablet while walking to the back of the bus.)

MEL

oops

(By the time they reach the seats, the gadget is giving of a huge corona of light and lots of strange noises.)

INCREASING LIGHTS &
CLICKING AND WHIRRING
AND HUMMING NOISE FROM
MEL'S TABLET.

BOBBY

Hey Mel, what are you doing?!

MEL

It's the algorithm for tomorrow's C12 assignment. It's supposed to make a griphy that will put itself into multiple systems at -- omigawd! This is not --

BOBBY

Hey Mel, y'know I'm confused. Mel? What was uhh, I, I always thought -- I -- uh

KAMRI

Hey driver, be careful on the brakes. I almost spilled my coffee!

(Kamri, a doglike looking creature, turns and looks toward the two in the back.)

KAMRI

Hey you? Yeah, you, don't you answer when someone speaks to you?!

MEL

Me?!

KAMRI

Yes you. Who else would i be speaking to do you think. Do you see anyone else here with a Fingle Drive?

(Kamri gets up and walks to the back, looks sternly from Mel to Bobby and back again.)

BOBBY

Are you -

KAMRI

Which begs the question who exactly you are??

(KAMRI looks pointedly at Mel.)

BOBBY

I'm Bobby. That's Mel. that's Mel. Mel and I we um... we've... we've um been, been, been friends, friends a long time. I really don't understand , I really don't but Mel said it was the algorithms, and that guy, y'know the ugly one with the uh, the uh, well... yeah, that one coming now, Jacks. Jacks told us we entered something called a multifle superb position.

MEL

I told you Bobby, it's a Multifold superposition. Jax told me that in effect we were (or are?) in 11 to the power of something universes all at once.

(LIMU and JAX get up while Bobby is nattering and approach.)

LIMU

Holy moly what a lot of idiotic nonsense! Which is the responsible?

(KAMRI turns to MEL with a grimace.)

KAMRI

Indeed! Does this one ever be quiet?

MEL

Not very often.

KAMRI

Hmmph.

(KAMRI reaches into the folds of his-her-it's voluminous robes and pulls out a large red balloon.)

KAMRI

Here, try this.

(Kamri passes a large balloon to Bobby who immediately begins to throw it up into the air and watch it drift down, then bat it into the air again. Bobby's voice gets slower and slower)

BOBBY

Anyway, Mel and I, we both decided to uh, to follow the, the uh, computer, computer science, that was it, and um

MEL

Nice trick. What is it?

LIMU

Just a soporific. It will give us a few minutes of quiet.

(Jax addresses MEL. RISAQ, ANXAO, AND TSINGDA are standing in the middle of the bus doing some kind of weird bouncy dance.)

JAX

You. You are the responsible yes?

MEL

Responsible?

JAX

Yes. For the folding.

MEL

Folding?

JAX

Yes! The folding.

MEL

ummmm...

LIMU

Jax, these do not know. Can you not tell what is to me so obvious. These are morons and the folding must have been accidental. They are too stupid to have done it intentionally.

KAMRI

Yes. I think Limu is correct. We should straighten this out. Send them back as soon as possible. They'll only cause trouble. And even if they don't, this one is too tiresome to keep around.

JAX

Maybe Dinel wants them for the game?

LIMU

Listen to Kamri, Jax. Send them back.

(JAX grimaces and raises an arm slowly up and in the direction of Mel and Bobby.)

JAX

As you wish...

(Blackout. End of Scene 4)

SCENE 5: MERE PEBBLES

(Lights Up. Mel and Bobby look exactly the same and are in the same seats on the bus. There are still half a dozen others on the bus but they all have on bright red uniforms and are making a loud hum that sounds eerily like an enormous horde of grasshoppers.)

(Jax addresses MEL. RISAQ, ANXAO, AND TSINGDA are standing in the middle of the bus doing something that looks vaguely like a football huddle.)

JAX

You. You are the responsible yes?

MEL

Responsible?

JAX

Yes. For the folding.

MEL

Folding?

JAX

Yes! The folding. Don't you know?
 Why, here and there and everywhere
 as long as we don't look
 too close
 we can be both
 here and there, in between one
 and the other
 neither this nor that. A superposition
 can only last until you ask the question
 Liminal possibilities resolve when
 measured, are tethered by needing to know
 the answer.

MEL

ummmm...

BOBBY

Mel? What's going on?

MEL

I told you Bobby, Jax told us we entered something called a multiple superfolding universe. It's a Multifold superposition. In effect we are in 11 to the power of something universes all at once. From what I understand, it means every time any of us do something, there are 11^n of us doing it all in the same moment, or point in the framework, and likewise for each of those 11 mes or yous. It makes my head hurt to think about it. You see, it appears to be endless but if any one of the mes or yous looks closely at the action, examines the situation, asks the questions, well, I think then we just fold entirely back into ourselves... right back to our simplistic solitary selves.

BOBBY

A superposition?

MEL

Yes Bobby, a superposition.

LIMU

Listen to Kamri, Jax. Send them back.

(JAX grimaces and raises an arm slowly up and in the direction of Mel and Bobby.)

JAX

As you wish...

(Blackout.)