

## PERFORMANCE ART

*A group of actors are wearing all black, performing various pretentious acting warm-ups, over-the-top stretches, etc. In comes the DIRECTOR, who's hair is disheveled, and they are wearing an eclectic collection of animal prints and too many scarves. The director yells, and all the actors get into a line.*

DIRECTOR

I want to see it again!

*The actors move slowly, bending their bodies into weird shapes, moving side-to-side in an interpretive dance style. With over-the-top bad acting, two actors step forward to perform a scene.*

ACTOR 1

It is the dark of night, and nary a soul do I see. Hark! In the distance: A figure of golden hue! Speak, figure.

ACTOR 2

Doves! Cawing doves! The sunshine and daisies dashing the open column of earth into that of heaven. Breathe.

*The group of actors breathe dramatically in unison.*

ACTOR 1

Like a bird who mates for life, I peck at the neck of this gorgeous sunny figure.

*They start kissing each others necks.*

ACTOR 2

Barah! Barah! Barah!

ACTOR 1

Barah! Barah! Barah!

ACTORS

Barah! Barah! Barah!

DIRECTOR

Cut! It's HUR-AH, not BUR-AH. The show is on tomorrow and I can't get through to you how important this message is. We are the interpretive actor's troupe of Northern Baxterville! We must be the best actors we can be. We MUST let our inner spirits float to the top of our noses if we want to prove our worth to the audience.

*They all lift up their noses, spinning around on their tippy toes and make little beeping noises. Enter two aliens, in their mothership. They move in weird and exaggerated ways.*

RYNOR

Gzooop, hear the voices? That is the call of an ancient species that lives on this nearby rock. Let us apparate on the surface.

*They spin and land in front of the actors.*

RYNOR (CONT'D)

...

GZOOOP

Speak to them!

RYNOR

But... they're mating. I think.

*The actors are still beeping.*

GZOOOP

Speak!

RYNOR

Greetings! Oh great and admirable ancients.

GZOOOP

Like the sun upon which your rock revolves, we greet you with highest sincerity.

RYNOR

Blessings to you and we come with peace and unison.

*The actors surround them, mimicking the movements. Studying them.*

ACTORS

Peace and unison. Peace and unison.

GZOOOP

Tis I, Gzooop.

ACTORS

GZOOOP

GZOOOP

And by kindred friend, RYNOR.

RYNOR

(trying to say Hello)

Elbow! As you'd say.

*The actors thrust their elbows to the sky.*

ACTORS

Elbow!

GZOOP

(To RYNOR)

Rynor, this is going way better than I thought.

RYNOR

Truly.

(To the actors)

We, from PARAXON, are here to acquire this planet.

ACTOR 1

Acquire as you please, master of Doves.

ACTOR 2

Master of golden, fleecy freedom!

*The actors start flapping their arms like wings as they circle the aliens.*

GZOOP

And as we noticed the call you made to the sky, we realized our folly:

RYNOR

As per the CODE GALACTIC

ACTORS

Galaxies! Stars!

RYNOR

We are required to gain a physical form of consent before using your planet as a dumping ground for all the trash in our galaxy.

ACTORS

Galaxy of TRASH. Trash galaxy! STAY GREEN!

RYNOR

Yeah! Green!

GZOOP

They seem to be taking it well.

RYNOR

Very apology for interrupting your mating... Session.

DIRECTOR

(Applauding)

Bravo! Brava! Young creators, what a powerful mosaic of generosity you have brought to us! What are your names!

RYNOR

Rynor! Is my title!

GZOOOP

And 'tis I! Gzoop!

DIRECTOR

Wonderful! Digby! Browyn!

*Pronounced "Brow-enn"*

ACTORS 1 & 2

Yes?

DIRECTOR

Bring Gzoop and Rynor their outfits. How would you two like to be a part of the Interpretive Actors Troupe of Northern Baxterville?

GZOOOP

Honored to join your...

ALIENS

Sorority...

DIRECTOR

Right this way.

*They go offstage.*

*Transition to performance day, where we see the words "quinquepartannual baxterville acting competition." All the ACTORS and the ALIENS stand on stage. They perform together the ending of their show, dancing dramatically to this dialogue.*

ACTOR 1

Make your way through the forest...

ACTOR 2

The forest being the dreams you make

RYNOR

We like the group of small brains surrounding us.

ACTOR 1

Birds take flight. They turn their magic into fairy dust which spreads like angel's wings across the angel's wings.

ACTOR 2

Never believing for a second that a proper belief can be properly believed.

GZOOOP

We believe we are superior, but play the games you play.

RYNOR  
If it gives you comfort and peace.

ACTOR 1  
Comfort and peace!

ACTORS  
COMFORT. AND. PEACE.

*Applause. The director comes up with a trophy.*

DIRECTOR  
Thanks to everyone for coming to the Quinquupartannual Baxterville Acting Competition! As the Southern Baxterville Acting Group did not show, the trophy goes once again to the reigning champs: The Interpretive Acting Troupe of Northern Baxterville!

*He hands Gzooop the trophy.*  
Congratulations! Here's your trophy!

*More applause. Gzooop holds the trophy.*

GZOOOP  
Article of Consent Acquired. We.

RYNOR  
Have.

GZOOOP  
Permission.

*They spin offstage, beeping. VOICE OVER:*

RYNOR (V.O.)  
PLANET 5555599, We have been given permission from the Interpretive Acting Troupe of Northern Baxterville to use your planet for all waste production in sector 9. Please duck your heads.

*Squishy sounds are heard. Actors duck their heads as the lights go out.*