

P

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Adapted from the Play *Pygmalion*

ACT I

Scene i: — A design bureau at 9:30 AM

Employees arriving. Drinking coffee. Sitting down. Busily looking at screens. Some small sounds come from occasional design actions

Eliza, a slightly nerdy looking young woman enters from the back of the stage, holding a portfolio. She is wearing a tacky, oversized sweatshirt with fred flintstone (or similar) on it and glasses that went out of style 10 years ago.

She stands for several minutes watching the members of the company work unsure about approaching them.

Who the fuck is this Hannah Barbarian wallflower standing over there?

Hinting and Pikseling make fun of her clothing

she is apparently here to interview to be the new intern

oh god!

SOLO: slide show of her very tacky / prolo / dirt-style portfolio

eliza is very motivated and wants to be a "real" designer. Pikseling reminds Hinting that he claimed he could make any photoshop-jockey pass for a Madison Ave creative director given a few months of cliches and training.

NOTE: we need big help from designers here

Hinting and Pikseling have a bet

Eliza's father, the proprietor of a sign shop shows up. He is a bit of a bum. he shakes down Hinting for a little bit of money. a "transfer fee" like in football.

The assistant is sent off with eliza and told to burn her clothes and order a new outfit from Muji.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

Scene i: — The design bureau on an afternoon

Eliza is now wearing more up-to-date clothing, all black, black-rimmed glasses and has black short, severe hair.

Mrs. Hinting, Hinting's mother, comes in. She is part owner of the company and has connected them with their best customers. she is a classy lady of around 65.

Hinting explains to his mother that he has taken a "trashy copy-shop girl" and is teaching her how to act like a designer.

He talks trash about their customers who happen to be good friends of his mother.

Mother asks eliza about her work. Eliza proceeds to show more classic Swiss style "correct" design. She uses many inarticulate or teenage-type words to describe what she is working on. She describes how they would be nice for advertizing a liquor store or that these abstract forms might make a "real nice sign" for a hair salon.

NOTE: we need some nice/ironic rip-offs of iconic designs / logos / type

He asks his mother what she thinks. She says that she is going to have a hard time speaking to real customers and that she is concerned about what this girl is going to do when she is done with her internship.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

Scene i: — The design bureau late in the evening

It is late and E, H and P come in. They are slightly dressed up but looking disheveled (drunk). Eliza sits, making repetitive small sounds with inkscape, brooding.

P congratulates H and tells him he's won the bet. H says its all just a joke and he's frankly been sick of it for the last few weeks and glad it's over.

he asks E to prepare coffee and slides for the client meeting tomorrow.

H and P go out for a smoke. E is furious and draws a brutal spiky shape that makes a lot of noise.

H comes back and looking for the pantone book. Eliza goes for a second back stage and returns with the book which she throws at him.

argument about E's future. H says she should get together with a nice art director. She gives back her wig, glasses, iphone, etc. H is hurt. he throws the iphone in the corner.

They argue and H says that she is an "egocentric tasteless copyshop tart". He storms out. E goes to find the iphone.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

Scene i: — The design bureau on the following morning

Mrs. Higgins is sitting by herself doing a simple layout in scribus making pleasant drones.

H and P come in furious. Where is E? She can't just quit like that! We have a big meeting today and I don't remember where we put the proofs. We have to call the cops or a lawyer!

Eliza's dad shows up wearing a very brightly colored suit. he is furious with H. He has now become famous in design circles, especially on the internet as a "perfect example of vernacular design". He now does TED talks and AIGA / ADC conferences for lots of money and has a book contract with Taschen. he

Mrs. H reveals that E is actually next door in her office and that she might be willing to talk but you will need show a little more respect.

E comes in and is only willing to talk to P. She says that he was the one who showed her what it meant to be a designer, that it had more to do with communication customers and respect than whatever cliches.

She says maybe she will go to work for Schmedrick and Schmendrick, a rival firm. H is livid. He realizes that he does need her. He says he likes this fighting style of hers.

Dad is going to give the ADC conference keynote and all are invited. Mom tells H he can't go. As they go to leave, H gives E a list of things to do. She shakes her head and sets a huge NO in comic letters and then walks out.

END OF ACT IV