

Commissioned and performed by Sanctuary: Playwright's Theatre (2004).

**SOAK**  
a play in eighteen minutes

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## SOAK

EVE  
HEIDI  
DAVID  
MAN WITH ACCORDIAN

There are bottles of whisky placed all over the space, sometimes hidden, sometimes in full view, sometimes being held by an audience member. As HEIDI and DAVID wander around the space, they will casually drink from every bottle. DAVID wears an old old jacket from his prep-school days.

Perhaps EVE starts the play lying down holding a bottle of whisky. She wears iPod headphones.

EVE is singing a morbid chanteuse-ey song, like a dying flower at the bottom of gravel ditch. There are pictures of Bjork everywhere around her.

EVE

Und die Jahre ziehen ins Land  
und wir trinken immer noch ohne Verstand  
denn eins das wissen wir ganz genau  
ohne Alk da waere der Alltag so grau

EVE pours whiskey on her crotch.

DAVID

You know like, right.

When you're onto something, right.  
When you think you know something essential, about, about the NATURE of a thing,  
right.

I mean politics and memory aside.

And you start reading about spirituality, and. And you are ON to something

And you are on the verge of of. DISCOVERY, right. But a. A distraction, and some folks are easily distracted but. I had a personal trainer once. But that's beside the point.

I was a chain smoker once.

And I always thought my goal, my goal—my ah PURPOSE in life was to move people. But that seemed awfully general. So when I was about 28, 29, I decided. Well. But so I

decided I would ZOOM in, ZOOM in on the goal. Move people by being so specific that they could lose themselves in my logic. Not. Well. But.

I'm not well. Actually, heh. I'm drunk.

HEIDI

I like feet

DAVID

I don't speak German

HEIDI

I really like feet. You know that? I like feet and I like watching the folks walk by with iPods. But it always strikes me odd that they are not all drunk.

DAVID

I'm drunk

HEIDI

Right now I'm extremely drunk. You can't tell. I've gotten very good at it.

DAVID

I can tell.

HEIDI

And also. I mean on the topic of. You know PURPOSE, like you were saying, or ZOOMING as it were

DAVID

I lost my thought

HEIDI

Sometimes watching a couple of girls walking into my classroom in flipflops, laughing... like they're clinging to one another, one of them is pitched forward, like she dropped a quarter... and I wonder how could they be sober? Right? How could they be laughing so hard and still be sober?

DAVID

Huh.

HEIDI

And sometimes... I shouldn't be telling you this, David.

DAVID

Heidi

HEIDI

Sometimes. When I teach. Before I teach. I go into the teacher's lounge.

DAVID

I don't want to know this

HEIDI

You don't even know what I'm going to say.

DAVID

Is it about masturbating?

HEIDI

No.

DAVID

Smoking?

HEIDI

No.

DAVID

Then forget it.

HEIDI

It's about. It's very personal.

DAVID

I'd rather you didn't.

HEIDI

Okay. Why are you wearing that?

DAVID

It comforts me. It's old.

HEIDI

Oh.

DAVID

The mafia used to own this place.

HEIDI

Do you know why I like feet, David?

DAVID

I'm serious. That's why it's so dirty. Because it was a FRONT!!!! FRONT!!! THAT'S WHY SHE LIKED IT!!!

HEIDI

I like feet because I like summer. Because that's when the feet come out. Did you notice this year? All the women in sandals? All their toenails were painted the color of iPods. And.

DAVID

It made her feel dangerous.

HEIDI

And. And they're making a new iPod and the name of the color is "ghost". Isn't it odd how that makes sense? That the color "ghost" makes sense? I mean can't you picture it?

DAVID

I don't picture anything. I picture a void.

HEIDI

I should get an iPod. And then I'll start listening to music again. I think if I listen to music it might make me feel more like a human.

DAVID

I'm forgetting something, I think... something huge...

HEIDI

I don't even know how to download an mp3. My students are always, you know, "mp3 mp3" and all I can do is feel old. And anyway I get an educational discount because I work for the public school system David?

DAVID

Heidi?

HEIDI

David?

DAVID

Heidi?

HEIDI

David?

DAVID

Heidi?

HEIDI

David?

DAVID

Heidi?

HEIDI

I don't want to be here.

Everyone shifts and drinks a lot. EVE does something, maybe drops something, maybe unravels something, maybe lays across something, maybe she sings. In essence she shows how she takes up space.

DAVID

Now I'm really drunk

HEIDI

Me too

DAVID

When they fired me?

HEIDI

Yes

DAVID

I was at my desk?

HEIDI

Yes

DAVID

And I had my head on my desk?

HEIDI

You told me this

DAVID

And I was sleeping?

HEIDI

You told me this story

DAVID

And I had wet myself. I'm not sure when, but when they woke me up the pee was cold. I don't know if they would have fired me if I hadn't done that. A warning maybe, or. Some time off. Like a vacation, or medical leave. To, um. You know.

HEIDI

There's a word, a technical word.

DAVID

For pulling yourself together?

HEIDI

For peeing yourself.

DAVID

That makes me feel like laughing.

DAVID laughs very boisterously. HEIDI does not.

HEIDI

Don't tell me that story again.

DAVID

But you know why it's significant?

HEIDI

I'm just going to lay down over here, okay

DAVID

It's significant because.

HEIDI

It's very dirty

DAVID

Because it's the first time in my adult life that I've ever peed myself.. But not the last. Nope, nosirree.

HEIDI

But sometimes it's okay to be dirty. This dirt, for example...

DAVID

(to no one, or EVE)

Just because you don't eat pizza doesn't make you a healthy eater.

HEIDI

I'm gonna close my eyes a moment

How drunk are you? DAVID

I'm soaking. HEIDI

I'm gonna do that, what you're doing. DAVID

They both lie down somewhere and pass out a few moments. EVE rises up. The accordion plays.

**THIS PLAY IS NOT OVER!**  
**Contact the author ([sheila.callaghan@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.callaghan@gmail.com))**  
**to read more...**