

The "We All Belong, We All Get Along Non-Denominational
Traveling Holiday Pageant with Joshua, Penny & Dirk"

By

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Shotz of the Year"

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Cast of Characters

Joshua:

Penny:

Dirk:

Scene

Silver Creek Senior Center for Advanced Living, Nebraska

Time

4pm

The sound of rhythmic sleigh bells. Joshua, Penny and Dirk parade down the aisle dressed in their holiday best. Penny keeps time with her bells while Dirk and Joshua carry in a festive trunk. They sing...

ALL

Jingle bells, jingle bells, they jingle jangle and jerk! Get ready for fun and lots of perk with...

JOSHUA

Josh-wah...

PENNY

Penny...

DIRK

And Diiiiirk!!

Big musical and physical flourish!!

JOSHUA

Hello! And welcome to...

ALL

The "We All Belong, We All Get Along Non-Denominational Traveling Holiday Pageant!"

PENNY

(under her breath) Stupidest fucking title on earth.

DIRK

Penny... you promised.

JOSHUA

We are thrilled to be with you here today at the Silver Creek Senior Center for Advanced Living.

DIRK

(panicking) Senior center. Senior center. Did he say senior center? Ohmygod look at them all. I can't breathe. <horrible, barky, wheezy sound>

PENNY

Shit. Get him offstage! Now!

JOSHUA

Back in a moment folks. In the meantime, let Bing's sweet pah-rum-puh-pum-pums hold you and heal you.

Joshua slaps on Bing Crosby's "Little Drummer Boy" and all three rush backstage.

PENNY

Now you listen to me. We do malls, we do office parties, we do the YMCA, but we do NOT do old age homes.

JOSHUA

I think you mean "Dwellings for Advanced Living."

PENNY

I think you wanna shut your mouth.

DIRK

<horrible, barky, wheezy sound>

JOSHUA

What is that, what's happening?

PENNY

That's his distress bark. Do you not know him at all?

JOSHUA

Those aren't the sounds he makes with me, sweetheart.

DIRK

<horrible, barky, wheezy sound>

JOSHUA

WhatcanIdowhatcanIdo?

Penny pushes Joshua out of the way.

PENNY

I got this. Who's doing a monkey face? That's right, Penny is! Penny's doing a monkey face!

Penny does a brilliant monkey face. Dirk smiles and regains his breath.

There he is! In... and out....

JOSHUA

You scared me babe. Beard smoosh?

DIRK

Beard smoosh.

Joshua and Dirk tenderly smoosh their beards.

JOSHUA

You ok?

DIRK

No. No I'm not. Perhaps I wasn't clear when I told you Penny and I were orphaned when our parents-

PENNY

DIED!

DIRK

And then we went to live with our super crazy old grandparents who also-

PENNY

DIED!

DIRK

And then we moved in with our great Aunt Sylvie who choked on her Cream of Wheat and consequently-

PENNY/JOSHUA

DIED!

JOSHUA

I get it Penny!

DIRK

Now I can't be near old people without feeling the life force leaking from my body.

JOSHUA

Nonsense babe, you got this. Let's get back out there!

PENNY

Joshua, no, he can't-

Joshua pushes them back onstage.

JOSHUA

Thank you for your patience, folks. And now...

Penny, Dirk and Joshua tear off their garb to reveal snowflake-inspired dance attire underneath.

ALL

A weather-inspired ballet!

Music. Penny and Dirk take handcrafted snowflake headdresses from the trunk and affix them reverently to their heads. They begin the dance.

PENNY/DIRK

(sung) I'm dreaming of a whiiiiite....

Joshua joins the ballet, donning a headdress representing all nationalities and weather.

JOSHUA

(sung) ...African American, Latino, Asian, Mixed Race,
or Native slash Aboriginal....

PENNY/DIRK

(sung) Christmas! Just like the ones we used to know.
Where the treetops glisten! And children listen! To
hear...

JOSHUA

(sung)Unless they're Deaf...

PENNY/DIRK

(sung) Sleigh bells in the snow....

JOSHUA

(sung) Unless global warming makes snow a thing of the
past, or you live in a dry, arid land like Arizona, New
Mexico or Nevada...

PENNY/DIRK

(sung) I'm dreaming of a whiiiiiiite....

JOSHUA

(sung) ...African American, Latino, Asian, Mixed Race
or Native slash Aboriginal....

PENNY

SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP! YOU'RE RUINING EVERYTHING!!!!

*She storms backstage. Dirk is left frozen in
arabesque, staring blankly into the audience.*

JOSHUA

Dirk baby, keep going. We don't need her. Dirk?

DIRK

Mortality... I look into this sea of grayed hairs and
wrinkled faces and all I feel is the painful sting of
my own mortality... We're dying now, friends, even as
we speak. Sloooooowly dying. Except for you sir, you
look like you could go at any minute...

JOSHUA

Ladies and gentlemen - ahem forgive me - ladies and
gentleman and those who identify themselves as neither
ladies nor gentleman, but something in that beautiful
in-between, we need just another moment.

*He slaps "Little Drummer Boy" back on and drags a
dazed Dirk backstage, where Penny is fuming.*

PENNY

What the hell is wrong with you?! A "native slash aboriginal Christmas?"

JOSHUA

There is a dark-skinned man in the third row wearing a hand-crafted turquoise necklace reminiscent of the American southwest. What would you have me do? Stand by while you wish a clearly Native man a WHITE Christmas? Are we animals?

PENNY

You are the lukewarm water of social engagement. I want to gargle you and spit you back into my sink!

JOSHUA

Whaaaaat?

PENNY

Ever since you joined our act, it's become a dull display of diplomatic drivel.

JOSHUA

Ooooooh, alliteration!

PENNY

I mean, where's the danger? The sex?

JOSHUA

Is there usually dangerous sex in the holiday show featuring you and your twin brother? Because, I have to say Penny, my openmindedness draws its line at twincest.

PENNY

Can it, Joshua!

JOSHUA

For the last time, it's pronounced Josh-WAH.

PENNY

That's what I said.

JOSHUA

Actually? No. It's not.

JOSHUA/DIRK

You pretend the "U" isn't there and go straight to the stressed "WAH." Josh - WAH.

JOSHUA

Thanks babe.

PENNY

(referring to his headdress)
Where did you even find time to build that hideous
monstrosity, Josh-WAH?

JOSHUA

One makes time for the important things in life.

DIRK

NO THEY DON'T!!! THAT'S THE PROBLEM, SEE!? THERE IS NO
TIME! WE'RE ALL RUNNING OUT OF TIIIIIIIME!!

*Dirk throttles Penny and Joshua then releases
them. Silence.*

Oh man, I'm losing it. I'm losing it, huh?

PENNY

It's ok buddy. I know what'll make you feel better. We
always bring the house down with "Ghetto Elf."

JOSHUA

..."vertically challenged ethnic assistant..."

DIRK

Babe, I love you, but your incessant need to be
sensitive is insufferable.

PENNY

We're doing "Ghetto Elf." As is.

*Penny drags them onstage. All three drop to their
knees, put on elf caps and start beat boxing. They
rap in fully-realized elf voices.*

DIRK

"A one..."

PENNY

"A two..."

ALL

"A one two three four..."

DIRK

"Puttin' final touches on Santa's -

PENNY/JOSHUA

TOYZ!

DIRK

I swing my noggin 2 the right and see my elfin'-

PENNY/JOSHUA
BOYZ!

DIRK
I'm like - (drops the elf voice) W-w-wait a moment. Can we pause? Can we cut the crap and just -- pause? I hate every second of doing this. Why the hell do we do this?

JOSHUA
We're spreading cheer.

DIRK
But we're fucking miserable. (Beat.) Don't you ever just wanna slow down and not give a shit?

He eyes the audience.
Like these guys. You guys don't give a shit. About anything. And it's beautiful. I'm not afraid of you. I wanna BE you.

Beat.
All I want... is to take my teeth out and eat pudding with you guys. Seriously, I'm 30 and I don't have the energy to chew anymore. Could I eat pudding with someone? Anyone?? Please?

A man in the audience hands Dirk his bowl of pudding.
Oh sir! You are the reason for the season sir! Thank you. You've given me a great gift.

Dirk sits on the ground and eats pudding with a plastic spoon. Suddenly, he's deeply peaceful.

PENNY
Um. What flavor is that... butterscotch?

DIRK
Get over here girl.

Penny sits next to him and he spoon feeds her some pudding. Her shoulders relax. Beat.

I'm insufferable, huh?

PENNY
Absolutely.

DIRK
You're an acquired taste babe.

Beat.

DIRK
C'mere.

*Joshua joins them. Dirk spoons him some pudding.
Dirk closes his eyes.
Close your eyes and breathe in.*

JOSHUA

What is that... mothballs?

PENNY

Yup.

DIRK

<sigh> It's just like when I was a kid.

End of play.