

JEFFERSON/LEAR Pray do not mock me I am a very foolish fond old man.

*Spotlight picks out DENIS as GLOUCESTER with his hands over his eyes.*

DENIS/GLOUCESTER All dark and comfortless. Where's my son Edmund? Edmund, enkindle all the sparks of nature, To quit this horrid act.

DENIS/GLOUCESTER *reveals a pair of googly eyes on springs. Spotlight picks out REGAN and GONERIL.*

MARY/REGAN Sick O sick!

LAUREN/GONERIL If not I'll ne'er trust medicine.

MARY/REGAN My sickness grows upon me.

GONERIL *screams and dies. We are now at the end of the play. GONERIL and REGAN lie dead on the floor. Spotlight picks out JEFFERSON as LEAR who strides across the stage, tears streaming down his face; JESSICA as CORDELIA limp in his arms.*

JEFFERSON/KING LEAR O you are men of stones!

Had I your tongues and eyes, I'd use them so

That heaven's vault should crack:

She's gone for ever.

I know when one is dead, and when one lives;

She's dead as earth.

JEFFERSON *has really pulled it off. He is genuinely good.*

JEFFERSON/LEAR I might have sav'd her; now she's gone for ever!

Cordelia, Cordelia...

JEFFERSON *suddenly panics as he becomes aware that JESSICA is unconscious.*

JEFFERSON (*snapping out of character*) Cordelia? Jessica? Shit! Jessica? She's unconscious! Come on say something!

NIGEL/KENT Royal Lear...

JEFFERSON Not you for fuck's sake.

*Suddenly all members of the cast come alive and surround DOROTHY led by LAUREN.*

NIGEL/KENT (*trying to stay in character*) Perchance there might be an apothecary in the establishment?

DOROTHY Shut up Nigel.

*Appealing to audience.*

Is there a doctor in the house?

DENIS I'll call an ambulance.

DENIS *runs off.*

LAUREN She's had an allergic reaction.

JEFFERSON Oh my God - the goddam chocolates... She's in anaphylactic shock. We'll need adrenaline, a laryngoscope and ventilatory support.

DOROTHY You're not a doctor.

JEFFERSON No, but I played one in a movie. She's going to need an emergency tracheotomy. We're going to have to go through the cricothyroid membrane.

NIGEL Are you acting now?

JEFFERSON I have no idea. But there was something about a pen...

LAUREN An epi-pen?

JEFFERSON That's it, she must have one somewhere.

DOROTHY Let's look in her bag!