

Ich Bin Faust

by
Joe Woodward

written with reference to
Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlow
Faust by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
and
hours of experimenting at Caloola Farm
by students
of Daramalan College Drama program 2009
©2009 Joe Woodward

Dramatis Personae

- Eddie/Faust: a radical though brilliant science student
approaching life with utmost intensity
- Jennifer/Mephisto: a girl for whom life is a game but finds
initial purpose through the atheist movement
“I Am” and a musician
- Margaret/Gretchen: religious girl who has a momentary fling with Eddie
- Georgiana Gray / Mother / Ms Grey: Girl who plays a Christian mother and a bureaucrat
- Adriana Pope: a girl with psychotic tendencies who peers into
life’s dangerous precipice
- Ali: a Muslim convert
- Kit Carmody /A Spirit/ Phoenix: an activist who later appears as an apparition
- Ursula / Counsellor: a struggling actress who plays the student
counsellor at University
- Frieda / Devil 1: a sullen girl who rarely speaks / A devil member of
School Of Night

NOTE: This script should be performed by actors between the ages of 17 and 21. The script is structured in such a way as to incorporate this youthful aspect of age into the content and plot of the work.

ACT 1

Gretchen

1 (Prologue)

LIGHTS UP.

It is a sculpture of drama students watching a video of their work on Faust. The assessment is over. There are no adults or teachers around. They drink. Perhaps one or two are using illicit substances. Who knows! They sculpture the space while silhouetted against the screen depicting their surrealist style presentation of Faust, they called *Ich Bin Faust*. This is seen on the video. They are watching, laughing and commenting. Occasionally one student, Adriana stands in front of the screen to the annoyance of the others. Above the stage in reach of the students is suspended a silver ball.

The video ends with the on-screen students shouting "Ich Bin Faust" as they collapse.

End of Video.

All

(a phrase at a time spoken separately
by individual students)

I am Faust
I am Christopher Marlowe
I am Goethe
I am Oscar Wilde
I am Moses
I am Confuses
and Buddha
I am Mohamed
I am Christ
I am Einstein
I am God The Father
I am Love
I am Mother Theresa

I am Osama bin Laden
I am John Lennon
I am William Shakespeare
I am William Dampier
I am Lee Harvey Oswald
I am Plato
I am Karl Marx
I am "Groucho" Marx
I am the embryo
the foetus
I am a Catholic
I am an athiest
I am a Protestant
I am a Jew
a Muslim
a Budhist
a Hindoo
an Agnostic
I am the word
the word made flesh
I am
I am
I am who am
I am who must be
who might be
who was
who is
I am
Ich Bin Faust
Ich Bin Faust
Ich Bin Faust

ALL collapse to the floor as was seen in the final moment on the video.

CROSS FADE to Jennifer.

Jennifer
Caught mid conversation)
So what you are saying is
we are just particles organized
by some "god" field that
converts energy into mass?

Georgiana
Be careful

Kit
that our Alchemy of theatre

Ursula
art

Jennifer
science

Adriana
ideas

Ali
religion and philosophy

Eddie
reveals the truth

Margaret
in our lives

Frieda
and in the lives of others ...

Georgiana
Are we ready?

Kit
Stories; wounds, longings, fears,
achievements ... the very shape
of our bodies ... memories
remain throughout this public
alchemy.

Ursula
Yet we alter our past; only
shadows and some after image
or echo is left ...

Jennifer
those unrepenting and relentless
personal psyches and binds;
what some call evil ... and
others deem "good".

Adriana
Saint Augustine saw the flesh

as evil and the spirit as good.
Origenes castrated himself so
as to remain pure of spirit
and flesh ... poor fool ...

Ali

"Everything is permissible ...
but not everything is beneficial".
A letter to the Corinthians!
"Nobody should seek his own good,
but the good of others." Is it
so with purity?

Eddie

The only purity one needs is the
knowledge of physical truth.
The mysteries we encounter will
one day be observable realities.
All we need is time to gain
knowledge. Knowledge is power!
Power is truth!

Margaret

This is nonsense. What guides
the use of knowledge?
You miss the point. Purity
is the field. Not the act itself!

Frieda

You a philosopher now? Eh? I
got no idea what you are talking
about. Science, art, religion?
This pretentious bullshit! All
crap! You just get on with
what IS.... I mean do you,
or any of you, really care
what happens to anyone outside
of your self-indulgent
bubble?

Georgiana

I think we are ready to begin.

BLACK OUT

2

LIGHTS UP

Later in the night at the after-show party for the *Ich Bin Faust* cast. Eddie and Jennifer are texting on mobile phones. Margaret is writing on cards.

Eddie

I've been having these dreams lately.

Margaret

Exam-type dreams?

Eddie

Possibly.

Jennifer

Eddie, you're in deep shit with Mrs. Black. You missed her Marlowe class ...

Eddie

Marlowe!! I am more Faust and Mephistopheles combined than she could know. For her, it's all about exams ... vomiting up useless understandings of what should be ...

Jennifer

Hey ... don't attack me ... I thought I did a pretty good Mephistopheles my self!

Margaret

And talking about exams ...

Eddie

Which we weren't! Jennifer wants to be Mephisto!

Margaret

You still got my copy of "Mother Courage". I got to return it ...

Eddie

The problem with Brecht is he is so limited. *Mother Courage* profits off the war and as a result her children are sacrificed. It's just like our school system. Teachers, academics and business profit of it and as a result we are all sacrificed. Big deal! What is new? He doesn't identify the critical questions ...

Margaret

Just get it back.

Jennifer

You Ok?

Eddie

I've been having these dreams ...

Margaret

Oh god ...

Eddie

Just imagine if everyone you loved suddenly turned on you. In my dream, I was in a room with all these people ... family, friends, friends of friends ... It was a social gathering of some kind. And I was enjoying pieces of sea food from one of those big silver dishes. I became aware of juices from a particularly large prawn dripping slowly over my chin. My hands were sticky and I needed a napkin. I went to find one at the other end of the table, when I looked up and saw everyone staring at me ... I quickly wiped my chin and fingers and smiled awkwardly out of embarrassment. But they seemed to be whispering to each other while keeping their eyes

on me. They were scowling.
Their mouths were turned down.
Some were pointing. When I
went to speak, they seemed
to freeze in fear. Fear of me!
Someone said something like:
"You are the devil!" Me!

Margaret
It's just the whole Faust
Mephistopheles thing ...

Eddie
(Ignoring her)
I put down my plate of seafood;
But noticed the prawns moving.
They came alive ... and tried
to escape my plate. The
octopus was moving its tentacles
as if reaching out to me through
the tarter source ...

Jennifer laughs hysterically.

Jennifer
Holy shit ... you telling me
you're "like those prawns on
your plate" ... you know, the
whole metaphor for life thing!

Margaret
Dreams and metaphors! Of course
... dreams reflect life. As you
struggle through the source,
your fate is the same: to be
eaten; made nourishment for the
successful; swallowed whole by
the uncaring ...

Eddie
You're full of shit. You gotta
wonder why people get so incensed
with things which are closest to
their own situation! Oh and
Margaret, here's your book back.

He produces his copy of Mother Courage. He holds it back for a few moments.

Eddie
Should I call you Gretchen from now on?

EXIT Eddie.

Jennifer
What's up with him? Gretchen?

Margaret
Yeah ...

Jennifer
There wasn't something going on between you two was there?

Margaret
Something going on ...

Jennifer
A bit of the old mother-syndrome? I'd understand if there was. He's actually very cuddly beneath his cynical exterior!

Margaret
Cuddles are fine ... sex before marriage is out of the question!

Jennifer
Oohhhhhh ... (laughing) Now you're ahead of me.

Margaret
Not really! I love the flirtation. But for me, God willed that I respect my body and be willing to offer it within the sanctity of marriage to someone I love ... and who loves me.

Jennifer
You're joking ... right?

Margaret looks at her reassuringly and smiles.

Margaret
Mephie! You ARE a Mephisto .. aren't
you!

Jennifer
Is that a compliment?

Margaret
(Pauses) No!

She reaches out and pats Jennifer.

EXIT Margaret.

Adriana Pope has been listening.

Adriana
She call you a slut?

Jennifer
I don't ... at least I don't
think so ...

Adriana
She called you a slut. Are you
a slut? I mean, do you sleep
around? Have sex with people?
You know ... a slut!

Jennifer
Is that how she sees me?

Adriana
Look, can I get a bit insightful
for a second or two.

Jennifer
Go ahead.

Adriana
There is a man who talks like
a doll; like a mechanical wind up doll.
He tries to sound intelligent and so he
speaks intelligent sounding words.
He has a high forehead and

looks like a professor. But you would know, as I know, and anyone who sees him should know ... he is stupid. I waited as he spent ten minutes ordering a steak at the counter of the Workers' Club. And when he thought no one was looking, he spat on the floor. I mean, this was in a restaurant and he spat on the floor. Now at this point I'm looking at him and thinking his whole body is taking on the aspect of some large mechanical doll that should have been in a theme park. He caught me looking at him ...

Now isn't it funny when you catch someone doing something like that, you tend to pretend you didn't see anything. Well, I just kept looking at him and slightly shook my head ... Not enough to look as if I was chastising him ... but enough for him to notice.

He sat nearby with his wife ... or whoever ... And sure enough, he complains that there is too much fat. He is shaking his fists and tells the waiter to take it away. He wants another one. His wife is there and tries to calm him. He shoves her aside. He spits on the floor at the feet of the waiter. The plate is taken away. The waiter might think he's an arse-hole but dares not act accordingly. Then he caught my eye again. I smiled this time and once again slightly shook my head.

Jennifer

Your point being ... He beat

the crap out of you. Right!

Adriana

Well, it's like this. No one else in that place saw a giant mechanical doll with a funny voice. They all saw him as he saw himself ... you know, as a powerful, self assured person you shouldn't stuff around.

Jennifer

Your point?

Adriana

Margaret is the same. She sees you as a slut. Oh she won't say it. But in her pious way, that is how she sees you. You're like that big guy to her. So she is shaking her proverbial head. On the other hand, she sees her self as a virtuous person. The whole no sex thing! The never say a bad thing about anyone ... You know she'd never talk behind your back, because to her that is not right.

Jennifer

Your point Adriana?

Adriana

What if ...

Jennifer

Ah ... Drama class!!

Adriana

What if, she could no longer see herself like that. Then no one else would see her that way either. What if Miss Virginal Margaret Mary became Ms Dirty Slut?

Jennifer

Ah god, Adriana, you sound like something out of *Home and Away*.

Adriana

All that waiter had to do to reduce that over-bloated mannequin doll was to accidentally spill some of that steak sauce over him as the plate was picked up. Why don't you spill a little sauce on Margaret ... our Ms Gretchen? Or should I say, get Eddie to spill a little sauce on Goethe's holy Gretchen!

Jennifer

(Laughing)

You're evil!

Adriana

Yes I know! (Giggles)

Jennifer

What makes you tick Adriana?

Adriana

Look ... we all go round in circles our whole life ... We'll finish school. Get on the same closed circle as our parents ... I just think we can have some fun along the way ... you know stir things up a bit ...

Jennifer

Like with Margaret! You don't like her do you?

Adriana

I don't dislike her ... particularly. It's just all her bullshit. Anyway it won't matter in a couple of years because it's all going to end ...

Jennifer
End? School ... What?

Adriana
Everything.

Jennifer
What?

Jennifer
She's had something to drink.

Adriana
Defences are down.

Jennifer
She does have a "thing" for
Eddie.

Adriana
(Changing the subject)
Look at her. You or me? It could
be fun ...

Jennifer
Could it be done?

Adriana
Jennifer ... is the Pope German?

3

Jennifer slowly moves to the suspended orb and turns it.

Jennifer
If I play the part of
Mephistopheles that doesn't
mean I become Mephistopheles.
I am 'playing". It's a game.
An enactment. Should I happen
to be "like" Mephistopheles,
then I become "like"
Mephistopheles. Isn't that all?

The Bible says: "Everything is permissible ... but not everything is beneficial".
So I can choose to be and to do whatever I want. Only thing is to make sure it is beneficial ...

Ali appears beside her.

Ali

The Koran says: "do not act corruptly, making mischief on the earth".

Jennifer

Ugh! Ali, you were listening to my thoughts! How could we forget you are Muslim. Was that why you pulled out of the play?

Ali

What? Because I am a Muslim?

Jennifer

Why?

Ali

It is of no consequence.

Jennifer

The play? Or your pulling out of the play?

Ali

Both.

Jennifer

Thanks! We put a lot of work into that play ...

Ali

I know. Remember I was there at the start ...

Jennifer

Before you realized it was all

a waste of time ...

Ali

Why put so much energy into creating something frivolous . There is so much needed in the real world? I mean, I enjoyed it too. Until it became empty and devoid of any real connection with God. In trying to work outside god's plan, you are simply wasting time ... or worse, you are working against God.

Jennifer

You have it all worked out ...

Ali

No. The Koran has it all worked out. I simply serve. A lesson you need to learn. You need to serve the order of things. I mean we can't go on as if nothing is ever going to change ... or end ...

Jennifer

Why is it when someone finds THE TRUTH ... they become so superior. You are so smug Ali. No really, you are so smug.

Ali

It's not my truth ...

Jennifer

No. It's Allah! Right?

Ali

You are insulting and empty. I will pray for you. And Jennifer, DON'T.

Jennifer

Don't what?

Ali
You know what I'm talking about
(looking at Margaret) ... so don't.

Jennifer
Just out of interest, who
invited you here tonight?

Ali smirks.

Jennifer turns from him and makes a silent scream gesture.

Jennifer
Who the hell is the Mephisto
around here? (She shakes her head)

Ali slowly reaches up to the spinning ball.

Ali
One day, it will stop ...

He stops the ball from spinning.

4

Georgiana Bruno and Margaret are attempting some kind of in sync movement. It is as if they are trying to get a move right for a rehearsed piece. It begins as a mirror type form ... each time they practice it they make mistakes.

Jennifer has joined Eddie in the back ground.

Bruno
I was always the clumsy one.

Margaret
Come on try it again ...

Bruno
Too late in the night ...

Margaret
Come on Bruno!

Bruno
OK! Whatever you say ...

ENTER Kit and Ursula arguing.

Kit
Female circumcision is no
laughing matter. Mutilation
is more correct.

Ursula
I wasn't saying it was ...
I was just saying you have
to respect cultural traditions.

Kit
Cultural traditions? Like
selling seven year old girls
to marry fifty year old men?
That kind of tradition?

Ursula
You're over simplifying the
whole business ...

Kit
You make me sick. How
would you like it?

Ursula
But I'm not part of that
culture. I can't speak for it.

Kit
Ursula, there are girls in this
country that it applies to as
well ... Look I'm not trying to kill
anyone to change their minds.
But I can use words ...

Ursula
Kit, can we change the subject?
I don't know why we are
fighting ...

Kit

I do ...

Ursula walks out.

ENTER Frieda.

Frieda

(Very loud)

It's all a joke really.
Like a dizzy wheel
spinning out of control
and into the abyss.

Adriana

What is?

Frieda

What isn't?

Adriana

Frieda, you OK?

Frieda

No. O Kay is someone else.
I am Frieda Gobliebsen

Adriana

There's something wrong
isn't there!

Frieda

You went there as well.

Adriana

What are you talking about?

Frieda

You were there?

She produces a pamphlet.

Adriana

Oh ... The whole Mayan
calendar thing ... end of
days ... the world will end

in 2012. They were freaky!

She does a "loopy" sign as if to suggest it was all crazy.

Frieda

It was all a joke? Is that what
it was to you, Adriana?

Adriana

You're really spinning out
Frieda. Perhaps you should
lie down for a while.

Frieda suddenly pushes Adriana away.

Frieda

(Shouting) You're all a joke!
We're all a joke ... and don't
touch me.

All turn to her.

Frieda

(Screaming) Don't touch me.

Bruno

No one's touching you.

Frieda

(Struggling as if trying to
extricate herself)
Let me go ... Let go.
I've stopped laughing. Stop
laughing at me. You're all
laughing at me. Stop.

Margaret

It' ok Frieda ...

Frieda

I'm not OK. I'm Frieda
Gobliebsen.

Eddie

Come on Frieda ... we're
your friends. It's all right!

Bruno
Do you want to talk?

Adriana
I think she's ...

Frieda
What? She's what?

Adriana
You're ...

Frieda
None of you has any idea
about what is going on.
If you'd listen, you'd know.
It's all around you ...

EXIT Frieda passing Ursula who is re-entering the space.

ENTER Ursula.

Ursula
She OK?

Adriana
I don't know. Think so!
I think she's speeding or
something ...

EXIT Bruno, Margaret and Adriana following after Frieda.

Eddie offers Jennifer a coke.

Eddie
Happy families!! But what
would a cast party be without
some drama?

Jennifer
Hmm. Who invited Ali here?
He didn't even come to see
the show.

Jennifer
Eddie ...

Eddie
Yeah ...

Jennifer
Eddie ... (She giggles) Eddie ...

Eddie
Jennifer ...

Silence

Jennifer
Margaret really put me down
tonight.

Eddie
"Down"!

Jennifer
Do you ...

Eddie
I what ...

Jennifer
She's beautiful isn't she!

Eddie
Jennifer ...

Jennifer
She told me she is saving
herself for you.

Eddie
Saving what ...

Jennifer
Don't be so stupid. She's
really got it bad you know ...
She feels you don't like her.
She feels you ... no ... It's
not up to me ...

Eddie
Jenny ...

Jennifer
DON'T CALL ME "JENNY"!

Eddie
Sorry Jennifer ...

Jennifer
This is going no where. But
honestly, she is so shy. Deep
down shy. You'd practically
have to rape her before she'd
say anything about how she
feels.

Margaret intrudes.

Margaret
Deep and meaningful? Over a
coke!

Eddie
Come and join us ... It's so
hot inside.

Jennifer
Yeah ... it's getting cold
out here.

Margaret
Sorry ... Look I'll ...

Jennifer
No. You stay. I want something
harder than this ... I think
it's time for my prescription!

EXIT Jennifer.

Margaret
"Prescription"? Is she ok?

Eddie
Yeah. Look Margaret, I'm sorry
for my bullshit earlier.

Margaret
Don't worry, I'm used to it ...

Eddie
(Laughing) Oh yeah right!

Margaret sits on the step next to Eddie and places her arm around his shoulder.

Margaret
Do you mind if I place my arm around you. You really are a cuddly person.

Eddie
Like a teddy bear ...

Margaret
(Missing the intent) Sure, like a beautiful cuddly bear.

Eddie
(Shrugging) And you? Margaret?

Margaret
I'm a goof ball ... an awkward Goof. (She pulls a face) Like in that old Disney cartoon.

Eddie
Goofy? God Margaret ... where'd you get that from?

Margaret
I've always been Goofy. My brother has called me that since I can remember. What is your nick name?

Eddie
Don't really have one.

Margaret
Come on ... I told you mine ...

Eddie
(Ha) I'll show you mine, if ...

Margaret
Uh uh ... we ain't going there.

Eddie

Ok

Margaret

You must have a nick name?

Eddie

Ok ... it's Yoda.

Margaret

The Star Wars guy ...

Eddie

Yeah ... the "little" guy!

Margaret

You are so ...

Eddie

Cute?

Margaret

Eddie ...

Eddie

Cute!

Margaret is slightly embarrassed.

Eddie

You know Margaret, I really would love to see everything about you. Your mind. Your embarrassment. Your skin ...

Margaret

Look (she holds out her hand)
There's my skin ...

Eddie

(Examining it) Hmm ... what is this?

Margaret

A freckle?

Eddie

No. Look it runs all the way
up here ...

He traces his finger from her hand following an imaginary
line up to under her arm pit. This makes for close physical
shape.

Margaret

You're touching my breast.

Eddie

Sorry ...

He extricates himself slightly.

Margaret

You're such a dork.

Eddie

You're just teasing aren't you!

Margaret

Teasing?

Eddie

You know what I mean ...

Margaret

Look at me Eddie. Stop your
clowning and look at me. You
don't really look at me. You
don't really hear me ...

Eddie

You're playing the Woman's
game. Putting it back on me.

Margaret

Putting back on you?

Eddie

What if I was to say that I
wanted nothing more than to
fuck you ... and then some more
... I wanted to feel your skin
over me; your breath over every

part of my body; your hair
stroking my naked chest ... my
lips on your neck ... what if
I were to say that I lust after
the very thought of you and
love the possibility of making
you into a cuddly little
kitten cradled to my chest;
A breathing, sighing little
kitten who's eyes looked into
mine with longing and wanting
and pleading ... (then with
a grin) Do you like the
poetic?

Margaret

What? You expect some come
back after that? You dork!

Margaret

You are very clever Eddie Keats.
But naïve ... aren't you? You're
like a little boy who has read
some poetry and but hasn't
discovered the world isn't like
that.

Eddie

You're not going to go sprouting
god stuff?

Margaret

God stuff? That's what you hear
from me. God stuff! You arrogant
little turd ... What do you
think I am?

Eddie

(Startled) You are complex.

Margaret

The first decent thing you have
said all night.

Eddie

Complex.

Margaret
Ummm ... Where did you get all
that kitten shit from? You know,
seeing me as a kitten on your
chest?

Eddie
I'm embarrassed.

Margaret
You should be. Kitten looking
up into big man's eyes ...
Is that how you think you'll
get me into a bed ... calling
me a cat.

Eddie
I like cats ...

Margaret
You've misjudged me Eddie ...
Come on. Let's dance ...

Eddie
Can we stay out here though?

A carnival waltz accompanies the scene.

They slowly move into a dance sequence that begins like two people self consciously dancing. Naïve laughter. Their actions are repeated. They are not aware of the rest of the group. They are awkward but venturing.

ENTER other cast members who slowly encircle Margaret and Eddie. It is as if some sacrificial scene is to be enacted. There is nothing naturalistic in their stance.

And they aren't just watching. It is a sculpted scene. All are aware of a "Gretchin/Margaret sequence from Goethe" that was rehearsed and explored by the cast for their project.

The screens feature Eddie and Margaret rehearsing a scene from Goethe's Faust in the dirt at night.



Still from a video showing Margaret, Eddie and Frieda

Eddie and Margaret continue their dance.

All is surreal like a "carnival of souls".

Each dances slowly as if in a trance. The walls depict abstractions from Margaret's earlier portrayals of Gretchen.

There is a pause in the music before it begins again quietly and with an eerie echo of the previous harmonium. Each of the others speaks over the music as they waltz with invisible partners.

Bruno
The echoes of spring

Adriana
The first touch of virginal
skin

Jennifer
Faust is not shy

Kit
Faust is intellectual

Jennifer
Faust

Bruno
Who dances with her?

Adriana
Two virgins

Jennifer
The sacrificial altar

Kit
They are shy

Ursula
Sacrificial sport

Bruno
Who dances with her?

Jennifer
Looking at her eyes

Adriana
Feeling her breath

Ursula
He is shy; an intellectual

Adriana
You mean a geek ...

Jennifer
She would never fall for a geek.

Adriana
Fall?

Jennifer
All bets are on

Adriana
The sceptic and the Christian

Bruno
A good Christian girl

Adriana
From a good Christian family

Ursula
What is Eddie doing?

Ali
The sceptic and the Christian!
Will they? Or will they NOT?

Jennifer
Faust and Gretchen! We know
what happened there ...

Bruno
This is your doing.

Jennifer
The power of suggestion. A
potion more powerful than any
spell!

Bruno
And what is gained?

Jennifer
Confirmation that all is absurd.

Bruno
Absurd?

Jennifer
Absurd.

Bruno
It is a dance of death.

Jennifer
And life ... All life requires
that something dies in order
for life to exist.

Bruno
You're a philosopher now?

Jennifer
Watch. Has it ever been any

different? They simply play out
the grand design ...

Bruno
So there is a grand design?

Jennifer
Yes. Quantum absurdity!

Bruno
He is normally so quiet.

Jennifer
But now he must break out. He
resents being shy; intellectual;
safe ... He wants adventure ...

Dancer 1
He wants the world. Is there
nothing more?

Jennifer
Yes there is ... There is
everywhere that is not heaven!

Bruno
Cynic!

Suddenly Eddie and Margaret begin chasing each other through the space and use the Dancers as obstacles. They are frantic and laughing. It is some kind of tag game. When one catches the other, the game switches. They reverse the chasing. Finally Eddie tags Margaret who simply stops and hugs him; giving him a kiss. She immediately breaks out and runs off with him after her. She stands still laughing hysterically. Eddie quickly lifts up her skirt from behind and places his head beneath it. She giggles ...

BLACK OUT.

5

LIGHTS UP on Eddie and Jennifer

Eddie
Free!

He emphasises the word again.

Eddie
Free!

Jennifer laughs.

Jennifer
Scream it.

Eddie
(Screaming the word)
FREE. Freeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee ...

Jennifer
(Laughing) Scream it.

Eddie
Free. FREE ...

Eddie
The cage is open.

Jennifer
The bird must fly.

Eddie
This bird will ...

Jennifer
(Laughing) Soar ...

Eddie
Soar above the heavens ...

Jennifer
Rise from hell ...

Eddie
There is no hell. There is no

heaven. The stars are just
stars. The moon is just the
moon. The earth is just the
earth ... I am who am ...

Jennifer
That's it. We are who are ...

Eddie
Yes! We are who are ... ARE ...
You are my only ... and closest
friend. Your mind is part of
my mind. Your eyes see what I
see.

Jennifer
(Singing from Alice Cooper)
School is out forever ...

Eddie
We are finished. The universe is not
out there. It is here ... In
my head. Inside you ... Inside
me. It's not out there.

Jennifer
Just as well we're into science
and not art.

Eddie
Science is art. The real art.
Not the pedantic art of the deluded.

Jennifer
God ... we must be the biggest
geeks ...

Eddie
No. You mustn't even think that.
Not for a second ... We are
going to make our mark ...

Jennifer
"We"? Don't you mean you?

Eddie
You are the same. You detest

the boring inconsequential
pedantic bullies who rule the
shit heap ... those worms and
maggots we put up with in
class rooms since kindergarten.

Jennifer

You're angry ...

Eddie

Yes ... no ... impatient ...
But now, we rule. Now it
is our turn. Now we turn in ...
into something magical ...

Jennifer

(Sniggering) What are you on?

Eddie

Life Jennifer ...

He is sculpting her into an image of his creation.

Eddie

We make our scene. We set in
motion our own field and all
are particles moving round
and round and round in pretty
motion throughout our field.
We are now the centre of our
own centrifuge.

Jennifer

We are Faust ...

Eddie

And our dear shadow ...

Eddie and Jennifer

Mephisto ... (Laughing)

Jennifer and Eddie

Do we frighten you?

Kit

Yes.

They are shocked at first by her directness.

Jennifer

Why Kit?

Kit

It all seems too self indulgent!

Jennifer

Does our callous outpouring

Eddie

Our pitiless anger spewing up
some venomous cancer cause
some distress? Some cause for
concern? Some introspective
convulsion?

Kit

It just seems like a lie to me.
And you're frightening ...

Jennifer

Can you admit the lie of your
life?

Eddie

The lies of your convictions?

Jennifer

That my fears are real?

Eddie

Not just nightmares?

Eddie and Jennifer

Can you admit any of this?

Jennifer

Don't you love it?

Eddie

You feel it too don't you!

Jennifer

It's a "high" like nothing else.

Eddie and Jennifer

Anarchy!

Kit

Stop it.

Eddie

No! Not anarchy! Anarchy is really what we already have. Only most don't see it. What we see, what we will discover, is the internal order of everything.

Kit

God?

Eddie

God forbid! I doubt anyone who uses the term "god" even knows what they mean; let alone what anyone else means!

Kit

What do you mean?

Exit Jennifer and Eddie.

Ali appears next to her.

Ali

They worry you?

Kit

I'm going away.

Ali

Literally?

Kit

Yeah ...

Ali

I think I understand ...

Kit

There is more Ali. We can agree

on that. I'm off to work with women who seek to change the oppression of their lives ... I want to feel something more of my culture and learn more of others. I'll come back. But I must go first.

Ali

Is it dangerous?

Kit

I am young. Fit. Willing ... There are so many women in the world who need people like me to stand up and do something.

Ali

(Touching her) I respect you.

Kit

And you?

Ali

I am going to study.

Kit

Yeah ... couldn't really see you partying ...

Ali

Hmm ...

ENTER Adriana and Frieda.

Frieda

We all got to serve something.

Adriana

You freak me ...

Frieda

What have you got to lose?

Adriana

I'm not into all this cult stuff ...

Frieda
Just come and meet my friends.
They really are very friendly.

Adriana
But ...

Frieda hands Adriana a small aluminium foil)

Adriana
What's this?

Frieda
Take it ...

Adriana
(Shaking her head) Look I'm not ...

Frieda
It's alright.

ENTER Ursula and Bruno.

Ursula
I think I get killed in the first
scene.

Bruno
At least it's a start. All the stars
began somewhere ...

Ursula
You excited?

Bruno
Didn't think my average was high
enough.

Ursula
I can really see you at Uni ... and
then as a lawyer ...

Bruno
(Answering) Hi ... Margaret ... I
got in ... yeah ... fantastic! What
about you?

LIGHTS UP on Margaret.

There is no reply.

Bruno
Just funny, she hung up on me ...

EXIT Bruno and Ursula talking.

6

A giant crucifix appears with a bright light behind it.

The space is empty.

Margaret slowly moves from spot into the space.

She is tentative. Pensive. Her body is filled with a sense of defeat. Fear. She looks up at the large crucifix. She silently pleads for help. The face in the crucifix is filled with another cry. Do we hear her weep? She stares up at him for quite some time.

We become aware of something she is holding in her hands.

She looks down, away from the face on the cross. She studies the small object represents her greatest fear.

For a few seconds she seems to almost giggle ... or is it the start of a cry. She gains composure.

She walks to the orb suspended above the stage.

She spins it slowly.

Slowly she returns to the centre and kneels.

The stage is to become alive with the clutter from the lives of her colleagues.

Each pair encircles her as she remains in her own space in the centre of a church.

ENTER Adriana and Frieda.

Adriana
Like the song says: "the end of the
world as we know it ..."

Frieda
Don't laugh ... What if we could
change from carbon beings into
silicon based entities? You should
come to hear about it ...

Adriana
Carbon? Silicon ... an alternative
universe?

Frieda
Don't you believe?

Adriana
So we have to die in order to live.

Frieda
You don't understand, do you?

Adriana
I said I'd be at the meeting ...

Frieda
You still fear "death"?

ENTER Jennifer and Eddie.

Eddie
All I know for absolute certainty
is that the order is not what we
have been forced to believe or
accept.

Jennifer
And who is "we"?

Adriana
God wouldn't abandon us.

Margaret
We?

Eddie

You and I for a start! But
you know Jennifer, nothing
ever happens in a vacuum.

Frieda

Not abandon ... transform.

Jennifer

Nothing ever happens in a vacuum.

Adriana

The prophecies converge ...

Frieda

Our friends are ready ...

Eddie

To survive, we need WE as well
as "I".

Margaret

I ...

Eddie

I need you to be part of "I AM".

Eddie and Jennifer

"I AM" ...

ENTER Kit and Ursula.

Ursula

It's dangerous.

Kit

What else can we do with our lives?

Ursula

But what about your study?

Kit

That can wait. I'm only young
once ... Perhaps my life will have
some purpose ... who knows ...

Eddie

A young science rallying call
to oppose the lies we are told
every day since birth.

Jennifer

"I AM".

Eddie

The antidote to all religion;

Jennifer

All belief in gods of any kind.

Ali

Islam is the only answer for the
future.

Eddie and Jennifer

No more lies.

Jennifer

End all the bullshit! Don't be
apathetic;

Eddie

Susceptible to brain washing
and cults.

Eddie and Jennifer

Start here and now. Faust and
Mephisto as ONE!

Eddie

"I AM" will never be for the mediocre,
the apathetic or the susceptible. You
and I and others with brains and
discipline! Can you see it; hear it;
know the power of the slogan!
And it will be you and I at the
centre. You starting to get what I
am saying.

Jennifer

Wow. Plato's Philosopher Kings!

Eddie

You'll do it.

Jennifer

I AM ... we are ... (Laughs)

Eddie

You'll do it won't you. Design emblems! Write pamphlets ... and achieve. We'll dress well and be tidy and organized in everything we do. There'll be nothing punk in anything we touch. That'll rout out the incapable ... the riff raff ...

Jennifer

"I come not to bring peace ..."

Eddie

... but the sword ..."

THEY ALL EXIT except for Margaret.

Margaret

A God of peace ... Love ...
Is it really the end?

CROSSFADE

7

Ms Grey, Margaret's mother, is seated. She appears excited.

Margaret rises from her kneeling position and joins her. She sits in silence as her mother speaks.

Mother

Family is everything to me.
We have always been able to
share our love. We talk. God
knows how many families don't
or can't talk with each other.

We have been blessed. And I
thank God everyday. Everyday.
You are the most precious
thing in our universe.
Margaret ... Margie ... Your
dad loves calling you
Margarita ... The European
in him I suppose. Our
beautiful girl! Eighteen ...
Eighteen years ago ... hmm ...
I was so excited I could
barely place my feet on the
ground. I might have looked
heavy with you in my belly.
But I felt like I barely
needed to touch the ground.
When it was time for your
dad to drive me to the hospital
I was smiling and so excited.
Sure, you put up a bit of a
fight and I stopped smiling
soon enough ... God you
caused so much pain. You big
lump. But I'm embarrassing
you. Sorry! Your mum is such a
... hmmm ... You will be
eighteen in less than twenty-
four hours. Eighteen ...
But you'll always be my little
girl ... my baby. My little
darling baby ...
Sorry darling! I have so many
things to do before tomorrow.

She pulls out a lap top and opens it on a table.

Mother

Your dad actually went to a lot
of trouble to get our old vhs
tapes converted and edited on
to DVD ... Oh and don't worry
we won't be showing them to
your friends ... just Nana and
Pop and family. You know how
they'd love to see it. 'Been
promising for all these years
and now he's actually done it.

Those old tapes take up so much room. But now Christmases, birthdays, your school concerts and "that" (she gestures quotes) netball game are all on DVD. He decided against putting your *Faust* performance on ... It really WAS a bit ... well you know ... I don't think Nan and Pop would really want to ... at least they wouldn't understand ... (Changing the subject to hide disapproval) He did put some of your *HMS Pinafore* on though. You looked great in your sailor outfit ... with your moustache and all!

She realizes Margaret hasn't said a word.

Mother

Is everything ok? I've been blabbing on and on about nothing. It's your day. I want only the best for you Margaret. You look pale. You ok?

She configures the DVD into the computer and waits for it to come up.

Mother

Believe me, I understand how you must be feeling now. You'll be finished school for good. In just a matter of weeks you will have completed a major portion of your life. And it's like a death. And you can no longer be that young girl ... the one being rebellious at times ... compliant at other times ... carefree ... meeting assignment deadlines ... But you know something Margaret, I am so proud of you. You have

come so far. And I am sure you
will do well. You deserve to.

She suddenly has another thought ... one she reconsiders
but agrees with herself to say it aloud. She says it as if
she were a co-conspirator.

Mother

Margaret, I've never told you
this before ... and I'd prefer
it if you didn't tell anyone
else ... but it's really quite
funny now. You know, in my last
week of school, I was expelled!
That's right. I never told you
that before. But it's true. In
the last week of school I,
along with our whole year of
girls in year 12, was expelled.
Our crazy male principal decided
we were all "whoring around
in panel vans" with the boys
from Saints at such or such
time ... It made the news. I
was supposed to be interviewed
but my mother wouldn't allow
it. So she spoke in stead. In
the end, of course he couldn't
expel us all. So the school
claimed we were simply
suspended ... but still, we
felt pretty wild.

Margaret

Were you?

Mother

No. I said I was suspended
rather than expelled.

Margaret

No! Were you whoring around in
cars with the boys from Saints?

Mother

Are you serious?

Margaret

Were you?

Mother

No ...

There is suddenly something different between them.

Mother

Margaret, I'm going to have a glass of wine. You will be eighteen tomorrow. Would you like to join me? It'd be almost legal ...

She leaves the room without waiting for a response. Margaret moves with that awkwardness one has when the mind is engaged somewhere else completely. She looks at the computer screen and presses ENTER.

The video plays the opening of HMS Pinafore. She leaves it play long enough until Mother reappears with two glasses of wine.

Margaret pauses the video.

Mother

Ah ... HMS ... I really enjoyed it. You were so good.

Margaret

Mum, I was just one of the crowd.

Mother

But still good. Here cheers "big ears" ... I wish you did another musical this year. Something like The Fantastiks. Such a moral story. But tough. My brother was taught by a teacher who sang *Try To Remember* ... that was the most famous song from the show. He was with The New World Trio and had a hit with that song in the sixties. (She sings) "Try to remember the kind of September and

follow?" Oh god ... You
didn't get your talent from
me ... (She sits)

Margaret
(Sitting down)
I loved all those Christmases.
My brother, you, dad, Pop and
Nan ... and all the tribe that
came together ... every year.
It was beautiful. Always ...

Mother
(If not satisfied the first time,
she sings again)
"Try to remember, and if you
remember ... " Damn ... I can't
remember the words. I used to
love that song.

SILENCE

Margaret
Mum, did you have sex before
you were married to dad?

Mother
Is that an appropriate question
Margaret?

Margaret
No. But did you?

Mother
You know I don't have to answer
that don't you. It's really
none of your business.

Margaret
You're right Mum. It's none of
my business. And your answer
says so much ...

Mother
Why?

Margaret
I've always been taught to
respect my body; my emotions
and to keep myself pure for the
person I love and one day to
marry that person and to start
a family ... like ours ...

Mother
And? Is there something wrong
in that?

Margaret
Probably not ...

Mother
Probably?

Margaret
Probably!

Mother
Your father ...

Margaret
... is a member of the Right
To Life and believes in the
sanctity of marriage and that
"special place for women" ...

Mother
The "special place" is that
place we hold for you ...
What's wrong with that?

There is no immediate answer.

Mother
What is wrong? Margaret?

Margaret
I'm pregnant.

Mother
(Relieved) Ah ... Margaret ...
No ... what is really the matter?
Don't joke ...

Margaret
I'm pregnant.

SILENCE.

Mother
How?

Margaret
Mum!!!!!!!!!!

Mother
That's not what I meant ...
Who ...

Margaret
It doesn't really matter. He
doesn't know.

Mother
Are you in love with him?

Margaret
No.

Mother
You're thinking of marrying this
... this boy?

Margaret
Don't be stupid.

Mother
I'm not the one being stupid.
How could you? (She stands)

Margaret
Mum ... I ...

Mother
You have no idea ...

Margaret
Mum ...

Mother

You're father will kill you.

Margaret

No he won't.

Mother

You have no idea ...
I had a cousin ... She was much
older than me. I remember waving
her off on a ship that was going
overseas ... I saw her crying. I
had no idea back then she was
pregnant. Her family insisted
she go away ... They COULDN'T
LIVE WITH HER NEAR THEM. She
was disconnected from them ...
from every one who she thought
ever loved her ... and she went
away ... a long way away ...
out of sight. You have no idea.
You stupid, STUPID GIRL.
What do you now expect? Did you
hear me? What do you now expect?

Margaret

Expect?

Mother

What do you expect of me? Of
you? Of life? Of your boyfriend?
Your pimp? Your ... You little
whore! You said yourself, you
don't love him. He doesn't love
you. What do you think one can
conclude? WHORE!

Margaret

Mum! Mummy ...

Mother slaps her across the face.

Mother

In some parts of the world, you
would die for doing this?

Margaret

I cannot believe my mother in this day and age would say this to me. To ME ...

Mother

So you think I'm just saying this to get it off my chest. That it doesn't mean anything more than my disappointment with my wayward daughter ... eh?

Margaret

You hit me, mum. You've never hit me before.

Mother

Because you've never been pregnant before. How could you do this to us? Let alone to yourself? YOU ...

Margaret

Mum ... I came to you ... My friends said I should tell my mum first ...

Mother

Friends? Who have you told?

Margaret

Only Bruno ...

Mother

Bruno? Who the hell is Bruno ...

Margaret

Georgie ... Georgiana Bruno ... She's the only one.

Mother

Can you trust her?

Margaret

Mum!

Mother

Can you trust her?

Margaret
YES! She's my best friend.

Mother
She coming to the party tomorrow?

Margaret
Yes.

Mother
What are you going to do?

Margaret
What do you mean?

Mother
Don't be coy. What are you
going to do? I'm sure some of
those slutty friends you hang
out with have been through
this. What are you going to
do?

Margaret
You know what I can do ...

Mother
No. What ARE you going to do?

Margaret
I can't really do anything ...

Mother
(Screaming) You've already
done it. The choice is gone.
The choice was made when you
opened your legs to some piece
of scum. The choice was made
when you put aside your
intellect, your faith, your
family and good sense ...

Margaret
Mum ... Mum ... Stop it ...
Stop it ...

Mother

I can't stop it NOW. Give you
freedom and this is what you do!

Margaret

You're so fucking clichéd!

Mother

Oh ... I'm clichéd! And watch
your language.

Mother gathers her thoughts.

Mother

You asked me if I had sex
before I married your father.
Well YES I did. I did. I did
some stupid things. Not many.
But some! I thought we had
given you the vehicle through
which to avoid the kind of
shit that wrecks havoc on
so many families and young
people. I thought you had it
all. Yes. There were two other
men before your father. I
thought I loved one. But I
didn't. And the other ... I
don't know how that happened.
You happy now! You're a mature
big girl of eighteen ... and
you know your Mum had sex
before she married your father.
Well! You must feel so
empowered by that knowledge!
It must invalidate everything
I have ... no WE have tried
to instil in you ... Values
that might have been useful
... but no. You had to take
your values from the lowest
common denominator! Am I
right? The lowest is your
benchmark!

Margaret

(Crying) Mum ...

Margaret is a small sparrow. She has broken wings. Mother sees her daughter again as her own baby ... She breaks down. She clasps Margaret in her arms.

Mother

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. How could I? I'm sorry ... I didn't mean ...

God will forgive you. You are a good girl Margaret. I know you are. You can tell me every thing ... but not now. Not now. Tomorrow everyone who loves you will be here to wish you a happy birthday. I love you. I'm so sorry Margaret ... I ... don't know how I ...

Margaret

Don't mum ... I know ... I know ... I love you mum ...

STILLNESS. SILENCE.

Mother

Now listen to me Margaret. And don't interrupt.

Margaret

God (chuckling) I've hardly got a word in ...

Mother

This is serious. You will NOT tell your father.

Margaret tries to interrupt ...

Mother

No. No ... No Margaret. You can't tell him. And you can't and mustn't tell this boy. And you won't tell anyone ... anyone ... not a priest ... Not a teacher ... not your brother ... not anyone. I will

organize for you to go to Sydney
and ...

Margaret
No! How can you even think
that way?

Mother
You're not hearing me. You just
do it. You say nothing ... Do
it.

Margaret
No.

Mother
What do you mean "NO"?

Margaret
All my life I have been raised
to understand that life is
sacred. That my body is mine
to treasure and to entrust in
my conscience. When others
have expressed different views,
I have put my neck out to put
my views ... our views ...
you say it is god's will. It
is a law of nature that we
don't kill our babies.

Mother
Yes. True.

Margaret
So how can you ask me ... tell
me this is the right thing to
do?

Mother
Right? Wrong? It's what IS!

Margaret
No. I won't do it. Other girls
have had their babies and they
seem ...

Mother

You are not other girls. In this case, there is no right. There is no wrong. You must put aside everything ...

Margaret

No. I'll ask Dad ...

Mother

NO. Don't even suggest or hint or allow him to have any inkling at all that you have had sex and have become pregnant ...

Margaret

Mum, this is 2008!

Mother

Trust me Margaret. I would be frightened for your life if you told him. At the least, he will order you out of the house ... He wouldn't have you here ...

Margaret

Mum ... this Dad you are talking about ...

Mother

Yes. It is ...

Margaret

You make him sound like some fundamentalist Muslim or some kind of red neck ...

Mother

Margaret, the world is not a pure or ethical place. We all make pacts with convenient devils in order to survive.

Margaret

Then you have lied to me about what is right and wrong. You

are like all the others ...
the opportunistic, the cheaters
and the liars ...

Mother

I believe sincerely in everything
I have ever said to you. But
darling, I didn't get you pregnant.
And you are at risk ...

Margaret

And you really think Dad would
harm me?

At that moment, we hear a car pull up outside the house.

Mother

That's your father. You better
decide what you are going to do.
It's now up to you Margaret. I've
said all I can say.

Silence.

Margaret moves to beneath the orb.

The actress playing Mother resumes her role as Georgiana
Bruno. She removes a wig and a jacket and races up to
Margaret.

Bruno

You told your mother. And what
Did she say?

BLACK OUT