

Putin on Ice (that isn't the real title for this show)-draft

8

Lola B. Pierson

## Prologue

*Each audience member comes into the space and is greeted by an actor.*

*Each audience member is handed a black envelope, in which a survey is contained.*

*The actor checks them in as outlined below.*

*Each audience member is instructed to fill out their survey. They should be directed that when the survey is completed they should make their way to The Room (or area) of Admittance.*

*Each audience member has their picture taken.*

*Each audience member has their hands washed in a bowl by an actor (we need to ask them for permission before doing this).*

*The audience member should be blindfolded and be instructed to feel the bust of Putin.*

*Any time an audience member actually does leave someone in the cast should yell to them "Enjoy Life." This is true even at the end of the show when all of the audience members leave.*

*If the rain starts or a train approaches this is a moment of danger for the actors. Everything must stop, no matter what's happening, there should be a sound cue for*

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*this. This will be very technically complicated to achieve and we'll need to practice in tech. They should all scatter to their "safety positions" and after a moment look around at each other and then go and restart whatever scene they were in (from the beginning). This should also happen if an audience member's cell phone rings.*

*Of note is the fact that the Cult of Putin which we are establishing is not, in any way, Pro Putin. This group of people is interested in the truth about Putin, not in Putin himself. They seek to disseminate knowledge, not worship.*

#### Introduction

*Their blindfolds are removed. There is a full blackout. The audience sits in darkness.*

*Tanya lights a match, then uses that to light a candle. It's very dim.*

TANYA

(In Russian)

I want to begin now by being honest. Hey comrades, if I were you I'd stand up and leave right away. At any moment you can stand up and leave. Why the fuck do you even need that? I flew 10,000 km just to not hear his name. And whatever I turn on here it's just Putin, Putin, Putin, Putin, Putin. Isn't your guy enough for you? No, I mean thank you very much for the interest and curiosity. Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

*Low bow.*

(In English)

Thank you.

*Low bow.*

(Russian)

Don't you understand this is exactly what he wants. You created the Godzilla. But just remember that you're free to leave at any moment. That's what Lola wanted me to pass to you. And, Lola by the way: "I think you should do the part in Russian in our production." That was her idea. Okay, fine, why not? I mean no, thank you, certainly. Thank you for the interest and the curiosity.

(In English)

*Low bow.*

Thank you, Lola.

(Russian)

And thank you my husband, the director.

*Low Bow.*

Why the fuck do you care about him? Anyway, let me read this in English.

(In English, reading)

You can leave at any time.

Catwalk

ACTOR

I want to begin now by being as honest as I am able to be given our constraints. My name is Molly Cohen.

ACTOR

We are not here to tell you the truth. We are here to place the truth inside of you by any means necessary.

ACTOR

Truth, of course, is especially slippery at this exact moment

*Actor checks their watch and says what the exact time is.*

ACTOR

Actions are either completed or not completed.

ACTOR

You've come here to be entertained and we cannot do anything about those expectations. With all of the falseness and transparency it is terrifying to live.

ACTOR

Oh, hold on. Let me turn off the alarm because it says I need to talk to you.

ACTOR

You can leave now.

SLIDE

You can leave any time you'd like.

SLIDE

If you'd like to leave, please, go ahead.

ACTOR

This is *not* the play about Vladimir Putin.

ACTOR

Vladimir Putin is not any kind of human entity.

ACTOR

He has always existed.

ACTOR

A joke gets inserted here.

ACTOR

There were not many jokes about Stalin, if you know what I mean.

ACTOR

We would like to inform you at this point that you are, of course, free to leave at any time.

Talk to the audience

ACTOR

Putin is coming. He is already here.

ACTOR

There has always been Putin. The more you look at him, the more he can be found.

ACTOR

There are many paths to understand Putin and we do not have much time.

ACTOR

You have this one chance to see reality. Pay attention.

MATT

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin is the Russian politician and former KGB officer. He is currently the president of Russia, the world's largest nation. Its landscape ranges from tundra and forests to subtropical beaches. Putin has been either president or prime minister of Russia for every second since the year 2000.

ACTOR

We are going to show you the truth about Putin. That's why we are here.

ACTOR

As the teenager Putin had the meeting with the rat.

ROHAIZAD

Putin says,

(Reading)

"There were hordes of rats in the front entryway. There, on that stair landing, I got the quick and lasting lesson in the meaning of the word *cornered*. My friends and I used to chase them around with sticks. Once I spotted the huge rat and pursued it down the hall until I drove it into the corner. It had nowhere to run. Suddenly it lashed around and threw itself at me. I was surprised and

(MORE)

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(cont'd)

frightened. Now the rat was chasing me. It jumped across the landing and down the stairs. Luckily, I was a little faster and I managed to slam the door shut in its nose."

ACTOR

Putin is the Rat King. If you are like us, probably the first thing you think about is the Rat King from The Nutcracker.

*The music from the Nutcracker begins to play. A moment.*

ACTOR

The Nutcracker is the Russian ballet, the libretto for which was based the short story by E.T.A. Hoffman.

ACTOR

We will save you the step of Googling it later because you have some inkling that it is not the Rat King, but the Mouse King who tries to defeat the enormous Nutcracker.

*A moment.*

ACTOR

**You thought we were wrong. But we are never wrong. Even though sometimes we are lying.**

ACTOR

**But** you can believe us.

ACTOR

What is true is what is true for you. No one has any right to force data on you and command you to believe it or else. If it is not true for you, it isn't true.

Video

*At this point audience members begin to be pulled out individually for private meetings. It may be a good idea to pull out people who*

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*raised their hands when we asked who would like to access the truth because we know they are willing participants.*

ACTOR

We would like to remind you at this point that you are free to leave at any time.

ACTOR

The information you are about to receive might be uncomfortable.

ACTOR

Putin cannot be explained.

ACTOR

Putin is defined by his very evasion of definition.

ACTOR

There is nothing more dangerous than something that cannot be contradicted.

ACTOR

Our job is to wake up.

*Unison clap.*

ACTOR

We will give you facts and present evidence, but you must open up in order to have the truth placed inside of you.

ACTOR

The truth about Putin cannot be understood, only experienced.

ACTOR

We are going to show you some pictures that will seem familiar.

ACTOR

Try now to see these pictures with the open heart.

ACTOR

It is our task as humans to try to see less of ourselves and our own narrative, and more of the objective reality of the world.

ACTOR

Here we have the sculpture of Caesar.

*Caesar slide is shown.*

Several paintings by Jan Van Eyck.

*Shows several Van Eyck paintings.*

"Mona Lisa" by Leonardo da Vinci.

*Shows Mona Lisa*

And some other paintings.

*Clicks very rapidly through several paintings.*

You recognize some, maybe all of these images, depending on your knowledge of art history.

ACTOR

In art we see at once what we are and what we wish to be. This is Putin's sweet spot: what is, what will be, and the difference between the two. Putin has littered his face all across history. In older works we can see Putin's influence directly in the work itself, of course.

*Shows the slide of Caesar bust and Putin.*

Here we see how Putin changed the shape of the temple and forehead to be closer to his own.

ACTOR

As we progress through history we see Putin's influence evolve from the works of art to the artists themselves. Putin obviously didn't change the Mona Lisa to look more like himself.

*Clicks through several of the renaissance paintings with putin through this next bit.*

What he did do was change the beauty standards so the ideal would have pale skin, soft features, the high forehead, the well defined nose, and the small mouth.

ACTOR

Skipping forward several hundred years we start to see Putin's influence on motion pictures.

*Nosferatu plays (probably without sound).*

The truth about Putin, like film, cannot be understood through content, only through form. One shot placed next to another makes the collision and produces the new idea inside of you. Then there is the new shot, which creates the new combustion inside of you. Putin is the content and the form.

ACTOR

With the birth of post-modernism we begin to see Putin everywhere. In some cases the artists use Putin's image consciously. Here, we see the not funny scene included in the Simpsons which features Putin.

*Shows Simpsons clip with sound.*

Here we see The Family Guy representation of the terror of Putin.

*Shows Family Guy clip with sound.*

These representations do Putin's work so he doesn't stop them, but they are not his favorite.

*The Home Alone clip with Putin plays (no sound)*

ACTOR

Putin's favorites are lineage appearances. Proof that he has so fully saturated the world with himself that his image represents everything. Innocence.

*Pause on Kevin and Putin*

You see here facial expressions we have come to associate with impishness. That's because Putin planted those ideas of impishness early on in paintings such as these.

*Shows slide of the baby painting.*

Here we see Putin as the serpent.

*Next slide of Garden of Eden Painting.*

You are probably thinking, "but why would Putin want us to see him as poison of mankind's dreams." But is he not also the image of the servant?

*Plays clip of Harry Potter.*

In these cases Putin does not need to directly intervene with the work or the artist. The image is already part of the human brain. It replicates on its own.

*Once Harry Potter clip is over.*

And we see it again here with this guy with the precious.

*Lord of the Rings clip.*

ACTOR

Some artists knew and know the truth and also knew the danger in that truth. Throughout art history the messages about Putin are hidden every where if you know how to see them. The Acme Corporation is named for some of the the artists who knew the truth about Putin. We will teach you how to see these messages for yourselves. First let us take the look at One

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*Froggy Evening.* Michigan J Frog is discovered by the demolition worker. He is the frog who can sing and dance.

*A 5 second clip from the beginning of One Froggy Evening is played.*

Michigan J. Frog is the representation of truth of Putin: you find him when you are industrious and your heart is open to the unexpected. The finding of him changes the way you see the world. But also included is the warning: if you try to share the truth about Putin openly or carelessly it will destroy your life. As we see with The Demolition Worker here:

*The sad end clip is played.*

ACTOR

The ordinary is dangerous because it is most threatened by the exceptional.

ACTOR

Mediocrity is the big power. How can it be contradicted?

Jokes 1, 2 & 3

*A large ornate bowl filled with jokes is brought onto the stage.*

We are all here because we want to be better, more enlightened people. We all value the truth.

ACTOR

We would like to remind you at this point that you are free to leave at any time.

ACTOR

The truth about Putin cannot be understood, only experienced.

ACTOR

Our job is to wake up.

*Everyone claps in union.*

ACTOR

Please rise for the Meditations of Truth. In this bowl we have the authentic Meditations of Truth. Who would like to access the truth?

*Gets a volunteer from the audience. There should be a light shift and the volunteer should be given a microphone.*

Please use only your left hand to select exactly one meditation. When you are ready, please voice it for the entire group.

*Volunteer 1 reads a joke. The actor carrying the bowl should either take the joke back or make certain that the volunteer keeps it, but in any case it should be done identically every time. All actors look very serious and nod, maybe they have some gesture they all do.*

Who else would like to access the truth?

*(Hopefully) A second person volunteers.*

Please use only your left hand to select exactly one meditation. When you are ready, please voice it for the entire group.

*Volunteer 2 reads a joke. The ritual must be identical for every joke.*

We have time for only one more meditation. Who is ready?

*(Hopefully) A third person volunteers.*

Using only your left hand select exactly one meditation. When you are ready, please share

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it with everyone.

*Volunteer 3 reads a joke. The ritual must be identical for every joke.*

You may be seated.

Plays about Putin

ACTOR

Now we are going to represent some more things. The action is either completed or not completed.

ACTOR

And here you have caught us in the other lie: that we would not be representing anything.

ACTOR

The truth, you may have already guessed, is that both Chekhov and Shakespeare were initiated to Putin.

ACTOR

He is always this side guy.

ACTOR

The playwrights could not share the Putin information openly.

ACTOR

We are going to show you scenes from plays , but it's important that you understand

ACTOR

1. You are free to leave at any time.

ACTOR

2. The persons seen do not necessarily represent the characters portrayed.

ACTOR

Romeo and Juliet, Act 2, Scene 2

ACTOR

Abbreviated.

ROMEO.

But soft, what light through yonder window  
breaks?

It is the east and Juliet is the sun!  
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,  
Who is already sick and pale with grief That  
thou her maid art far more fair than she. Be  
not her maid, since she is envious; Her  
vestal livery is but sick and green, And  
none but fools do wear it. Cast it off. It is  
my lady, O, it is my love! O that she knew  
she were! She speaks, yet she says nothing;  
what of that?

See how she leans her cheek upon her hand O  
that I were the glove upon that hand, That I  
might touch that cheek!

JULIET

Ay me!

ACTOR

You surely recognize this scene. We're going  
to let it go on for longer to prove the  
point.

ROMEO

She speaks  
O, speak again, bright angel, for thou art  
As glorious to this night, being o'er my  
head,  
As is the winged messenger of heaven

JULIET

O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou romeo?  
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;  
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,  
And I'll no longer be the Capulet.

ROMEO

(aside.)

Shall i hear more, or shall I speak at this?

ACTOR

And here, Romeo is speaking directly to you.  
He is saying, "Do I tell you now the terrible  
truth that is Putin, or do I wait?"

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JULIET

'tis but thy name that is my enemy:  
Thou art thyself, though not the Montague.  
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,  
nor arm, nor face, nor any other part  
belonging to the man.  
O, be some other name.  
What's in the name? that which we call the  
rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet;

ACTOR

And there is the double meaning here. If we  
know the acts, but not the name of Putin, do  
we experience it in the same way?

ROMEO

I take thee at thy word  
Call me but love, and i'll be new baptized;  
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

*Nurse calls within*

ACTOR

That's Putin! Listen.

NURSE.

*(within)*

Madam!

ACTOR

Putin's part is both small and instrumental  
in the action. You must look with vigilance.  
If we move the action back you may be able to  
spot Putin. Observe the action. This time  
build preparations.

ROMEO

I have night's cloak to hide me from their  
eyes,  
And, but thou love me, let them find me here;  
My life were better ended by their hate  
Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.

(CONTINUED)

NURSE.

(within)

Madam!

ACTOR

The Nurse is not Putin, but Putin is the Nurse, understand?

ACTOR

She is operated by Putin at the precise moments when the scenario will be altered.

ACTOR

Watch once more. We are rewinding and slowing it down for you.

ROMEO

I have night's cloak to hide me from their eyes,  
And, but thou love me, let them find me here;  
My life were better ended by their hate  
Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.

NURSE.

(within)

Madam!

ACTOR

Did you see?

ACTOR

It is easy to ignore the nurse. She makes sex jokes the entire play, she is just comic relief. "It is easy to ignore Putin," Shakespeare is saying, "as something to be dismissed."

ACTOR

But do you Forget that in Act III, Scene 5 the Nurse tells Juliet to forget about her true love, Romeo, and marry Paris?

ACTOR

Do you forget that she drives some of the plot of the tragedy by reinforcing what

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(CONTINUED)

ACTOR (cont'd)

cannot be ignored?

ACTOR

Do you forget that Shakespeare is saying Putin cannot be ignored? Putin is in fact driving the plot of the tragedy and making sure Romeo and Juliet reach the tragic end?

ACTOR

That's the good scene to warm up with.

ACTOR

Romeo and Juliet is not the only place where Shakespeare left us clues. In Hamlet we find the world rife with suspicion, sinister intentions, and no one is to be trusted. Hamlet questions the very meaning of his existence so it is, of course, the perfect place for Shakespeare to send the message about Putin.

ACTOR

Hamlet. Act 3, Scene 1. The room in the castle.

(Whispers)

After the "to be or not to be" soliloquy.

HAMLET

--Soft you now!  
The fair Ophelia! Nymph, in thy orisons  
Be all my sins remember'd.

OPHELIA

Good my lord,  
How does your honor for this many the day?

HAMLET

I humbly thank you; well, well, well.

OPHELIA

My lord, I have remembrances of yours,  
That I have longed long to re-deliver;  
I pray you, now receive them.

HAMLET

No, not I;  
I never gave you aught.

OPHELIA

My honored lord, you know right well you did;  
and, with them, words of so sweet breath  
composed as made the things more rich: their  
perfume lost,  
Take these again; for to the noble mind  
Rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind.  
There, my lord.

HAMLET

Ha, ha! are you honest?

OPHELIA

My lord?

HAMLET

Are you fair?

OPHELIA

What means your lordship?

HAMLET

That if you be honest and fair, your honesty  
should  
Admit no discourse to your beauty.

OPHELIA

Could beauty, my lord, have better commerce  
than With honesty?

HAMLET

Ay, truly; for the power of beauty will  
sooner transform honesty from what it is to  
the bawd than the Force of honesty can  
translate beauty into his Likeness: this was  
sometime the paradox, but now the Time gives  
it proof. I did love you once.

OPHELIA

Indeed, my lord, you made me believe so.

HAMLET

You should not have believed me; for virtue  
cannot  
So inoculate our old stock but we shall  
relish of  
It: I loved you not.

OPHELIA

I was the more deceived.

HAMLET

Get thee to the nunnery: why wouldst thou be  
the Breeder of sinners? I am myself  
indifferent honest; But yet I could accuse me  
of such things that it were better my mother  
had not borne me: I am very  
Proud, revengeful, ambitious, with more  
offenses at my beck than I have thoughts to  
put them in, imagination to give them shape,  
or time to act them in. What should such  
fellows as I do crawling Between earth and  
heaven? we are arrant knaves, all; believe  
none of us. Go thy ways to the nunnery.  
Where's your father?

OPHELIA

At home, my lord.

HAMLET

Let the doors be shut upon him, that he may  
play the Fool no where but in's own house.  
farewell.

ACTOR

In this instance Putin doesn't have any  
dialogue, but is hiding behind the curtain.  
A central question for the actor playing  
Hamlet is whether or not he knows in this  
scene that Claudius and Polonius are hiding  
behind the curtain.

ACTOR

If he knows then he is putting on the show  
for them. If he doesn't, then he is putting  
on the show only for Ophelia, and perhaps  
himself.

ACTOR

For Shakespeare it's not the question at all, but the statement.

ACTOR

"You never know when Putin is hiding behind the curtain. You never know for whom you are performing."

ACTOR

Chekhov, being Russian, used Putin in the more oblique way.

ACTOR

You are free to leave at any time.

ACTOR

Putin makes the modifications in transitions.

ACTOR

The direct translation without any art or modification is the straighter line to Chekhov's passion.

ACTOR

The playwright and director have elected to use the precise translation for this occasion.

ACTOR

Many things in *3 Sisters* don't add up.

ACTOR

Why is everyone so upset about the samovar?

ACTOR

Why is the first act, where almost nothing happens, the most interesting?

ACTOR

Why is Masha always crying?

ACTOR

In the first act we find the three sisters together. Masha sings, and puts on her hat to leave her sister Irina's name's day party.

MASHA

All same...I-shall-come in-evening. Farewell,  
my good-one...

*Kisses Irina.*

I-wish you once more be healthy, be happy. In  
previous time, when was alive father, to us  
on name's-day were-coming each time along  
thirty-forty officers: it-was noisy, and to-  
day only one-and-half man and quiet, like in  
desert...I shall go-away...To-day is not-  
cheerful to-me, but you just not listen to me

*Laughing through tears.*

Afterwards we-shall-talk, and until farewell  
my nice-one, I shall-go anywhere.

IRINA

Well, what-kind you...

OLGA

I understand you, Masha.

ACTOR

At this moment your heart breaks.

ACTOR

Chekhov uses the character of Masha to  
demonstrate the anguish of living in the  
world with Putin.

ACTOR

You see Masha. She is amazing, beautiful, and  
determined, she knows her own heart at each  
moment.

ACTOR

But she is also ridiculous.

ACTOR

You envy Masha, and you pity Masha, and you  
also are Masha.

ACTOR

Masha is contradiction in its most essential  
form.

ACTOR

She cries because of Putin.

ACTOR

She sings and whistles because of Putin.

ACTOR

She loves because of Putin.

ACTOR

And Moscow, to Masha, and all of the sisters,  
is the vision of the world without Putin.

ACTOR

Later, in Act III Chekhov illustrates the  
most heartbreaking point of all:

IRINA

(Weeping loudly)

Throw-out me, throw-out, I more not can!

OLGA

What you, what you? My-nice!

IRINA

Where-to? Where-to-all went? Where is-it? O  
God Mine! I all forgot... I not remember, how  
in Italian window, or ceiling... All forget,  
every day forget, and life goes-away and  
never not will-come-back, never we (not)  
shall-go-away to Moscow... I see, that not  
shall-go-away.

OLGA

My-nice, my-nice...

IRINA

Olga, I unhappy-one... To-me already twenty  
fourth year; I got-thin, got-ugly, got-old,  
and time goes, and still it-seems, that I-go-  
away from real, beautiful life, still further  
and further, towards some(what) precipice.

ACTOR

Irina cannot remember the most beautiful word  
she knows because of the lifetime of Putin  
exposure. But like the knowledge of Putin she

(MORE)

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ACTOR (cont'd)  
doesn't even know what she's forgetting.

Survey Intro

ACTOR  
Before the show you were asked to complete the short survey about Putin, the mainstream media, and Putin's influence. We will now gather your responses to the questions about Putin. Please pass your surveys in using only your left hand. If you are unable to use the left hand, please think of your left hand while passing them in.

*Actors collect survey responses and start compiling them.*

ACTOR  
What is the purpose of the question & answer format?

ACTOR  
The Q&A format is an effective way to engage the reader and to break the information into manageable pieces.

ACTOR  
How is the rule expressed in the question & answer format?

ACTOR  
The rule is expressed in both the question and the answer.

ACTOR  
Where is Putin located in the question and answer format?

ACTOR  
Putin is located in both the question and the answer.

ACTOR  
We have now reached the point where we invite you to become one group.

ACTOR

At this time we would like to remind you that you are free to leave at any time.

ACTOR

We will now review your answers to the survey.

Audience Survey

ACTOR

Question 1. Do you believe that the mainstream media has reported unfairly on Putin's secretly ordered killings?

ACTOR

95% of you said no.

ACTOR

Question 2. Do you trust the mainstream media to report fairly on Putin?

ACTOR

More than half of you said no, you do not trust the mainstream media to report fairly on Putin.

ACTOR

Question 3. Do you trust the mainstream media to report fairly on Putin as the non corporeal entity that transcends both time and space and about his powers and history?

ACTOR

*a large majority but this should be done in numbers, not percentages, so it will change*

\_\_\_\_\_ said no, you do not.

ACTOR

4) On which issues does the mainstream media do the worst job of representing Putin (check all that apply)?

a) his unending nature

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ACTOR (cont'd)

- b) His ability to move backwards and forwards through time effortlessly
- c) The fact that he is both coming here and here at the same moment.
- d) His balloon like state: that he is contentless and we just fill him with air.

ACTOR

Everyone checked every single answer.

ACTOR

Questions 5 and 6 were about the ways in which you commune with Putin daily. These are, of course, the private questions, and we're not going to reveal the answers. We wouldn't violate your privacy.

ACTOR

Question 7.

ACTOR

99% of you answered yes, Putin is the grandfather.

ACTOR

Question 8. Did you know that one time the playwright and the director and the director's wife, Tanya, who you saw at the beginning speaking Russian, went to a dinner at the home of two men in Texas, who were named Bob and Robert, and who were obsessed with pre-revolutionary Russia? Did you know that their walls were covered in Russian portraits with gilded frames and that their furniture was all Russian antiques? Did you know they had two enormous terriers who barked at the playwright, the director, and especially Tanya, who is afraid of dogs, all night long. Did you know that they served all Russian foods, including aspic, and made all of the guests try on the relic that had belonged to Grand Duchess Maria, and told them that it would make something good happen to then? And then did you know that Tanya at the end of the evening leaned down to one of the dogs that had been barking at her all night and said very quietly, "I don't speak

(MORE)

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ACTOR (cont'd)

English?"

ACTOR

You all said yes.

Jokes 4 & 5

ACTOR

Please rise for the Meditations of Truth. Who will be in contact with and share the meditation with the group?

*A fourth volunteer reads a joke. The ritual is the same. They can only use their left hand, this is really important.*

Who's next?

*A fifth volunteer reads a joke. The ritual is the same.*

You may be seated.

Reenactments intro

ACTOR

To understand Putin you must each become one thread that we weave together into one fabric.

ACTOR

This is not the cult. We are not asking you to say, "I like you because you like me. Because I like you, I will do as you do, feel as you feel, believe as you believe, love as you love, hate as you hate--otherwise you will stop liking me."

ACTOR

But there is also nothing wrong with being liked.

ACTOR

Because exploitation and harm are dimensional concepts we will now provide you with Putin

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ACTOR (cont'd)  
particulars. Certain factors within individuals may render them unusually susceptible to manipulation and harm. This Putin data will not help you understand Putin, who can only be experienced, but it will make you less susceptible to manipulation and harm.

World War I

ACTOR  
When you learned about World War I in school didn't it always seem like something was missing?

ACTOR  
Didn't it seem like no one wanted to go to war, but instead everyone went to war?

ACTOR  
Let's now turn our attention to the incident that supposedly sparked everything.

ACTOR  
The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria.

ACTOR  
On the morning of 28 June 1914, Franz Ferdinand and his party were en route to Sarajevo.

ACTOR  
Somehow there was some confusion about which officers should get into which cars and 3 of the special security officers got left behind.

ACTOR  
Ferdinand, and his wife Sophie, have no idea anything is amiss.

FERDINAND  
Nothing is amiss.

SOPHIE

Strange thing to say.

ACTOR

Here is what, without the Putin's intervention, would have happened.

ACTOR

Here the playwright would like to interject to say that using the word "intervention" in the context of Putin upsets her because of how people will situate it in the current political climate, but that she cares more about using the correct word than she does about giving people who will only believe what they already want to believe more encouragement. She is the playwright, after all.

*The two boys are tossing the ball back and forth as the motorcade rolls by.*

BOY PLAYING BALL

Playing ball is fun.

OTHER BOY

Sure is! Hey, throw it here!

BOY PLAYING BALL

*Throws the ball and it hits the back of the motorcade.*

Aw, shucks!

ACTOR

But that, we all know, is not what happened.

ACTOR

Putin was there, stuck to the ball. He made the ball into the bomb, attached it to the car carrying The Archduke and his wife, and the detonated it!

ACTOR

The boys ran away screaming for their lives. The crowd had no one to blame.

(CONTINUED)

ACTOR

Until they stumble across Nedeljko Čabrinović, the local sad man, who was trying to kill himself with cyanide.

ACTOR

Čabrinović took the cyanide pill and threw himself into the river.

ACTOR

But the cyanide pill was old and only made him throw up.

ACTOR

And it was especially hot that summer so the River Miljacka was only 13 cm deep.

ACTOR

The sad man couldn't kill himself.

ACTOR

The police found the sad man.

ACTOR

Both they, and the surrounding crowd, thought what anyone might think: that Čabrinović had made the bomb and thrown it at the Archduke.

ACTOR

Čabrinović was beaten by the crowd and then taken into police custody.

ACTOR

Gavrila Princip, who was one of the group of assassins out to kill Ferdinand, had been there the whole time, watching. He was so surprised by the bomb that he just watched as the motorcade continued on. His gun still in his pocket.

ACTOR

The motorcade arrives at the town hall. Ferdinand says to the mayor,

FERDINAND

Mr. Mayor, I came here on the visit and I am greeted with bombs. It is outrageous.

ACTOR

There is then some discussion about what to do next.

ACTOR

Franz and Sophie elect to visit those wounded by the bomb at the hospital.

ACTOR

There was meant to be the new driving route, but this wasn't conveyed to the drivers.

ACTOR

It wasn't Putin, if that's what you're thinking. Sometimes there is just confusion when people are trying to plan.

ACTOR

Princip learns that Ferdinand is still alive. He positions himself in front of Schiller's delicatessen, which is directly en route to the museum, which was the original plan.

ACTOR

But remember Sophie and Franz had decided to go to the hospital instead.

ACTOR

We were lying. It was Putin.

ACTOR

Putin fills the heart of the first driver of the motorcade with such love of art that even though he is directed to go directly to the hospital he instead follows the very strong stirring in his heart and heads for the museum.

ACTOR

Governor Potiorek who is riding in the second car with the imperial couple yells to the driver of the first car,

GOVERNOR POTIOREK

Hey! The hospital, you idiot!

ACTOR  
All of the cars stop.

ACTOR  
Directly in front of Princip.

ACTOR  
He fires two shots from less than 5 feet  
away.

ACTOR  
He hits Franz in the jugular vein, and Sophie  
in the abdomen.

ACTOR  
Franz's last words seven times repeated.

ACTOR  
It is nothing.

ACTOR  
It is Putin.

Transition

ACTOR  
Putin is the chemical element with the symbol  
Pn. He is colorless, odorless, tasteless,  
and radioactive. Discovered in 1877 he is  
naturally occurring and found abundantly.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ACTOR (cont'd)

Significantly, the impact of Putin increases with every year since initial discovery.

ACTOR

Putin alone is completely ineffectual if not bonded to something else, but Putin is in all places and once he is present inside of the human's body he can never again be fully removed.

ACTOR

You are free to leave at any time, but before you do, ask yourself this:

ACTOR

Have you ever had something wrong with your body that no doctor could diagnose and you could not fix? Maybe it went away with no further problems. Or maybe you carry at least some pain with you every day. Perhaps your doctor says, "this is just what getting older is," but you know deep down that it is something external. Your body is not fully your own, because the longer you live the more infected you become by Putin.

### The Harlem Renaissance

ACTOR

**Now we will show you one of Putin's interventions closer to home.**

ACTOR

**Did you know that Putin was responsible for the Harlem Renaissance?**

ACTOR

It is not always easy to pinpoint the exact outcomes of Putin's interventions.

ACTOR

Especially because we are almost always looking

There. Only sometimes *Indicates behind them.*

There. But never *Indicates in front of them*

Here. *Indicates the present.*

ACTOR

The aftermath of World War I had the enormous and enduring impacts upon Russia, but in this instance we turn our attention to what happened in The United States.

ACTOR

It started in Texas.

ACTOR

1914 the boll weevil infestation began overwhelming the southern United States.

ACTOR

It started in eastern Texas.

ACTOR

By 1915 the infestation was in Georgia.

ACTOR

Over the next 5 years the boll weevils would destroy the large majority of the cotton fields in the US.

ACTOR

But how did they move so quickly? And why at that exact moment?

ACTOR

One thing you have to give Putin credit for is that no one moves bugs faster.

ACTOR

World War I stopped the steady flow of European immigrants to the US.

ACTOR

Manufacturing jobs abounded.

ACTOR

But without immigrants there were no industrial laborers.

ACTOR

(Clears throat.)

ACTOR

Don't worry. There was already the plan in place.

ACTOR

It would be easy to say that the entire history of slavery and racism in The United States was because of Putin.

ACTOR

We want to say it because then it's not our fault.

ACTOR

We could say it. We could lie and you would believe us.

ACTOR

In truth, the history of slavery and racism in this country is not the story of Putin, but of greed and dehumanization.

ACTOR

The combination of crop devastation, the lure of plentiful jobs, and the desire to escape southern racism and Jim Crow laws drove millions of black Americans to move north.

ACTOR

What we now call The Great Migration.

ACTOR

Putin spread out into the ears of the most talented people and chanted.

ACTOR

Harlem, harlem, harlem.

ACTOR

Consequently the large number of black artists ended up in northern Manhattan in the neighborhood called Harlem.

ACTOR

Harlem quickly became the hotbed of thriving arts and culture, various expressions of the black American experience.

ACTOR

Here the playwright meant to insert the line about Jazz thriving.

ACTOR

The establishment of jazz made racist whites uncomfortable, as Putin knew it would. Irving Berlin was the imperialist Russia born man who changed his name from Israel Beilin.

ACTOR

Irving Berlin wrote the song "Putting on the Ritz."

ACTOR

The original lyrics referenced racist stereotypes about black residents of Harlem walking up and down Lenox Avenue, "putting on the ritz."

ACTOR

Later the lyrics were changed, of course.

ACTOR

You cannot always identify the purpose of Putin's machinations.

ACTOR

But in this instance it is clear.

*The actors perform a song and dance routine, "Putin on The*

(CONTINUED)

Ritz."

Transition

ACTOR

They say, "your body is wise, it is telling you something. Only you know. Listen to your body. What is it saying? Listen deeply"

ACTOR

And the thing you hear that you cannot identify, that runs from vision as soon as it reaches the periphery, that is Putin. And then they say, "Perhaps you work too much. Your body is telling you to slow down."

ACTOR

And you say, "I hardly work at all, and when I'm working is the only time I don't have symptoms."

ACTOR

And they say, "Does your fiancé know that's the way you talk about work and life? With such lack of balance? Doesn't he feel alone and abandoned and isolated?"

ACTOR

And you say,

ACTOR

"I really wish you hadn't told everyone that I'm getting married."

ACTOR

At this time we're issuing the friendly reminder that you're free to leave at any time.

Zsa Zsa Gabor

ACTOR

Now you are probably saying to yourselves, "but this isn't true. None of this is real. These are just jokes. They have made the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ACTOR (cont'd)

absurdist play about Putin to prove the political point."

ACTOR

And we wish, more deeply than anything, that you were right.

ACTOR

But you are not.

ACTOR

We are proving it right now.

ACTOR

Has there ever been the moment when you've seen something on the news and you have thought to yourself, "what am I missing?"

ACTOR

The answer is Putin. You're missing Putin.

ACTOR

Here is the example.

ACTOR

Zsa Zsa Gabor was the Hungarian-American actress and socialite.

*The Green Acres theme song plays.*

ACTOR

You might remember her from her work in the sitcom *Green Acres*, which the playwright's father did not like her to watch.

ACTOR

But here again you would be wrong, because it was actually her sister Eva Gabor who was on *Green Acres*.

*The music stops.*

ACTOR

But we are getting off track because you keep accusing us of lying.

ACTOR

Just believe us. It will save so much time.

ACTOR

In 1989 Gabor (Zsa Zsa, not Eva) was driving with expired tags the Rolls Royce that cost \$215,000.

ACTOR

Enter Beverly Hills Police Motorcycle Officer Paul Kramer.

ACTOR

Here is the first place we find Putin at this scene.

ACTOR

Zsa Zsa's tags had not, in fact expired at all.

ACTOR

All phase changes involve either the increase or decrease of intermolecular forces. When gas changes to solid it's called "deposition."

ACTOR

When Putin changes into solid it is called "intervention."

ACTOR

In this instance Putin stuck himself to the tiny numbers on Zsa Zsa's license plate, making Officer Kramer think the registration was expired when it wasn't.

ACTOR

There is confusion before Gabor and Kramer have even spoken.

ACTOR

Kramer pulls Zsa Zsa over.

OFFICER KRAMER

You know why I pulled you over?

(CONTINUED)

ZSA ZSA GABOR  
No, sir.

OFFICER KRAMER  
Your registration's expired.

ZSA ZSA GABOR  
It can't be.

OFFICER KRAMER  
Say, don't I know you from somewhere?

ZSA ZSA GABOR  
Maybe. I was Miss Hungary 1936 and I also co-authored the novel *Every Man For Himself*.

OFFICER KRAMER  
No, it's not that. Say, weren't you the lady who loved Park Avenue on Green Acres?

ACTOR  
Here is what Zsa Zsa said

ZSA ZSA GABOR  
(Giggles)  
Oh no, you must be thinking of my sister Eva.

ACTOR  
The human ear's shape is as unique as the fingerprint. Sound is physical. You hear the world differently than everyone else because your ear is shaped differently. In this instance Putin was placed inside of the ear of officer Kramer so this is what he heard.

ZSA ZSA GABOR  
(Oinks)  
Fuck off, you fucking piggy! All you do is protect the ruling class at the expense of the larger underclass and your enforcement is targeted against poor people and people of color, often black and latinx communities.

ACTOR  
Officer Kramer was not pleased.

OFFICER KRAMER

Please stay here while I go run your license.

ACTOR

That's what officer Kramer said. But now Putin is in Zsa Zsa's ear so this is what she hears,

OFFICER KRAMER

Because your an accomplished novelist and actress you are free to go! I've also been reflecting on the limitations of an armed force as the peacekeepers. I will keep your license and registration as the trophy of our interaction. Please drive off as fast as you can.

ACTOR

So she did. OFFICER KRAMER  
(Into his radio)  
We've got the Gabor taking off.

*He pursues her and pulls her over again.*

ACTOR

When he pulls her over again he sees she is now covered in bees! They are all over the inside of the very expensive Rolls Royce! And they might sting the Gabor face!

OFFICER KRAMER

You have to get out of the car!!!!

ACTOR

You will not be surprised to learn that the bees, they were Putin. Zsa Zsa didn't see them at all.

*Zsa Zsa and officer Kramer struggle as he pulls her out of the car. She slaps him*

ACTOR

And that was the slap heard round the world.

Jokes 6

ACTOR

Please rise now for your final two meditations. We know that this is tiring and the playwright would like to inform you that she firmly believes every minute over an hour in the performance must be earned. Are there any volunteers?

*One volunteer, then ritual.*

Please be seated for the pre-final summary.

Pre-final summary (possibly including Tanya # 2).

*I think it should probably be just one other actor and Tanya. When "translating" for Tanya the actor should not be afraid to use the word "A."*

ACTOR

At this time the playwright wishes to discuss with you the deepest way Putin poisons things for her. The central sadness of the playwright's life is the complete inability of language to adequately convey what any human might be trying to communicate to the other human. ACTOR  
The Russian alphabet consists of 33 letters, both upper and lower case, and is written from left to right.

TANYA

(In Russian)

I didn't even want to be in this piece.

ACTOR

(To Tanya)

Well, I don't think they need to know that part.

TANYA

(In Russian)

They can't understand what I'm saying anyway.

(CONTINUED)

ACTOR

Yes, okay.

TANYA

(Russian)

And anyway I have questions about what it means for a bunch of Americans to put on a play about Putin.

*The actor laughs like Tanya has told a really funny joke.*

ACTOR

We would like now to demonstrate the effects of Putin in real time. Not the reenactment. I'll translate. TANYA

(Russian)

And why do they have me up here speaking Russian? It doesn't make any sense.

ACTOR

When Tanya says, "this has been a very bad year for us," and I translate it into English you know that you are missing something.

TANYA

(Russian)

That isn't what I said. I'm not saying that now. I'm saying something different.

ACTOR

When Tanya says, "we have had a lot of friends die. Some of them were murdered, directly or indirectly. Some just died," you know that those aren't the exact words that she is using, but that you can trust me as the translator and that I am giving you the same idea as what she's saying.

TANYA

(Russian)

This part took a long time to rehearse because no one speaks Russian so they had to just memorize when I stopped talking to know to say their line. It was very boring.

(CONTINUED)

ACTOR

Because she has paid so much attention to Putin, the playwright doesn't know if she can't understand other people because of Putin, or because that's just what it is to be human. Putin used to be nothing, and now he's everything, because we cannot stop looking.

TANYA

(Russian)

And now I am just talking because structurally it makes sense. Only the people who speak Russian will think this means anything at all.

ACTOR

There are many more things we wanted to show you that we didn't have time to get into. We didn't even begin to get into literature: Putin in *Dead Souls*, *The Inspector General* Putin, Ayn Rand and Putin, *Remembrance of Putin Past*. All of this without even mentioning the story about Anastasia and Rasputin, Putin and endangered species, and Putin and the pharmaceutical industry. And I was lying to you, this whole time. Tanya didn't say any of that. And at this point I would like to remind you that you're free to leave at any time.

Quiz Show

*Three audience members who have been marked as having been into the Putin room are brought up on stage.*

ACTOR

Can I ask my assistants to please bring down the participants. You may have noticed that some people in here were taken away. We are not in the business of dividing people arbitrarily.

(CONTINUED)

ACTOR

Now you will hear about what these people experienced.

ANNOUNCER

It's time for another round of Name! That! Putin! Where contestants compete for prizes and glory!

HOST

But first let's meet our contestants! What's your name?

*contestant 1 answers.*

And who would you like to thank?

*contestant 1 answers.*

(To contestant 2)

What's your name?

*contestant 2 answers.*

And who would you like to thank?

*contestant 2 answers. (To Contestant 3)*

What's your name?

*contestant 3 answers.*

And who would you like to thank?

*contestant 3 answers.*

Let's get started with our game. 10 points for every right answer, minus five points for every wrong answer, and as always, you're free to leave at any time. These are our judges.

*Introduces the judges.*

We will warm up with the easy one. In our first round you will answer questions about time and money. Please tell us for how many seconds you think you were in the Putin room.

*Host asks each contestant their answer. Moves one of*

*them up two spaces, one up one space, and one stays where they are.*

Now please tell us how much money was spent on the video and computer equipment to set up the Putin Room.

*Contestants answer. Host arranges contestants in some new order.*

The final question of our first round: who were you in the Putin Room?

*Contestants answer. The host should probably check with judges to see what they think. Host arranges contestants in some new order.*

Now we're really getting somewhere. Round two is our syntax round, but first let's get to know more about our contestants.

*Host makes small talk with them about what they do, where they're from, etc. Maybe asks "and will you be telling people about this?" Once the small talk is over the host picks up the following line.*

It's time for round 2 where the stakes are higher the grass is greener, and actions are either completed or not completed. Round two is our syntax round. 3 people enter, but only one leaves.

*They are given a paper and pencil.*

You're being handed the pencil and the piece of paper. On that paper is 5 words. Using those five words and *only* those five words please describe your time in the Putin room as fully as possible.

*The words on the card are*

*Moon, Poster, Bear, Play,  
Face.*

You have 30 seconds.

*They are given 15 seconds.*

HOST

Contestant 1? (the Host should actually use  
their names)

*Contestant 1 answers.*

Contestant 2?

*Contestant 2 answers.*

Contestant 3?

*Contestant 3 answers.*

ACTOR

Judges what do you say?

*The judges arbitrarily decide  
who is out out. There is an  
exciting noise. To the  
contestants who are out:*

Please take your seats and don't tell anyone  
about this. It's not a secret, but it is  
private.

(To the contestant who stays  
in)

Contestant, congratulations! How does it feel  
to have made it this far?

*Contestant is given a chance  
to respond.*

Thank you for you candor. Our final round is  
called "soon we will let you go back to your  
seat" It's the chance to win big prizes.

First question: What color is Putin's hair

- a) Battleship grey
- b) Glaucous
- c) Rocket Metallic
- d) Not applicable

*Contestant is given a chance  
to respond. They get it right.*

(CONTINUED)

That is correct!!!! You go on to our final question where you might win the grand prize!

*The host needs to seem genuinely surprised when the answers are right. Like this never happens.*

Our final question. This is for the big prize that you do not know what it is: name the Putin who appears most in the videos in the Putin room.

- a) party Putin
- b) drag Putin
- c) the Putin with the animals (and maybe the Putin with birds separately)
- d) crying and kissing Putin

*No matter what the answer the contestant wins. There's a lot of dinging and confetti and balloons! The prize varies based on whether or not the baby is there.*

That's right! that is correct! i can't believe it. this never happens!! you win! and what did they win?

*If the baby is there:ANNOUNCER*

Well, host, they've won the very rare opportunity. This is the baby that has not yet ingested any Putin. For winning our game so spectacularly, which almost never happens, you get to hold this baby. Folks, look at how terrific this baby looks.

*If the baby is not there:*

ANNOUNCER

Well, host, they've won the single mask of Putin's face to take home and hang above their bed or maybe in the kitchen.

end (tanya #3).

*A slide show of people killed  
by Putin plays behind Tanya.*

TANYA

(In Russian)

Well, I can't complain, it's kind of funny,  
really. All good, right. It's just we have  
this list here. I mean we sat there and we're  
thinking how should we finish? What should be  
the last scene of the production, I mean. And  
I still kind of want to tell you about these  
guys who we kind care about or what, I don't  
know. Well probably not like care about, how  
should I put it? We're sorry that they passed  
away or that they don't feel well. In any  
case, I'm not even saying that Putin did it  
all personally. Although, probably personally  
too.

*Here we go through the list  
with slides and short  
descriptions.*

Well, we still have a lot of pictures, but in  
any case you can leave at any time you want.

(In English)

You can leave at any time.

ACTOR

You are free to leave at any time.

*This final line is repeated  
until everyone in the audience  
has left. As they leave an  
actor should say to them,  
"Enjoy Life!"*