

FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT?

MEN AREN'T WOMEN

A One Act Play

by

David T. Anderson

A combative female journalist interviews a Trans-Woman running for President of the United States.

David T. Anderson is a new voice in the playwright world. The focus of his plays highlight the social issues of the day.

NJCC28@yahoo.com

CHARACTERS

JACQUELINE GRANT

Interviewer

HEATHER TAYLOR

Presidential Candidate

SETTING

A Theatre

TIME

Now

(Two chairs sit in the middle of the stage. A small table stands between the two chairs. The stage is dark.)

(Jacqueline enters stage left. Suddenly, the lights in the theatre go to black.)

(In total darkness.)

JACQUELINE

This is bullshit, just to let you know. Fucking embarrassing!

(The stage lights are suddenly turned on. Jacqueline has a note pad and pen in her hand.)

JACQUELINE

I'm an award-winning journalist. I have to interview this one percent one-millionth tier candidate.

(She pauses.)

Is that Don laughing in the background? He knows how I feel about these people. No. No! He did this! I'm not going to mess up my brand!

(She pauses.)

This is bullshit! Bullshit! Bullshit! Bull...

(She pauses.)

Shit!

(Jacqueline sits down in the chair on
the left side of the table.)

JACQUELINE (Continued)

Bullshit. Once this primary is over, I better get the
first exclusive with the nominee, or all skeletons
will be out. Fuck with me, I'll burn it all down.

(She pauses.)

You want me to stand? I have...

(She pauses.)

Okay, fine.

(She stands.)

I'm not saying that name. The hell I am!

(She clears her throat twice.)

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I'm Jacqueline
Grant with RTN News. I'm a two time Pulitzer Prize
winner. One for Breaking News Reporting, the second
for Commentary.

(She pauses.)

Tonight the powers to be have decided to humiliate me,
to conduct what is supposed to be a serious
presidential candidate Town Hall with a candidate who
is yet to break through with any sort of polling
numbers. He doesn't know who he is, yet here I am, and
here you are. So I guess I will bring him out. Please

welcome to the stage presidential candidate Michael Taylor.

(The candidate does not come on to the stage. Jacqueline looks over to the right side of the stage. The candidate is standing there but does not acknowledge the introduction.)

JACQUELINE

Once again, may I introduce presidential candidate Michael Taylor.

(Again, the candidate does not acknowledge the introduction.)

JACQUELINE

Alright! Heather Taylor!

(Heather walks on to the stage wearing a beautiful flowing dress. Heather goes to shake hands with Jacqueline. Jacqueline ignores Heather and sits down. Heather, then, also sits down.)

HEATHER

Jacqueline Grant, thank you for having me. It's an honor to share the stage with you this evening. You are such an accomplished woman and journalist. Two Pulitzers! I hope your questions are better than how you introduced me tonight.

JACQUELINE

What was wrong with my introduction?

HEATHER

You were being a bigot.

JACQUELINE

How was I a bigot?

HEATHER

I am hoping tonight I can be treated with dignity and be able to set forth my plans for this great country.

JACQUELINE

How can people trust you on issues when you have no idea who you are?

HEATHER

You can start by asking me questions about where I stand on the issues and let voters decide.

JACQUELINE

Don't tell me how to conduct this town hall. I have interviewed five Presidents. Why are you running for President?

HEATHER

I want to be the first woman President of this great country. I think it's time, don't you?

JACQUELINE

I ask the questions. Your answer is vague and uninspiring. This town hall is for you to give long-form answers, not sound bites.

HEATHER

For too long, this country has been led by men. It is about time a woman sits in the oval office, not as the help or as an advisor, but as the prime decision-maker.

JACQUELINE

You consider yourself a woman?

HEATHER

I am a woman and proud feminist fighting for my sisters.

JACQUELINE

Do you support raising the minimum wage for all workers?

HEATHER

I believe in raising the minimum wage. Fifteen dollars an hour is too low for anyone to raise a family on. I would raise the minimum to eighteen dollars an hour so everyone can have dignity in their work. College debt is a big problem in this country, and I'm going to make college free for everyone.

JACQUELINE

Do you honestly believe that you are a woman?

HEATHER

Proud woman and proud feminist.

JACQUELINE

Proud woman, proud feminist, huh? What is your stance on Climate Change?

HEATHER

I believe Global Warming is real threat. As President, I would impose government regulations on oil drilling, coal mining, and focus our economy on more wind and solar investments. I want to invest in farmers to support them in adopting climate-friendly practices. I would also encourage all Americans to eat less meat to help combat climate change, and also to help combat the obesity problem in this country.

JACQUELINE

Eat less meat. Terrific... What would you say to someone who challenged you that you are not a woman?

(Pause.)

HEATHER

I --

JACQUELINE

Moving on! American roads are decimated. Bridges are crumbling down. How would you "Heather" fix America's infrastructure?

HEATHER

I agree that the roads and bridges in this great country need repair, and on my first day as President, I will start rebuilding this great country.

JACQUELINE

And how would you pay for it?

HEATHER

I will pay for infrastructure improvement through raising corporate taxes, and I will increase existing taxes on upper-income Americans. The rich and powerful treat this nation as their own little fiefdom, leaving roads torn up and bridges unstable. The one percents patriotic duty is to rebuild this country and to pay our industrious workers a dignity-driven wage.

JACQUELINE

What bathroom do you use?

HEATHER

Whatever one is available.

JACQUELINE

So you believe sexual predators should be able to enter into a bathroom with young, innocent girls?

HEATHER

No--

JACQUELINE

Let's get to know you "Heather." What name were you given at the time of your birth?

HEATHER

Our democracy is most robust when every woman's voice is heard. I stand on the women's shoulders before me to become the first woman President.

JACQUELINE

Your name at birth?

HEATHER

I--

JACQUELINE

As a white male, do you secretly want to be oppressed so badly that you have to put on a dress and call yourself a woman, high jacking the female experience in America?

HEATHER

I--

JACQUELINE

The problem with you trans people is that you don't see the difference between trans-women and women. If a man can self-identify as a woman, it will obliterate women's sex-based rights & it will re-identify women! It's true, isn't it?

HEATHER

Can I just say--

JACQUELINE

I was on the frontlines of feminism when Michael Taylor used his white privilege to trample over the rights of all women, including all women of color! So it's true, isn't it?

HEATHER

What was the question? Can I just say--

JACQUELINE

You agree with me that women's rights are being eroded to accommodate trans-women?.

HEATHER

I may not meet society's definition of what a woman is defined to be, but it doesn't mean that I'm not woman. The meaning of words change over time as we evolve into a more accepting culture. Look at the definition of marriage.

JACQUELINE

Speaking of marriage, you are married and have two children. Did your husband give birth to them?

HEATHER

My husband Greg and I, like many millions of Americans, adopted our two beautiful daughters. Lillian named after my mother, and Doris, after my husband's mother.

JACQUELINE

Does your husband have another name besides Greg, and wear a dress like you do?

HEATHER

My husband Greg and I love each other for who we are, successful, hard-working professionals, raising two beautiful girls.

JACQUELINE

Are your children are ashamed of you? They are adopted, so I guess they should be grateful on some level. Do you feel that they might wish they had mentally healthy parents?

HEATHER

Lillian and Doris are happy. They are both straight A students. As a parent I love them to the core of my being, and my husband does as well. We have open communication with them, and they understand everything much better than most adults do. Both my girls love gymnastics and cheerleading. Doris also likes doing Track & Field, which I did in school. Lillian is a bit more like her father in that she likes computers.

JACQUELINE

Do you believe it is OK that people like you should be allowed to enter into women's safe places?

HEATHER

Yes.

(Pause.)

JACQUELINE

Battered women's shelters?

HEATHER

If a woman needs to seek a safe place where professional counselors can help comfort her and guide her through a troubling time, yes! I think most rational, intelligent people would agree with me.

JACQUELINE

What about a safe house?

HEATHER

Of course.

JACQUELINE

Some might call that a sick point of view. Do you realize what you are saying?

HEATHER

Women need a robust support system in this male-dominated society. No woman should feel powerless and alone.

JACQUELINE

I can't believe I have to explain this to an adult. In safe houses, women sometimes have to share common areas like kitchens, living rooms, bathrooms, and bedrooms. If we, as a society allow men in dresses to enter these safe spaces created for women, won't these women feel like they are being abused again to see someone who is technically a man in their safe space? Is this right to allow predators in their safe house?

HEATHER

Predators?

JACQUELINE

Do you feel your feelings are more important than the feelings of abused women?

HEATHER

When a man identifying himself as a man finds out that someone with whom he has been dating and had some physical contact with, is a trans-woman, that man can turn violent. I've seen extreme abuse, slashings, beatings and murder. It's not a pleasant death at the hands of hatred.

JACQUELINE

You are not a woman! Just stop. You are not a woman! You can never be and will never be a woman. You are not my ally in the Feminist movement; you are my enemy. Only a biological woman can be a true feminist. And for the record, there is only one definition of a woman, and it is written in stone. Woman: an adult human female! This country needs a President who lives in reality and not in a fantasy world of dress-up. There is a lot more to being a woman than putting on a dress and calling yourself "Heather." Trans-women are sex predators who prey on the young and innocent.

(Heather stands up and walks to the front edge of the stage. There is a spotlight on her. Jacqueline is not lit. Heather has her hands together near her face and her eyes are closed. She then opens her eyes and speaks.)

HEATHER

I'm a wife. I'm a mother. I was born Michael Taylor. I am Heather Taylor. Heather Taylor is a name my two daughters can be proud of. Heather Taylor is a name that my parents, my Mom and Dad, love, and support. Like many in the LGBT community, Michael Taylor came out of the closet but stayed in the shadows. Heather. That is who I am. No more will women like me stay in the shadows. We are standing on the frontlines proudly leading the voiceless charge, speaking out for those afraid to speak. Heather Taylor stands tall for those young people who are confused about their gender and their identity, those who think that suicide is a better solution than coming to terms with their true self and loving who they are.

(She pauses.)

I am proudly Heather Taylor, a woman running for
President of the United States of America!

(BLACKOUT)