

A FARCE OR A TRAGEDY

a short play

by
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Cast

Republicrat 1 – gender neutral, 20s-60s

Democan 1 – gender neutral, 20s-60s

Democan 2 – gender neutral, 20s-60s

Republicrat 2 – gender neutral, 20s-60s

Democan 3 – gender neutral, 20s-60s

Republicrat 3 – gender neutral, 20s-60s

Setting

A essentially bare stage

Costumes

The Republicrats should wear something that unites them (and opposes the Democans)

The Democans should wear something that unites them (and opposes the Republicrats)

A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power of knowledge.

– James Madison

ACT ONE

An essentially bare stage

ENTER REPUBLICRAT 1, REPUBLICRAT 2 and REPUBLICRAT 3 from one side. ENTER DEMOCAN 1, DEMOCAN 2 and DEMOCAN 3 from the other side. The two sides CIRCLE around one another as if wolves or looking for a street fight. They brake into TWO CAMPS on different sides of the stage and address the audience

REPUBLICRAT 3

Let us, let us, let us represent you!

DEMOCAN 2

Let us, let us, let us represent you!

REPUBLICRAT 1

They don't work for you, let us represent you.

DEMOCAN 3

They don't work for you, let us represent you.

REPUBLICRAT 2

How do you tell the difference between a Republicrat and a Democan?

DEMOCAN 3

How do you tell the difference between a Democan and Republicrat?

REPUBLICRAT 3

They don't care about the country.

DEMOCAN 1

They don't care about the country.

REPUBLICRAT 1

They don't work for American workers.

DEMOCAN 2

They don't work for Middle Class America.

ALL

They work for the the oligarchs!

REPUBLICRAT 3

We don't work for the oligarchs, we work for you.

DEMOCAN 1

We work for you, we don't work for the oligarchs.

DEMOCAN 2

How do you tell the difference between a Democan and Republicrat?

REPUBLICRAT 1

How do you tell the difference between a Republicrat and a Democan?

ALL

The answer is obvious.

DEMOCAN 3

It isn't what we say that matters.

REPUBLICRAT 2

(Whispers)

It's what we don't say, what we don't talk about that matters.

ALL, but REPUBLICRAT 2

"Shhhhhh"

DEMOCAN 2

That's why they don't care about Middle Class America.

REPUBLICRAT 1

That's why they don't care about the American worker.

REPUBLICRAT 3

But we care about the American worker, just look how low the unemployment figures are.

DEMOCAN 3

The low unemployment figures are because of us, because we care about Middle Class America.

REPUBLICRAT 1

With unemployment figures this low how can you say we don't care?

DEMOCAN 2

With how low these unemployment figures are, how can you say we don't care?

REPUBLICRAT 3

That's for sure, these unemployment figures are some of the lowest in history.

DEMOCAN 1

Low unemployment figures, who can beat that?

REPUBLICRAT 2

I'll say, these are great!

ALL become dance PAIRS, one Democan with one Republicrat. ALL DANCE an elegant dance, BOW to one another and RETURN to their side

DEMOCAN 3

Can you imagine unemployment figures this low with all of the manufacturing jobs we outsource.

REPUBLICRAT 1

Or how about the trade deficit -- it sky rockets out of orbit, but still our unemployment rate is low.

DEMOCAN 2

We must know what we're doing.

REPUBLICRAT 3

What were doing is right -- it must be.

DEMOCAN 1

We care more about the American worker.

REPUBLICRAT 2

We care more about the American worker.

DEMOCAN 3

We paint better smiley faces on the unemployment figures.

REPUBLICRAT 1

Our smiley faces are the best ever painted.

DEMOCAN 1

Most people will tell you unemployment figures are red flags to beware, but don't listen to them.

REPUBLICRAT 2

We know better, we know more than they do.

DEMOCAN 3

We have to know better. This is our job. It's why you've elected us.

REPUBLICRAT 1

You have elected us, because we know better than you do.

DEMOCAN 2

We know better than they do.

REPUBLICRAT 3

Admit it, you like our smiley faces best!

DEMOCAN 1

Everyone talks about how happy our smiley faces make them!

ALL become PAIRINGS, one Republicrat with one Democan. ALL DANCE a new elegant dance, BOW to one another and RETURN to their side

REPUBLICRAT 2

How do you tell a Republicrat from a Democan?

DEMOCAN 3

How do you tell a Democan from a Republicrat?

REPUBLICRAT 1

Don't blame us for what they do. We know better.

DEMOCAN 2

Don't blame James Madison.

REPUBLICRAT 2

Don't blame Elbridge Gerry.

DEMOCAN 1

Don't blame the salamander man.

REPUBLICRAT 3

Elbridge Gerry rigged his voting district.

DEMOCAN 3

It looked like a salamander, thus the word "Gerrymander".

REPUBLICRAT 1

He made it possible for elected officials to not have to work to get reelected.

DEMOCAN 2

So they didn't need to do the job they were elected to do.

REPUBLICRAT 2

But this isn't about the smiley faces on our unemployment figures.

DEMOCAN 1

No, they weren't Gerrymandered.

REPUBLICRAT 3

They weren't even Gerry-rigged.

DEMOCAN 3

(Whispers)

They were Clinton-rigged.

ALL, but DEMOCAN 3

“Shhhhhh”

DEMOCAN 2

Don't talk about the shell game.

REPUBLICRAT 1

PR 'power' smiley faces everyone.

ALL SMILE BIG, as they become PAIRINGS, one Democan with one Republicrat. ALL DANCE a new elegant dance, BOW to one another and RETURN to their side

DEMOCAN 2

A little lawyerly slight-of-hand.

REPUBLICRAT 2

Never discovered.

DEMOCAN 3

Never hurt anyone, not the wholesale outsourcing of our economy.

REPUBLICRAT 3

Not a shell game, not since 1994.

DEMOCAN 1

The same year NAFTA began.

ALL

What a coincidence!

REPUBLICRAT 1

What are a few missing categories.

DEMOCAN 2

Never discovered.

REPUBLICRAT 2

Never hurt anyone, not since 1994.

DEMOCAN 2

The long-term unemployed like it in their black hole.

REPUBLICRAT 3

Not a shell game.

DEMOCAN 1

A little slight-of-hand with statistics, lawyer style.

REPUBLICRAT 1

Now you see it.

DEMOCAN 3

The disenchanted workers don't complain -- they don't exist anymore.

REPUBLICRAT 3

Not since 1994.

DEMOCAN 2

You shuffle the cards, a distraction here or there.

REPUBLICRAT 1

You shuffle the cards again, a distraction there or here.

DEMOCAN 1

You take both of them out of the U-6 unemployment figures.

REPUBLICRAT 2

And then you bury the half-empty U-6 unemployment figures under the U-3 figures.

DEMOCAN 3

U-6 altered and then subsumed -- but not under the table.

DEMOCAN 2

Or behind the back.

REPUBLICRAT 2

But right there.

DEMOCAN 3

Right in front of you.

REPUBLICRAT 3

Right in front of your nose.

DEMOCAN 1

Where you can't see anything.

REPUBLICRAT 1

Where you don't look deeply enough.

DEMOCAN 2

Now you see it.

REPUBLICRAT 3

Never discovered.

DEMOCAN 3

Never hurt anyone.

REPUBLICRAT 1

Not a shell game.

DEMOCAN 1

Now you don't.

REPUBLICRAT 2

The gulls.

DEMOCAN 1

The twits.

REPUBLICRAT 3

The idi -- PR 'power' smiley faces everyone.

ALL SMILE BIG

DEMOCAN 3

So you see it isn't really a shell game.

REPUBLICRAT 2

Well ...

DEMOCAN 1

Not really, not when you think about it.

REPUBLICRAT 1

It's more a matter of ... perspective.

DEMOCAN 3

Perspective, absolutely.

REPUBLICRAT 3

Definitely.

DEMOCAN 2

It's a matter of focus.

REPUBLICRAT 2

Of discernment.

DEMOCAN 1

Of paying attention.

REPUBLICRAT 1

Of clarity.

DEMOCAN 3

But not a shell game.

ALL

(Separately)

No, no, no.

REPUBLICRAT 3

It's all really a matter of ...

ALL become PAIRINGS, one Republicrat with one Democan. ALL DANCE a new elegant dance, BOW to one another and RETURN to their side

DEMOCAN 2

It's all a matter of --

REPUBLICRAT 1

Of bebop.

DEMOCAN 1

Of doo-wop.

REPUBLICRAT 2

Of hip hop.

ALL

Of razzmatazz!

DEMOCAN 2

It isn't what we say that matters.

REPUBLICRAT 1

It isn't what they say that matters.

DEMOCAN 3

They work for the oligarchs, not you the American worker.

REPUBLICRAT 3

They don't work for Middle Class America, they work for the oligarchs.

DEMOCAN 2

There's no doubt about that.

REPUBLICRAT 1

None whatsoever.

DEMOCAN 3

Undeniably inconclusive.

REPUBLICRAT 2

Ignore the red flags.

ALL

It's not a shell game.

DEMOCAN 2

Enjoy the PR 'power' smiley faces.

ALL SMILE BIG

REPUBLICRAT 1

But beware of their bebop.

DEMOCAN 1

Don't listen to their doo-wop.

REPUBLICRAT 2

Unconfounding hip hop.

ALL

Razzmatazz!

ALL become PAIRINGS, one Democan with one Republicrat. ALL DANCE a new elegant dance, BOW to one another. This time they RETURN to the OPPOSITE SIDE they were on before

REPUBLICRAT 1

How do you tell the difference between a Democan and Republicrat?

DEMOCAN 2

How do you tell the difference between a ...

ALL realize they are on the WRONG SIDE and quickly SWITCH to the proper side

REPUBLICRAT 1

How do you tell the difference between a Republicrat and a Democan?

DEMOCAN 2

How do you tell the difference between a Democan and Republicrat?

DEMOCAN 1

It isn't what we say that matters.

REPUBLICRAT 3

(Whispers)

It's what we don't say.

ALL, but REPUBLICRAT 3

"Shhhhhh"

DEMOCAN 1 and REPUBLICRAT 2

(MEET in the middle and take a quick
dance TWIRL)

Razzmatazz!

(STAY a pair, to one side)

REPUBLICRAT 3 and DEMOCAN 2

(MEET in the middle, TWIRL)

Razzmatazz!

(STAY a pair, to the other side)

DEMOCAN 3 and REPUBLICRAT 1, MEET in the
middle, TWIRL and STAY a pair

ALL

Razzmatazz!

(beat, SMILE BIG)

END OF PLAY