

THE UN-POLITICIAN

A one-act by Daniel Curzon

CHARACTERS: (3)

MODERATOR, male or female, any age

POLITICIAN, male, any age

QUESTIONER, same person each time but dressed differently, male or female, any age

SETTING: A couple of chairs, perhaps raised, as for a town hall meeting, with an American flag on display

LIGHTS UP on the MODERATOR, standing

MODERATOR: Good evening. Thank you for coming to our town hall. Tonight we will be speaking with the first candidate to apply for the position of President of the United States. They are a little nervous, I'm told, so let's give a big, warm welcome to Meriweather Maxwell!

(Enter POLITICIAN, waving to the audience, who should applaud. The MODERATOR and the POLITICIAN sit down.)

MODERATOR: I think it best if we get right to it and let any information about the candidate's background or experience emerge where and when appropriate. What do you say?

POLITICIAN: Fine with me!

MODERATOR: Good. Okay, let's start then with –

POLITICIAN: However, there is one thing I would like to say at the very beginning.

MODERATOR: I guess, if you feel the need. But I was hoping that –

POLITICIAN: I just want to say that it's time for some honesty in politics – in fact, it's well past the time for some honesty in politics. And if I am elected President, honesty is what I intend to bring to Washington. (Shakes fist.)

MODERATOR: Sounds refreshing. Doesn't it, audience?

(The audience no doubt applauds.)

MODERATOR: Well, I'm certainly looking forward to this. Shall we begin with our first question from the audience? (Everybody agrees.) Our first questioner is Lila Kink from here in Des Moines. Go ahead, Lila.

LIGHTS UP on QUESTIONER #1

QUESTIONER #1 is with a microphone on the side of the audience.

QUESTIONER #1: (awkward) I want to ask about health care, since I, um, am a new mom.

MODERATOR: A new mom! Hey, let's hear it for Lila!

(Everyone applauds.)

QUESTIONER #1: Thank you. Being a mom is more stressful than I thought it would be. But I am coping. It would be so much better if I had more time off from work to bond with my baby, Twinkle Marie..

MODERATOR: Your baby's name is Twinkle Marie? How darling! (Gestures for the audience to applaud. It does.) So what does our candidate think about more paid parental leave for new mothers – any even for new fathers?!

POLITICIAN: (standing, going toward QUESTIONER #1) Congratulations, Lila, on the baby! One day I hope to have a baby myself. Is a boy or a girl?

QUESTIONER #1: A girl. Eight pounds, two ounces.

POLITICIAN: Wonderful. Does it look like you or the daddy?

QUESTIONER #1: Like me.

POLITICIAN: Really? That's unfortunate.

QUESTIONER #1: What?

POLITICIAN: Because you're so homely.

MODERATOR #1: Homely? Didn't you mis-speak?

POLITICIAN: No. She's homely, by anybody's standards. It's hard enough living in the world without being homely. Don't you find that to be true, Lila?

MODERATOR: You don't have to answer that. (to POLITICIAN) Really!

POLITICIAN; I thought it was time for some honesty.

QUESTIONER #1: My husband says I'm beautiful.

POLITICIAN: Well, you tell yourself that too, Lila.

3

MODERATOR: You just called a questioner at a town hall “homely”?

POLITICIAN: Well, if her husband finds her beautiful, who’s to say otherwise?

MODERATOR: That’s so true! I bet the audience finds Lila beautiful as well. Don’t you, audience?

(The audience agrees.)

MODERATOR: Perhaps we had better move on to our next questioner.

POLITICIAN: Sure.

MODERATOR: I believe that is Kenneth Arpeggio, also from Des Moines. Am I right?

LIGHTS UP on Questioner #2, the same person now dressed as a man.

QUESTIONER #2: (having trouble with the microphone) Hi! I’m Kenneth. I’m not used to public speaking, but I wanted – want – might to want – I worry about illegal immigration. It’s out of control. If you become President, what will you do about it? Not that I am against all immigrants, just illegal ones.

POLITICIAN: Of course not, Kenneth. We all love legal immigrants. How many do you think we should allow in, say, each year?

QUESTIONER #2: I don’t know. We’re full up!

POLITICIAN: Do you know how many legal immigrants are permitted to enter the U.S. each year?

QUESTIONER #2: Twenty zillion.

POLITICIAN: Close, but not exactly.

QUESTIONER #2: Twenty million?

POLITICIAN: Again, close, but not exactly. And where do these immigrants come from, Kenneth?

QUESTIONER #2: Mexico!

POLITICIAN: All of them?

QUESTIONER #2: And Asia.

POLITICIAN: Do you find them attractive?

4

QUESTIONER #2: No.

POLITICIAN: I do, especially the ones from Asia, but not that little squat ones from Mexico.

MODERATOR: Really? I can't believe what you're saying.

POLITICIAN: Oh, it's looksist, and probably racist, and several other P.C. crimes. You want me to be honest or not?

MODERATOR: Immigrants take jobs that Americans don't want.

POLITICIANS: They also take jobs that Americans do want, especially the Asians. They also commit crimes that Americans don't want to commit. All I know is that legal and illegal policies as President will depend on who gives me the biggest hard-on. Next question!!

MODERATOR: I'm not sure we can continue this town hall this way.

POLITICIAN: Oh, I see. We have free speech until you try to use it.

MODERATOR: May we have the next question please!

LIGHTS UP on Questioner #3, dressed differently.

QUESTIONER #3: I have a question.

MODERATOR: Go ahead.

QUESTIONER #3: A famous TV personality was fired from her show because she tweeted that a woman politician looked like a cross between Planet of the Apes and a gorilla. I believe it was right to fire her. What do you believe?

POLITICIAN: Um, let me think. That's a hard one. I guess it depends on the kind of ape. I have heard our late President – what's his name?—compared to an orangutan.

QUESTIONER #3: That's different.

POLITICIAN: Why? Here's what I think. Nobody should be fired from anything because they make an unflattering comparison to an ape.

QUESTIONER #3: But it's racist! Are you a racist?!

POLITICIAN: Let me tell you a little story. There was a little boy who cried "racist" every time there was something unpleasant said about those "of color." Soon no one listened, even when the complaint was legitimate. I call these people the Fed-up with the Overly Sensitive." I count myself among that group.

QUESTIONER #3: But what about our collective guilt for the way . . .

POLITICIAN: Some people left their heart in San Francisco. I left my guilt in Detroit when I left that shithole. (to MODERATOR) Next?

MODERATOR: I must add a note here. I must. You have no guilt for the slavery of blacks? Cops shooting unarmed black and brown men?

POLITICIAN: I'm not glad *about* it! Cops can be total trigger-happy assholes. But far more blacks are shot and killed in one year in the U.S. by other blacks than by all those killed by the KKK, lynchings, unfair death penalty executions, plus any and all white supremacists of all time.

MODERATOR: I don't believe that.

POLITICIAN: Don't then. Live in your bubble.

MODERATOR: But . . . But . . .

POLITICIAN: You don't solve problems when you won't even allow them to be discussed. Excuse me for forgetting that we can't ever rationally discuss "race" in this country.

MODERATOR: Well, thank you all for coming to our town hall. However, --

POLITICIAN : No. We're not finished.

MODERATOR: I think we are.

POLITICIAN: I think I see some more questioners in the back there.

LIGHTS UP ON QUESTIONER #4, same person in different clothes

QUESTIONER #4: (holding a rifle) I wanna know what you think about the Second Amendment of the Constitution, which God Himself wrote. Are for it or against it?

POLITICIAN: I see that you have brought your proof of your reasoning with you.

QUESTIONER #4: Sure have. You got a problem with my rifle?

POLITICIAN: And I wonder why we have so many gun-related deaths in the good old USA.

QUESTIONER #4: You sound like one of them libtards. Well, if you think I'm ever giving up the Almighty Second Amendment, you're crazy!

6

POLITICIAN: Don't give it up. Live it. If you're part of a duly authorized state militia you have the right to keep and bear arms, especially in case the British come back. End of the Second Amendment. End of discussion.

QUESTIONER #4: I wanna shoot squirrels. I loves me some squirrel meat.

POLITICIAN: Go for it! And arm the squirrels too.

QUESTIONER #4: You makin' fun of me?

POLITICIAN: Yes.

QUESTIONER #4: I saved my grandma from a bear once, cuz I had my rifle with me.

POLITICIAN: Well, good for you.

QUESTIONER: Yeah, I shot Grandma too, but that was later, when she pissed me off because she didn't want me to marry Ilene.

POLITICIAN: That bitch.

MODERATOR; Wait! Wait!

POLITICIAN: Give 'em what they want to hear, right?

QUESTIONER #4: I'm votin' for you, mister!

POLITICIAN: Why wouldn't you?

MODERATOR: Well, we certainly have covered a lot of territory in our town hall, but I think it's time we wrapped it up on this positive note.

POLITICIAN: You think shooting a grandma is a positive note?

MODERATOR: So exactly what is your stand on gun rights?

POLITICIAN: No bullets, no gun crimes. None manufactured, the rest confiscated. Won't solve everything, but it's a start.

MODERATOR: Are you really, truly running for public office in America?

POLITICIAN: I think there's time for maybe one more question. Over there?

LIGHTS UP on QUESTIONER #5

7

QUESTIONER #5: Yes, I have a question. In fact, two questions.

MODERATOR: Go ahead. I can't wait to hear the answer.

QUESTIONER #5: I am a person of faith.

MODERATOR: How nice. (to POLITICIAN) Isn't that nice?

POLITICIAN: It depends on what they believe in. Not just anything.

QUESTIONER #5: I am supposed to have religious liberty. But I don't have it anymore.

MODERATOR: Why not?

QUESTIONER #5: I am a maker of party favors for orgies by profession. But these two gay dudes came in to my shop and demanded party favors for a gay lib orgy. Naturally, I refused. They said they were going to sue the pants off me, which is sexual harassment if you ask me, plus I said I do party favors only for normal folks, not for the LGBTQIJKLMP community. So where do you stand on this issue?

POLITICIAN: You lost me at KLMP.

MODERATOR: We must be inclusive.

POLITICIAN: Yeah, like the Tower of Babel. Very inclusive.

MODERATOR: But diversity is our strength!

POLITICIAN: Not always. It has people at each other's throats as much as anything.

QUESTIONER #5: What about my question? Do I have to make party favors for gay orgies or not?

POLITICIAN: Oh, for God's sake, would it kill you to make a party favor for some gay dudes?

QUESTIONER #5: My religion says I can't. I don't want to go to Hell.

POLITICIAN: Why am I wasting my life trying to deal with these ridiculous questions!?! Do you really think God cares about what kind of orgy you make party favors for? Really! How can you believe in a God that's that silly?

MODERATOR: You're not suggesting that . . .

POLITICIAN: I don't know if there's a God or not. I just can't believe in any god so fussy, especially a god who invented the turd!

8

QUESTIONER #5: Hey, I'm made in God's image!

POLITICIAN: That's what I'm saying.

QUESTIONER #5: I'm gonna pray for you!

POLITICIAN: Don't bother. Prayer does not work, obviously.

MODERATOR: I think we're finished here.

POLITICIAN: (to QUESTIONER #5) What was your second question?

QUESTIONER #5: (at microphone again) I have this really gross pustule on my left butt cheek. I've tried everything, but it won't go away. Can you suggest anything?

POLITICIAN: I can't really tell. And I'm not a doctor. But let's have a look at it.

QUESTIONER #5: Here?

POLITICIAN: Sure. Why not?

MODERATOR: Whoa! No, siree, sir!

POLITICIAN: I'm just here to help the American People. Let's see that pustule!

MODERATOR; No way!

QUESTIONER #5: I don't mind. Can't get no dang doctor to fix it!

POLITICIAN: Where is this pustule exactly?

QUESTIONER #5: It's up inside my crack, to be exact about it. Here, let me show you. (Lowers pants, bends over.) You see the problem? Huh? Huh?

LIGHTS OUT before the full revelation