

CLEMSON BARTHOLOMEW

By David J. LeMaster

Copyright © 2010 by David J. LeMaster, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 1-60003-537-X

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice:

Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

TV HOST (either)

BECKY/BRETT (either)

GINA (F)

DR FIELDS (either)

TV ANNOUNCER (either)

PERSON (either)

WIFE (F)

CLEMSON (M)

JOE/JODY (either)

OFFICER GIBSON (either)

BASEBALL ANNOUNCER (either)

BOY (M)

STACY (F)

SPOKESPERSON (either)

BGWAN SHREE RAJ ANDERHAGGEN (either)

PROPS LIST

Microphones (which may be mimed)

Baseball bat (which may be mimed)

CLEMSON BARTHOLOMEW

by
David J. LeMaster

On a television set. We cut away to various locations. All may be done on a bare stage.

TV HOST: Good evening, and welcome to the All News, All the Time Network—ANATN. I'm your host, Tom (Tina) Snark. We open with shocking international news. There is a crisis brewing in the middle east. Our reporter, Becky (Brett) Windstrum reports.

BECKY: Thank you Tom (Tina). It truly is a crisis of epic proportions, and one of the most important stories in a long, long time. The situation is this. A rogue nation has just announced the creation of nuclear weapons, putting the rest of the world in horrible peril. I talked with the head of the US Nuclear Weapons Watch list to ask how we will respond, and—

TV HOST: Wait. Wait a moment. We've got a breaking news story.

BECKY: This *is* a breaking story!

TV HOST: No, we've got an *important* breaking story.

BECKY: Can't you just let it crawl at the bottom of the screen?

TV HOST: No, Becky. Too important. We'll go back to you in a moment. For now, we're going to Hollywood, California, with this important story. Gina (Jim) Smith, what's going on?

GINA: Well, Tom, sources tell us that pop icon, movie star, major league baseball player, reality TV host, and noted fashion model Clemson Bartholomew was admitted to Cedar Cyanide Medical Hospital here in Los Angeles amid unconfirmed reports that Bartholomew is dead. Again, these are unconfirmed reports, but Clemson Bartholomew is here in the hospital, and we're waiting on further updates.

TV HOST: Thank you, Gina. That's horrible news indeed.

BECKY: Yes, that's very sad, Tom. But here in the middle east, it is truly a crisis of epic proportions—

TV HOST: Hold on a minute, Becky.

BECKY: But I—

TV HOST: We've called in a linguistic expert, Dr. Martin (Martha) Fields, to discuss the Bartholomew situation. Dr. Fields, can you explain what could be meant by the word "dead?"

DR FIELDS: Well certainly Tom. "Dead" is a word we use when referring to something no longer living.

TV HOST: I see. Then that means if Clemson Bartholomew is dead, then he's no longer alive?

DR FIELDS: Exactly.

Clemson Bartholomew – Page 4

TV HOST: Fascinating.

BECKY: Tom—

TV HOST: We'll get to you in a minute, Becky. Dr. Fields, another point of clarification. What exactly is "alive?"

DR FIELDS: Ah. Now there's the question.

TV HOST: Exactly.

DR FIELDS: Alive, I would assume, is the opposite of not alive, which may or may not be dead, although not dead isn't always the opposite of dead.

TV HOST: Why is that?

DR FIELDS: Because an inanimate object can be not dead, but it isn't the opposite of dead because it was never alive.

TV HOST: Are you suggesting Mr. Bartholomew is an inanimate object?

DR FIELD: Mmmm. Now, there's the question.

BECKY: Tom! We've got more breaking news here in the middle east. The two sides have apparently agreed to—

TV HOST: Thank you for that report, Becky. We'll be right back with more of Dr. Fields, right after these important messages from our sponsors.

BECKY: Wait a minute! I—

TV ANNOUNCER: Oh, those painful warts. The embarrassment of hiding them from friends. And they can appear anywhere. Your hands. Your feet. The tip of your nose. But now there's new Wart Away! Just one simple application a day, and you can be wart free!

PERSON: I had this wart on my hand. But just seventy-seven days and three trips to the doctor, I'm wart free!

TV ANNOUNCER: Yes, this product is amazing. But act now, and you'll get absolutely free this beautiful kitchen juicer! That's right, clear up your skin and make great tomato juice, all for \$27.95. But wait, there's more. Call now, and we'll even throw in this free twenty-three piece kitchen knife set, this 72-piece set of plasticware for the kitchen, and this 1985 Chevrolet Impala with 273,000 miles on it, absolutely free. Act now. Operators are standing by!

TV HOST: We're back. We've got Dr. Martin Fields with us discussing death, but first let's go to our reporter in the field, Becky Winstrum. Becky, back to you. What's going on in the Middle East.

BECKY: Thank you, Tom. This is simply an incredible situation with repercussions for the entire world. The situation is this, late this afternoon—

TV HOST: Hold on. Hold on, Becky. I'm hearing that the station has put together a tribute to Clemson Bartholomew's movie career.

BECKY: But this is incredibly important—

Clemson Bartholomew – Page 5

TV HOST: We'll come back to you. Producers? Are we ready? All right, ANATN will show a film clip from Clemson Bartholomew's Oscar nominated film, "Thornbushes in the Heart," which he wrote, directed, and starred in. It's the story of a war hero decimated by a grenade explosion who comes home to his sickly wife and children. Here's the clip.

(CLEMSON BARTHOLOMEW, with eye patch, and in wheel chair with arms behind his back, enters with WIFE. SHE's in tears.)

WIFE: Oh, darling. I love you.

CLEMSON: And I love you.

WIFE: I'm so glad to have you back.

CLEMSON: Yes. But.

WIFE: But what?

CLEMSON: I must return to the war.

WIFE: But you have no arms and legs.

CLEMSON: Why let a little thing like that stop me.

WIFE: But darling—

CLEMSON: Did defeat in the Pacific stop Douglas McArthur? No. He went back and won the war. Did ear failure stop George Washington? No. He became the father of our country. Did an ugly wart on the face stop Abraham Lincoln? Of course not. So how can I let this stop me from going right back into battle?

WIFE: There are a thousand things you can do here on the home front—

CLEMSON: And let the enemy kill more of our boys? I'll steady the rifle with my nose. I'll pull the trigger with my teeth. I'll fight to the death, my darling, to the death. For there's only one thing driving me, and that's my duty as a soldier, as an American, for truth, liberty, and justice for all!

(Dramatic music swells. WIFE bursts into tears. Back to TV HOST, wiping away a tear.)

TV HOST: What an unbelievable talent.

DR FIELD: And did you notice how he worked his signature eye-patch into the scene.

TV HOST: Indeed. Clemson wore an eye patch over one eye in everything he did. Monogrammed silver.

DR FIELD: It must have really interfered with his baseball career.

TV HOST: No one expected him to play anything but pirates when he went to film, but as you see, he showed them. And of course he lost the Oscar that year to Sir Geoffrey Moore, the star of "Sunkissed."

Clemson Bartholomew – Page 6

DR FIELD: One of the great Oscar tragedies. *(pause)* Did I mention I have a new book out?

BECKY: Tom? If I may interrupt?

TV HOST: This is important, Becky.

BECKY: But there seems to be a change of events here. It appears there is a chance to broker world peace—

TV HOST: We're cutting live to the news conference outside the LA hospital where Mr. Bartholomew was taken. Joe (Jody)?

JOE: Thanks, Tom. The press conference is starting now. Let's listen in.

GIBSON: I'm officer Gibson of the LAPD. At 1:00 O'clock this afternoon, Clemson Bartholomew was admitted to the hospital. The doctors and staff attempted to save his life, but they were unable to do so, and he died at 1:15. I'm open to questions.

JOE: Officer Gibson? Was Clemson Bartholomew the greatest singer of all time?

GIBSON: Uh, I beg your pardon?

JOE: Singer? Greatest singer of all time?

GIBSON: I'm not prepared to answer that question.

JOE: Would you hazard a guess?

GIBSON: That's not appropriate at this time.

JOE: What's your personal opinion?

GIBSON: Well, uh. No. I personally liked Elvis better.

JOE: *(to TV HOST)* You heard it here. The LAPD says Clemson Bartholomew wasn't all that great after all. Back to you, Tom.

TV HOST: What a travesty.

DR FIELD: Have I mentioned my new book?

TV HOST: Let's break for another commercial, but first, here's another tribute to Clemson Bartholomew. Here he is during his baseball days, as a New York Yankee, and that milestone five hundredth homerun that got him into the Hall of Fame.

(CLEMSON, in baseball hat and with bat, and wearing eye patch, mimes the following as the ANNOUNCER does a play-by-play.)

BASEBALL ANNOUNCER: Here's the Yankees' great center fielder, the entertainer with the signature eye patch. He stands in. Here's the pitch. It's a swing and long drive down the right field line. That's a fair ball. Bartholomew is past first, and he's digging for second. Wait, the ball is fumbled in right field, and Clemson is going to third. He's in there, and—no! No! He keeps going. The throw hits the cutoff man. It's gonna be a close one at the plate—he's safe! An inside the park home run for Bartholomew's five hundredth of the

Clemson Bartholomew – Page 7

season! This coming on the heels of his pitching a perfect game last week against the Red Sox. Oh, baby what a player!!!

(A commercial.)

BOY: Uh, Stacy?

STACY: Yes, Frank?

BOY: Would you like to go to prom?

STACY: With you? Pizza Face?

TV ANNOUNCER: Have the embarrassment of acme? Those little red dots all over your face and skin? The embarrassment of being turned down by the cutest girls in school? Try Acme Away and it will clear your skin right up!

(BOY applies Acme away.)

BOY: *(to camera)* All right!

TV ANNOUNCER: Feel like a new man!

BOY: *(confident)* Hey, Stacy.

GIRL: Hey, Frank. Gee, your face looks a lot better.

BOY: That's because I got acme away. So . . . want to go to prom?

GIRL: With you? No, thanks. You're a total geek.

TV ANNOUNCER: Fixing geekiness not included. Acme Away. Not for use with other medicines. Side effects include vomiting, diarrhea, headache, nausea, fever, dizziness, constipation, stupidity, indigestion, acid reflux, high blood pressure, thyroid disease, poor posture, laziness, drop in IQ points, aneurism, blood clots, heart attack, stroke, diabetes, and certain kinds of cancer. Can cause stupidity. The link between Acme Away and sudden, unexplainable death has not yet been explored.

(Back to TV HOST. HE looks excited.)

TV HOST: Ladies and gentlemen, we've got some incredible news.

Clemson Bartholomew will reportedly release one last movie. We go back to Gina, who's on the scene. Gina?

GINA: Yes, Tom. This is truly incredible news. As we all know, Clemson Bartholomew was preparing for his highly anticipated, worldwide concert tour, "That Was It?" Unreliable sources have just told me that Clemson had all his rehearsals filmed, so the studio has generously announced it will throw all the footage into a movie to be released on the big screen.

TV HOST: That's incredible, Gina.

Clemson Bartholomew – Page 8

GINA: It sure is, Tom. And we're told we have footage of the show right now.

TV HOST: Great, Gina. Set us up for what we're seeing.

GINA: Well, this first clip is Clemson rehearsing his hit song, "Bald." *(Wild music. Whip sounds. Fans scream. Out comes CLEMSON BARTHOLOMEW, who mouths the words to "Bald," but cannot be heard. HE starts to dance but clearly is only marking the moves as HE barely makes any movement.)*

TV HOST: Gina? Uh, what are we seeing?

GINA: Rehearsal.

TV HOST: But he's not doing anything.

GINA: It's what they call "marking" your voice and movement.

TV HOST: Marking.

GINA: Yes.

TV HOST: But nothing's happening.

GINA: No.

TV HOST: Then why rehearse?

GINA: Good question, Tom. I'll ask someone. Back to you.

(Back to HOST, confused)

TV HOST: But why would he pretend to sing if he's really singing?

DR FIELDS: Perhaps he's not singing at all?

TV HOST: Impossible! I've heard him.

DR FIELDS: Did you hear him sing, or did you hear a recording of him singing?

TV HOST: You mean he lip syncs when he sings?

DR FIELDS: Perhaps.

TV HOST: Fascinating. Even in a recording studio?

DR FIELDS: Exactly.

TV HOST: Fascinating . . .

BECKY: Tom?

TV HOST: So you're suggesting that the recordings he recorded—

DR FIELDS: Were never recorded.

TV HOST: Fascinating.

BECKY: Tom?

TV HOST: Does that mean the albums I own are worthless? I have a copy of everything he ever did—

BECKY: Tom! We're on the brink of nuclear meltdown here. Do you mind?

TV HOST: Oh. Sure.

BECKY: Reports are grim. The rogue nation is reportedly threatening to unleash—

Clemson Bartholomew – Page 9

TV HOST: Wait. We've got Gina back on the line with an explanation.

Gina, why was Clemson Bartholomew doing music and dance without singing or dancing?

GINA: Thanks, Tom. I'm here with Clemson's spiritual advisor, the Bgwan Shree Raj Anderhaggen, of the One True Religion. Bgwan, I'm not familiar with your beliefs. Can you explain them for us?

BGWAN: It's the One, True Religion.

GINA: Which one?

BGWAN: JudeoChristianBuddistHinduisticIslamicConfucianism.

Clemson discovered us on a bus trip through the Alps.

GINA: But how is that one true religion? Aren't you mixing things up?

BGWAN: How?

GINA: The name—

BGWAN: JudeoChristianBuddistHinduisticIslamicConfucianism?

GINA: Right. That.

BGWAN: Do not be fooled. Although JudeoChristianBuddist-HinduisticIslamicConfucianism borrows its name, it's unlike the other major religions. JudeoChristianBuddistHinduisticIslamic-Confucianism takes very seriously the wise words of the prophet who spoke to us in ancient times.

GINA: What did he say?

BGWAN: Never talk about God or politics.

GINA: You're a religion without God?

BGWAN: Oh, no, most of our followers believe in God. Some are Jewish, some are Christian, some are Buddhist, some are Hindu, some are Islamic—

GINA: I get the picture. So what exactly does your religion you believe?

BGWAN: JudeoChristianBuddistHinduisticIslamicConfucianismists believe the truth is there before you if you only listen, but most people scoff. They say, oh, that's not the truth. That's utterly ridiculous. But they deceive themselves, for lo, they are stupid.

GINA: And what is the truth?

BGWAN: The truth is . . . most pop stars lipsync.

GINA: *(reacts in shock)* Oh, my word! *(pause. Takes moment to control herself)* Uh, Tom. Back to you.

(Back to TV HOST. HE stares intensely at SPOKESPERSON.)

TV HOST: Did he just tell us pop stars are fake?

DR. FIELDS: I think he did.

TV HOST: Do you think they're fake?

DR FIELDS: To answer that, we have to consider the word, "fake."

Clemson Bartholomew – Page 10

TV HOST: Does this mean Clemson Batholomew lied when he told the world he didn't have plastic surgery but instead had woken up to miraculously discover he was ten years younger?

DR FIELDS: Maybe. What do you mean by lie?

TV HOST: Lie. To not tell the truth?

DR FIELDS: What is truth?

TV HOST: The opposite of a lie?

DR FIELDS: Perhaps. Or perhaps it's only the opposite of a lie—to you.

BECKY: Oh, for the love of Pete, will you two cut it out! We have a crisis of epic proportions on our hands and you're talking about a pop star!

TV HOST: It's what the people want to hear. Right Dr. Fields?

DR FIELDS: *(pause)* What do you mean by "hear?"

TV HOST: Wait--We're going live to a press conference by the Los Angeles Police Department. Let's listen.

SPOKESPERSON: I repeat. Officer Gibson has been fired. The LAPD in no way intended to insinuate that Clemson Bartholomew wasn't the greatest singer and pop icon of all time. I'm open for questions.

JOE: What about Elvis Pressley?

SPOKESPERSON: *(HE has a feed into his ear. HE listens to the feed before answering each question)* Uh, I also like Elvis Pressley.

JOE: But is he the greatest pop icon of all time?

SPOKESPERSON: Uh, perhaps they're tied. But no one is greater than Clemson Bartholomew. Next question?

QUESTIONER: Is Mr. Bartholomew dead?

SPOKESPERSON: Yes.

QUESTIONER: So this isn't an elaborate hoax to sell more records?

SPOKESPERSON: No.

QUESTIONER: Are you sure?

SPOKESPERSON: *(listens to feed)* I have no comment.

TV HOST: We're back here at the studio—an extraordinary turn of events. The rumor has surfaced that Clemson Bartholomew is still alive and was seen exiting the back of Cedar Cyanide Hospital. How extraordinary.

BECKY: It is extraordinary. But what's more extraordinary is what's going on here in the middle east, where—

TV HOST: Becky, please. We're in the middle of something important. Dr. Fields?

DR FIELDS: Did I mention my new book?

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from CLEMSON BARTHOLOMEW by David J. LeMaster. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:

**Brooklyn Publishers, LLC
P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011
www.brookpub.com**

Do Not Copy