

WELCOME TO OUR FESTIVAL

By Leon Kaye

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Welcome to Our Festival

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(KURT stands alone on stage. He's dressed casually and can basically be anyone/any type/any age.)

Hello, my name is Kurt and welcome to our festival of very funny ten minute plays we got without paying the playwrights. The best things in life are free, right? I have a few announcements before the plays begin.

First, if you have a cell phone, please turn it off... cause they cause cancer. *(laughs)* I don't know why I'm laughing. They really do. It's sad actually, tragic. A lot of the companies have buy one get one free deals, and it's like *(as if handing a cell phone to someone)* here's a bout of chemo for you *(handing to another)* and another one for you.

Next, if you need to smoke, there are smoking facilities... somewhere else. Yes, somewhere else but not here. This is a smoke-free zone. And if you try lighting up, there is a volunteer in the audience that will physically assault you. I'm not kidding, he works for free. His Mom died from emphysema, so he does get a little rough. But he really enjoys his work. It's so rare these days that you can do something you really love. So I would not smoke... again, cause he does get around. And he can be anywhere.

And let's see... fire exits... there's the doors from which you came in. And if there is a fire, I suggest you run, don't walk, to the exits. Cause I think only the first few will get out okay. And given the size of this crowd and the pandemonium that would ensue in a fire, I would think a good group of you would be trampled underfoot in the frenzy for survival. Yes, yes, it's terrible but the young athletic ones always push from behind. They push and push, knock the weak ones to the ground... just like in high school. Then you fall and your torso becomes like a pinota getting beaten by a group of starving children.

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For the elderly and the disabled, please remain in your seats. Because slow aphixiation is a much more humane form of death than having a group of flamenco dancers doing a number on your back. You know. *(does some flamenco)* There's no music but you get the picture.

(As if he hears a voice from OS) Oh yes, there is one other exit I forgot about, yes. If you can make your way up the stage and to the right, there is a hallway. You go down the hallway, make a right, go down a second hallway to the third door, make a left, go down another set of stairs, make a right, go down a hallway, then through a cave. And then there's a door marked "house of pain". Go through the house of pain. You will be in no pain. *(pause)* No pain if you move quickly through and avoid the funny little man. Then there's the dressing rooms. And then a left and a slide and the fun house mirror and exit.

There are pull boxes and fire extinguishers located in... in... *(looks OS for prodding)* Okay, if you have a large blanket... or maybe a coat, and one that's made out of naugehide or suede is best – cause they're ugly and if you burned one, you'd be doing us all a really big favor. So that would be a good thing. You may have a singed lung, but there can be a bright side.

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