

East of Eden
GENERATE 2023
Lost & Found
Night 1

Written by: Jonathan Skaggs

Note from the Playwright: Ideally this piece should come directly after the night one video. While it covers much of the same general ideas it should be thought of as a variation on a theme. The piece is “spoken word” in nature but should be approached more theatrically than spoken word pieces often are. The piece should be stages with movement that ebbs and flows through the story. At moments when characters appear such as EVE, SNAKE, or GOD the scenes should feel like a memory pulled out and put on display. The lines for these characters should be assigned as the Director sees fit.

Ideas for production: Consider having music in the background of this piece. Consider having some live folie elements. There should be graphics and or movements on the screen, I do not feel the need to prescribe all of them, however I would be more than happy to be a part of that creative conversation.

At Rise: Three Storytellers Stand at the foot of the stage. The piece should feel grand, theatrical and HONEST. As you move through this text interact with one another, your physical environment as well as the audience consider them active participants.

Man

Out of the Disorder.

Woman 1

Darkness.

Woman 2

and Chaos, God spoke

All-

Light

Woman 2

Water

Man

Earth

Woman 1

Sky

All-

life

Man

God spoke and they were

Woman 1

From the mouth of God, divine creativity screamed out creating all that is seen and all that is unseen

Woman 2

But then God did something different... the hands of God reached down and touched creation. Molding man from the dirt.

Man

and then... God breathed and in that moment a pile of dirt spoken into existence by God was imbued with a soul.

Woman 1

Let us create man

All-

In our Image

Woman 2

In the Image of God— a reflection of God's character— a representative of the creator in the created world

Man

and from the side of Adam God crafted Eve. Not from Adam's foot so as that he would dominate her.

Woman 1

Not from Adam's head so that she might hold it over him

Woman 2

But from his rib so that the two might walk side by side as partners together

Man

Created to love one another and to love God's creation

Woman 1

Created to reflect God's nature and partner in creation

Woman 2

They together would bring more order, more beauty more flourishing to the Earth which they were entrusted.

Man

Together they walked in the presence of a Holy God pure and unashamed.

Woman 2

God blessed them with all that was needed to live a life of flourishing... and God also gave them dignity

Woman 1

The dignity of *choice*. The dignity to define what is Good and Evil for themselves.

Man

Would they trust their Creator– the giver of life, love and all that is Good

Woman 2

Or would they listen to a new voice

Snake-

Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?

Eve-

We may eat the fruit of the garden's trees but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'Don't eat from it, and don't touch it, or you will die.'

Snake-

You will not die...

Eve-

I won't?

Snake-

God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil

Eve-

I will be like God?

Snake-

Yes

Man

And so they ate... to be like God. When in reality they already were– created in the likeness and image of God joining together with the creator bringing order beauty and flourishing.

All-

But now they stand in rebellion.

Woman 1

And with this rebellion comes shame

Woman 2

Hiding from each other

Man

Hiding from God

All-

Something just broke

God-

Adam... Eve... Where are you?

Silence

God-

Why have you hidden from me?

Adam-

I heard your sound in the garden; I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself.

God-

Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree, which I commanded you not to eat?

ADAM looks at EVE and in an instant we see the fracture of human relationship as he shifts the blame to her

Adam

The woman you gave me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate.

God-

What have you done? *(it is important that this line be spoken with compassion)*

Woman 2

The intimacy between God and humankind in this moment lies broken... the created beings stand in full rebellion against their creator

Man

The created beings stand before their creator in full knowledge of their imminent
destruction

and yet...

Woman 2

And yet

Woman 1

And yet...

All

[audible breath]

Woman 2

The first thing that God speaks is a poem

Man

A foreshadowing of one to come who will crush death and restore what has been lost...
but at great cost.

Woman 1

We are here in the East of Eden living in the aftershock of our rebellion

Woman 2

Grappling with the consequence of what we chose

Man

And What we gave away

Woman 2

Never again on this side of Glory will we walk with God face to face in the cool of the Day

Woman 1

Our life and the creation of it now come with the promise of pain

Woman 2

Our land is cursed

Man

Our relationships fractured into spirals of violence and hatred

Woman 1

Here in the East of Eden we wait

Woman 2

We yearn

Man

We pray

to return to back home to garden and to walk in the cool of the day

The actors should remain suspended in light for 7-10 seconds. (It should feel long but not unbearable) Key light should slowly fade and actors should begin to exit once the lights hit approximately 50% intensity. The piece should almost feel unfinished... leaving the audience wanting to hear the rest of the story.