

Apathy

By

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Cast of Characters

SUPEREGO:

ID:

EGO:

ALL:



ACT IScene 1

*A stage with a tote box in the center. Three actors onstage: ID, EGO, and SUPEREGO. EGO has a pistol.*

SUPEREGO

Have you ever heard the saying with the fleas in the jar and the lid?

*ID reaches into the tote, pulls out a series of train track pieces.*

ID

No.

*ID begins laying the train pieces in a straight line vertically towards the audience down center stage.*

SUPEREGO

Imagine a flea in a jar.

ID

No.

EGO

Alright. I'm imagining.

SUPEREGO

The flea can jump as high up as it wants, even right out of the jar, right?

ID

No.

EGO

Yes, of course.

SUPEREGO

Let's say you put a lid on the jar. Suddenly the flea will hit its head if it jumps too high. It can't escape.

*(ID puts down the final piece, a branching pathway going left and right.)*

*Eventually, the flea will stop jumping so high and only ever jump high enough to just avoid hitting its head.*

EGO  
And we see this in reality.

SUPEREGO  
We do?

EGO  
That wasn't a question.

*EGO puts the pistol in the tote with train tracks.*

SUPEREGO  
But that was.

EGO  
I see.

SUPEREGO  
Yet, if the lid is removed, the flea doesn't jump out! It acts like the lid is still there. Never jumping any higher than it once could.

ID  
What's the point?

SUPEREGO  
The point is...

ID  
No. Not the fleas. Who gives a fuck about fleas. Look, the path branches.

EGO  
So? More track to work with.

SUPEREGO  
Endless possibilities.

ID  
No. Two ways. A right way and a wrong way. My way and the highway. Left or right.

EGO  
So which way's your way?

ID  
I don't think that far ahead.

EGO  
It's 'didn't' think.

ID I said what I said and meant what I meant.

EGO You mean, you said what you meant and meant what you said.

ID Fuck you.

*ID heads for the tote, pulls out more track.*

EGO Hey! Don't... Okay. Let's talk it out.

ID Less talking more doing.

EGO But what are you doing?

ID Something.

*ID connects train track going to the right.*

EGO Okay. But why? Why are we going this way?

*SUPEREGO heads for the tote, pulls out track.*

ID I picked it.

EGO But why?

ID Food. Water. Warmth, rest. Says them.

EGO Says who?

ID Safety, security.  
(SUPEREGO puts down a piece at the intersection going to the left.)  
I said right!

SUPEREGO Alternative paths are worth exploring.

ID  
I need what I need!

SUPEREGO  
At the expense of others? They say food, but not from who. They say water, but not from who. Warmth, rest, from who? Safety, security, but whose?

ID  
For me.

SUPEREGO  
From who?

ID  
For me!

SUPEREGO  
From who?

ID  
Fucking for me!

EGO  
I don't know we're talking about tracks anymore.

ID  
What the hell do you mean?

SUPEREGO  
What else would it be?

EGO  
Okay. Okay. What's on this side?

SUPEREGO  
Recreation. Unity. Self-actualization.

ID  
They say.

SUPEREGO  
They say.

SUPEREGO  
The freedom to explore.

ID  
They say.

*ID takes out a piece from the middle of the left side, replaces it with a branching piece, and builds off of it.*

SUPEREGO

Please don't-

ID

Reality check. They don't care about you. Recreation? For them. Unity? Blah. Self-act-act-act- Like I care. They're taking you for one hell of a ride.

SUPEREGO

Faith is required in all positions-

ID

Faith? I sure as hell have my faith-

EGO

Let's consider faith! Let's have faith, yeah? Let's say they stick to what they say? What happens?

ID

They won't.

EGO

But if they did?

ID

They won't.

SUPEREGO

All shall be free to reach their own pursuit. Education shall be valued above all and life shall be lived in unity.

ID

No.

EGO

Then what?

ID

No protection. No food. Who would farm? Not us. Where would farm? Not here.

SUPEREGO

It's an ideal.

ID

Ideal, Smi-smeal. Worry about now. Tomorrow at the latest.

SUPEREGO

Tomorrow must be determined by the ideal.

EGO  
But who's ideal?

SUPEREGO  
Ours.

ID  
Theirs.

EGO  
This is all too confusing.

SUPEREGO  
Correct.

ID  
Their points make no sense!

SUPEREGO  
Their points don't make enough sense.

EGO  
What about over here? What are they not saying?

ID  
Nothing. Food is made. I eat. Jobs are had. I have.  
My needs are met.

SUPEREGO  
Yet someone else's aren't.

ID  
But mine are.

SUPEREGO  
Individualism.

ID  
Breaking out the five dollar words, huh?

*SUPEREGO replaces a piece on the right side with  
a branching piece, begins building off of it.*

SUPEREGO  
Ad hominem.

ID  
Stick to reality, dumbass.

SUPEREGO  
From each according to his abilities, to each

according to their needs.

EGO

Can you explain-

SUPEREGO

The division of labor as currently structured is such that one will never reap the full benefits of that in which they sow.

EGO

Is that a quote?

ID

It's nonsense.

SUPEREGO

It's an amalgamation of informed ideas regarding hypotheticals.

ID

From where?

SUPEREGO

*Das Kapital.* Karl Marx. *The Grapes of Wrath.* John Steinbeck. *The Lorax.* Book by Dr. Suess; Screenplay by-

ID

Have you ever had an original idea?

SUPEREGO

Have you ever had an idea?

ID

Fuck you.

EGO

Have we?

SUPEREGO

No. Yes.

ID

Yes! No.

EGO

Just, in simple terms, what's the point?

SUPEREGO

Work must come from somewhere. Who works while we feast?

ID  
That was your point?

SUPEREGO  
Simplified.

ID  
Under all that fucking fancy mumbo-jumbo?

SUPEREGO  
Simplified.

ID  
Who works? Hah.  
(ID starts placing pieces where SUPEREGO  
left off.)  
I work. I work and I get fed.

SUPEREGO  
Who doesn't work?

ID  
No one. We all work. Doing something.

SUPEREGO  
But some work less.

EGO  
Who does?

ID  
And they should get less.

SUPEREGO  
But do they get less?

ID  
They should get less.

EGO  
Should who?

SUPEREGO  
Should they?

ID  
Yes. They deserve less.

SUPEREGO  
Something upon which an agreement may be founded  
upon.

EGO

But who!? Who is they?

SUPEREGO

Obviously, the top.

ID

It's obvious, the bottom.

EGO

Oh boy.

SUPEREGO

Tracks, please.

ID

Tracks, now!

*EGO hands SUPEREGO and ID tracks. ID continues adding on the right side, whilst SUPEREGO adds to the left.*

SUPEREGO

It is fact that the top uses free handouts from the government whilst the rest of us need to work to succeed, they will never work a day in their lives.

ID

Everybody knows that the bottom just uses free handouts from the government while the rest of us have to work to get anywhere, they've never worked a day in their lives!

EGO

Do you two listen to each other?

SUPEREGO

Do I listen to what I need?

ID

Do I listen to what I want?

EGO

Do you two listen to me?

SUPEREGO

Do I listen to what others want?

ID

Do I listen to what others need?

EGO

Do I listen to you? Who's you?

ALL

Me. Us. You.

ID

World War Two! They want to start another World War

Two!

EGO

World War Three? Who?

ID

The Tippy-Top. There's the top, and there's the secret top.

*ID begins building on an alternate path on the left.*

ID

Utopia is fake. A distraction. A lie from liars at the tippy top. We all do art, there's no food. No food? Little food. Little food means fights over food. Other places want our food. Big fights over little food. More power for the distractors. The top gets taller.

EGO

The mountain.

SUPEREGO

Scarcity, Artificial. Horseshoe Theory.  
Fearmongering. The lunatic fringe. World War Three.

*On the right side, SUPEREGO begins building a mirror of the path ID built.*

EGO

Horseshoe theory?

SUPEREGO

The top wants World War Three, but not a secret top. The regular top. Inspiring hate between us. Division. Divide. Distract. Dispel. Deny. Defend. Depose. Us. The third world war shall be a class war, as we rise above and regain a place of equality within nature and each other.

EGO

Is that an incitement to violence? Because that sounds like an incitement to violence.

ID

Death to the tippy-top!

EGO

Okay, now that is definitely a call to violence.

*EGO looks out at the track that has been constructed thus far. The far ends mimic that of a horseshoe, disappearing behind the tote.*

SUPEREGO

Untutored courage is nothing in the face of educated bullets.

EGO

And who said that?

SUPEREGO

George S. Patton, Army General.

*ID begins building straight offstage on the right side.*

ID

I got a couple quotes of my own-

EGO

I really think we've gotten off track somewhere-

ID

If you want to know who controls you, look at who you're not allowed to criticize.

EGO

How very wise, but-

ID

Voltaire.

EGO

Voltaire said that?

SUPEREGO

Voltaire did not say that.

ID

The internet said Voltaire said that.

SUPEREGO

Kevin Alfred Strom, American Neo-Nazi and Holocaust Denier said that.

ID

That's not what the internet said.

SUPEREGO

The problem with quotes on the internet is that you

never know if they're genuine.

SUPEREGO  
Abraham Lincoln.

EGO  
Abraham Lincoln.

EGO  
I remember that one.

ID  
It doesn't fucking matter who said it, it's true!

SUPEREGO  
Ethos.

EGO  
Pathos, Logos?

SUPEREGO  
Just Ethos. Pathos and Logos have no bearing on this point.

EGO  
But what is the point?

SUPEREGO  
It is not my responsibility to educate you.

EGO  
But if it was-

SUPEREGO  
In no world is it.

EGO  
Just- what is the point? Please.

SUPEREGO  
The point is simple.

EGO  
So explain it?

SUPEREGO  
I did.

EGO  
You did?

SUPEREGO  
It's simple. So simple its impossible to comprehend.

EGO

How very "Anyone Can Whistle."

SUPEREGO

I don't know that one.

ID

I fucking hated that one. Fucking talking down on us like we can't see what's right in front of us.

*EGO looks at SUPEREGO.*

SUPEREGO

I fail to grasp to what you mean.

EGO

I think that's three of us.

ID

Four- five- (number of tickets sold) of us.

*The three sit in the limited space still on stage.*

ID

Right.

SUPEREGO

Left.

ID

Right.

SUPEREGO

Left.

ID

Right

SUPEREGO

Left

ID

Right right right  
right right right  
right-

SUPEREGO

Left left left left  
left left left-

EGO

Stop! In the advent that you two, me two-

SUPEREGO

Me too.

EGO

Closing arguments are over-

ID

Free speech-

EGO

Not what that means-

ID

Bear arms-

EGO

That feels like another threat-

SUPEREGO

Quartering of soldiers-

EGO

You are genuinely just saying things now-

SUPEREGO

The right to vote!

EGO

Wait, that's-

ID

Voting-

SUPEREGO

Voting-

ID

Voting-

SUPEREGO

Vote-

ID

Vote vote vote vote  
vote vote-

SUPEREGO

Vote vote vote vote  
vote vote-

EGO

Enough!

*ID and SUPEREGO go silent, for once.*

EGO

Don't you see? Voting is our solution! We'll determine whether this train goes left or right - through voting! And we'll determine who's right - through voting. And who's left. And who's up up and down down and left and right and left and right and B and A and Start Voting!

*ID, EGO, and SUPEREGO all run through the space as if their own personal playground whilst voting.*

ALL

Voting voting voting voting voting voting-

EGO

To the right!

ID

Me!

EGO

That's one for the right!

ALL

Voting voting voting voting voting voting-

EGO

To the left!

SUPEREGO

I.

EGO

That's one for the left! And that means- Tallying tallying tallying- we're exactly where we were two minutes ago!

ID

Fuck you.

*ID goes for more train tracks.*

SUPEREGO

Wait- you forgot to include your own vote.

EGO

You're completely right! I abstain.

*ID starts placing the train tracks.*

SUPEREGO

On what grounds?

EGO

Abstinence is the best form of prevention.

SUPEREGO

Vote for a temporary hold on any new train tracks until an understanding is agreed upon.

EGO

I abstain.

SUPEREGO

Vote for deconstruction of current train tracks in lieu of future industrial projects.

EGO

I abstain.

SUPEREGO

Vote for-

ID

Vote for you to shuuuuuut up.

EGO

I abstain.

ID

Fuck you.

*ID heads for more train tracks.*

SUPEREGO

How dull for you to live your life without any hills to die on, you, on your vast flat barren plains of compromise, acceptance, and accommodation, whilst I reign supreme over the lush, rolling highlands of stupid shit I have irrationally chosen to stake my entire identity on.

EGO

Did you come up with that yourself or-

SUPEREGO

Tumblr user Ommanyte.

*ID finds the gun from earlier at the bottom of the bin.*

EGO

Of course, the beacon of truth that is Tumblr.

SUPEREGO

For all the evils in the world, I think apathy is the most dangerous.

EGO

Stop hiding behind others words!

SUPEREGO

Chris Long.

*BANG! SUPEREGO goes down. ID has the gun trained right on SUPEREGO. EGO stares blankly as EGO goes down.*

ID

Sob the save some for storyone who cares.

EGO

It's 'save the sob story for someone who cares.'

ID

I said what I said and meant what I meant.

EGO

It's said what I-

*ID points the gun at EGO.*

ID

Vote for train to the right.

EGO

I abstain.

ID

Vote to destroy left tracks.

EGO

I abstain.

*ID lowers the gun.*

ID

Vote for me.

EGO

I abstain.