

"ACT OF SEDITION"
by Dan Trujillo
© 2004

(AGNESE, 20s, an actress with an unrecognizable European accent, speaks to NALDO, her lover and collaborator.)

AGNESE

Get your head out of that noose, my love. I know you thought your play would be banned. But it wasn't offensive enough. My rolling around naked in chicken feces simply doesn't close a theater anymore. Now we're going to have to perform your play, and everyone will see what a terrible writer you are. This is a great career opportunity. You see, instead of writing bad plays that get banned, you could try writing good plays that don't get banned. Oh, don't pout. Or are you choking?

Do not look at me with those eyes! I did not want this to happen! I wanted the play to be banned! Everyone thinks I'm a brilliant actress, because they've never seen me act, because I've only been in your banned plays. Now they're going to find out I'm bad too. Just tell the papers you're not happy with it. Just cry at the press conference. The papers will talk about your artistic temperament. The country will still think you're a genius. We'll pay the backers their money, and that'll...oh dear. The backers will want their money.

Wait! Don't jump! America! Remember my cousin? She lives in America, a very wealthy little village. She told me how much she longs to see me on the stage. I'll write her about the play. Tell her it's very cultural, very European. We'll go there. We'll give a command performance to the village elders. They'll be shocked out of their minds. It's so much easier to be obscene over there. They'll threaten to throw us in jail if we speak even one word of your terrible play. We will come home with money, and you can tell everyone that you were banned in America!

Of course it'll work. Of course, I love you, and I love your writing, even though they're both very, very bad. Now let me show you how to tie a proper knot in that rope. You could fall and break your neck.