

NICER REPUBLICANS

a ten-minute play

by Leon H. Kalayijan

Copyright April 2014 Leon H Kalayijan and Off The Wall Play Publishers

<http://offthewallplays.com>

SYNOPSIS: Self explanatory

SETTING: Minimal. Chairs.

TIME: The present.

CHARACTERS:

TINA – Late 30's to 50's, pedantic

JOEL – older, crotchety

FRANK -- African American, older.

MEI – Chinese, twenties.

JUNE – Southern, fifties, warm.

(TINA, stands before a group.)

TINA

Okay, we are all Republicans here, yes?

ALL

Yes. Right, Of course.

TINA

Right. And we want people to perceive us differently. Some find us unfeeling or unsympathetic to the needs of the poor or the elderly.

FRED

Ridiculous.

JUNE

I can't believe people think that.

JOEL

I have twelve grandchildren. Why would I not care about people?

TINA

Well, it's a perception created and ingrained by the liberal media.

JOEL

Brokaw. Katey Couric.

MEI

You know they aren't hosting the news anymore, right?

TINA

Anyway, just because we Republicans believe people should pay their fair share, and money doesn't grow on trees, we are vilified.

JUNE

I love Christmas as much as the next person, but if we had Christmas every day...

FRED

You'd have the president's health care plan

(ALL GIGGLE)

Makes me ashamed to say I'm African American.

JOEL

Well, at least you're American.

TINA

Now, now. These are the statements and sentiments that damage our reputation. The president is American. We should not be questioning that. There are real issues to bring up. And not just drilling in the Alaskan state park. Let me see... (to Mei) What is your name?

MEI

Mei.

TINA

Okay, Mei. You are Chinese. I will bet that you are second generation. Your ancestors...

MEI

I'm actually fourth generation.

TINA

Okay, but you understand the plight of the immigrant. And you can empathize with their struggles. We are a nation of immigrants, after all.

MEI

You know there are four meth dealers in my neighborhood, and three of them are Mexican.

TINA

Yes, but you cannot generalize about an entire population.

MEI

I would agree but three out of four is a high percentage

JOEL

In my neighborhood, three out of four Mexicans are using weedwhackers at 7 in the morning.

TINA

I think we are missing the point here. The point is to put ourselves or our loved one in the shoes of the immigrant and look at them as real people. People with hopes, and dreams of a better life.

JUNE

You know, when you talk about putting people in the shoes of immigrants... some of those Italian shoes are four hundred dollars.

JOEL

That's cause they're not American made.

FRANK

It's unconstitutional.

TINA

Okay, we are straying from the point.

JOEL

Do you know how many stray dogs the Phillipinos bring into this country?

TINA

We are trying to rectify our public image. Come on, people. Maybe let's talk about something very very important like medicare... Mrs.... Ah...

JUNE

June.

TINA

June. You are almost a senior.

JUNE

I'm forty five. (She does look 60)

TINA

Oh, well... your mother then. She's a senior, right?

JUNE

No, she's fifty six.

TINA

What?

JUNE

My father is fifty two.

TINA

How is that possible?!

JUNE

Almost fifty three.

TINA

The point is... you don't want your parent's medicare benefits cut now, do you?

JUNE

What about balancing the budget?

TINA

We want the budget balanced, but we want all needy people and sick people to get adequate health care.

