

ROAD RAGE

(One Act-15 minutes)

By Leonard David Goodisman

<http://www.offthewallplays.com>

Copyright February 2013 Off The Wall Plays and Leonard Goodisman

CHARACTERS:

William (Bill) James, sitting at a desk working on some papers. He has educated, generally careful speech.

Woman: A small, slim woman with a soft, unassuming voice and uneducated sing-song speech.

RUN TIME

About 10 minutes, minimal set required.

SYNOPSIS

The song “Frankie and Johnny” play at the beginning with traffic noise in the background and the sound of an occasional raucous “Beep.” The Beep is mimicked and comes back in various places in the play. A woman knocks and enters a man’s office, making sure she has the right person and indicating she is a messenger. He shows his annoyance and, in a silly charade, pretends he is not who she is looking for, but it turns out she is not who she says she is. Eventually, she reveals why she is there and takes him through various stages of emotion, eventually taking the audience by surprise.

ROAD RAGE

(One Act - Played to be funny.)

Characters:

William (Bill) James, at a desk working, educated, generally careful speech.

Woman: A small, slim, a soft, unassuming voice and uneducated sing-song speech.

(Music plays Frankie and Johnny with traffic noise in the background, a, offstage horn "Beep" whenever the Woman says Beep in whatever varied way she chooses..)

(A knock at the door.)

BILL

Come in.

WOMAN

(Enters.) Good morning.

BILL

(Looking up suspiciously, somewhat disdainfully.) Good? Maybe. You need?

WOMAN

You Bill?

BILL

That's me.

WOMAN

James?

BILL

James, yes.

WOMAN

William?

BILL

Yes, yes. I'm William James, sometimes called Bill. So?

WOMAN

Johnny, that's a lot of first names for one guy.

BILL

Johnny's not my name.

WOMAN

You're a Johnny. I can tell.

BILL

That's not my name. Call me William. What can I do for you?

WOMAN

Interesting, Bill, you don't care about my name.

BILL

Should I? What do you want? We'll see whether I care.

WOMAN

It's about the incident.

BILL

(Annoyed) What incident?

WOMAN

The incident downtown. Beep.

BILL

No incident yesterday.

WOMAN

You knew it was yesterday.

BILL

Well, I just got up today.

WOMAN

Downtown yesterday, in the early evening.

BILL

Don't recall, no incident. Nothing worth talking about yesterday, kind of a loser of a day.

WOMAN

At Dexter and Roy.

BILL

Wrong person, wrong address, wrong vehicle, wrong world. See you.

WOMAN

Dexter and Roy, right William Bill James?

BILL

If this is about your car, contact your insurance agent.

WOMAN

Not about my car exactly. We should talk before I... do anything.

BILL

Nothing to talk about. No incident. (Pauses.) How'd you find me? I mean, supposing there was an incident, how'd you get my name.

WOMAN

Your names.

BILL:

This is just a mistake.

WOMAN

Your mistake was yesterday.

BILL

Your mistake; you have the wrong driver.

WOMAN

Wrote down your license, looked you up?

BILL

You can do that?

WOMAN

Actually, James, I can't. One of ...Frankie's boys looked you up. I call them Frankie's boys. They help out.

BILL

Who's Frankie? I'm busy; I don't know what you're talking about. I didn't do anything to your car.

WOMAN

Not my car, Johnny; Frankie was driving.

BILL

Name's William.

WOMAN

William, you gave Frankie the "Beep".

BILL

What the hell you mean I gave him the beep? Who the hell's Frankie sending you here?

WOMAN:

Him? Frankie sent me here, sort of, but don't be angry; I'm not angry with you. I ...
Frankie says I have this message for you because of the incident.

BILL

What incident?

WOMAN

You're teasing. You remember. I like a guy who teases a little.

BILL

Who cares what you like? What incident?

WOMAN

(Enacts the incident.) Frankie's in the right turn lane. Remember? Once in that lane there, even by mistake, you can't move over quick. Traffic's heavy that time of day.

BILL

Too many cars on the road.

WOMAN

Not counting yours. Or mine.

BILL

Don't know about your car. Call your insurance company.

WOMAN

You come up behind Frankie's car and you want to turn right, right? Beep.

BILL

It's a right turn lane. When I want to make a right turn, I make a right turn, right!

WOMAN

But Frankie's stuck in your way and Frankie never thinks of being in anyone's way.
Then you're waving your arms and giving him the Beep!! BEEP!

BILL

I'm sure I didn't go "Beep, beep".

WOMAN

Makes you mad hearing the BEEP, beep, beep. Doesn't it?

BILL

Not exactly.

WOMAN

Exactly. How'd you think Frankie felt? What'd you expect Frankie to do? BEEP! Beep.

BILL

I didn't give nobody the beep. But what if I did?

WOMAN

The light changes, Frankie moves over to let you by, you speed past, give him the BEEP!
scream "Fuckin' Moron." People are yelling to you "Cool it," "Get a grip." Remember?

BILL

I was in perfect control. Even suppose I was even there. What do you want?

WOMAN

This is about 'an-o-nym-i-ty', isn't it? One of Frankie's boys gave me that word. You know what an-o-nym-i-ty means? You think, in your car, no one knows who you are; you can do and say anything you want.

BILL

I know what 'anonymity' means. Thanks.

WOMAN

You think no one's ever gonna call you on it. But people know Frankie. They saw and heard you give him the beep, call him a 'fuckin' moron'. Frankie can't have that.

BILL

Who cares who heard me beeping Frankie or calling him ...names?

WOMAN

Frankie cares. Frankie can't let people go around giving him the beep and screaming 'fuckin' moron'.

BILL

I've had enough, whoever Frankie is, whoever you are. If someone called Frankie a 'fuckin' moron' I'm sure he didn't mean Frankie was actually fuckin', anatomically, in his car. I'm sure he didn't mean he thought Frankie was really a moron either, not in the sense of him being a moron.

WOMAN

You don't want to say Frankie's a moron, not ever. Be careful.

BILL

I am careful, damn it. That's what Frankie sent you here to tell me? "Be careful"?

WOMAN

Not exactly. That's background that I... Frankie... I want you to know.

BILL

Now I know. Good bye.

WOMAN

Frankie talked to the boys about the right thing to do when someone calls you a fuckin' moron and gives you the beep.

BILL

There's a right thing to do for this?.

WOMAN

Yeah, when someone gives you the beep again and again. Beep. beep Beep.

BILL

I didn't do anything again and again except try to find out what you're talking about.

WOMAN

Again and again, yes. And most of the boys agreed what we should do.

BILL

Great, however many boys Frankie the fuckin' moron has, they agreed. That's a big step. So what, if it concerns me, did they agree?

WOMAN

You said it again.

BILL

What?

WOMAN

Fuckin moron. Are you crazy? The boys agree you can't act like that to Frankie, or anybody. First the Beep and then the name calling.

BILL

Good, whatever the boys agreed. Do it. Good. Goodbye.

WOMAN

The boys agreed that the right thing for Frankie to do was to take you out.

BILL

Take me out? On the town? You are kidding.

WOMAN

Cancel you.

BILL

What are you talking about?

WOMAN

Kill you. Do you in. How do **you** say it?

BILL

Frankie sent you here to tell me that he was going to kill me?

WOMAN

Frankie wants you to know we're all very busy now, so it probably won't happen right away, but you're going to be done and Frankie wants you to know why.

BILL

You're threatening or Frankie's threatening to kill me?

WOMAN

Not 'threatening'. Threatening sounds like if this or that happens then Frankie might or might not. Too complicated. Frankie doesn't operate complicated. Frankie doesn't threaten. Frankie wants you to know why you're going to be take the big one.

BILL

Get the ... Get out of here. The world doesn't work like that. You call someone a name and they kill you?

WOMAN

You won't get off; the 'world' doesn't operate that way? You gave Frankie the Beep.

BILL

I'll call the police

WOMAN

What are they gonna do? If Frankie wants you, he'll get you.

BILL:

Who's Frankie anyway? I don't know him.

WOMAN

You don't. Frankie's not the world and doesn't care how it operates.

BILL

What are you, society's conscience?

WOMAN

It's not about conscience.

BILL

You're right, I'm wrong? Is that it?

WOMAN

It's not about that right and wrong. You called Frankie a 'fuckin' moron.

BILL

I know what you said I called him. I didn't know it was Frankie. I don't know Frankie.

WOMAN

And Frankie doesn't know you. If he did, he might like you. It's not personal. (Smiles.)

