

THE FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC-

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THE FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

This play was really a labor of love. I studied Latin in the university and have always been fascinated by Julius Caesar. He seemed so much more intelligent than his pompous contemporaries. Lately I had been thinking that the senators murdered him because Caesar said he was a god. I received an E mail from Thomas Svoboda that he wanted to organize a show in the Landhaushof in Graz. The place is one of my favorites and I love the white elegant neo-classical architecture. I thought perhaps Julius Caesar would work there. I had done location projects in Utrecht and Berlin, so I thought moving the audience would also work in Styria.

I was blessed with a very talented class who had many circus skills that I thought might be more useful in telling this story than exquisitely complicated psychology. The result is THE FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC. We worked low budget and used simple props (Thanks Dan) and costumes (thanks Doris). Andi got the musical numbers in shape, while Udo, Marlit and Ronja combined their circus skills for the gladiatorial fights. We played on Thursday evening, August 29 and the rest is history.

The Roman Republic lasted for centuries, the German and Austrian for not more than 15 years, the Italian, Greek and Spanish lasted even less. The devolution of democratic governments into fascist states has been one of the greatest tragedies of the last centuries. Let us hope with new awareness we can help the audience to stay awake to the ever present dangers of one man/party rule. Bellesconi is only one TV channel away.

I would like to dedicate this play to Thomas Svoboda and the brave students from Noricum who helped me put it up

The Cast of almost thousands

Caesar- Frank Sculte- Hermann

Brutus- Patrick Fleith

Cassius- Dan Gerberovich

Octavian- Udo Schimanovsky

Mark Anthony- Andreas Schmiedecker

Cleopatra- Nina Poelzl

Calpurnia-Doris Hecker

Charmian- Gerlinde Peterek

Octavia- Ronja Jenko

Tinitus- Marlit Schardt

Slave- Floris Gerber

1-GLADIATORS

Announcer- It is the 14th of March, 44 years B.C. We are in Rome where Gaius Julius Caesar has won the latest civil war. Caesar has declared himself dictator and pardoned his enemies in the Senate that fought against him. Caesar is famous for his clemency. To celebrate his great victory, the new dictator provides for the people of Rome gladiatorial games free, gratis and without charge.

FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC , ACT ONE, SCENE ONE

(We see a Roman tableau- Caesar, Calpurnia and Mark Anthony in one group, Brutus and Cassius in the other)

Caesar-Friends, Romans, countrymen, I have ended a Civil War I never wanted. Pompey and the senators started it and I had to finish it...

(Brutus and Cassius nod their heads "no," Calpurnia and anthony "yes")

I only crossed the Rubicon, because my enemies in the Senate were plotting my death by a show trial...

(Brutus and Cassius nod yes)

In spite of my great victories...I, Gaius Julius Caesar

(Calpurnia and Anthony bow. Brutus and Cassius show one another

how arrogant they find Caesar. Enter Artemadoris below, an elderly fortune teller)

Artemadoris- Caesar, beware of the Ides of March!

(Mark Anthony pulls back his bow)

Mark Anthony- Should I kill her, great Caesar?

Calpurnia- No Caesar, it is only Artemadoris. Like the Acropolis, she no longer has all her marbles. Spare her!

Caesar- Take her away!

(A Roman security agent pulls Artemadoris away)

Caesar- Let the games begin!

(Gladiatorial games. Caesar does his paper work with Anthony while Brutus and Cassius watch eagerly. One fighter is defeated and looks up to Caesar for mercy. Caesar is just about to give the poor gladiator the thumbs down when Calpurnia grabs his wrist)

Caesar- How now, Calpurnia?

Calpurnia- Caesar, mercy adorns a Roman better than a crown.

Caesar- Then let him live then, in this weak peeping time of peace.

(Caesar turns his thumbs up)

Calpurnia- Thanks, great Caesar.

Caesar- Let's to the Circus Maximus. Are you coming, Brutus and Cassius?

Brutus- Later, Great Caesar.

(Caesar and his entourage go off)

Cassius- Great Caesar doth bestride the narrow world like a colossus; and we petty men walk under his huge legs, and peep about to find ourselves dishonorable graves.

Brutus- Brutus had rather be a villager than repute himself a son of Rome

under these hard conditions as this time lays upon us.

Cassius-Men at some times are masters of their fates: the fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves

Brutus-Into what dangers would you lead me, Cassius?

2-CAESAR REJECTS THE CROWN

(Above we see from behind Anthony offering Caesar the crown which he rejects. Calpurnia is at her husband's side. A great rejoicing. Brutus and Cassius

rush to see the source of the commotion)

Brutus-What means this shouting?

(Below stand Cassius and Brutus watching the crowning in disgust)

Cassius- Now, in the name of all the gods at once, upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed, that he is grown so great? Age, thou art shamed! Rome, thou hast

lost a breed of noble bloods

Brutus-I do fear, the people choose Caesar for their king.

Cassius- Do you fear it? Then must mean I think you would not have it so.

Brutus- I would not, Cassius; yet I love him well.

Cassius-There was once a Brutus...

(A great rejoicing.)

My god, another shout!

Brutus-You mean my noble ancestor who drove out the proud Tarquin kings.

Cassius-Yea, that Brutus would have brooked the eternal devil to keep Rome without a king.

Brutus-That you love me, I am nothing jealous. What you would work me to, I have some aim. I have thought of this and these times.

Cassius- I am glad my weak words have struck but this much show of fire from Brutus.

Brutus-I will consider what you have to say, I will with patience hear and find time both meet to hear and answer such high things.

(The two senators exit)

3-OMENS IN THE NIGHT

Announcer-In Rome there have been strange portents and omens. Two Roman matrons meet in the middle of the night before the Ides of March in front of the Temple of Jupiter. THE FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, ACT ONE, SCENE TWO

(Enter two Roman matrons, Nymphomania, a beautiful young woman with much make-up and the somewhat older Climacteria)

Nymphomania-Ave, Climacteria!

Climacteria- Ave, Nymphomania, how now?

Nymphomania- Those new slaves are just impossible.

Climacteria- The Sicilians or the Africans?

Nymphomania-The whole batch. One nearly got me pregnant last month.

Climacteria-You better sell the whole lot of them and buy pigmies. That's what I do, and my husband never suspects a thing. You can always hide a pigmy. They are so cheap this time of year.

Nymphomania-But Climacteria, why so flushed and pale? Why are you so breathless?

Climacteria- Are you not moved when all the sway of the earth shakes like a thing unfirm?

Nymphomania-There are other things that shake me more. That handsome Spaniard, for instance.

(The other actors line up in back of the women. The actors mime trees shaking in the wind)

Climacteria- I have seen this night tempests when the scolding winds have rived the knotty trees.

Nymphomania- This night I was at an orgy with free mojitos during happy hour. It wasn't terribly exciting. The only knotty things I saw were the knees of the aged senators.

(The actors set down the groove of Michael Jackson's Thriller)

Climacteria- I saw a common slave - you know him by sight, lift up his left hand which did flame and burn like 20 torches joined.

(A cute slave on a leash comes forward and raises his arm and lights a cigarette lighter. Nymphomania notices nothing)

Nymphomania-The handsome Greek? Demetrios?

Climacteria- Indeed, the same. And this very morning the bird of night did sit till noonday upon the market place.

(An Actor playing the bird of night dances a la Michael Jackson around Climacteria)

Nymphomania-That's weird!

Climacteria- And weirder still, up in the capitol, I met a lion who glared at me and surly went by.

(A lion dances out a la Michael and scratches Climacteria's back. She purrs with pleasure)

Nymphomania-Those lions can be very surly.

Climacteria- Then the lion was followed by a heap of hundred women transformed with fear.

(Enter three weird zombie women who dance stiffly around

Climacteria)

Nymphomania- Perhaps the poor women were compelled to sleep with their own husbands. I'd be scared to death to sleep with my old man.

Climacteria- I believe these are portentious things.

(A musical actor gives Climacteria the music cue-1,2,3.. They all sing the text to "Thriller")

It is an omen!

Actors- Gaius- Dieus

Climacteria- These omens clearly illustrate, it's Caesar they'll assassinate!

Actors-It is an omen!-Gai-us-die-us

Climacteria-The senators will soon attack and stab poor Caesar in the back!

Actors-It is an omen!-Gai-us-die-us

Nymphomania-I don't believe a word you've said, it's in your mind, it's in your head!

Actors-Gai-us die-us

(The actors strike a final death pose and zombie on out. Both women are now frightened. Rain starts to fall on their heads)

Nymphomania-It is a strange disposed time

(Climacteria opens her umbrella. Thunder and lightning, if possible)

Climacteria- This disturbed sky is not good to walk in. Either there is civil strife in heaven or the world too saucy for the gods, incenses them to send destruction.

Nymphomania-What ever. Where is the best place to buy pigmies?

(The two scared women go off under the umbrella)

4-CALPURNIA'S NIGHTMARE

Announcer- Caesar's house on the Palatine Hill is bigger than any temple in Rome, but in one of the 24 bedrooms,

Calpurnia, his wife, is having frightful nightmares. THE FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, ACT ONE, SCENE THREE

(We see Caesar and Calpurnia in bed sleeping. Calpurnia is having a frightful nightmare. She wakes in terror)

Calpurnia- O help, they murder Caesar!

Caesar- Calpurnia

Calpurnia-O, help, they murder Caesar!

Caesar- Calpurnia.

(Caesar sneaks out of bed)

Calpurnia- O, help, they murder Caesar!

(Calpurnia wakes and finds Caesar gone. She runs to stop him)

Calpurnia-What mean you Caesar? Think you to walk forth? You shall not stir out of your house today.

Caesar- Caesar shall forth: the things that threatened me ne'er lookt but on my back; when they shall see the face of Caesar, they are vanished

Calpurnia- Caesar, I never stood on ceremonies, but now they frighten me.

Caesar- What can be avoided whose end is purposed by the mighty gods?

Calpurnia- When beggars die, there are no comets seen,

(They both look up into the heavens. Caesar sees nothing)

...the heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes

Caesar- Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant never taste death but once

Calpurnia- Alas, my lord, your wisdom is consumed in confidence

(Caesar takes Calpurnia's hand)

Caesar-It seems most strange that men should fear; seeing that death, a necessary end, will come when it will come.

Calpurnia-At least visit the Temple of Vesta first

5-THE TEMPLE OF VESTA

(We see the whole company in a circle around Vesta- the living Delia Smith or Nigella Lawson. They wear aprons and raise their hands to "the Great Domestic Goddess." They then pass a clap around to the rhythm of "Patty Cake" At first the rhythm is so slow that one can't make out the rime. As the tempo accelerates the audience should be able to recognize the well known nursery rime)

All- Pa- tee -cake, pa-tee-cake, Bay-kers-man, Bake -me- a- cake- as- quick-as- you-can

Pa-tit-and pit-tit-and-mark-it with-V

And- put - in- the- ov- ven- for- Vesta- and - me!

(The elder Super-Virgin stands over three young novices with oven gloves)

Super-Virgin- O my chaste ones, how are the omens today?

Virgin 1-O most virginal of all Vestals, the toast is burned!

Virgin 2- The butter's gone off!!

Virgin 3- The milk has turned sour!!!

Super-Virgin- These omens are most inauspicious!

(The girls moan, but coo when they see Caesar coming. Enter

*Caesar. They all flirt with him. The Super-Virgin
claps her hand and the girls come to order)*

Caesar- O Super Virgin, how are the omens today?

**Super Virgin- Very inauspicious, Great Caesar. if I were you, I would not
leave your house today**

*(The young vestals make a rhythmic "no, no" sign by shaking their
index finger back and forth. Caesar is about to
return to Calpurnia, when Cassius takes his arm. Calpurnia is
devastated. She waves one last time at her doomed husband, then runs weeping
to the*

*temple of Vesta. The young vestals try to console her. The
Super Virgin claps her hands. All women stop crying at once)*

Super Virgin- Roman Women never cry!

6-THE MURDER OF GAIUS CAESAR

Cassius- Great Caesar, I have come to accompany you to the Senate

*(Cassius and Caesar discuss plans for the new Corinth Canal as they
walk toward to Senate. Another soothsayer
confronts him)*

Soothsayer- O Caesar, beware!

Caesar- The Ides of March have already come...

(Caesar walks on)

Soothsayer-but not yet past.

*(Cassius elbows the old man to the wall and then joins Caesar.
Farther away we see a group of senators plotting)*

**Brutus-We all stand up against the spirit of Caesar; and in the spirit of men
there is no blood. O, that we could come by
Caesar's spirit and not dismember Caesar!**

**Senator 1- I think it not meet, Mark Anthony, so beloved of Caesar, should
outlive Caesar.**

Senator 2- Let Anthony and Caesar fall together.

Senator 3-Will not our course seem too bloody?

Senator 4- To cut the head off and then hack the limbs?

**Brutus- Let us be sacrificers not butchers. And for Mark Anthony, think not of him, for he can do no more than
Caesar's arm when Caesar's head is off.**

(Brutus gives the Senators a smiling mask to wear in front of Caesar)

Herald- Great Caesar comes!

(The masked senators run to their appointed places. Brutus stays behind brooding and pacing. Music.)

(Caesar greets each senator. The senator bows showing his smiling mask. The senator says "Thank you, Caesar for sparing my life." Caesar replies to each, "It was nothing." As Caesar goes on, the Senator rises up and shows his real hateful face and lifts his weapon. He then follows Caesar. Caesar turns once around and all the senators bow showing him their smiling face. He greets Brutus)

Caesar- Salve, Marcus Brutus.

Brutus- You dishonored my mother.

(Brutus raises his spoon against Caesar. The dictator turns around and sees the murderous senators)

Caesar-You too, Brutus?

(Music. All the senators attack him and cut him down. A cloth falls we see the shadows of Caesar's gruesome assassination. Caesar pulls the cloth around him and falls. the senators look up in hate. Brutus clasps the arm of Cassius. "The Liberators" go. Enter Mark Anthony stricken with shock and sadness. He stands over Caesar's dead body)

7-THE FUNERAL ORATION

**Mark Anthony- Friends, Romans and country men, lend me your ears;
I come to bury Caesar not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious;
If it were so it were a grievous fault;
And grievously hath Caesar answered it.**

Roman 1- Caesar was a tyrant!

Roman 2 - We are blest Rome is rid of him!

Roman 3- Peace! let us hear what Antony can say.

**Mark Anthony- Here, under the leave of Brutus and the rest ;
For Brutus is an honorable man,
So are they all honorable men**

Roman 1 - What does he say of Brutus?

Roman 2- That Brutus is an honorable man, just like the rest of them.

Roman 3-Peace! let us hear what Antony can say

**Mark Anthony-Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral
He was my friend, faithful and just to me
But Brutus says he was ambitious and Brutus is an
honorable man**

Roman 1- Long live Brutus!

Roman 3- Peace!

**Mark Anthony-Caesar hath brought many captives home to Rome
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill**

(Enter Mourners)

**Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?
When the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept
Ambition should be made of sterner stuff.**

(Enter the goddess Venus from above. She is weeping copiously)

Even above in heaven, the great goddess, Venus is weeping.

Venus-Yes, I too am weeping over my great-great-great-great- great-great grandson, Julius Gaius Caesar

(The mourners start to sing -Tears in Heaven- Eric Clapton. Venus weeps copiously)

Venus- My poor Julie loved Rome so much! Look at him now!

(Enter the young Octavian.)

Mark Anthony- Look here comes Caesar's adopted son, Octavian, to pay his last respects to his murdered father.

(He moves toward his father's dead body. This should play like the entrance of John-John Kennedy at the funeral of his father in 1962. The little boy looks down on his wounded father.)

Octavian-Poppa!

(Little Octavian weeps into the toga of Mark Antony. The mourners are convulsed with tears, then leave.)

Mark Anthony- What have you there, brave little boy?

Octavian- A paper with Poppa's seal. I found it under my father's bed. I think it is his last will and test...test...icle.

Mark Anthony-Testament!

Octavian- I can't read it because I only have first year of Latin in school, but if I could read it it, everyone of you would get down on his knees and kiss my dead father's wounds. He loved you all so much.

(Mark Anthony takes up the will of Julius Caesar)

Romans- The will, we will hear the will!

Mark Anthony- Have patience, gentle friends. I must not read it, it is not meet you know how Caesar loved you

Romans- The will, we will hear the will!

Mark Anthony- You are not wood, you are not stones, and being men, hearing the will, would inflame you. It would make you mad.

Romans- The will, we will hear the will!

Mark Anthony- Will you compel me to read you the will?

Romans- Yes!!!!

(Little Octavian tugs on Mark Antony's toga)

Octavian- Read it.

Mark Anthony- If you have tears ; prepare to shed them now.

Octavian- Go on.

Mark Anthony- You are ALL Caesar's heirs! 10 gold pieces for every Roman citizen!

(Venus showers golden coins down on the populace)

Octavian- I told you my father loved you.

Roman 1- O noble Caesar!

Roman 2- O most bloody sight!

Roman 3- We will be revenged!

**All Romans- Seek , burn, fire, slay!
Not one traitor gets away**

Mark Anthony- No, no!

**All Romans- Seek , burn, fire, slay!
Not one traitor gets away**

Mark Anthony- But they are honorable men!

**All Romans- Seek , burn, fire, slay!
Not one traitor gets away**

Mark Anthony-No violence, please!

(Mark Antony goes off protesting too much at the very idea of violence. Above Venus leads the war cry. Little Octavian leads on the cheering plebs

with his father's dead arm like a cheer leader)

**All Romans- Seek, burn, fire, slay!
not one traitor gets away**

**Seek, burn, fire, slay!
not one traitor gets away**

**Seek, burn, fire, slay!
not one traitor gets away**

**Death to Brutus!
Death to Cassius!**

8-THE TENT OF BRUTUS

Announcer- After Mark Anthony's masterful funeral oration and the generous spreading of Caesar's fortune, public opinion turns against the conspirators. Brutus, Cassius and the rest flee Rome and camp on the plains of Philippi in Western Greece. Here we see the two "liberators" in the tent of Brutus on the night before their last battle. THE FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, ACT TWO, SCENE ONE!

(We see Brutus and Cassius arguing in Brutus tent)

Brutus-No!

Cassius- Yes!

Brutus-No!

Cassius- Yes!

Brutus-No!

Cassius- Yes!

Brutus-No!

Cassius- Yes! Indeed you have wronged me! you have condemned senator Bellisconius for taking bribes. He is a close friend of mine!

Brutus-He was found guilty in a court of roman law. Let me tell you , Cassius you yourself are much condemned to have an itching palm.

Cassius-I an itching palm! you are Brutus that speaks this, or by the gods this speech would be your last.

Brutus-Remember March, the Ides of March: did not Great Julius bleed for justice sake?

(Enter a centurion with a map)

Centurion- Lord Brutus the latest military reconnaissance

(The centurion tries to hand the map to Brutus, but Cassius snatches it. He reads it eagerly)

Cassius-Thank you Centurion.

(Centurion goes and as Brutus pulls the map in his own direction)

Brutus-Young Octavian and Mark anthonycome down upon us with mighty power toward Phippi.

Cassius-Tis better that the enemy seek us: so shall he waste his means, weary his soldiers, whilst we lying still,are full of rest, defense and nibleness

Brutus- Our cause is ripe.

Cassius- Our legions are brim-full

Brutus- There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune

Cassius-Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries.

Brutus- The hour grows late, dear friend. The tapers are burned down.

Cassius- Good night, dear Brutus

Brutus-Sleep well, Cassius

(Cassius goes out and Tinitus bows before him)

Tinitus-My lord Cassius.

(Tinitus enters the tent with his recorder)

Brutus- What is your name, boy?

Tinitus- Tinitus, sir

Brutus- Well my good Tinitus, bear with me, I am much forgetful. Canst thou hold thy heavy eyelids for a while and touch thy instrument a strain or two?

Tinitus- Ay, my lord, an't please you.

Brutus- It does boy. Play.

(Tinitus starts to play BA, Ba Black Sheep on his recorder. The music is awful. Brutus needs a drink)

Brutus-This is a sleepy tune.

Tinitus- I have slept my lord, already.

(Tinitus falls asleep and we hear strange ghostly music. Enter Caesar's ghost)

Brutus- But Caesar, you are dead!

Caesar- Apparently not

Brutus-Art thou anything? Art thou some god, some angel or some devil

that makes my blood cold?

Caesar-I am thy evil spirit, Brutus!

Brutus-Why comest thou?

Caesar-To tell thee thou shall see me at Philippi

Brutus- Why, I will see thee at Philippi, then.

(Caesar's ghost goes off laughing)

Now I have taken heart thou vanishest. Boy, Tinitus, awake!

Tinitus- I can also play TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR

(Brutus grimaces as Tinitus proudly smiles)

9-THE BATTLE OF PHILIPPI

Announcer- And now ladies and gentlemen, the greatest land battle of the ancient world, the battle of Philippi. The senatorial legions of Brutus and Cassius face the seasoned soldiers of Mark Antony and young Octavian. THE FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, ACT THREE, SCENE ONE!

(We see a long line of spoons on a string held by Brutus and Pindarus)

Brutus- Fieldmarshal Cassius!

(Enter Cassius. He sternly inspects the liberators' troops, a long line of twittering spoons. He taps the spoons that move too much)

Cassius- A Roman soldier knows no fear, only honor. Stop trembling, you coward!

(A trumpet)

Pindarus-Look there, the troops of the young Caesar!

Cassius- Forwards, for the Liberators of Rome!

(Cassius takes the position of Pindarus. Brutus and Cassius push Octavian almost into the sea)

Pindarus- The troops of Caesar's son are almost driven into the sea!

Octavian- Crap, I was not born to die on Brutus sword!

Brutus-O, if thou wert the noblest of thy strain, young man, thou couldst not die more honorable.

Cassius- You peevish schoolboy!

Octavian- Don't call me boy!!! *(furious)*

I am the son of the god, THE god!

Cassius- Peevish boy!

(A trumpet. The legions of Anthony appear)

Octavian-Now Anthony, our hopes are answered.

Mark Antony- Forwards for Anthony and the People of Rome!

(Together Mark Antony and Octavian surround the troops of Brutus and Cassius)

Brutus-Yet, O, countrymen, hold up your heads!

Octavian- Avenge my Father!

(Brutus and Cassius are pushed back. There is a mess of flying spoons. many tangled spoons are lying on the ground.

Enter a soldier with ketchup. He squeezes it over the spoons and all groan in agony. Octavian smiling surveys the slaughter. For him revenge is sweet.)

Wounded Spoon- Please young Caesar, bury me according to Roman rites.

Octavian- That is a request for the vultures!

(The wounded spoon falls. Two wounded spoons rise)

Older Spoon- Octavian, I am old. Let me die, and spare my son

Younger Spoon- No, kill me and let my father live.

Octavian- Execute them both!

(Octavian dances merrily over the slaughtered spoons. Enter Cassius. Octavian retreats)

Cassius- My life has run its compass.

(We see a line of soldiers in back of Cassius with spoons before their eyes. They slowly move forward. They tap their spoons menacingly. They surround Cassius and stab him again and again. Out of the mass Brutus and Strato with a boiled egg, the eye of Cassius, on a spoon)

Strato- My lord Brutus, I know this is hard to swallow, but this is all that remains of the noble Cassius.

(Brutus picks up the boiled egg and looks sadly at it)

Brutus-For the last time I look on thee, ever watchful eye of the Republic

(Brutus puts the egg back on the spoon. Strato looks sadly at the egg and then decides to eat it)

(Music. Enter the Ghost of Caesar. Brutus quakes in fear. Strato is engrossed in his egg.)

Brutus- Oh Julius Caesar, thou art mighty yet!

Thy spirit walks abroad, and turns our swords in our own proper entrails

(Caesar gives Brutus a spoon. Brutus stabs himself. The ghost goes off laughing and Strato with a mouthful of egg says)

Strato- This was the noblest Roman of them all.

(Mark Anthony and Octavian stand in triumph over the body of Brutus)

10-MORNING IN ALEXANDRIA

Announcer- With the deaths of Brutus and Cassius, Mark Anthony and Octavian are the most powerful men in Rome. Mark Anthony goes to the East

(Exit Mark Antony)

while Octavian goes to Rome and has himself proclaimed son of the god, Julius Caesar.

(Octavian begins to trash his partner, Anthony. He speaks to the Romans)

Octavian- Alas, poor Anthony, daily doth he dally with the ever eager Queen of Strumpets, Cleopatra. She crowns him her new Dionysus on a golden throne. And every evening finds him drunken in his cups. To think this man was once a Tribune of the Roman People. He is totally under her thumb, or dare I say, "pussy whipped"? He has given his empire up to a whore. Alas, poor Antony!

(Exit Octavian)

Announcer-Meanwhile in Alexandria, Cleopatra, Queen of the Upper and Lower Nile dreams of her new Roman lover. THE FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, ACT FOUR, SCENE ONE

(Music. We see Cleopatra sleeping/standing on a bed held by two golden masked slaves. While she dreams, an Egyptian moon glides silently over her sleeping head. A golden sun rises and under it rises the handsome Mark Antony. He looks at his queen. She looks back at him. Burning glances hotter than the Egyptian sun)

Mark Antony- Last night you did desire it.

Cleopatra- Why not!

(Antony and Cleopatra embrace. The two lovers disappear under the cloth which now begins to waver and shake most erotically. Mark Antony rises in ecstasy)

Anthony- Right there, oh Egypt!

(Antony goes down and Cleopatra rises in extreme pleasure much like

in a Punch and Judy show)

Cleopatra- Oh, you Romans!

(She goes down. An orgasmic confetti explosion. The both lovers rise together.)

**Mark Anthony- Let Rome in Tiber melt and the wide arch of empire fall.
Here is my space!**

Cleopatra- Eternity is in our lips, and eyes...

Mark Anthony- I must visit Rome.

Cleopatra-But why?

Mark Anthony-Diplomatic business.

Cleopatra-That wife of yours. That frumpy Fulvia!

(She beats his chest. He kisses her. Tragic music.)

Mark Anthony-Fie, wrangling queen! I must go to Rome!

Cleopatra-Stay!

Mark Anthony-To Rome!

Cleopatra-Stay!

Mark Anthony-I must go to Rome!

**Our separation so abides, and flies, that thou , residing
here, go'st yet with me, And I, hence fleeing, here remain with thee**

(He leaves the bed)

Cleopatra-What ever that might means. Stay!

(Anthony heads for the harbor)

Mark Anthony- I shall write you every day!

(Cleopatra waves and cries until her Roman is gone. A tragic pause. Then she snaps her fingers)

Cleopatra-The next one!

(Up pops an eager sex slave)

Slave- Cleopatra!

Cleopatra-Call me Cleo..

(They disappear under the bed)

11-THE EGYPTIAN REVELS

Announcer- Without her lover Mark Anthony, Cleopatra can't sleep. She doesn't want to eat and suffers every day from migraines. She decides to visit a Nubian relationship therapist.

(The actors make a ship out of a ladder, poles and cloth)

"The barge she sat in, like a burnished throne, burned on the water, purple the sails,

(Enter Sail all purpley)

The poop was beaten golden.

(Enter two slaves carrying the Ladder)

The oars were silver

(Enter the Oarsmen)

and all so perfumed that even the winds were lovesick

(Enter a Handmaiden spraying perfume)."

Announcer-THE FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, ACT FOUR, SCENE TWO

(Enter Cleopatra)

Slaves-The Daughter of Ra!

Cleopatra- To Upper Egypt! *(Cleopatra boards her "golden" barge)*

Actor- Now ladies and gentlemen, I present for you my inner crocodile.

All- A crocodile! Eeeekkkk!

Cleopatra- To Lower Egypt.

(The ship changes direction)

Ahh, I see my Alexandria!

(The ship becomes a throne. Cleopatra mounts her throne and holds with crossed arms two soup ladles like the symbols of Upper and Lower Egypt. Her two ladies Iras and Charmian stand by the throne.)

Charmian, give me a drink of Baldrian.

Charmian- Why, my lady?

Cleopatra-That I might sleep out this great gap of time my Anthony is away.

Charmian and Iras- You think too much of him

Cleopatra-Oh Charmian, where is he now? Does he sit or does he stand?

(The handmaidens look down between their legs thinking of Antony's erection)

Does he walk? Or is he on his horse? O, happy the horse to bear the weight of Antony!

Charmian and Iras- You think too much of him.

Cleopatra-Give me music, music the moody food of us that trade in love.

(Enter jumping Youth MTV presenter)

Presenter- And now boys and girls, for the first time in Alexandria, the SCARABEUS BOYS!

(Enter the Chippendale like boy group, "The Scarabeus Boys." They

throw off their tee shirts)

Scarabeus Boy-Ready guys?

Scarabeus Boys-Sure!

(The Scarabeus boys dance a silly Egyptian erotic choreography. Cleopatra isn't impressed)

Cleopatra-Throw them to the crocodiles!

(The Scarabeus Boys run off in panic. We hear flute music. Enter a bird who flies before the queen)

Charmian and Iras- Airmail!

Cleopatra-Little bird do you come from Rome?

Bird- Tweet, tweet!

(The bird nods yes)

Cleopatra-Do you have a message from my Anthony?

Bird- Tweet, tweet!

(The bird nods yes)

Cleopatra-Give it to me!

(The bird gives Cleopatra a roll of toilet paper and flies off)

Thank you little bird!

(The Queen unrolls the toilet paper and reads it as scroll)

Let's see what my Anthony writes...Dearest Cleo I am well in Rome

(To her ladies)

My Tony is well! The weather in the eternal city is very hot for this time of the year. The Tiber really smells.

(To her ladies)

My poor Tony!

(She resumes reading)

For purely political reasons... I have decided it is in both of our best interests.... that I marry Octavia, the sister of Octavian...

(Cleopatra is stunned. She rolls back the scroll and re-reads silently. Her volcanic fury is mounting. Drums. The handmaidens tremble)

Anthony has married another. End the entertainments!

(The Queen descends her throne and storms off in rage. Her handmaidens follow in panic)

12- IN ROME

Announcer- Meanwhile in Rome, Anthony is glad to be home again. In the Forum he buys a new toga, he buries his wife, Fulvia, on the Appian Way, and puts 227 of his political enemies on the death list. Then he visits Octavian, the richest teenager in Rome. THE FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, ACT FOUR, SCENE THREE!

(We see Mark Anthony and Octavian)

Octavian- Welcome home in Rome, Mark Anthony!

Mark Anthony- Octavian!

Octavian- Please call me" son of THE god."

(The two embrace and look at the audience with disgust. They obviously detest each other. Mark Antony notices Octavian's golden skateboard)

Mark Anthony- What a skate board!

Octavian- Yes, it is solid gold. A gift from the Senate and People of Rome.

(Octavian proudly shows his new skate board)

Perfect for going down the seven hills!

Mark Anthony-Mirabile visu!

Octavian- What a smart toga! Antony! Now you look like a real Roman again!

Mark Anthony- It was only two hundred sesterces from Giorgius Armanius!

Octavian- There is someone very special I would like you to meet. My sister Octavia.

(Enter an incredibly shy young Roman woman, Octavia. She looks at Mark Antony and grimaces)

Octavia-Ahhhh

Octavian- I'll just leave you two lovebirds alone for a while.

(Octavius goes off winking at Antony. Mark Antony tries to make a few passes at Octavia, but the very nervous girl keeps running away. Enter Octavian smiling)

Octavian- I can feel the love in the air.

(He takes their hands and puts them together)

Octavian- As son of the god, I now pronounce you man and wife.

(Octavia gulps deeply. Antony smiles with male lust)

Octavian- You may now kiss the bride.

(Octavia shuts her eyes and thinks of Rome.)

Mark Anthony- if I 'm not back in three days, start the honeymoon without me!

(Mark Antony runs off. The poor girl notices that her new husband has just left her. Octavia is crying her eyes out)

Octavian- What is it, little sister?

Octavia-Brother, I got dumped!

(He holds his sister)

Octavian-This means war!

(Octavia smiles)

13- THE BATTLE OF ACTIUM

(The announcer enters behind a children's round inflatable swimming pool)

Announcer-And now In the middle of the Mediterranean Ocean, the greatest naval battle of the ancient world- the battle of Actium!

From the South east came the Egyptian fleet.

Egyptians-Tut-ahnk-amun, Tut-ahnk-amun, Neferteti, Neferteti!

(The Egyptians mime poling their ships forward. The actors run to the other side of the stage to play the Romans)

Announcer-And from the West sails the mighty Roman fleet.

Romans-Hic, Haec, Hoc, Hic Haec, Hoc-Hic, Haec, Hoc, Hic Haec, Hoc

(The Romans mime pulling their oars as the sail in, then run off to become Egyptians.)

Announcer- The Egyptians draw up their fleet in the dreaded half moon formation.

(The Egyptians set paper boats into the swimming pool and blow on the boats to Tut-ahnk-amun, Tut-ahnk-amun, Neferteti, Neferteti!)

Announcer-The Romans counter attack with the latest naval technology

(The Romans set their ships in the pool and to the chant of Hic Haec, Hoc they power their little ships with fones and little electric fans)

Announcer-The Romans know the best defense is the first offence. Then they make the first attack with smart grassinis.

(The Romans throw the grassinis down on the Egyptian fleet.)

Announcer-Meanwhile on the Egyptian fleet...

(We see the Egyptians cut down by the flying smart grassinis)

Announcer-This makes the Egyptian rather angry and they respond with neutron falafels

(The Egyptians flip neutron falafels from spoons on the unknowing Roman fleet)

Announcer-The Romans are nearly decimated..

(The Romans a banged on their heads with neutron falafels)

Announcer-The Romans decide to use their secret weapon-GREEK FIRE

(The Romans Sirtaki down together and dip flaming sticks down the Egyptian fleet which is soon aflame)

Announcer-The Romans are victorious

(The Romans make a victory pyramid)

Romans- Veni, Vidi Vici! Egyptland in Roman hands! Egyptland in Roman hands!

Roman Commander- Operation Egyptian Freedom is succesful !

Romans- Mission acomplished!

Announcer-And the Egyptian swim toward Alexandria and a watery grave.

(The defeated Egyptians swim away)

14-THE FALL OF ALEXANDRIA

Announcer- It is after the battle of Actium and Octavian's merciless Roman

**troops sack Alexandria. Anthony has lost his
kingdoms, he has lost his fleet. he has lost everything, but
his honor. THE FALL OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC,
THE LAST ACT!**

*(All the actors play the sacked city of Alexandria. Some run for
their lives others are cut down by arrows.*

*Ehenobarbus carries his mortally wounded comrade Praetorius
forward)*

Praetorius- Ehenobarbus, I shall soon be crossing the River Styx.

Ehenobarbus- No, my friend!

**Praetorius- Take my farmhouse in Sicily. Look after my wife, my children
and my ...goats...**

*(Praetorius dies. Enter Anthony in a Roman style skirt of ties
holding a spoon high)*

Mark Anthony- Forward for Anthony and Cleopatra! Forwards!

(He looks into the audience)

You cowards!

(He looks over to Ehenobarbus)

Mark Anthony-We have lost "omnia."

Ehenobarbus-"Omnia" and everything!

Mark Antony- A last service for your Anthony?

(Ehenobarbus clicks his heels and salutes his commander)

Ehenobarbus- With pleasure, my Captain!

(Anthony gives him a spoon and shows him his heart)

Mark Anthony-Here is my sword, here is my heart! i shall die like a Roman!

*(Antony walks nobly toward his "sword," but at the last minute
Ehenobarbus turns it on himself)*

Ehenobrbus- No, I would rather die myself!

(Ehenobarbus commits suicide and falls dead. Anthony raises his head and kisses him farewell)

Mark Anthony- Amicus meus, fare-thee- well-us.

(Enter Cleopatra and her handmaidens.)

Mark Anthony- I follow thy brave example and die like a Roman

(Anthony stabs himself. He falls. The queen and her ladies take her beloved Roman up in her arms for the last time)

Mark Anthony- I am dying, Egypt, dying. A last kiss?

Cleopatra-A last kiss?

Mark Anthony- Of many thousand kisses the poor last I lay upon thy lips

(They kiss and blood flows from Anthony's lips. He turns away from her and crawls toward the west)

I have to go to Rome!

(Anthony dies.)

Cleopatra- Noblest of men. Hast thou no care of me? Shall I abide in this dull world, which in thy absence is no better than a sty.

(A slight tear)

Give me my robes, put on my crown.

(The handmaidens prepare her golden funeral robes.)

I have immortal longings in me!

(Other handmaidens set a mummy painting up on the ladder, the monument. The handmaidens come to their queen)

Cleopatra-O, see my women, the crown of the earth doth melt!

(The handmaidens are frightened . The Roman army is a few miles away. They look at the queen. She snaps her fingers. They realize it is time to die. The handmaidens walk forward in a line and raise their spoons. They look up to the Egyptian skies)

The Handmaidens-Osiris!

(The handmaidens fall on the ground dead over the men. Cleopatra looks on this death's last feast. She sees her dear Charmian and then her beloved Antony)

Cleopatra-Oh sweet death, come also to me!

(A green venomous snake puppet appears from behind Cleopatra. A rattling sound. The serpent follows Cleopatra as she turns. They see each other then turn away. Then they see each other again. The snake nods and tries to hypnotize the queen. Finally he bites deep into her round and royal Ptolemaic breasts)

Antony I am coming!

(The last Queen of Egypt falls on the heap of body and the snake squirms triumphantly over the dead. Enter the victorious Octavian)

Octavian- What work is here? Is this well done?

(Iras gathers her last life energy to answer him. She raises herself up from the pile of dead bodies)

Iras- It is well done, and fitting for a princess descended of so many royal kings. You damned Roman imperialist!

(Iras falls dead.)

Octavian- She shall be buried by her Antony. High events as these strike those that makes them.

(A slave rolls a great ball out)

Slave- Thine, O Caesar, is the great world.

(Caesar jumps on the ball and rolls himself off to Rome.)

Octavian-To Rome!

(The audience shouts "Ave Caesar" as the lights below fall. From above we see Julius Caesar sadly nodding his head" no. "Then the Great Dictator laughs and all lights out.)

THE END

Amsterdam, August ,2009