



The Minutes

by Tracy Letts

SAMUEL FRENCH

The world premiere of *THE MINUTES* was produced and presented at Steppenwolf Theatre Company (Anna D. Shapiro, Artistic Director; David Schmitz, Executive Director) in Chicago, Illinois, on November 9, 2017. The performance was directed by Anna D. Shapiro, with scenic design by David Zinn, costume design by Ana Kuzmanic, lighting design by Brian MacDevitt, and sound design and original music by Andre Pluess. The stage manager was Christine D. Freeburg. The cast was as follows:

MR. PEELCliff Chamberlain
MAYOR SUPERBA William Petersen
MS. JOHNSON Brittany Burch
MR. BLAKEJames Vincent Meredith
MR. BREEDING Kevin Anderson
MR. HANRATTY Danny McCarthy
MR. ASSALONE Jeff Still
MS. INNES Penny Slusher
MS. MATZSally Murphy
MR. OLDFIELDFrancis Guinan
MR. CARP Ian Barford

CHARACTERS

MR. PEEL
MAYOR SUPERBA
MS. JOHNSON
MR. BLAKE
MR. BREEDING
MR. HANRATTY
MR. ASSALONE
MS. INNES
MS. MATZ
MR. OLDFIELD
MR. CARP

Note: Innes and Oldfield should be older than the others.

SETTING

A city council meeting room

BLAKE. Tell me about it.

HANRATTY. It's been raining for two weeks.

BLAKE. I live here.

HANRATTY. My condolences.

PEEL. Thank you.

HANRATTY. You feeling all right? Aside from the obvious.

PEEL. I feel fine.

HANRATTY. You look peaked. (*"Peaked" pronounced with one syllable.*)

PEEL. I'm not sure you're saying that right.

HANRATTY. Ragged. (*"Ragged" pronounced with one syllable.*)

PEEL. No, I feel well. Yourself?

HANRATTY. Better than usual actually. Flush with positive ions.

BLAKE. You *do* look well.

HANRATTY. Thank you.

BLAKE. Very healthy.

HANRATTY. Thank you.

BLAKE. You eat nuts.

HANRATTY. Sorry?

BLAKE. You must eat nuts. They're the reason you look oily. Well-oiled.

HANRATTY. Okay.

BLAKE. Nuts have a lot of essential oils.

HANRATTY. Yes, I eat nuts.

PEEL. Listen, what is the story with Mr. Carp?

BLAKE. Peel's only now learning about Carp.

HANRATTY. Shame about Carp.

PEEL. Is it?

HANRATTY. Yes. *I* think so. A man down.

PEEL. Down *how*?

BLAKE. A bad man down is no tragedy.

PEEL. Mr. Carp isn't a bad man.

BLAKE. I didn't say he was.

HANRATTY. And I didn't say it was a tragedy. I said it was a shame.

PEEL. I'd like to know what happened, exactly –

HANRATTY. Hey, Peel, the accessible fountain is on the docket tonight.

PEEL. I told you I'd support that.

HANRATTY. Right, but is it half-hearted support? Is your attitude casual? I'd like to know I can count on you. I know it's not your bill. But it's a cause you can believe in.

PEEL. Yes, I believe in it. I believe in inclusion.

HANRATTY. Inclusion, right, I think it's important that we reach out to everybody.

PEEL. Everybody.

HANRATTY. I mean, the unrepresented.

BLAKE. No one's representing them.

HANRATTY. I still think we need to reach out to them, even if we don't have any of them on our board.

BLAKE. Because his sister is handicapped.

HANRATTY. My God, Blake, are you behind on the nomenclature. "Handicapped" went out with sodomy laws.

BLAKE. Don't we still have sodomy laws?

HANRATTY. Hoop skirts.

(INNES enters from outside.)

BLAKE. I know, I know, the correct term is –

BLAKE.

“Impaired.”

HANRATTY.

“Disabled.”

BLAKE. “Impaired.”

HANRATTY. “Disabled.”

BLAKE. I don’t think so, Harry.

HANRATTY. No, I’m certain about this. We reviewed the semantics.

BLAKE. Who’s we? What kind of review?

HANRATTY. My guys. The accessible fountain men. We did a study.

PEEL. You have accessible fountain men?

HANRATTY. You can’t get anything done on your own.

BLAKE. You did a study on the nomenclature?

HANRATTY. On the semantics.

BLAKE. What’s the difference?

HANRATTY. Impairment is the source of disability.

BLAKE. No, what’s the difference between semantics and nomenclature?

HANRATTY. They’re different words. Look, Peel, I’m not asking you to wave a flag but any support you can give on behalf of the bill would be greatly appreciated. And your vote of course. Greatly appreciated.

PEEL. You have my support but I really want to get the story on Mr. Carp –

HANRATTY. What about you, Blake?

BLAKE. It all depends, doesn’t it?

HANRATTY. Does it?

BLAKE. Would you consider my support a favor?

HANRATTY. Yes, it would be a favor. I would consider that a favor.

BLAKE. A favor to be repaid.

HANRATTY. Oh, I see, so you’ll support my bill if I support Lincoln Smackdown.

BLAKE. If you vote for Lincoln Smackdown, I will blow my hooter in support of your handicap bill.

HANRATTY. Disabled.

BLAKE. Infirm.

HANRATTY. What?

BLAKE. Sorry. “Deformity.”

HANRATTY. No.

BLAKE. Wasn’t that it? No! Infirmity?

HANRATTY. Impairment.

BLAKE. Now that doesn’t sound right.

HANRATTY. Lincoln Smackdown is a ludicrous idea.

BLAKE. That’s what they said about Social Security.

HANRATTY. You can’t compare Social Security to Lincoln Smackdown.

(ASSALONE approaches.)

ASSALONE. Peel.

PEEL. Hello, Mr. Assalone.

ASSALONE. Sorry about your mom.

PEEL. Thank you.