

The Knight of the Burning Pestle

Concept by Marcus Chapman

Cast: 7 actors

I don't plan on assigning any of these roles specific genders actor wise, I will say that Citizen, Ralph, and Tim, regardless of the actor's gender will be portrayed as men.

PROLOGUE - The leader of the group. Kinda dumb but needs people to KNOW that they are in charge.

CITIZEN - A common professor, outspoken and obnoxious know-it-all. Making up for the fact that he doesn't "wear the pants" in his relationship.

WIFE - A flirtatious, dramatic, and controlling woman who is far smarter than anyone gives her credit for.

RALPH - Pansexual icon. Probably sleeping with Wife, definitely WANTS to sleep with Tim.

TIM - A member of the original play who becomes Ralph's right hand by default. The sexual tension between the two is outrageous.

DAMSEL - A cast member dressed in everyday modern clothes that gets "pulled into the play" and physically manipulated

BARBAROSSA - A member of the original play, who pretends to be the giant Barbarossa. A furious and

Setting: A Surrealist Allendale, Mi

Key elements of the show:

1. Most important: **Queer Absurdism.**

- a. Because there are no rules when it comes to surrealism, other than break the rules of reality, and this script is clearly queer coded by the editor, I am leaning into this and instead of exploiting it for humor, like the writing may lend itself to, I plan to utilize it as a signature and positive feature to the plot.
- b. Examples: Parentheses are added action by me
 - i. CITIZEN: (referencing Tim helping Ralph with his armor) Peace, fool! **let Ralph alone**
 - ii. RALPH:... I will be the said knight. **Tim shall be my trusty squire** and I will be called the Knight of the Burning Pestle. Tim!
TIM: Anon.
RALPH: **My beloved squire**, I charge you that from henceforth you never call me by any other name but "the right courteous and valiant Knight of the Burning Pestle." **My beloved squire Tim**, stand out

- iii. RALPH: Come, squire; the sun grows towards his set And **we have many more adventures yet.** (they embrace)
CITIZEN: I do not like this. (breaking them apart) Peace, boys!
- iv. TIM: I go, **brave knight.**

2. Second Element: **Audience Interaction**

- a. This show already contains metatheatres; there is no doubt that it requires a decent amount of audience interaction. However, I'm adding in a staged audience interaction with a cast member planted in normal clothes that will be reading off note cards.
- b. Examples: Parentheses are added action by me
 - i. CITIZEN: You, let my wife and I have a couple of stools and then begin; and let the man do rare things. (**They steal two seats in the front row**)
 - ii. TIM: Right courteous and valiant Knight of the Burning Pestle, here is a distressed damsel (**grabs DAMSEL from audience**)
 - iii. WIFE: Sit you merry all, gentlemen; I'm bold to sit amongst you for my ease (**Kicks out two new people**)

3. Third and final element: **Farcical Fight Choreography**

- a. This show requires a fantastic amount of playful fight choreography that needs to be absolutely ridiculous. So ridiculous that people can't help but get into it and laugh. So as a general rule, none of the weapons will be prop weapons but things masquerading as such, as though the group of actors just threw them together with what they had.
- b. Examples: Parentheses are added action by me
 - i. *They fight.* (**BARBAROSSA blows up a skinny balloon sword**)
 - ii. RALPH: I give thee mercy; but yet shalt thou swear Upon my Burning Pestle, to perform Thy promise utterèd.
BARBAROSSA: I swear and kiss.
Kisses the Pestle. (**Ralph's broomstick, between his legs, grows like an erection**)