

THE LAST YIPPY
a play

Characters The Yippy.
 Ashford Cann, President of Wintergreen College
 Berry Beery, Academic V.P.
 J. Shodown, Executive V.P.
 Narrator

NARRATOR

THERE IS A FILM, DERIVED FROM A BOOK, BY THE NAME OF "ISHI IN TWO WORLDS." IT IS THE STORY OF THE LAST YAQUI INDIAN, WHO, AFTER BEING DISCOVERED IN THE FOOTHILLS OF CALIFORNIA, SPENT THE REMAINDER OF HIS LIFE IN THE MUSEUM ON THE BERKELEY CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. ANY RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN THAT MOVIE AND THIS PLAY IS HIGHLY PROBABLE, EXCEPT THAT THE FILM WAS A SAD COMMENTARY ON INHUMANITY TOWARD INDIANS, AND THIS PLAY, WELL, WAIT AND SEE.

(piano plays theme from the Yippy)

THE YEAR IS 2020. IN THE LUMPY HILLS OF WESTERN OLYMPIA, A SMALL CREEK FLOWS SERENELY TOWARD THE SOUND. HERE, WHERE THE STARLING FLIES UNAFRAID AND THE DEER WALKS IN MUDDY MAJESTY, WE FIND THE LAST OF THE YIPPIES, AN UNUSUAL TRIBE ONCE RAMPANT, NOW STAGNANT. THEY WERE ALSO KNOWN AS STUDENTUS RIOTUS, THE REVOLTING STUDENTS. AS WE GAZE UPON THE GREEN BEAUTY SURROUNDING THE WINTERGREEN UNIVERSITY, WE SEE A SMALL GROUP GATHERED AROUND AN INERT FORM. THE GROUP IS COMPOSED OF THREE OF THE AUGUST ADMINISTRATORS OF THE UNIVERSITY. HERE, LOOKING DOWN AT THE HAIRY, RECUMBENT FIGURE, STAND THE PRESIDENT, DR. ASHFORD CANN, THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, DR. SHODOWN, AND THE PROVOST, DR BEERY. THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS:

CANN

IT'S THE LAST, SHO, THE LAST YIPPY. WHERE WILL WE EVER FIND MORE. THEY ARE GONE, GONE FOREVER, AND THIS POOR HAIRY RECUMBENT FIGURE, FLUSHED FROM THE RILLS OF OUR SERENE STREAM, HAS STUMBLERD HERE TO DIE.

SHODOWN

YES, PRESIDENT CANN. ONCE A LARGE TRIBE OF YIPPIES FLOURISHED HERE, AND, ACCORDING TO HOYLE IN HIS BOOK ON "BRIDGE PLAYING AMONG AMORPHOUS GROUPS", WERE NOURISHED BY THE KINDLY WESTERN OLYMPIA SOCIETY. THEY WERE ALLOWED TO SCROUNGE AROUND IN THE GARBAGE AND PICK UP A SMATTERING OF FOOD AND EDUCATION ON THE FRINGES OF UNIVERSITY LIFE, WHERE....

BEERY

WHERE THEY VANISHED FROM EXISTENCE. PERSECUTED, REVILED, THEY FLED TO THE RILLS OF OUR SERENE STREAM AND SLOWLY DIED OFF. HERE WE CAN SEE THE TRUE MEANING OF THE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST. WE SURVIVED, THE YIPPIES DIDN'T.

CANN

BUT, DOES IT MEAN THAT WE ARE REALLY THE MORE FIT...?

SHODOWN

TRUE... WHAT IS THE MEANING OF IT ALL?... AS I SEE IT, THERE ARE THREE CONCLUSIONS TO BE DRAWN: ONE: THE YIPPY, PITIABLE CREATURE, WAS STAMPED OUT THROUGH OVERINDULGENCE. HE HAS ONLY HIMSELF TO BLAME FOR NOT COMING TO TERMS WITH HIS ENVIRONMENT. TWO: I'VE FORGOTTEN NUMBER TWO, BUT IT WAS GOOD. THREE: THE ENVIRONMENT ITSELF IS TO BLAME FOR NOT COMING TO TERMS WITH THE YIPPY, AS OBIDIAH QUICKSAND SAID IN THE "WRECK OF THE EDUCATIVE PROCESS."

BEERY

WE ARE NOT TO BLAME. WE NEVER CALLED THE POLICE EVEN UNDER THE SEVEREST PROVOCATION. EVEN WHEN THEY WERE BLOWING UP THE CLOCK TOWER. WE REMEMBERED THAT THE CAMPUS POLICE HAD SAID, "IF YOU CALL US IN, WE ALWAYS LOSE. OF COURSE, THAT WAS IN THE DAYS WHEN THE BUDGET WAS SO SMALL WE COULD ONLY AFFORD MIDGETS,

CANN

THERE, THERE, DR. BEERY. OF COURSE WE ARE NOT TO BLAME. SOCIETY IS TO BLAME. THEY ARE TO BLAME FOR BUILDING AN INSTITUTION IN THE WILDS OF WESTERN OLYMPIA WHERE ONLY THE HARDIEST CAN SURVIVE.

SHODOWN

LOOK! LOOK! HE STIRS!

NARRATOR

AND THE YIPPY DID STIR. HE YAWNED, GAPPED, SCRATCHED, ROLLED OVER AND SAT UP.

YIPPY

ILLO BUGS.

CANN

I BEG YOUR PARDON.

YIPPY

ILLO BUGS. GOT ER FAG.

CANN

WHAT DID IT SAY? WHAT DID IT SAY?

SHODOWN

I THINK IT IS LATE LSD, OR PERHAPS MIDDLE HIP TALK. WHAT DO YOU SAY, DR. BEERY.

BEERY

IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE EARLY POT TALK. HERE, I HAVE MY DICTIONARY. ILLO, ILLO.... BUGS. YES, I'VE GOT IT! IT MEANS..... HELLO, THERE.

YIPPY

GOT ER FAG?

BEERY

AND GOT ER FAG MEANS, ... HOLD IT! YES... DO YOU HAVE A SMOKE? YES, I DO. HERE YOU ARE OLD YIPPY.

YIPPY

IRN NO DUT. REEFER.

BEERY

LET ME SEE... THAT MEANS.... IT'S NO GOOD. HE WANTS A MARIJUANA CIGARETTE.

SHODOWN

LET'S TAKE HIM TO THE MUSEUM. HE CAN SHOW US HIS NATIVE ART. PERHAPS WE CAN RECAPTURE THE GOLDEN DAYS WHEN WINTERGREEN WAS YOUNG.

CANN

EXCELLENT. AND PERHAPS HE CAN TELL US WHERE WE WENT WRONG AT WINTERGREEN.

SHODOWN

BUT WE JUST CAN'T CALL HIM RECUMBENT FIGURE, AS THE NARRATOR DID. AND I WOULD RATHER CALL HIM SOMETHING OTHER THAN HIS TRIBAL NAME. HE MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF A NAME. YOU SPEAK THE LANGUAGE, BEERY, YOU ASK HIM.

BEERY

THIS TRIBE NEVER WANTED THEIR REAL NAMES KNOWN. THEY WOULD NOT EVEN REVEAL IT AMONG THEMSELVES. THERE WAS ALWAYS THE DANGER OF A POLICE SPY, OR AN FBI AGENT AMONG THEM.

CANN

WHAT SHALL WE CALL HIM? WHAT SHALL WE CALL HIM?

SHODOWN

I KNOW. LET'S CALL HIM ICKI! YOU, ICKI!

YIPPY

YOU, ICKI.

SHODOWN

NO, NOT ME. YOU, YOU'RE ICKI. THE TYPICAL YIPPY MIND.

NARRATOR

SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, ICKI IS INSTALLED IN WINTERGREEN UNIVERSITY'S MUSEUM AND SWAPPE SHOPPE. HE IS KEPT BUSY TURNING OUT BEADS, ANTIWAR SYMBOLS, AND OTHER ARTIFACTS FOR THE CURIOUS TOURIST TRADE. HE HAS LEARNED ENOUGH OF THE COMMON LANGUAGE TO BE ABLE TO TALK WITH THE ADMINISTRATORS. I HEAR HIM SINGING A TRANSLATION OF HIS SAD NATIVE CHANT NOW.

YIPPY

I'M A SCARED AND LONESOME YIPPY
NEEDIN' LOVE AND TENDER CARE,
BUT IT SEEMS THAT ALL AVOID ME
WHICH TO ME AIN'T VERY FAIR.

NOW I'VE COME TO THIS MUSEUM
MAKING SIGNS THROUGHOUT THE DAY,
BUT THERE AIN'T NO ONE TO SEE 'UM
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE ON DISPLAY.

I DO MY WORK AND I'M VERY ORDERLY,
KEEPING TO MUSEUM RULES,
BUT ALL I GET TO SEE IS MOTHERS WITH THEIR KIDS,
AND CHILDREN FROM THE NEARBY SCHOOLS.

SO I'LL MAKE MY SIGNS AND SELL 'EM
TO THE STUDENTS WHO PASS BY,
IF THEY ASK ME THEN I'LL TELL THEM
WHAT THE LETTERS MEAN AND WHY.

I'M A SAD AND LONESOME YIPPY,
NEEDING LOVE AND TENDER CARE,
BUT IT SEEMS THAT ALL AVOID ME
WHICH TO ME AIN'T VERY FAIR.

CANN

SUCH A SAD NATIVE CHANT. ICKI, WHAT WAS IT LIKE
OUT THERE IN THE BUSH!

ICKI

IT WAS GREAT, DOC. BERRIES, SALMON IN SEASON, CAMAS
ROOTS, WILD POT, SUCCULENT NEW FERNS, AND NO EDUCATION
TO WORRY ABOUT. THE ONLY THING WE MISSED WERE THE
SIT INS AND THE PROTEST MARCHES. WE MADE LITTLE BOWS
AND ARROWS, BUT COULDN'T HIT ANYTHING WITH THEM. SO FOR
FRESH MEAT, WE MAINLY SUBSISTED ON ANTS, SNAILS AND
DELICIOUS LITTLE SLUGS.

SHODOWN

UGH!

ICKI

THEY WERE REALLY QUITE TASTY, ONCE YOU GOT USED TO THEM.

CANN

WHY DID YOU DESERT SCHOOL FOR THE WILDS? WHAT WENT WRONG?

ICKI

IT ALL STARTED BACK WHEN YOU WERE PLANNING THE COLLEGE. YOU SET UP AN ORGANIZATION CHART. FROM THEN ON THE EDUCATIVE PROCESS WAS DOOMED.

SHODOWN

BUT A COLLEGE MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF ORGANIZATION JUST TO CARRY ON THE JANITORIAL DUTIES OF CLEANING UP AFTER THE STUDENTS.

ICKI

SOCRATES HAD NO ORGANIZATION, AND HIS STUDENTS CLEANED UP AFTER THEMSELVES. YOU DROVE US OUT BY PREACHING DIVERSITY, BUT PRACTICING CONFORMITY. WHAT KIND OF STUDENTS DO YOU HAVE HERE NOW?

SHODOWN

SHEEP. CALM, DULL SHEEP. STUDY, STUDY, STUDY, COOPERATE, NEVER ANY EXCITEMENT... WELL BALANCED... ANTICIPATE ALL PROBLEMS... ANALYZE AND SOLVE THEM.

BEERY

YES. WE HAVE CLEANED UP POLLUTION, POPULATION, PUGNACITY, AND PUERILE BEHAVIOR. EVERYONE ACTS AS THEY SHOULD. EVERYONE IS KIND, THOUGHTFULL, GENEROUS, BRAVE, CLEAN, REVERENT, AND DULL.

ICKI

AND I'M THE LAST OF THE REBELS?

SHODOWN

YES. YOUR KIND HAS DISAPPEARED.

ICKI

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO CARRY A SIGN, JUST FOR OLD TIMES SAKE?

CANN

YES. THERE HASN'T BEEN A GOOD PROFANE FOUR LETTER WORD

USED HERE IN TWENTY FIVE YEARS. I DOUBT IF ANY OF OUR STUDENTS TODAY WOULD RECOGNIZE ONE.

ICKI

I'LL DO MY BEST, BUT I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM IT SO LONG.

NARRATOR

AND ICKI, TRUE TO HIS TRIBE, FILLED THE MUSEUM WITH FOUR LETTER WORDS. SCHOOL CHILDREN CAME, MARVELLED AND LEARNED. THE ADMINISTRATORS GREW OLDER, GRACEFULLY. ICKI SURVIVED FOR TEN YEARS, THEN DIED OF A SURFEIT OF GREASY DONUTS PURCHASED BY THE PRESIDENT, WHO HAD WON A POOL ON THE LOW BID FOR THE NEW FOOTBALL STADIUM. NOW WE MEET THE SILVER THATCHED ADMINISTRATORS MOURNING ICKI'S DEATH. THEY ARE IN THE PRESIDENTS OFFICE OVERLOOKING THE COLLEGE PLAZA.

SHODOWN

I TOLD YOU THAT ICKI SHOULDN'T EAT DONUTS.

CANN

I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT HE WOULD EAT SO MANY.

BEERY

THE PLACE WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT HIM.

SHODOWN

NO, HE ADDED A CERTAIN TONE, AND LOTS OF FOUR LETTER WORDS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT.

CANN

I REALLY ENJOYED HIS CHANTS. REMEMBER THE ONE THAT WENT PI..I..I.....I..I..I..II...II...I..G, PIGS.

BEERY

AS I LOOK OUT UPON OUR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AND THINK WHAT WE, TOGETHER, HAVE DONE TO GIVE EDUCATION TO WESTERN OLYMPIA... I COULD CRY. BUT, WHAT'S THAT? THERE'S A CROWD OF STUDENTS HEADING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. THEY HAVE SIGNS!

ALL

LET ME SEE! LET ME SEE! QUIT CROWDING!

CANN

I SEE A SIGN THAT SAYS "DOWN WITH OUR HALF-MAST
PRESIDENT"

SHODOWN

I SEE ONE THAT SAYS " UP SHODOWN"

BEERY

AND I SEE ONE THAT SAYS "THE PROVOST IS A BIRD
WATCHER"

CANN

LOOK! HERE COME THE CAMPUS POLICE
ISN'T IT EXCITING. I WONDER WHAT HAS
GOTTEN INTO THE STUDENTS. IT'S LIKE OLD TIMES.

SHODOWN

GENTLEMEN, I HAVE THE ANSWER. REMEMBER ALL THE
CHILDREN WHO CAME TO THE MUSEUM TO SEE THE ARTIFACTS
AND SIGNS. THE ONES THAT ICKI MADE.

BEERY

I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. THE CHILDREN HAVE GROWN UP. THEY
KNOW THE WORDS. THEY ARE NOW IN COLLEGE. THEY ARE THE
NEW BEARERS OF ICKI'S MESSAGE.

CANN

YES, FRIENDS, WE HAVE COME FULL CYCLE. WE CAN RETIRE
SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ICKI'S LEGACY TO THE
FUTURE WILL BE CARRIED ON.

NARRATOR

AND SO DISCRIMINATION, DISSENSION, DISRUPTION, DISTURBANCE,
GREED, LUST AND ALL THE MORE DESIRABLE HUMAN TRAITS RETURNED
TO WESTERN OLUMPIA TO FOREVER ENSHRINE THE MEMORY OF ICKI,
TRULY A CHILD OF TWO WORLDS. AND NOW, IN DEDICATION TO
ICKI, LET US SING THE WINTERGREEN ALMA MATER.

OMNIA EXSTARES,
OMNIA EXSTARES,
ALMA MATER, WINTERGREEN
OMNIA EXSTARES.