

PLAY #17 O TIMELESS NIGHT

by

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CHARACTERS

THE GENERATOR	A loud piece of machinery.
JOHN DOE	A farmer.
BOBBY DOE	His brother. Also a farmer.
MOTHER NATURE	Multifaceted being, a female bodied form, as well as the sights and sounds of nature as they appear.

O TIMELESS NIGHT

(At Rise: Late in the day at the Doe Family Farm. As the action progresses, the darkness of night settles in. Center stage, THE GENERATOR, a large piece of machinery, is running loudly. A bright light also emanates from it. JOHN DOE enters. He wanders around THE GENERATOR, flicking switches, trying to find a way to shut it down. After a minute, BOBBY DOE enters. They both shout at each other to be heard.)

BOBBY

Shut it down, John! We're done for the day!

JOHN

What?!!

BOBBY

I said shut it down!

JOHN

I'm trying to!

BOBBY

Did you turn the switch?

JOHN

I turned the switch.

BOBBY

Down is off!

JOHN

What?

BOBBY

DOWN! Down is OFF!

JOHN

I know!

(Pause. They look at each other, shrugging. THE GENERATOR gets louder. They plug their ears. JOHN hauls out and kicks THE GENERATOR. It stops.)

Pause. Silence. Crickets. Tree frogs.
JOHN and BOBBY are frozen.)

You hear that, Bobby?

(BOBBY is staring at the growing starry
sky behind THE GENERATOR.)

BOBBY

Hear what?

JOHN

Everything...

(The brilliance of the night sky
reaches a heightened pitch. Pause. THE
GENERATOR comes on. Shuts off. Comes
on. Shuts off. Comes on. JOHN kicks it
again. It stops. Silence. Crickets.
Tree frogs. The sky begins to flicker
green and grows into the green flowing
veils of the Northern Lights. Beneath
the northern lights, in front of the
veils, appears MOTHER NATURE, naked and
serene.)

BOBBY

Are you seeing what I'm seeing?

JOHN

I think so.

BOBBY

Who is that?

JOHN

I don't think I know her.

BOBBY

I'm pretty sure I've never seen her before.

(MOTHER NATURE begins to fade with the
sound of a whippoorwill. Pause. THE
GENERATOR comes back on, blaring its
lights. BOBBY hauls out and starts
kicking the generator.)

Mother! Fucking! Piece of shit! Goddam machine!

(BOBBY hauls out for one last kick. THE
GENERATOR dies with one final sigh.
Hiss. Silence. Crickets. Tree frogs.
BOBBY and JOHN are both facing the

brilliant sky. Silence.)

JOHN

I think you broke the machine, Bobby.

BOBBY

I know I did, John.

JOHN

You want me to fix it?

BOBBY

I don't think so. No. Definitely no.

(Birds start to sing as dawn sets in.)

LIGHTS FADE

END OF PLAY