

clown

(bare stage. circus music can be heard throughout the play)

(CLOWN comes on stage with whiteface, red nose, multicoloured rainbow wig, baggy suit, horn,-the whole clown get up)

CLOWN: (in a narrator's voice. throughout the play CLOWN will pantomime the words he is saying in a voice that is wholly disconnected with his actions.) At first he made them laugh. With his floppy shoes, big red nose, and his battered, old horn. (honks horn) He made them laugh, he made their children laugh; everyone was happy in spite of their miseries.

(does a clown routine. maybe make a twist balloon dog or something like that)

And then he began to tell them of their miseries and their false gods. When he first began to speak, they realized that he was speaking the truth about their lives, and that that truth was discomforting. They stopped bringing their children to see him, and then even they stopped coming. He wasn't funny anymore.

When no one was listening, he spoke the greatest truth of all.

He said it so loud that they had no choice but to listen. And then they became angry. They asked him to be quiet, to go back to making people happy.

When he refused and only spoke louder, they tried to put him where they thought he couldn't be heard.

(two policemen come and drag CLOWN offstage)

CLOWN: (from offstage.) When jail could not stifle his voice, they decided to make an example of him.

(CLOWN is kicked back on stage by the policemen. He is struggling to carry a huge cross. A plainclothes person who is obviously in charge of the policemen strolls on stage and watches the CLOWN while the policemen erect the cross. When the cross is erect, they tie him up to it.)

CLOWN: (as he says these words, the policemen perform the actions.) They gave him a crown of thorns, and they mocked him for his truths. When he did not react, they took their knives and cut open his forehead, letting the blood run down his whiteface.

(It is imperative to the integrity of this script that the CLOWN really be cut. This must be real.)

Then they left him to be mocked by the passersby.

(the policemen leave, time passes in silence broken only by the monotonous circus music, a few people walk by and point at the CLOWN)

CLOWN: He stayed on that cross, silently contemplating the power of the truth he had exposed. His conviction faltered and resolved itself and faltered again, but throughout it all he refused to cry out for their help and redemption.

(the policemen enter and stand facing the CLOWN with their backs to the audience.)

CLOWN: After three days they came back to see if he had suffered enough. They asked him if he was ready to come down and make people happy again.

(the pantomime of these last actions comes a full beat ahead of the words spoken.)

CLOWN: When he refused, they cut down his hands, took off his crown, and let him fall face first into the earth, feet still tied to the cross.

Then they left to go laugh at a new clown.

(alone, the CLOWN lies motionless under the cross as the blood trickles out from his head. A full minute passes before the lights go black.)

da end.

*Ralph*