

1Scene 1

The Eagle's "Desperado" plays before the show (a good amount). As the lights rise you see an apartment. The apartment is like every other apartment in America. It is small, cramped, and furnishes plainly. This could be anyone's apartment. There is a table, a couch and a chair. A man, GEORGE, is sleeping on the couch. As the lights raise, a woman, MARY, walks in and slams the door waking him up.

MARY

Wake up!

GEORGE

Startled. What! What is it?

MARY

It's Christmas in America.

GEORGE

Isn't it Christmas everywhere else?

MARY

Not in Desperado.

GEORGE

Where's that?

MARY

It's a desolate land where they don't even celebrate Christmas.

GEORGE

So I've heard.

MARY

Get ready, we're going to church.

GEORGE

Do I have to?

MARY

You never pass up a birthday party.

GEORGE

There's usually beer.

MARY

They'll be wine.

GEORGE

Can I bring my own beer?

MARY

Only if you can get the priest to bless it first.

GEORGE

If I lived in Desperado I wouldn't have to go to church.

MARY

Well then why don't you move there?

GEORGE

Too cold in the winter.

MARY

It's summer year round.

GEORGE

Is it?

MARY

That's how I hear it.

GEORGE

I promised JULIE I would watch the game today.

MARY

You can play with your friends after church.

GEORGE

I need to do more shopping.

MARY

The stores are closed.

GEORGE

Ebay.

MARY

Bring your laptop. Now let's go.

GEORGE

Every year I have to go to church!

MARY
You poor dear.

There is a knock at the door.

GEORGE
That's JULIE.

MARY
You have to go to church.

GEORGE
Going to open the door. Why the guest of honor won't even be there. Opens the door and JULIE walks in.

JULIE
George!

GEORGE
How ya doin', JULIE?

JULIE
Can't complain.

MARY
Nice to see you, JULIE. We were just on our way to church.

JULIE
It's Wednesday.

GEORGE
It's the big guy's birthday.

MARY
It's his sons.

JULIE
When was he born?

GEORGE
Today.

JULIE
No, God.

MARY

I don't think God was born.

GEORGE

He had to have been...didn't he.

JULIE

Maybe not, he did create everything.

GEORGE

He couldn't have created himself.

MARY

Trying to end the conversation so they can go to church. Does it matter?

JULIE

Sarcastically a bit, to MARY. I'm sorry if the creation of our Lord is not something you hold dear in your heart.

GEORGE

Still sarcastically. I for one, feel an uneasy feeling swelling in my stomach at the mere mention of God being created by anything but a grander deity.

JULIE

Still sarcastically. Oh, I don't know. I'm not so sure whether it matters who created who, just the fact that someone created someone else and so on and so...

MARY

Stop it!

GEORGE

Mary?

MARY

Stop discussing God, so we can go to church.

JULIE

Laughing a bit at her, just having fun with the situation. I'm merely posing a few conundrumly interesting theologically supported ponderances to my pal here.

MARY

I don't think half the things you just said were even words..

JULIE

Mary! I protest!

MARY

You're discussion of God is merely an attempt to avoid church.

GEORGE

Honey, do you really think I would do something so selfish and juvenile?

MARY

You can drop the act, even if we left now, we would be late.

GEORGE

Oh, I am deeply saddened.

JULIE

So am...

GEORGE and JULIE are by this time sitting down on the couch watching the tv, which is unseen in front of them.

GEORGE

Mary...can we have some Christmas beer?

JULIE

'Tis the season.

MARY

You'll see. One of these days, God is gonna get you.

MARY leaves to go get beer.

JULIE

That went well.

GEORGE

I think she's just given up on getting me to church.

JULIE

Church is so...

GEORGE

I know...

JULIE

I mean it's meant to be all...

GEORGE

But it's not at all like that!

JULIE

Plus, I'm getting old. My knees can't take all that bending up and down. Rise, sit, kneel, rise, sit...

GEORGE

It goes on and on...

JULIE

I prefer to save my knees for other things...

GEORGE

Gardening.

JULIE

Yep.

MARY walks back in and hands them beers

MARY

Is this what you're going to do today? Sit and watch tv and drink beer?

GEORGE

Of course! What more can a man ask for? Tv, beer, friends. It's the American Dream.

JULIE

Throw in a million dollars, then it's the American Dream.

MARY

It's Christmas. It's a beautiful day. George, we should go and visit my great aunt. JULIE, you should be over at your father-in-law's house.

JULIE

He hates me.

MARY

But it's Christmas! You should at least visit him. This is the one day we should all put aside our differences and show love for our fellow man.

GEORGE

Says who?

JULIE

Hallmark.

There is a knock at the door. MARY is exasperated and goes to answer it. When she does, she finds a glowing light behind a figure, GOD, who walks in slowly.

GOD

Hi. I'm God. *MARY stands speechless.* May I come in. *MARY stands speechless.* Ma'am? I'm kinda like a vampire...you have to invite me inside before I can come in.

MARY

Oh my God....I mean! Oh shit...Oh God!...Oh...Uh...Sorry...Come in...

GOD

Thank you. Is George home? *MARY motions over to the couch.* Thank you.

GOD walks over to the couch and stands next to JULIE.

GOD

Excuse me, I'm here to talk to George.

JULIE

One seat down.

GOD

Moves in front of JULIE, blocking his view of the tv, to talk to GEORGE. JULIE is unhappy about this, and he tries to move to see around him. George?

GEORGE

Looking up. Yeah?

GOD

I'm God.

GEORGE

Suddenly stands up and cheers. Touchdown!

JULIE

Ahh man! You made me miss that. Do you mind?

GOD

Oh, sorry.

GOD moves and sits between them.

GEORGE

Are you here to check the meter?

GOD

Matter of factly, but still with an ominous tone of power and importance. I'm here to see you, George.

GEORGE

Still watching tv. Uh-huh. What was your name again?

GOD

God.

JULIE

Huh?

GOD

I am he who is called God.

GEORGE

Oh yeh...and I am he who is called Moses.

GOD

Moses was taller.

MARY

George!

GEORGE

What!

MARY

God is sitting next to you.

GEORGE

Taking a pause, then really looking at GOD for the first time. You're God?

GOD

Yes.

JULIE

Bullshit.

GOD

No bullshit.

GEORGE

Uh...can I get you a beer?

MARY
George!

GOD
It's ok Mary...nice name by the way. I'm more of a wine guy.

MARY
I'll see what I can find.

MARY walks offstage towards the kitchen. There is a pause. People shift uncomfortably and such.

JULIE
So...

GOD
So.

GEORGE
Uh, hey! Thanks for existence.

GOD
Don't mention it.

JULIE
I don't mean to be disrespectful, but shouldn't you be in church?

GOD
Nah.

GEORGE
Dude, it's your son's birthday.

GOD
I've been to almost 2000 of them, I think I can take a day off.

JULIE
Of course.

Pause. Uncomfortable.

GEORGE
So...what brings you by...God?

GOD

I was in the neighborhood.

JULIE

You were?

GOD

Well, I pretty much exist everywhere in the universe simultaneously, so yeah, kinda.

GEORGE

Was there something I can do for you?

MARY walks back in with a glass of water.

MARY

Uh...God? *He turns.* Hi. I was wondering...see...I don't have any wine...but I have water. So...could you?

GOD

No problem.

GOD takes the glass of water and turns it into wine.

GEORGE

Is this about me not going to church?

GOD

I don't care if you go to church George.

JULIE

What about me?

GOD

I don't care whether you go or not either. I just want to talk.

MARY

Why George?

GOD

Why not? Have you ever been to Las Vegas?

GEORGE

No.

GOD

You should go. They call it Sin City, but it's quite a wonderful city. You can win millions there,

if you have luck..

JULIE

Suddenly really interested. Millions?

GOD

Saint Peter goes every week. He's a slot addict. I'm more of a roulette man.

MARY

You like to play it safe?

GOD

Pardon?

JULIE

Statistically speaking, roulette has the best odds for the gambler. 50/50

GOD

What about craps?

GEORGE

It has better odds, but no one can understand it.

MARY

I'm sorry, but what is the point of all of this?

GOD

There is no point.

JULIE

Uh...I know you're God, and you're all mysterious and all, but ya gotta give us something here.

GOD

There is no point to any of this. It's just another story.

GEORGE

I always figured that if I happened to meet God before I died, it would be a huge deal.

GOD

Have I disappointed you?

GEORGE

Well, yeah.

MARY

George!

GOD

Is there something I should have done differently?

MARY

He hasn't had a lot of sleep recently, please forgive him.

GEORGE

It's ok Mary. I just figured meeting God would be this huge event. Monumental proportions and life altering and all of those cliches.

GOD

You don't feel this has been special? What did you want? Angels descending and booming voices.

JULIE

Well...yeah.

GOD

That's just smoke and mirrors.

GEORGE

The Bible always made so much of God speaking to someone. Moses, Noah, all those guys. Look how their lives changed.

GOD

You're feeling like you've got the short end of the straw.

JULIE

It's not that we're ungrateful or anything, we just were expecting something a little different.

GOD

Well how about I tell you the secrets of the universe?

GEORGE

Now we're talking.

GOD

It's simple really. The secret of the universe is that it exists. All around you, and for all you know it always has, and always will be.

GEORGE

I don't get it.

GOD
And you never will.

JULIE
Then why tell us?

GOD
Why not?

MARY
Just to confuse us?

GOD
You may be on to something. George, when I first arrived, you were talking about the American Dream, right?

GEORGE
Yeah.

GOD
And you're living the American Dream?

GEORGE
I sure am. At least today. On my days off from work, I have no obligations. It's the time when I can relax and do what I want.

GOD
Are you living the American Dream Julie?

JULIE
Not even close.

GOD
You don't have today off?

JULIE
Well, sure I do. I always just figured that the American Dream was a nice big winning lotto ticket with my name on it. Every day would be a day off if I had that kind of money.

GOD
Mary?

MARY
The American Dream? Family? Money? Who knows.

GOD

Again, very close.

GEORGE

This is ridiculous. We asked you about the secrets of the universe, and you have us talking about the American Dream.

GOD

My today has been a full day hasn't it? Talk of religion, the universe and now the American Dream.

JULIE

And we've gotten no where.

GOD

Suddenly "offended" as if he's been talking to a brick wall. You most certainly have 'gotten somewhere'.

MARY

We don't have any more answers than when we started.

GEORGE

All we have is more questions.

GOD

Then you did accomplish something after all.

JULIE

We didn't learn anything...*Kind of realizing what he's been getting at...no...we didn't learn any answers.* Because there are no answers, only questions.

GOD

Hmm...

JULIE

The universe, religion, hell even the American Dream. These are all ideas. Abstract concepts.

GEORGE

Well we learned there is a God.

GOD

Or someone claiming to be a God.

MARY

I guess it's left up to us to make our own conclusions based on what we see.

JULIE

Or not to make any conclusions.

GOD

George?

GEORGE

Yes?

GOD

Do you know now what the secret of it all is?

GEORGE

I don't have an answer yet.

GOD

I can wait...

GEORGE

You've always waited.

GOD

And I always will. All of these questions are merely paths that have been set out before you. There is no end, no destination, no answer, but it's up to you to travel as far as you can go in your life. Standing still will never get you anywhere on an endless road. These paths will always be ready for you, for no matter how many downtrodden souls caress the endless road, it will always support one more weary traveler. This is how it has been...

GEORGE

And will always be.

GOD bows his head in silent appreciation at GEORGE'S understanding. There is a peaceful quiet that is broken when GOD realizes he hasn't finished his wine.

GOD

Oh! *He drinks his wine quickly and puts the glass on the table. He has changed back to a more cheerier persona, but the rest are still a bit sober.* Ahh, nothing like a good glass of wine to keep the blood flowing. Good year too. Vintage. *He gets up and walks to the door.* Thank you for your hospitality.

MARY

Oh, please stop by any time...I know you must be busy and all, but we'd love to have you. Wouldn't we, George?

GEORGE and JULIE have already gone back to watching tv.

MARY

They've already gone back to watching tv. I guess it's hopeless.

GOD

Dismissing her negative comment. No path is hopeless.

GOD turns to leave, but is stopped by GEORGE'S voice.

GEORGE

Only endless.

GOD smiles to himself. As he leaves and the lights dim, the Eagle's "Take it Easy" begins to play. Lights fade.

The End.