

The following is a One Act play written in 2006 by Matt Serron, Bob Muir, Pat Doyle, Owen Durni, and Clay Munnings. It is entitled "Potatoes and Politics at the Old Country Buffet". We had to taylor the play to fit around a moral dilemma.

CAST

GEORGE W. BUSH, A man-child much like Lenny from Of Mice and Men, only more ape-like. Played by Bob "The All-Around Awesome Guy" Muir.

GENERIC ZOMBIE DEMOCRAT, This character basically writes itself, as it is every Democrat ever created. Ever. Played by Pat "The Master of Playwriting" Doyle.

RALPH NADER, The manic, depressive, slightly crazy third-party candidate. Played by Clay "I Wish I Was a Real Hippie" Munnings.

STAN EVERYMAN, Think of Matt Serron. This is his character. Played by Matt "Not Scott" Serron.

BILL CRANSTON, A Fox News Reporter/former Blue Power Ranger. Played by Owen "Smart Guy on Campus" Durni.

EXPLOSION

At first glance, three men shouting/bickering loudly at a table in an Old Country Buffet. Upon closer inspection, a political respondent is reporting on the scene. George Bush is sitting at stage right on what resembles a throne. A zombie is sitting on stage left. Ralph Nader is sitting on a bag of potatoes, not actually at the table, but near it, center stage. The reporter is standing far to stage right, kind of hiding. On the table is stuff. The three people are arguing in the background.

BILL: This is Bill Cranston reporting for Fox News, and welcome to Election Night 2012, also referred to as the last tango in Xanadu. Medulla oblongata. I'm sorry, I like to use a lot of big words. It has been twelve joyous years since Commander-in-Chief Bush first legitimately squeezed out an election from Gore, then followed up that death-defying performance with a victory against the Lord of the Undead John Kerry, and finally, in 2008, another close victory against Senator Lemon-meringue Pie from North Dakota. Since voter apathy is at an all time low, one vote could swing the entire election.

BUSH (points at Bill): Th-there's one!

NADER: No, that guy works for Fox News, he's just a robot; that doesn't count.

BUSH: Oh. (Stan enters from stage left, Bush waits a moment, then his eyes widen) There's another one!

NADER: Get him!

ZOMBIE: Brains! I mean...potential voter!

STAN: Gah! (grabbed by Zombie, Bush puts bag on head, Nader dances)

BUSH: Quick, into the secret prison! (puts finger to his right ear) I mean...restraint! Yeah...restraint.

BILL: Well, it seems after weeks of searching, catching, and pending prisoner abuse trials, they've finally managed to catch one!

STAN: Let me go! (pushed into seat)

BILL: As the Constitution states in passage 5, line 3, article 8, section 2 and a half, not exactly in that order, "in the event that no one votes in a presidential election, the major candidates must pull a person off the streets into an Old Country Buffet" – known then as the Country Buffet – "and force them to vote through any means necessary." This clause hasn't been used since the 70s when a 10-year-old girl elected Richard Nixon into office.

STAN: Um...why an Old Country Buffet?

ZOMBIE: Because it's the only place that serves brains!

STAN: Wow, that was some tremendous foresight on the part of the forefathers.

BILL: So, now that you're here –

STAN: Wait, didn't you use to be that blue Power Ranger?

BILL: No, never! (aside) Not since they took away my blue triceratops...

NADER: Here's the deal: we talk, you vote.

STAN: No! wait, what? why should I have to do this? You can't – (Bush sets down plate of food) – ...okay.

ZOMBIE: First of all, as the major Democratic candidate, Zombie would like to begin with a sentence.

BUSH: Shut up, you don't count, you're just a zombie.

ZOMBIE: Zombie eatbrains, but Zombie cannot swallow this injustice!

BUSH: Pipe down, you stupid pinko zombie! You have no spine! Coming back from the dead was unpatriotic!

ZOMBIE: Hey, Zombie fought in the Great Canadian-Zimbabwe-Norwegian Conflict and died an honorable death from friendly fire! How dare you accuse Zombie of being unpatriotic! (Bush and Zombie start shoving each other)

NADER (sneaks to the table): Quick, while they're not paying attention!

STAN: Why are you even here? And why should I even have to vote?!

NADER: Because it's your duty that's why! Because if no one votes this country will fall apart! And if I wasn't here you'd have to vote for one of those two Fat Cats. I'm here for the reason I've always been here, because America needs to break the two party system and be released from the iron fist of the

Republo-Crats!

BILL: But without the mighty Republicans-I mean two party system, America would fall apart!

Nader: (Shove a handful of pills into mouth) Yeah, you're probably right...

BUSH: (Just realizing what Nader said) Yeah! that's the most un-American-est thing I've ever heard! I mean, it's against America and God and puppies and everything! Why – (puts finger to ear) No Dick, I'm fine. (pause) No, really I don't need any help. (pause) Stop treating me like a little boy! (pause) No, I – no, don't come here! Put down the shotgun! Dick, put down the shotgun! Dick, you're drunk again! (pauses) Okay, I'll see you later. (pauses) I love you too. Good night, snugglebunny.

ZOMBIE: Zombie is a bleeding-heart – literally – but even Zombie not that wussy!

BUSH: At least I'm not gay!

ZOMBIE: What!?

BUSH (moving on): See, I'm the Decider. I decide things. And when I decide things, they are then decided, and they stay decided. It's...(very long pause)

STAN: Is he going to say something?

BUSH: Hey, it worked in 2004. Anyways, I've decided – because I'm the Decider – that violence.....is bad. And our enemies in other parts of the world are trying to use violence to hurt us. So the only way to overcome this grave threat to America's very way of life is to use the sametype of conflict residulation against them. By nuking them into oblivion.

ZOMBIE: How does that make America any better than our enemies?

BUSH: Because we're fighting for liberty! And freedom! And large oil reserves – I mean, more liberty!

NADER: Wait, aren't they fighting for that too?

BUSH: Yeah, but they're not Americans, so their justice and independence is the wrong kind!

ZOMBIE: You've been talking about this for twelve years and Zombie still not see where you're going with it!

BILL: That's right he has! And it's still as true as it was when I defeated Rita Rivolta and her stupid magic size-increasing staff! God I miss being a Power Ranger...

BUSH: See, in my line of work you got to keep repeating things over and over and over again for the truth to sink in, to kind of catapult the propaganda. Of course, when you tell people information, activity and action happen. And...um...I'm banking on that kind of support. From the internets. (puts finger to his ear) What's that Dick? Oh, the radical Evangelists sent the bags of money to make my bed made out of cash? Great!

STAN: Well, I have a question. What are you planning to do in order to help the poor and disadvantaged

in the country?

BUSH: Nothing – I mean...I'm going to give special breaks to the wealthy and big businesses.

STAN: Um...how is that going to help the poor and disadvantaged?

BUSH: Um... (pulls out some more money and slips it to Stan, then also slips Bill some money)

BILL: You heard it here, folks! President Bush has and always will work to support the poor and disadvantaged by making them not poor or disadvantaged any more! Under this plan to establish a resolution of possible action, the poor and disadvantaged will completely disappear, only now it will be into acceptable homes instead of just dying on the streets when no one is looking. The timetable for this plan is scheduled for 10 years from whenever President Bush feels like it.

STAN: And how do you plan to accomplish your goals?

BUSH: By asking all my aides to take care of it for me while I run off to my ranch in Texas for some hunting with Dick.

ZOMBIE: Zombie has to draw the line here. You can go on blabbing about how you're the president and the "Decider" and use pretty words like "liberty", "freedom", and "time table" all you want but you'll never be half the man Zombie is!

STAN: Can you really still be considered a "man"?

ZOMBIE: Of course! Just because Zombie is constantly decaying, smells bad, and is having a hard time convincing himself not to eat your brain, does not make him any less of a man than you!

NADER: ...I'm pretty sure it does.

ZOMBIE: Oh yeah? Well do you ever serve in a war Nader? Did you ever die?! No. Of course you didn't. But Zombie has done both and Zombie will use this experience to lead this country back to its former glory! Unlike my opponents Zombie has an actual plan to FINALLY stabilize and get out of Iraq, without using force. Zombie also has a plan to save the economy and social security. AND Zombie has a plan to get the world to actually respect America again. That is why you should vote for Zombie. Zombie has the knowledge, experience, and the plans to make this country great again. And Zombie served in a war. Did I mention I died for this country?

STAN: Wait, aren't you going to tell me what your plans are?

ZOMBIE: Pfft! Why would Zombie do that? Don't you know anything about politics?
(Murmurs of agreement from BUSH and NADER)

BILL: Well Stan, now that you've heard from the only candidates that count, what do you think?

STAN: Well, most of what I've heard from the candidates is their opinions on the war. While this is obviously important, I'd like to know the candidates environmental agendas. (Bush starts making a paper airplane)

NADER: Thank God! Someone cares about the environment! Well Stan, the 12 years that Bush has been in office has been a time of environmental decline. Bush has loosened regulations on big oil and big timber industries and has even supported the privatization of national park land. President Bush has also neglected the Kyoto Protocol which is holding up the world's progress on forming a substantial plan to combat global warming. If I were president, I would start an energy revolution! Using wind, solar and hydroelectric plants. Everyone would walk everywhere and we could all smoke... I mean everyone would be much more relaxed. (Takes Pills) ...But that would never happen.

BILL: So, what do you think President Bush?

BUSH: Ham sandwich!

NADER: (slowly) Nobody is moral enough anymore to vote to protect the environment... or to vote at all. I've been Campaigning in these worthless elections for more years than I can remember and every year my platforms are ignored. All I manage to accomplish is drain votes from those pansy Democrats. I don't even know why I am still doing this!

ZOMBIE: Zombie knows why Zombie is campaigning! And Zombie knows what to do about the environment! Zombie plans to make it appear like Zombie is helping the environment, by signing a lot of big flashy eco friendly laws that don't really mean anything and posing for photo ops, but Zombie will really just continue eco destructive initiatives like all other politicians.

(NADER raises finger and opens mouth as if to say something, then sighs and puts his hand down)

After all its not like trees actually benefit mankind by just standing around without brains, plus humans will adapt to pollution eventually. It's not worth losing an arm or a leg just to save some brainless plants... did Zombie mention he lost arm in war? Of course Zombie got it back, but it's the kind of experience that makes Zombie the better choice for president.

(BUSH's eyes go wide and he begins punching and gnawing his arm, but gives up after making little progress)

Zombie believes this country needs the experience of a war hero and a war casualty! Only Zombie has that to offer!... Did I mention I was in a war... and was a hero... and died?

Stan: YES! YES, YOU DID!

BILL: (Coughs) So who are you going to vote for?

STAN: Meh, I don't see why I should vote for any of you. (Bush slips Stan some more money)

BILL: But it's your MORAL AND CIVIC duty! Do you think I wanted to go through those twenty years of ranger training? Of course not! But I did, then I got to ride around a cool triceratops! Of course... then they took it away from me. Curse you, associates at the Fox Network!

ZOMBIE: Your forefathers, thousands of soldiers, and even I died so you could vote!

NADER (consuming pills): You have to vote! You have to vote for me! Somebody has to vote for me! (quickly) And drive hybrids!

STAN: Fine, I'll vote! But not because I like any of you or believe in most of what any of you are saying. I'll vote because I owe it to the Founding Fathers. I'll vote because if I don't, you politicians would be completely free to run this beautiful country even further into the ground. I'll vote because hundreds of

thousand of people have died and are dying so that I may be able to vote. (Zombie nods his head) I'll vote to remind people that voting is important and that to truly have any say in who governs this country and how, we must vote! (writes down name, puts it in ballot box)

BUSH: Yay, I win again! (runs up and takes box)

ZOMBIE: What? Zombie not think it work that way!

BUSH: Too bad! (takes out paper and drafts a bill that says "Bush is Precedent 4 Forever") This is a law! Ha!

ZOMBIE: That's not fair! Zombie eat your brains! (latches onto BUSH from behind, then lets go) Hey, there's nothing in there!

STAN: So... If you were just going to undermine the entire election, why did you all meet like this, and why did you drag ME into it?

NADER (pops up happy): Free food!

ALL: YAY! (everyone jumps in the air)

THE END (curtain falls)