

Reflections of a Gay Jewish Boy

Gordon Blitz

a ten-minute play



Reflections of a Gay Jewish Boy takes place in 1969. The story is about Marc, a sexually confused Jewish sixteen-year-old. But when Marc meets Mary, a born-again Christian, he decides to convert to Christianity in the hopes that he would be able to have sex with Mary and prove to himself and to the world that he is straight.

Characters:

Marc – Sixteen years old, thin and wiry, sexually confused.

Mary – Sixteen years old, religious girl.

Minister - Early forties, ornery, self-effacing.

Basic Props -- a large cross, Holy Bible, rotary phone

Sound effects -- knocking on a door. No music.

Background -- apartment, school yard, stairs.

SCENE 1

1969 - Fairfax High School. MARY, a chubby girl with acne is seated. She opens a book and starts reading. She stops, closes her eyes and is talking to herself. MARC appears and is intrigued. Suddenly, as if coming out of a trance, she looks up and sees MARC.

MARY

Hey. You're in my history class, aren't you? Did you happen to write down the homework assignment?

MARC

No.

MARY

I just transferred from Hamilton High because we moved. My name is Mary.

MARC

I'm Marc.

MARY

It's so hard being new here. Want to go have lunch?

MARC

I bring my lunch, but I can sit with you. What are you reading?

MARY carries a book in her hand with lots of scraps of small paper used as placeholders.

MARY

It's a new version of the Bible. It's The New Testament. I read it every day and use it when I pray.

MARC

What is it?

MARY

It's a continuation of the Old Testament -- the story of Jesus told by different disciples. Do you know it? You should read it. There are lots of groovy parables. There is so much to

learn there. Are you Christian? Have you ever thought about *becoming* a Christian? You need to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

MARC

But I'm Jewish.

MARY

Jesus was a Jew.

MARC

Really?

MARY

I don't think Jews believe in the New Testament though; that Jesus is the son of God. But it's really true. It changed my life! When my parents got divorced, I was so angry at both of them. I was in detention, getting grounded all the time and fooling around with guys. But then I found Jesus. He changed my life. He makes me go to church all the time. You should come with me. They have this really cool band at the Presbyterian church

MARC

I guess so. I don't have much fun being Jewish.

MARY

Everyone is friendly there, and if you became Christian, you could invite Jesus into your head. He would save you from your sins. Why don't you come with me this Saturday night? There will be music and food. The band is fantastic!

MARC

Yeah, okay. I guess it's a date.

SCENE 2

Saturday night at MARC's apartment.

MARY

So, what did you think of the band?

MARC

It's all right, but I like Motown music;
The Temptations and The Supremes.

MARY

Oh! Well, anyway, I brought you a
copy of the New Testament. I want
you to read it. And then we can
discuss it. It's a great book!

MARC

Are you going to test me?

MARY

I want you to meet the pastor. Maybe
you'll come to Sunday services with
me tomorrow morning.

MARC

Am I allowed?

MARY

Why not? You know, I like spending
time with you. I'm still kinda' lonely
at school. I keep thinking people are
staring at my face because of my acne.

MARC

You look very pretty to me. I don't
notice the acne.

MARY

Thank you. I've been praying that it
will go away. That Jesus will cure my
pimples.

MARC

I can't remember the last time I
prayed.

MARY

Oh, I pray every day. Jesus helps me with tests at school. When I feel depressed, Jesus cheers me up.

MARC

Wow! That sounds nice.

MARC is about to kiss MARY.

MARY

Oh, Jesus!

MARC

No, I'm Marc.

MARY

Hey, wait a minute! No so fast! I want you to accept Jesus as your Savior first. You know that when the end of the world comes, those who haven't accepted Him will go to Hell.

MARC keeps trying to kiss her.

MARY

You've got to convert! I'm a good Christian girl. I can't have sex with someone who isn't Christian. My body is my temple.

MARC

Come on, I went to church to hear that band with you, and I think I want to go to church with you tomorrow. Isn't that enough? Why do I need to convert? Aren't Jews the chosen people?

MARY

You just need to accept Jesus as the Son of God and receive the Holy Spirit.

MARC

You make it sound so simple.

MARY

Just get converted! Oh, and another thing. You know that guy I see you hanging around with... Paul? He's homosexual. He is going to corrupt you. You shouldn't be friends with him.

MARC

But he's my only friend!

MARY

It doesn't matter. You have to get rid of him.

SCENE 3

A week later. MARC is facing a set of stairs at the church. He's carrying a piece of paper.

MARC

What will grandma say when she hears I'm converting? My parents paid for four years of Hebrew school and a Bar Mitzvah, and this is how I pay them back? And I had a bris! I'm circumcised. My dad and Orthodox grandpa will be flipping in their graves. *Oy vey!* What kind of Jewish boy am I? And I hope I pass the Jesus Pop Quiz. I'm going to nail this test. Mary really likes me, and we can have sex if I convert.

When MARC gets to the top of the stairs, he knocks on the door

MINISTER

Come in, my boy. Don't worry, I'm not going to bite. Just kidding.

MARC

I'm so nervous, but I'm ready to accept Christ.

The MINISTER appears.

MINISTER

Hello. Marc, right? Mary told me you wanted to convert. Did you bring the pop quiz with you?

MARC

Yes. Here it is. Mary said if I convert then I won't go to Hell. Does it matter that I'm a Jew? Do I need to do anything special?

MINISTER

I want to know why you really want to convert. We don't get many young Jewish boys asking for salvation.

MARC

I like Mary. I'm sad at school. Kids make fun of me. Mary says that if I believe in Jesus, I'll be happy all the time. I really want to believe in Jesus. I want to change.

MINISTER

And you are sure there isn't another reason? Does this have anything to do with Mary?

MARC

I think it would be better for me to be a Christian. And actually, I'm confused about my sexuality. I'm sure you can relate to that though.

The MINISTER is startled and changes the subject.

MINISTER

Do your parents know you are doing this?

MARC

Not really. I may have told my mom I went to church with a girlfriend.

MINISTER

I hope you didn't give her this address, and especially not my name.

MARC

Can you just convert me?

MINISTER

Do you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Are you ready to accept the Holy Spirit? Do you believe in the Father, Son and Holy Ghost?

MARC

I want to say yes. But, hey, you haven't even looked at my test. Did I pass?

MINISTER

Oh, for Christ's sake! Sorry, let's see how you did. Not bad. Except what is this about the Virgin Mary being vodka and tomato juice? That's a *Bloody Mary*! There's a difference!

MARC

How many times do I have to say that I believe Jesus is the Messiah. And I believe in holy ghosts too. I'm not so sure about the virgin birth.

MINISTER

Okay. I believe you. One final time, do you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Are you ready to accept the Holy Spirit?

MARC

Yes. Yes. Yes!

MINISTER

Perfect! You are now a true blood born again Christian. Congratulations!

MARC

How do I prove to Mary that I'm straight . . . uh, I mean Christian?

MINISTER

Don't worry. She'll know when she sees you.

MARC

I don't feel different. Am I really going to be changed? Are you sure it worked?

MINISTER

I promise you that Jesus is in your heart. He will take care of you. You won't go to Hell, and you'll have eternal life.

MARC

You mean like a vampire? I'll never die?

MINISTER

Look, I would love to talk, but I'm exhausted. I need to take a nap, and I have a line of people wanting to convert.

The MINISTER lies back in his chair and goes to sleep. As MARC leaves the office, he sees a large cross on the wall. He looks at it and decides to remove it from the wall and take it with him.

MARC

I know I shouldn't be stealing, but it's for a good cause. I didn't see a price tag; maybe it's free.

The MINISTER is dreaming. He picks up a phone.

MINISTER

Hello, can I help you? Oh, you are Marc's father? A Hasidic Jew? Oh, sorry! Oh, I thought you knew what Marc was doing? You are going to kill me if I made him convert? I'm sorry! Wait a minute! You are coming over here now? With a gun? Can't we talk about this? Maybe Marc can be converted back? How about a colonic to get the wine from the blood of Christ removed from his system. No, he didn't eat the wafer. He said he was gluten free.

The MINISTER wakes up and leaves the office

SCENE 4

At Fairfax High later that day. MARC is wearing the large crucifix around his neck. It covers his chest down to his stomach. He runs up to MARY.

MARC

Well, I did it! I converted!

MARY

Oh, I'm so proud of you! I can tell; you look different.

MARC

You're the first person I've told.

MARY

Ouch, that's an awfully big crucifix. Where did you get it? Oh, my god. I'm bleeding. The cross must have stabbed me. Get me a band aid.

MARC

I took it off the wall. There were so many crosses, I figured they wouldn't mind if one was missing. It's awfully heavy around my neck. I was thinking about wearing the crown of thorns to prove to you that I was Christian, but it looked dangerous.

MARY smiles.

MARC

And I did what you said, Mary. I dumped my friend, Paul. It was awfully hard, but I did it! I've been thinking about *us*. I really like you, Mary. I've never had a girlfriend before. And you've helped me *so* much.

MARY

That's wonderful!

MARC

Listen, I've got some tickets for the Donny and Marie concert this Saturday, and I want to take you.

Here, I'd like you to wear my ring so
we can go steady.

*MARC takes his ring off his finger and tries to slide it onto one of MARY's
fingers.*

MARY

Hey, wait a minute! I just want to be
friends with you. I'm not interested in
you *romantically*.

MARC

What are you saying?

MARY

I'm not going to be your girlfriend.

MARC

But Mary, I've changed my religion! I
got rid of my best friend because you
said he was the Devil and
homosexual! I've done everything you
asked!

MARY

You should be grateful I saved your
soul. You should thank me. . . Well,
I've got another class. Gotta' run.

*MARC looks stunned. He takes off the crucifix and throws it in the
garbage can. Lights dim and when they come up MARC looks at his
telephone contemplating whether to use it. Finally, he dials.*

MARC

Paul, I need to talk to you. I was
wondering if you wanted to get
together tonight. And I hope you can
forgive me for the way I treated you.
I'm so sorry. I don't know what got
into me.

THE END

Contact:

Gordon Blitz
1010 N. Kings Road #302
West, Hollywood, CA 90069
626-664-1410
Gordon_blitz@yahoo.com

Bio:

From a young child, Gordon was called a sissy, girlie, fag, queer, and homo. Getting towel whipped, stomach punched and spit on were part of his world. Gordon never found his writer's voice until he retired in 2017 from forty years of accounting and became a passionate writing machine. He became a diverse multi-media creative artist; novelist, playwright, and performer. His novella, *Shipped Off*, was published by Running Wild Press in Novella Anthology Volume 4, Book 1. In 2023, Tofu Ink Arts Press and the Shortish Project published his novels, *Stretched Love* and *Harmonic Dissonance*, respectively. Ten of his autobiographical stories are available on the Queer Slam, Episode 21, called "Just Gordon". He recently published *Murder Times Three: A Waverly Place Mystery*.

A longer one-act version of this play had a reading at the Region 8 Kennedy Center American Theater College Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada and became a semi-finalist for the National Festival in Washington D.C.