

INELUCTABLE MODALITY #1,

938 penn avenue

/	the businessman
*	the boxer
^	the referee
□	the stenographer
>	trainer/ bailiff
()	notes, or tape



The Set. a board room at corporate headquarters. conference tables and chairs form a U pattern. pencils and pads are placed at each seat. pitchers of water and plastic cups are scattered across the tables. so are business periodicals. the entire seating arrangement is enclosed by a boxing ring- thick ropes, corner posts. a rather busty, over dressed, heavily made-up female, sits far stage right at a small table. she serves as the courtroom stenographer. she will also work the lights and tape player. opening lighting is very very very low- steel gray with a reddish cigar smoky glow. it is the lighting of the boxing world. the lights hang low from a grid directly above the conference tables. a tape of a boxing ring crowd serves as background noise while the audience seats itself..f.**Blackout...**the main character enters. he is draped in a judge's robe and accompanied by his trainer/bailiff, who carries a 6' step ladder. the judge stops, acknowledges the audience, the stenographer, then knods to his trainer/bailiff.

> all rise.....

the judge's robe is removed, revealing a punch drunk character dressed in black spit shined wingtips, black hose and garters, a silk businessman's tie, a pair of white everlast boxer shorts, a white sleeveless undershirt and one enormously oversized red boxing glove on his left hand. the look is not altogether clean, but he does hold himself with grace and pride. afterall, he is a professional. he is brought to the desk and chair (regal design—the chair is metallic gold, the desk, metallic silver), suspended from the ceiling 6' off the ground, by very thick yellow chains. the desk and chair are at angles to each other. stacks of folders, files and lists are attached to the desk by large spikes. the businessman/boxer uses an aluminum step ladder to climb to his chair. the trainer/bailiff then shackles the feet of our punch drunk everyman. tape of boxing ring chatter grows louder. the sounds become the thumping sounds of punches to the face. **Blackout**...light up on character. he stands then lunges forward over the deskfront, grasping the thick yellow chains.

/ take this. take this...(loud sound of punches to face. **Blackout**)

/(regular spot up) good morning people, i hope your busride was satisfactory. we have a very tightly planned evening ahead of us, so lets get started. (tosses file folder on desk) we have an agenda. by gum by god, we have an agenda. and on our agenda today (japanese accent) on our agenda today...(subtle sound of a clock ticking, very low background, building to a regimented metronome- cold and official)

/ always the ticking of a clock. to change the ticking change the thinking...patterns. yes, patterned after...reflex (bangs table with fist) a natural gravitation toward order (feigns banging table)...or upon order. laws [that changes the ticking] change the thinking...as in forefathers...they saw it...they saw it...now see to it...

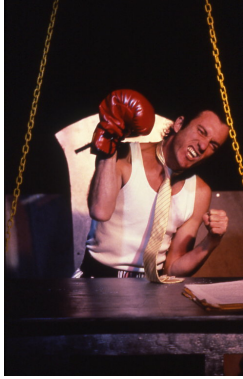
[that people look both ways before crossing]

/ item number one: adapting to a physical body. complex city within. another world and it's happening... within me. within me. right in here. goddamn it, right under my skin. manufacturing. transportation. industrials. utilities. market conditions. up, down, sideways. savings accounts disappearing. huhhhhh. money, the going rates...

[blood system dry transportation lines backed up]

/ now what are we gonna do about this?

[sit. (sits) relax. eat. sleep. exercise. that'll change the ticking]



* address, 938 penn avenue, pittsburgh, pennsylvania. 15222...telephone number, 412, area code, 683-1677. job qualifications: excellent at keeping track of everything that goes on inside. i know systems top to bottom. i cross reference daily with the pink sheets, cause i like knowing everything about my food. so that when i get ready to placing my bet on the board i feel like i got an advantage. (smacks gloves 3X)

/ (stands abruptly) food. it's become a big business. become a big business. and we're gonna get involved because as it's become a big business, less and less people participate in the growing process. [or is that the dying process] separated from the land. separated from the land. as they've become separated from the land...why, they've lost, rituals, symbols, ideals, images, their patriarchy, their systems of passing from one generation to the next the sacred and meaningful, their legends, morals, ethics, values and humor. business has taken the food from the people [thought]...and delivered it to those very few necessary to work large and expensive machinery... and that's where we come in...rook to pawn 4. (sits while saying last line)

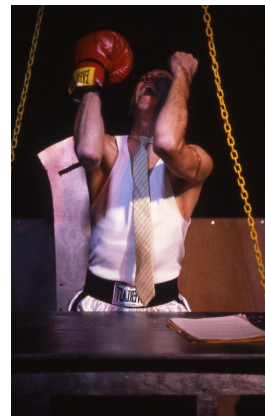
^ very difficult move...to consider enterprise free regarding food, implies, some will have, others won't...guess that's why they invented food stamps...so they can all sleep at nite. ohhhhh, it's come down alright to the buying and selling of shares in futures...mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmyummyum yumyummyumyummyumyummyum pork pork yama. pork pork yama. pork pork pork yama. pork pork pork pork yamaaaaaaaaaa.

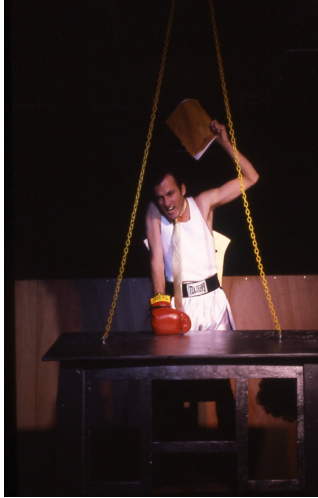
/ (stands) take this. (sound track, punches. lights out)

^ (sitting) cells... cells... (lights up long and slow) cells. in and of them cells. driving force... sell... sell... sell... self... sell... sell... sell... sellin'... sell it... sell it... sell it. selling... sell her... sell her... sell her... selling... selling... selling... parts. they're breakin' up the business into bite sized morsels down in the cellar... it's the beginning of any system, especially a new system. (lights at fullest)

/ (stands) manufacturing. haaaaa. manufacturing. the manufacturing system. (crazy laugh)

* (standing) work experience: i've worked in sales all my life. [we've heard that before. it's a crock a shit and you know it goddammit, haven't sold a thing or worked a day in your life] the days of my life. ha.ahhh. alllll the days of my lifffffffeee...feeeee. yeah, i'm feeeee now. thank god almighty i'm feeeee, now. believe me i know that...feeling of losing...giving ground...nah...nah, failing...





/ (standing) we can't fail. why they've cut themselves off from their bodies. they're unaffected by any natural arousals. they respond only to images. to the images outside themselves. they are born consumers. we can sell 'em anything. no, no, we can't fail...the bishop takes your black queen. (states line as he sits. points index finger at audience)

^ (rubs index finger with head)...failing to remember. (touches body all over) i'm talking about...failing...to remember...to take...(touching body- the five senses) something...your wallet...does it have to do with just remembering...or does it have to do with...selling something. selling something which i haven't been able to figure out...(lights begin to dim) we keep forgetting... everyday we keep forgetting...

[corpuscule pile up at the exit leading to the left ventricle causing traffic to back up clear to (tails off) to the liberty tubes at the west end circle...(normal volume) all arteries are clogged. the transportation system's backed up. the routes are stuffed with empty calories. there doesn't seem to be any gettin' around...guess we're gonna need a by-pass finally at that exit leading to the left ventricle...been too much building for far too long. with relatively no concern for the inner city] (tails off toward end. lights slowly back to normal)

/ (stands and with glee) manufacturing...chips. ummmmmmmmmuh. (freezes, then sits. stenographer loudly bites into potato chip. lights off)

* (sitting. lights up) reason for changing jobs: why do i hate my work. i hate my work. why do i hate work. i hate my work. why do i feel bottled up inside everytime i have to, 'take care of business'...i hate my work.

/ (stands, stuffing face with food) you can't come in here to my office... ya can't talk to me like that...you can't barge in here to my office...and talk to me...in that tone of voice...back up... you just...back up...

* (standing) i hate my work. work's unnatural. forces an unnatural rhythm on my life. i'm normally involved in things which hold great significance for me...and because these things occupy the majority of my time, days often go by until i have time enuf to 'take care of business'. work's just an unnatural task...i hate work...it's a burden...why do i hate my work so much...i hate my work. and if i didn't have to do it. i hate my work. what would that be like?... i'd be a different person for chrissake...you know there were junctions, there was options...i avoided...because of work...because of work...because work...that's right. that's right. (laugh) that is right. (laugh) and that's what i need to explore. (laugh)...that's the laugh of sadness ain't it....

/ (in slow motion stands and utters line as if hit by punch) take this. (**Blackout**)

^ (sitting. cold metronomic drumming in background. lights up slowly through section) playing the board game. pawns...pawns...pawns. buying...selling...hotels marvin gardens baltic avenue gorky park place red square shops. shops. shops. shops. take a ride on the boardwalk opportunity. comrade, don't stop. satisfaction guaranteed. money. money. sex. fulfillment. success.

fulfillment. money. promulgated by our, money, families, socio-cultural influences, money, and political economics. and tend to reflect, money, upon their relationship to...money, which should help determine how much, money, you might relate to, money...them...sax on pawn avenue. buying...selling...

/ (stands) yes, they certainly go together, sex and business. large breasts in the work place. now they attract business. interest rates go up. shares are sought. it's the spirit of working together... lunch? your office, or mine...let's dine at nine. oh we can work it out. we can work it up. bigger's better. yessireeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee.....

^ (sits) large breasts in the work place: just another stack of paper or are they truly the latest office gizmo. everybody's talkin' bout 'em. every body's got 'em. gotta have 'em. gotta get 'em. gotta gotta. gotta get near them breasts. yes, sex in the work place. something complex about it. something very complex about it. so much...so much...revolves around sex in the work place. now more of this in the next piece, (whispers) but in the meantime look at that. that new guy, he hired last week. already got his hand on her ass. by the end of the week, his hand'll be reachin' under her dress...testin'. the.flesh.

/ (stands, hands on hips) strangely and disgusting as that seems, i got an erection. so what're you gonna do about it. (Freezes. sits. **Blackout**)



“the intervue”. (the boxer and the referee. 3 flashlights on performer from around the room)

^ you can't bring out your feminine side doing business with a man as you can doing business with a woman?

* no you can't be a man being a woman doing business with a man, but as a man doing business with a woman you can be a woman, and whenever you need to be a man doing business with a woman, you can be a man, a man being a man doing business with a woman, or a man being a woman doing business with a woman.

^ now a woman being a man doing business with a man is that the same as a man being a woman doing business with a woman?

* more like a man being a man doing business with a man.

^ so can the woman switch to a woman being a woman doing business with a man, like a man, from a man being a woman doing business with a woman, to a man being a man doing business with a woman?

* no...but a woman being a woman doing business with a

man is sort of like a man being a woman doing business with a woman...i wonder if she can switch to a woman being a man doing business with a man if she started out as a woman being a woman doing business with the man.

^ yes, but only if the man can be a woman doing business with the woman.

* for a man doing business with a woman, or a man, there certainly are more roles available.

^ it's hard to make it as a woman?

* (fading voice) yeah, i wonder what a woman being a woman doing business with a woman is like...(flashlights off)

(with the following lines, lights up, then fade out and finally back up to normal. on tape the sound of change jangling. continues through *...don't even make...)

/ (sitting) i...love...the fucking insurance industry...

^ ...call it an industry.

(tape) they don't even make anythingggggggggg. (stands)

[at \$.73 per 1000 times 150 1000's, as a male non-smoker age 39, that'll be \$109.50 plus the \$50 policy fee, for a total of \$159.50. now does anyone in your family have a history of heart trouble, diabetes, severe nite sweats, goiter phlebitis varicose veins or any unexplained swelling]

[cough]

*cough

[cough]

*cough

[cough]

*cough

[we just wanna make sure. everything in this policy is absolutely guaranteed. we... offer... protection]