

DOT (continued) What's the matter? GEORGE

(Erasing feverishly)

I hate this tree.

(A tree rises back into the fly space. ARGEGGIO)

DOT

(Hurt)

I thought you were drawing me.

Just stand still. I am. I am.

> (DOT is oblivious to the moved tree. Through the course of the scene the landscape can continue to change. At this point a sailboat begins to slide into view)

I wouldn't go this early in the I wish we could go sailing. day, though.

GEORGE

Could you drop your head, please.

(SHE drops her head completely)

If you wish to be a good model you must learn to concentrate. Hold the pose. Look out at the water.

(SHE obliges)

Thank you.

(Powards the Far Upstage corner, an OLD LADY comes into view)

OLD LADY Where is that tree?

(Pause)

MURSE! NURSE!

DOT

(Startled)

(Sees OLD LADY)

She is everywhere.

(NURSE enters. SHE wears an enormous Meaddress) /

NURSE!

My God!

OLD LADY

NURSE

What is it, Madame?

```
I-4
                         OLD LADY
The tree. The tree. Where is our tree?
                         NURSE
What tree?
                         OLD LADY
The tree we always sit near. Someone has moved it.
                          NURSE
No one has moved it, Madame. It is right over there. Now
come along --
                    (NURSE attempts to held the OLD LADY along)
                          OLD LADY
Do not push me!
                          NURSE
I am not pushing. I am helping.
                          OLD LADY
You are pushing and I do not need any help.
                          NURSE
                     (SHE crosses the stage and sits)
Yes, Madame.
                          OLD LADY
And this is not our tree!
                     (SHE continues her shuffle)
                          NURSE
Yes, Madame.
                     (SHE helps OLD LADY sit in front of tree)
                          DOT . .
I do not envy the nurse.
                          GEORGE
                     (Under his breath)
She can read.
                          DOT
                     (Retaliating)
They were talking about you at La Coupole.
                           GEORGE
Oh.
                          DOT
 Saying strange things ...
                          GEORGE
 They have so little to speak of, they must speak of me?
 Were you at the zoo, George?
                     (No response)
```

GEORGE

Not the monkey cage.

Drawing the monkey cage.

cene 2-Mr., Mrs., Bootman

GEORGE (continued)

STUDYING A FACE, STEPPING BACK TO LOOK AT A FACE LEAVES A LITTLE SPACE IN THE WAY LIKE A WINDOW, BUT TO SEE -IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SEE.

AND WHEN THE WOMAN THAT YOU WANTED GOES, YOU CAN SAY TO YOURSELF, "WELL, I GIVE WHAT I GIVE." BUT THE WOMAN WHO WON'T WAIT FOR YOU KNOWS THAT, HOWEVER YOU LIVE,

THERE'S A PART OF YOU ALWAYS STANDING BY,

MAPPING OUT THE SKY,

FINISHING A HAT ... STARTING ON A HAT ...

FINESHING A HAT ... (Showing sketch to FIFI)

LOOK, I MADE A HAT ... WHERE THERE NEVER WAS A HAT

> (After the SONG, MR. and MRS. enter Stage Right. THEY are lost. The BOATMAN crosses near them and THEY stop him in his path)

> > MR.

We are lost. Excusez, Masseur.

BOATMAN

Huh?

MRS.

Let me try, Daddy.

(Wildly gesticulating with her every word) Unable to find passage off island. We are alien here.

BOATMAN (Pointing to the water) Why don't you just walk into the water until your lungs fill up and you die,

(BOATMAN crosses away from them, laughing)

MR

I detest these people.

- MR.

(Spotting LOUIS, who has entered in search of DOT)

Isn't that the baker?

MRS

Why, yes it is!

(THEY cross to LOUIS. GEORGE brings on the HORNPLAYER cutout. OLD LADY enters)

Scene 3 - Louise, Franz, Frieda (The CELESTES, fishing. The MUSIC continues under CELESTE #2 This is just ridiculous. CELESTE #1 Why shouldn't we fish CELESTE #2 No one will notice us anyway. (SOLDIER enters, attached to a life-sized cut-out of another soldier his COMPANION) CELESTE # CELESTE #2 Where CELESTE #1 Soldiers CELESTE #2 Alone. CELESTE #1 What did I tell you? CELESTE #2 They 'll never talk to us if we fish. Why don't we --CELESTE #1 It's a beautiful day for fishing. SHE smiles in the direction of the SOLDIERS) SOLDIER (Looking to his COMPANION) What do you think? (COMPANION nods) I like the one in the light hat. (LOUISE enters, notices FRIEDA and FRANZ sitting on the grass, and dashes over to them)

Frieda, Frieda --

LOUISE

FRANZ

Oh, no.

FRIEDA

Not now, Louise.

LOUISE

I want to play.

FRANZ

Go away, Louise. We are not working today.

LOUISE

Let's go throw stones at the ducks.

FRIEDA

Louise! Do not throw stones at the ducks!

LOUISE

Why not?

FRANZ

You know who not, and you know this is our day off. so go find your mother and throw some stones at her, why don't you?

> (HE begins to shake LOUISE; FRIEDA releases his grip)

> > FRIEDA

Franz!

LOUISE

I'm telling.

FRANZ

Good. Go!

(LOUISE exits)

FRIEDA

Franzel -- relax.

FRANZ

Ja ... relax.

GEORGE flips a page and starts sketch FRANZ and FRIEDA)

GEORGE, FRIEDA

SECOND BOTTLE

GEORGE, FRANZ

(As FRANZ looks off at NURSE)

SHE LOOKS FOR ME

FRIEDA

HE IS BURSTING TO GO ...

FRANZ

NEAR THE FOUNTAIN

I COULD LET HIM.

FRANZ HOW TO MANAGE IT

FRIEDA

800

You know, Franz -- I believe that artist is drawing us.

FRANZ

Who?

FRIEDA

Monsieur's friend.

FRANZ

(Sees GEORGE. THEY pose)

Monsieur would never think to draw us! We are only people he looks down upon.

(Pause)

I should have been an artist. I was never intended for work.

FRIEDA

Artists work, Franz. I believe they work very hard.

FRANZ

WORK! ..

WE WORK.

WE SERVE THEIR FOOD,

WE CARVE THEIR MEAT,

WE TEND TO THEIR HOUSE

WE POLISH THEIR

SILVERWARE.

FRIEDA

THE FOOD WE SERVE

WE ALSO EAT.

FRANZ

FOR THEM WE RUSH,

WASH AND BRUSH,

WIPE AND WAX

FRIEDA

FRANZ, RELAX.

FRANZ

WHILE HE "CREATES"

WE SCRAPE THEIR PLATES

AND DUST THEIR KNICKKNACKS,

HUNDREDS TO A SHELF,

WORK IS WHAT YOU DO FOR OTHERS,

LIEBCHEN,

ART IS WHAT YOU DO FOR YOURSELF.

(JULES enters, as if looking for someone.

Notices GEORGE instead)

JULES

Working on Sunday again? You should give yourself a day off.

GEORGE

Why?

End

Scene 4- Celestes #18#2, Soldier

You really should try using that pole.

CELESTE #2

It won't make any difference.

(CELESTE #1 starts yelping as if SHE had caught a fish)

Oh! Oh!

CELESTE #1

What is woone?

CELESTE #2

What is wrong?

CELESTE #1

Just sit there.

(CELESTE #1 carries on some more ["something huge!"] looking in the direction of the SOLDIER and his COMPANION who converse for a moment, then come over)

SOLDIER

May we be of some service, Madame?

CELESTE #1

Mademoiselle.

CELESTE #2

She has a fish,

CELESTE #1

He knows.

SOLDIER

Allow me.

(SOLDIER takes the pole from her and pulls in the line and hook. There is nothing on the end)

CELESTE #1

Oh. It tugged so ...

SOLDIER

There's no sign of a fish here.

CELESTE #1

Oh me. My name is Celeste. This is my friend.

CELESTE #2

Celeste.

(SOLDIER fools with fishing pole)

CELESTE #1

Do you have a name?

SOLDIER

I beg your pardon. Napoleon. Some people feel I should change it.

CELESTE #2

And your friend?

SOLDIER

Yes. He is my friend.

(MUSIC)

CELESTE #1

(Giggling, to SOLDIER)

He's very quiet,

SOLDIER

Yes, Actually he is. He lost his hearing during combat exercises.

CELESTE #1

Oh, What a shame,

SOLDIER

He can't speak, either,

CELESTE #2

Oh. How dreadful,

SOLDIER

We have become very close, though.

CELESTE #1

(Nervous)

So I see,

(MUSIC)

SOLDIER & GEORGE

(Sudden and loud)

MADEMOISELLES, I AND MY FRIEND, WE ARE BUT SOLDIERS!

(RUMBLE from his COMPANION: SOLDIER raises hand to quiet him)

SOLDIER

PASSING THE TIME IN BETWEEN WARS FOR WEEKS AT AN END,

CELESTE #2

(Aside)

BOTH OF THEM ARE PERFECT.

CELESTE #1

YOU CAN HAVE THE OTHER.

CELESTE #1

T DON'T WANT THE OTHER.

CELESTE #2

I DON'T WANT THE OTHER EITHER.

SOLDIER

AND AFTER A WEEK
SPENT MOSTLY INDOORS
WITH NOTHING BUT SOLDIERS,
LADIES, I AND MY FRIEND
TRUST WE WILL NOT OFFEND -WHICH WE'D NEVER INTEND -BY SUGGESTING WE SPEND --

BOTH CELESTES

(Excited)

OH, SPEND --

SOLDIER

-- THIS MAGNIFICENT SUNDAY --

BOTH CELESTES

(A bit deflated)

OH, SUNDAY --

SOLDIER

-- WITH YOU AND YOUR FRIEND.

(SOLDIER offers his arm. BOTH CELESTES rush to take it; CELESTE #1 gets there first CELESTE #2 tries to get in between the SOLDIERS, can't, and rather than join the COMPANION, takes the arm of CELESTE #1. THEY ALL start to promenade)

CELESTE #2

(To CELESTE #1)

THE ONE ON THE RIGHT'S AN AWEUL BORE ...

CELESPÉ #1

HE'S BEEN IN A WAR.

SOLDIER

(TO COMPANION)

WE MAY GET A MEAL AND WE MIGHT GET MORE ..

(CELESTE #1 shakes free of CELESTE #2, grabs the arm of the SOLDIER, freeing him from his COMPANION)

CELESTE #1 and SOLDIER

(To themselves, as THEY exit)

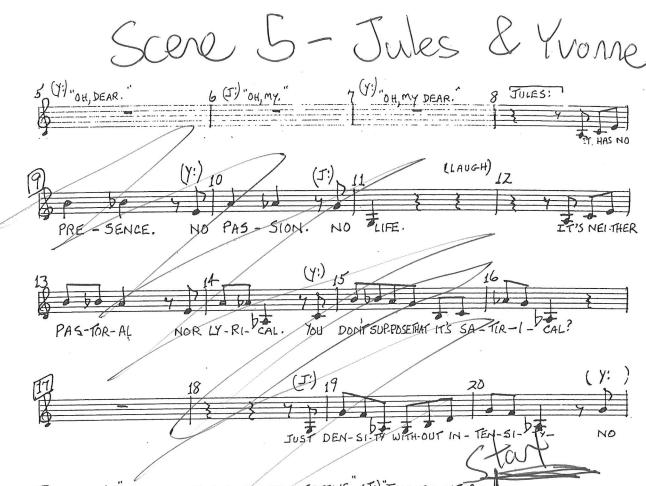
IT'S CERTAINLY FINE FOR SUNDAY ...

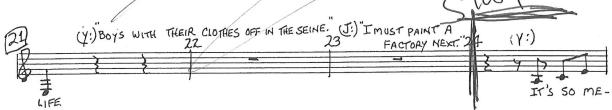
(Dejected, CELESTE #2 grabs the COMPANION)

CELESTE #2

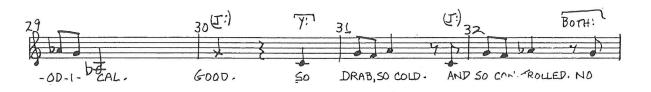
(As SHE exits, carryingg COMPANION)

IT'S CERTAINLY FINE FOR SUNDAY

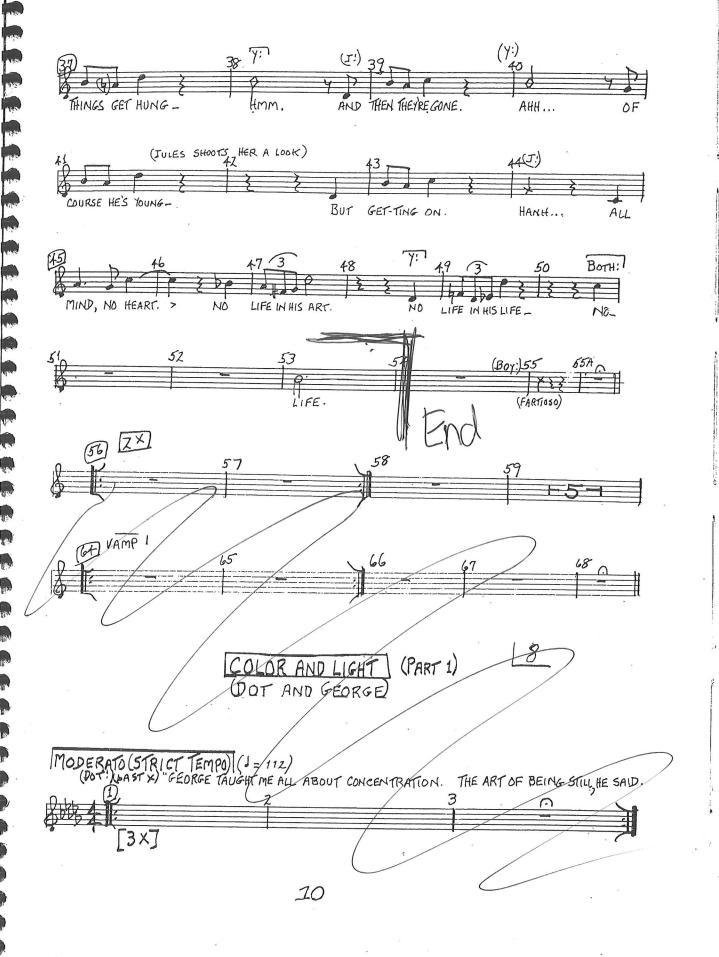












Scene 6 - Yvonne & Dot

t end of the second

YVONNE

Why are you so cool to me?

DOT

Maybe I don't like you.

YVONNE

What ever have I done to make you feel that way?

DOT

"What ever have I done ...?" Maybe it is the way you speak. What are you really doing here?

YVONNE

You know why we are here. So Jules can look at George's work.

DOT

I do not understand why George invites you. He knows you do not like his painting.

YVONNE

That is not entirely true. Jules has great respect for George. And he has encouraged him since they were in school.

DOT

That is not what I hear. Jules is jealous of George now.

YVONNE

(Beat)

Well ... jealousy is a form of flattery, is it not? I have been jealous of you on occasion.

(DOT looks surprised)

When I have seen George drawing you in the park. Jules has rarely sketched me.

DOT

You are his wife.

YVONNE

Too flat. Too angular.

DOT

Modeling is hard work. You wouldn't like it anyway.

YVONNE

It is worth it, don't you think?

DOT

Sometimes ...

YVONNE

Has your life changed much now that you are with the baker?

DOT

I suppose. He enjoys caring for me.

YVONNE

You are very lucky. Oh, I suppose Jules cares -- but there are times when he just does not know Louise and I are there. George always seems so oblivious to everyone.

(Lowers her voice)
Tules says that is what is wrong with his painting, Too
obsessive. You have to have a life! Don't you agree?

JULES

George ... I do not know what to say. What is this?

GEORGE

What is the dominant color? The flower on the hat?

JULES

Is this a school exam, George?

GEORGE

What is that color?

JULES

(Bored)

Violet.

(GEORGE takes him by the hand and moves him closer to the canvas)

GEORGE

See? Red and blue. Your eye made the violet.

JULES

So?

GEORGE

So, your eye is perceiving both red and blue and violet. Only eleven colors -- no black -- divided, not mixed on the palette, mixed by the eye. Can't you see the shimmering?

(JULES approaches the canvas)

JULES

George ...

GEORGE

Science, Jules. Fixed laws for color, like music.

JULES

You are a painter, not a scientist! You can't even see these faces!

GEORGE

I am not painting faces! I am --

JULES

George! I have touted your work in the past, and now you are embarrassing me! People are talking --

XXXX

GEORGE

Why should I paint like you or anybody else? I am trying to get through to something new. Something that is my own.

JULES

And I am trying to understand.

GEORGE

And I want you to understand. Look at the canvas, Jules. Really look at it.

JULES

George! Let us get to the point. You have invited me here because you want me to try to get this included in the next group show.

GEØRGE

(Beat -- embarrassed)

It will be finished soon. I want it to be seen.

(YVONNE, who has been at the studio door, leans into the room)

YVONNE

Jules, I am sorry to interrupt, but we really must be going. You know we have an engagement.

Yes.

JULES

Thank ýou, George

YVONNE

Yes. Thank you.

JULES

GEORGE

Yes. Thank you for coming.

JULES

I will give the matter some thought.

(THEY exit. GEORGE stands motionless for a moment staring at the canvas, then HE immediately dives into his work, painting the girls)

GEORGE

He does not like you. He does not understand or appreciate you. He can only see you as everyone else does. Afraid to take you apart and put you back together again for himself. But we will not let anyone deter us, will we?

(Hums)
BUMBUM BUM BUMBUM BUMBUM ---

George!

(GEORGE, embarrassed, crosses in front of canvas. HE begins to speak. DOT tries to interrupt him)

GEORGE

Excuse me -- speaking with Jules about the painting -- well, I just picked up my brushes -- I do not believe he even looked at the painting though --

DOT

You asked me to stay, George, and then you forget that I am even here.
George!

(Pause)

DOT

I have something to tell you.

GEORGE

Yes. Now, about "your" painting --

DOT

I may be going away.

(Beat)

To America.

GEORGE

Alone.

DOT

Of course not! With Louis. He has work.

GEORGE

When?

DOT

After the baby arrives.

GEORGE

You will not like it there,

DOT

How do you know?

GEORGE

(Getting angry)

I have read about America. Why are you telling me this? First, you ask for a painting that is <u>not</u> yours -- then you tell me this.

(Beginning to return to the studio)

I have work to do.

(CHORD; MUSIC continues under)

DOT

Yes, George, run to your work. Hide behind your painting. I have come to tell you I am leaving because I thought you might care to know -- foolish of me, because you care about nothing --

GEORGE

I care about many things .--

DOT

Things -- not people.

GEORGE

People, too. I cannot divide my feelings up as neatly as you and, I am not hiding behind my canvas -- I am living in it.

WHAT YOU CARE FOR IS YOURSELF.

GEORGE

I care about this painting. You will be in this painting,

TOG

I AM SOMETHING YOU CAN USE.

GEORGE

I HAD THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD.

DOT

IT'S BECAUSE I UNDERSTAND THAT I LEFT --THAT I AM LEAVING.

GEORGE

THEN THERE'S NOTHING I CAN SAY, IS THERE?

DOT

YES, GEORGE, THERE IS:

YOU COULD TELL ME NOT TO GO.

SAY IT TO ME

TELL ME NOT TO GO.

TELL ME THAT YOU'RE HURT,

TELL ME YOU'RE RELIEVED,

TELL ME THAT YOU'RE BORED

ANYTHING, BUT DON'T ASSUME I KNOW,

TELL ME WHAT YOU FEEL!

GEORGE

WHAT I FEEL?

YOU KNOW EXACTLY HOW I FEEL.

WHY DO YOU INSIST

YOU MUST HEAR THE WORDS, WHEN YOU KNOW I CANNOT GIVE YOU WORDS?

NOT THE ONES YOU NEED.

THERE'S NOTHING TO SAY

I CANNOT BE WHAT YOU WANT.







Scene 11-George & Dennis

II-36

DENNIS

George, this is the largest clearing on La Grande Jatte.

GEORGE

Where's the still?

DENNIS

It has been built and should arrive tomorrow morning a few hours before the Chromolume. I wanted it here today, but they don't make deliveries on Sunday.

GEORGE

And fresh water for the cooling system?

DENNIS

We can draw it from the Seine. As for the electricity --

GEORGE

Did you see this tree?

DENNIS

No.

GEORGE

It could be the one in the painting.

DENNIS

Yes. It could.

(GEORGE hands DENNIS the camera and goes to the tree. DENNIS takes a picture)

GEORGE

At least something is recognizable ... Now, about the electricity?

DENNIS

The wind generator's over there.

GEORGE

You have been efficient, as always.

DENNIS

Thank you.

GEORGE

I will miss working with you, Dennis.

DENNIS

Well, I can recommend some very capable people to help you with the Texas commission.

GEORGE

I turned it down.

DENNIS

What?

GEORGE

Dennis, why are you quitting?

DENNIS

I told you, I want --

GEORGE

I know what you told me! Why are you really leaving?

DENNIS

George. I love the Chromolumes. But I've helped you build the last five, and now I want to do something different.

GEORGE

I wish you had told me that in the first place.

DENNIS

I'm sorry.

GEORGE

Why do you think I turned down the commission? I don't want to do the same thing over and over again either.

DENNIS

There are other things you could do.

GEORGE

I know that. I just want to do something I care about.

(Beat. GEORGE puts camera in pocker and pulls out DOT's red book)

DENNIS

I see you brought the red book.

GEORGE

Since Marie has died, I thought I would at least bring something of hers along.

DENNIS

Marie really wanted to make this trip.

GEORGE

I know,

DENNIS

I hope you don't mind, but I took a look at the book. It's very interesting.

GEORGE

It's just a grammar book, Dennis.

DENNIS

(Imploring)
Not that part. The notes in the back.

(GEORGE leafs through it to the back)

Well, we just have to wait for it to get dark. I'm not certain about the ambient light.

End

Scene 12 - George & Blan III-27

GEORGE (continued)

IF YOU FEEL A SENSE OF COALITION, THEN YOU NEVER REALLY STAND ALONE.

IF YOU WANT YOUR WORK TO REACH FRUITION,
WHAT YOU NEED'S A LINK WITH YOUR TRADITION,
AND OF COURSE A PROMINENT COMMISSION --

(CUT-OUT #1 starts to sink again; GEORGE hastens to fix it)

PLUS A LITTLE FORMAL RECOGNITION, SO THAT YOU CAN GO ON EXHIBIT --

(Getting flustered)

SO THAT YOUR WORK CAN GO ON EXHIBITION --

(LOUD PROMENADE, very brief, during which CUT-OUT #1 starts to go again, but stops just as GEORGE reaches it. As HE does so, BLAIR DANIELS comes up to him. CHORD)

DANIELS

There's the man of the hour.

GEORGE

Blair. Hello.

(CHORD)

I read your piece on neo-expressionism --

(CHORD)

DANIELS

Just what the world needs - another piece on neo-expressionism,

GEORGE

Well, I enjoyed it.

(CHORDS continue under, irregularly)

DANIELS

Good for you! Now, I had no idea you might be related to nineteenth-century France

GEORGE

It's a cloudy ancestral line at best.

DANIELS

I'm dying to meet your grandmother. It was fun seeing the two on you onstage with your invention. It added a certain humanity to the proceedings.

GEORGE

Humanity?

DANIELS

George. Chromolume #7?

BE NICE, GEORGE.

(Gestures for a CUT-OUT;
it doesn't arise)

DANIELS

I was hoping it would be a series of three -- four at the most.

GEORGE ... GEORGE ... GEORGE ... GEORGE ...

DANIELS

We have been there before, you know.

GEORGE

You never suffer from a shortage of opinions, do you, Blair?

DANIELS

You never minded my opinions when they were in your favor!

DANIELS

I have touted your work from the beginning, you know that. You were really on to something with these light machines -- once. Now they're just becoming more and more about less and less.

GEORGE
ADVICE, GEORGE
(Gestures Offstage;
nothing)
DON'T PHINK ABOUT IT
TWICE GEORGE
(Gestures again;
nothing)

GEORGE

I disagree.

(VAMP. BEAIR DANFIELS turns briefly away from him, rummaging through her purse for a eigarette GEORGE takes advantage of this to rush Offstage and bring on CUT-OUT #5, which HE sets up in front of her during the following)

DANIELS

Don't get me wrong. You're a talented guy. If you weren't, I wouldn't waste our time with my opinions. I think you are capable of far more. Not that you couldn't succeed by doing Chromolume after Chromolume -- but there are new discoveries to be made, George.

(SHE holds up her cigarette and waits for a light from the CUT-DUT)

EM