

RED AND BLUE AND RED ALL OVER

an American fable

THE PLAYERS:

THE TALLER MAN:      Wears a red sash.    Can be any age.

THE SHORTER MAN:    Wears a blue sash.    Any age.

THE PLACE:

An undiscovered country.

PRODUCTION NOTES:

I have included a few notes at the end of the play.

RED AND BLUE AND RED ALL OVER

Music fades in. (Suggested: "Knights of Columbus" by Halloween, Alaska)

Lights fade in and remain low.

The two men enter, wide-eyed and mesmerized.

They're explorers, entering a brave new world.

They stumble around, taking it all in, occasionally turning to one another and grinning.

They continue onward, until they come to the base of a mountain (represented by a wall or pole).

Their necks crane upward in unison as they stare up at the mountain's distant peak.

There's a tape dispenser at the base of the mountain.

The taller man grabs it, looks at it.

He peels off a piece and the tape sticks to his hand.

An idea strikes him.

He pulls off his red sash and sticks a piece of tape on it.

He sticks his sash to the wall -- like a flag on a mountain.

Without missing a beat, the shorter man follows suit, removes his sash, and hangs his blue flag right next to the red one.

The men look at each other and nod.

They leave the mountain and continue on with their exploration.

Then the taller man stops.

He starts tapping his foot.

Something's eating at him.

He turns around, walks back to the mountain.

He pulls his red flag off the mountain, reaches up and hangs it directly above the shorter man's flag.

He nods, satisfied that his is higher, and walks back to his partner and taps him on the arm as if to say, "All right, now we can continue on."

The shorter man jerks his arm away, walks back to the mountain, removes his flag, leaps into the air and sticks his blue flag a little higher than the red one.

Without missing a beat, the taller man does the same, leaping into the air, and sticking his red flag still higher than the blue one.

He turns to his partner and dusts off his hands. Gloating.

The shorter man pulls his flag off the mountain and tries to get his higher than the red flag, but there's just no way.

He looks up at the red flag for a moment, then turns away, defeated.

The taller man watches him walk away.

Until...

TALLER MAN

Hey.

The music cuts.

The shorter man stops, turns.

The taller man gets down on one knee at the base of the mountain.

The shorter man looks at him.

Come on.

TALLER ACTOR

The shorter man walks back to the mountain.

He steps onto the taller man's knee and loops his legs around the taller man's shoulders.

The taller man stands with his partner on his shoulders.

With his newfound height, the shorter man plants his blue flag a couple of feet higher than the red one.

The taller man lowers his partner back to the floor.

The shorter man nods to him in a gesture of thanks, then turns to leave.

The taller man touches his shoulder to stop him, and makes a gesture, as if to say, "Now it's your turn to get on your knees."

The shorter man looks him up and down and smirks like, "You got to be kidding."

He starts to turn away.

The taller man grabs him by the shoulder, harder this time, spins him around.

The shorter man responds by shoving him into the mountain.

The shorter man looks up at the mountain, his flag higher than the other.

He smirks, then turns away.

The taller man picks the heavy tape dispenser off the floor.

He stalks behind the shorter actor, then smashes the dispenser into his partner's back.

The shorter man falls to the floor.

He rolls onto his back and looks at his partner standing above him.

SHORTER MAN

Jesus, man, that really fucking --

The taller man swings the dispenser again at his partner, striking him in the skull.

The shorter man puts a hand up to defend himself, but the taller man strikes him again and again and again.

The action should be brutal. And jarringly realistic, as compared to the rest of the play.

The taller man keeps swinging long after his partner stops moving.

Finally the taller man stops.

He looks at his partner a moment...

Then drags his body back to the base of the mountain.

He leaps up and pulls his flag off the mountain.

He props the dead body onto its knees and tries to climb on the shoulders.

The dead body slumps to the floor.

He sticks the dead body on all fours so he can stand on it, but again, it slumps to the floor.

The body is face down.

Finally, desperate, the taller man simply stands on the back of his partner's corpse.

He reaches up with his red flag, but he's nowhere near the blue one.

He reaches, reaches, reaches, grunting desperate, animal noises.

Finally he gives up.

He makes to throw his flag, but it sticks to his hands.

He shakes his hands, but it won't come off.

As lights fade, the taller man looks down at his hands. Covered in red.

End of play.