

The Frogs: A Modern Adaptation

by Don Zolidis

POISON DART FROG, female, any age, any race or ethnicity

About the play: Dionysus and his slave have ventured into Hades to rescue Shakespeare, the greatest writer in history. Their path is blocked, however, by a swarm of pop culture-loving frogs, who put them on trial for crimes.

About the scene: The Poison Dart Frog is making her opening statement in the trial. She speaks to the jury.

Time: Present day. Hades.

POISON DART FROG

Let me tell you a little story. It's a story about love. Forbidden love. And I know you're thinking, "what does this have to do with my trial" and my answer to that is "shut your face." You'll find out at the end.

Nobody liked me when I was growing up. Oh sure they said I was beautiful, they said I had striking markings, but when you're a Poison dart frog, nobody gets too close to you. I'd hop down the hall at frog school and the other frogs would freak out in their little haz-mat suits and jump into lockers. They'd call me names like Vulture Girl and Stove Top Stuffing Recipe. Some of their insults made no sense, but those were the ones that hurt most of all.

So you know what I did? I fell in love.

With Myself.

A lot of girls don't have self-esteem. They walk around thinking, (*whiny voice*) "oh am I pretty?, I don't know, will he like me in these jeans?" Or "am I slimy enough for him?" I got news for you, chicks! Nobody cares! All right? Shut up!

I didn't slink down the hallways anymore, instead – I threw open the doors and said, "here I am, world! Get outta my way!" And then I'd scream and sprint down the hall as fast as I could. Aaaaaaah! They liked me less after that.

So I got kicked out of school. Got a few tattoos. Killed a few tattoo artists accidentally. Stuff happens.

And then I met him. He wasn't like those other frogs. He wasn't scared. He wasn't actually a frog. He was a turtle. He was a hero. On a half-shell.

His name was Raphael and I used to ride on his shell – we'd talk about all the things he liked, pizza, and other things that were kind of like pizza – we'd fight bad guys together – he had all these awesome ninja moves and when he wasn't looking I would jump on their faces and they would die right there. We were cool.

(*a TURTLE enters in a flashback. POISON DART FROG goes to him.*)

But he wanted more.