

The Frogs: A Modern Adaptation

By Don Zolidis

CANE TOAD, male, any age, 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 Cane Toad has just learned, Maury Povich-style, that Dionysus was not his father. He is about to relate the tale of how he came to Hades in their trial.

Time: Present day. Hades.

CANE TOAD

Can I have a minute to get myself together? It's just... I spent my whole life thinking Dionysus was my father – and now... I don't even know who I am, man...

So anyway... I had a tough childhood. Everyone hated me in Australia. They said I was non-indigenous. Invasive. *You're Non-indigenous and invasive!* You ever been minding your own business, hopping across a highway and have three jeeps swerve to try to run you over? They used to kill my friends for fun and say that they were ten points – but they said it in their Australian accents so it sounded more like

“ten points”

In my dreams I drove my own Jeep. My own Cane Toad jeep. I'd find the slow-moving humans and take them out. Splorch. Splorch.

XANTHIAS

What does this have to do with anything?!

CANE TOAD

I'm getting to it! Anyway, it's not easy being a Cane Toad in Australia. I made up for by having hundreds of babies and eating anything I could find. It didn't matter what it was: Bugs. Roadkill. Old tires. Kittens. Mostly kittens. But I wasn't just eating to fill my enormous stomach, I was eating to fill the giant hole... in my heart. But no matter how many kittens you eat, you can't fill that hole. You need puppies to fill that hole. And they were too fast. So one day I was sitting in a field, emitting a toxic goo from my back as I usually do, when I was given a chance at a new life.

I was going to be on Australia's Biggest Loser.

Here was my chance. Fame. Fortune. A non-spherical figure.