

OH IT'S YOU (ALDEN JENKS)

The text has been used in a performance piece, which you can see here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XA4WN1HEqFs>

These comments are drawn from the description provided with the video.

This is a study, of what goes through a person's mind when encountering someone else. At the outset, although there is but a single actress, she seems to be many people, male or female, of any age. We hear simple courtesy, the bored waitress, the exaggerated politeness of your maiden aunt at her weekly bridge game, and so on. The words are all spoken. As the piece goes on the language becomes more intense and perhaps a little suggestive: "When will I see you"; "your eyes, and your hands, how they move". And as this process goes on, another is under way: a change from speech to song. This process is not linear, not a simple straight line. There are interruptions, relapses. The electronic sounds change from simple accompaniment, to commentary, to interlocutor, and back. When the actress speaks now, she seems alarmed: "How did you get in?" In the final section, intermittently her words are no longer spoken, or chanted, but at last sung fully.

PART 1: HELLO

Oh, it's you! Hello.

How are you?

Are you fine?

Is it you?

Hello! Fine.

How are you feeling?

OH IT'S YOU (ALDEN JENKS)

Are you feeling fine still, come in?

What would you like? Really.

Are you fine and what would you like now.

Come in, walk in, step in, down this way, over there, watch out, sit down.

A little to the left.

Now then.

Are those pants new -

Where did you get those shoes -

Is that your shirt –

How's your drink?

Want some coffee?

Your hair is wrong

Need ice?

Nice! clothes! Easy to understand, easy to read, easy to put aside.

Innuendo? Funny!

I was expecting you, but I, I didn't know how you would be feeling but
you feel fine, really fine!

What would you like? Really.

Here's a place where you can be comfortable, just put your feet up,
sing if you like, sing songs; sure, of course.

Innuendo? Oh! a brand name! a logo, a new line?

No innuendo?

How unusual! Yes! Fascinating!...

OH IT'S YOU (ALDEN JENKS)

More hot water?
That coat is old
Your eyes...

When will I see when will you see
Are you leaving
When will you leave
Your eyes. And your hands. How they move,
like leaves, how they move,
like a male, how they move,
slow, dust, like dust, settling quietly
Your eyes...
are wrong Oh it's ---
Oh I see...
It is you

PART 2: ONE OF THEM

Oh, is it --- are you one of them?
How did you get in?
Are you careful? How do you move? like a leaf? Like a male?
Perilous, perilous, these times and these places ---
I would ask you in, ask you out, ha-ha, I would, no, would I --- not!

I dunno, no, innuendo.
Are you one of those, who move that way?
Innuendo;

OH IT'S YOU (ALDEN JENKS)

Are those your eyes, those...

Afric eyes?

One of them wanders, wanders away, far....

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'VE DONE TIME?

Time does you. Why hurry?

Stay stay a little while --- before you move,

move carefully,

like a leaf,

like a bat,

like a spider,

like a bat, like a leaf, back and forth, like a mote

in the eye, wander, wandering,

dust, echo,

one of those leaving, left gone goodbye goodbye so long.

He was I believe one of them...

PART 3 YOU

[Cheerful]

You, oh, is it you? Here you are!

Are you staying,

are you staying here too?

What are you doing, what do you....., what are you doing now,

[hearty] what are you doing with yourself!?

[an idiotic sing-song:]

These days!

these days!

OH IT'S YOU (ALDEN JENKS)

what are you doing,
now, what, What!
do you want do you want
What!
do you want,
What!
do you want.

What are you up to,
What are you doing with your days,
these days,
where are you stay-ing,
are you go-ing,
what are you say-ing
what, still wanting,
what are you wanting, you do, these days,
[sing-song changes to ordinary speech:]
what do you want, now, still want, now
[pause]
More coffee?

PART 3 PLATO

[Now intoned as a chant:]
Oh, it's you, and your darting eyes, your eyes,
as Plato says,
5

OH IT'S YOU (ALDEN JENKS)

the eyes, the eyes' light comes out
and meets the light from mine
out there in the middle distance,
there, on the edge, on the fragile boundary that you,
elegant Castilian,
thrust in to --- you violate --- oh
it's you,
I recede, I withdraw, I.... wait ---

The eyes' light comes out, comes out;
there, on the skin, delicate, permeable, a pregnable skin,
you – play - the great, the breathless perilous game of eyes....
are you looking now?
Can you see me? What do you want?

Who?

Oh, you! it's you, it is you after all, it is, it's, it's you, yes please,
do!

continue

© 2015 Alden Jenks