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Dramatic Publishing



The Sasmann Aesthetic

by
Jules Tasca

From...

35 in 10

Thirty-Five Ten-Minute Plays

Compiled and Edited

KENT R. BROWN



Dramatic Publishing

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THE SASMANN AESTHETIC

By
Jules Tasca

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The Sasmann Aesthetic was first produced in 2000 by American Playwrights Theater, Inc., at the John Houseman Theatre in New York City.

CHARACTERS

DR. GRACE BULLOCK: A woman in her early 40s.

HOWARD SASMANN: A man in his 30s.

SETTING: The office of Dr. Grace Bullock at the Morrisville State Psychiatric Hospital. A desk and chairs suggest the office.

TIME: The present.

THE SASMANN AESTHETIC

AT THE CURTAIN: *DR. BULLOCK sits at the desk and peruses a folder. She pushes the button on the inter-com.*

DOCTOR. Would you please tell Mr. Sasmann to come in.

(After a beat, HOWARD SASMANN enters. He is a well-built man who wears a pullover shirt and a pair of form-fitting white pants. The DOCTOR rises and greets him.)

DOCTOR. Howard Sasmann, I'm Dr. Bullock.

HOWARD. Good morning, Dr. Bullock.

DOCTOR. Good morning.

HOWARD. I was supposed to see a Dr. Eric Gutig, I believe.

DOCTOR. I'm his associate. Dr. Gutig's caught up in an emergency right now.

HOWARD. You mean the guy in the restraints who's yelling he's Jesus?

DOCTOR. We don't discuss other patients, Mr. Sasmann.

HOWARD. I understand a professional ethic, Doctor. But your Jesus is obviously mentally ill. I'm not. Let me clear that up right now. I don't really belong in a crazy house.

DOCTOR. *Mr.* Sasmann, this is a hospital, sir.

HOWARD. I stand corrected, Doctor. It is a hospital. All

I'm trying to say is that there's nothing wrong with me.

DOCTOR. All right. But can we just talk for a while?

HOWARD. I'll talk all you like, but there's nothing the matter with me.

DOCTOR. Married?

HOWARD. *No*, I'm not.

DOCTOR. Girlfriend?

HOWARD. I date a couple of girls, yes. And they're both upset over this, too. It got into the papers.

DOCTOR. So I read.

HOWARD. I need to explain to them that there's nothing the matter with me. The papers made me into an evil person.

DOCTOR (*sitting*). All right. Then let me hear it from you. What're you doing here at Morrisville State Hospital?

HOWARD. You know what I'm doing here. You have my file.

DOCTOR. You tell me in your own words. Sit.

HOWARD (*sitting*). It was a deal. It was a deal my lawyer made with the judge. Coming here kept me out of jail. I agreed to come here as an outpatient to keep from going to prison. And I have to continue coming here until I'm deemed cured, Dr. Bullock. Does that correlate with what you have in that folder?

DOCTOR. It does.

HOWARD. And there's nothing wrong with me. Prison. That judge threatened me with prison. Oh, I don't say I don't possess the same quirks as every man, but psychologically, there's nothing wrong with me.