

Computer Worship

A Ten-Minute Play

By

Forrest Musselman

12415 County 28
Mabel, MN 55954
formusselman@hotmail.com

A variation of *Computer Worship* was performed at Winona State University in the Spring of 1994 as part of a larger show called *Dancescape '94* and was directed by Vivian Fusillo.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

PREACHER

HE/SHE is leading the service.

OTHERS

A cast of eight or more would be ideal, but overall size is at the discretion of the director.

PLACE

A church.

TIME

The future or the present?

PROPS NEEDED

Pulpit, computer monitor and keyboard, incense and CD disks.

RUNNING TIME

Even though the script itself is only a couple pages, the running time can go 7 to 10 minutes based on the slow, somber pacing of the piece.

SETTING: The play opens on the quiet of a church. The stage is bare except for a preacher's pulpit. Incense burns on either side and could be in other places around the theater. Organ music plays quietly in the background.

SETTING: The lights fade a bit and people dressed in robes begin walking down the aisles of the theater and/or entering from all directions. They are chanting the following.

ALL

I.... B.... M. I.... B.... M. Mi.... cro.... soft. Mi.... cro.... soft. Ap... ple. Ap... ple.

(The chanting continues until all the worshippers have reached the stage and are standing in a semicircle around the pulpit. The chanting increases in volume as the Preacher dressed in a more elaborate robe, enters upstage center and walks slowly toward the pulpit. When the Preacher reaches the pulpit, he/she turns it slowly around to reveal a computer inside. The chanting stops and all those worshipping kneel on the stage. The Preacher raises his/her hands and speaks in a slow, monotone voice, sounding somewhat like a computer's voice.)

PREACHER

Blessed is the Computer.

ALL

Chip, chip.

PREACHER

Let us bow our heads in prayer as we listen to hymn number forty-seven.

(All bow their heads as the theme to the "Mario Brothers" video game (or other famous / recognizable theme song) plays for ten to fifteen seconds and then ends.)

PREACHER

Join me now as I recite the Computer's prayer.

ALL

Our technology, who art in cyberspace,
Computer be thy name.
Thy e-mail come, but who's it from?
It's on my screen as it is on yours.
Give us this day our daily web site
and forgive us our log in violations,
as we forgive those who don't upgrade with us.
And lead us not into viruses,
But deliver us from freeze-ups,
For thine is the keyboard, the hard drive, and
and the monitor forever and ever, amen.

PREACHER

It is now time for communion. Please come forward if you wish to be programmed.

(More MIDI-type music begins to play as each person, one at a time, stands and walks toward the Preacher. The Preacher takes a compact disk from the pulpit.)

PREACHER

The body and blood of Computer.

(The Preacher places the disk in the mouth of the person. The person exits. The Preacher repeats the line and action for each person. When all the people have exited, the Preacher makes the sign of the cross and places a disk into his/her own mouth. The Preacher pulls the keyboard from the pulpit and sits before the monitor. The Preacher begins typing furiously with the disk still in his/her mouth. Lights fade slowly to the sound of the keyboard.)

END OF PLAY