

PINEAPPLE, MAMEY & ZAPOTE

A Play in Two Acts

by

Jose Armand

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Latino Ensemble Inc.
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Cast Of Characters

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN: Political talk show host.

AURORA: Avid radio caller, member of Chimera Cabañas' fan club.

SISTER CHARON: Religious talk show host.

VENUS: Sex therapist radio talk show host.

ET #1: Extraterrestrial scientist.

ET #2: Extraterrestrial scientist.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS: Retired actress turned radio talk show host.

MUSICAL TRIO

GRACIELA: Avid radio listener, member of Chimera Cabañas' fan club.

VESTA: Cleaning lady.

GANYMEDE: Young male security guard. Basketball fanatic.

ESTELA: Avid radio caller, member of Chimera Cabañas' fan club.

CANÍCULA CASSIOPEIA: Political talk show host.

CAROLINA LA MAJA: Avid radio caller, member of Chimera Cabañas' fan club. Sister of Carolina la de Cataluña.

CAROLINA LA DE CATALUÑA: Avid radio caller, member of Chimera Cabañas' fan club. Sister of Carolina la MAJA.

GRANDPA: Avid radio caller, member of Chimera Cabañas' fan club.

COMMANDER CARIBBEAN HAKE: Avid nonagenarian radio caller member of the militant "Comando José Martí.

CELESTE: Avid radio caller, member of Chimera Cabañas' fan club.

CHEO: Radio caller.

MAGDALENA VENTURA: Avid radio caller, member of Chimera Cabañas' fan club.

MALE RADIO CALLERS: #1-#7

FEMALE RADIO CALLERS: #1 & #2

HYSTERIC FEMALE CALLER

MATILDE: Character in the play "Diabetes Has Its Charm!"

BOMB SQUAD POLICE OFFICER

911 OPERATOR

CAMERAMAN

CHANNEL 37 REPORTER

PYREX DEL HOYO: Mayoral candidate.

FATHER BALLENA: Catholic Priest.

YOUNG MAN

LITTLE GIRL

LA LUPE

Scene

Miami; The Magic City

Time

October 1994; Cuban rafter crisis

ACT I

SETTING:

A small apartment in the wee hours of the morning. On a bed a bundle moves occasionally from side to side. Nearby there is a coffin with a dead bird on it. There is a niche that resembles puffs of clouds suspended along the upstage wall.

AT RISE:

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN is reading a news bulletin from the niche. The room is in total darkness.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

"In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth. And the Earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, let there be light; and there was light..."

A LIGHT comes up and we see AURORA tossing and turning in bed, aglow, she's wearing curlers and a mask over her eyes to keep out the light. She keeps dabbing at the corner of each eye with tissue paper. The telephone is on the speaker system, it rings incessantly. LIGHT on ZÄYAS-KAIZEN.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

That passage from Genesis was broadcast by Apollo 8 astronaut Frank Borman as he orbited the moon! You can now take a listen to this historical lunar voyage by calling us

at 1-900 APOLLO 8. The call costs 50 cents. And in a non-related note, radio astronomers from the University of Illinois, report finding traces of vinegar in a stellar cloud named Sagittarius B2 North, 25,000 light-years from Earth. Vinegar is an organic molecule believed to have played a role in the formation of life, the sun, and the planets! So don't be too surprised if little green men with antennas on their heads, come knocking at your door! You're listening to Global Village! This is Zäyas-Kaizen, with complete coverage!

Still unable to sleep, AURORA reaches for the radio and changes the station. LIGHTS off on ZÄYAS-KAIZEN and up on SISTER CHARON who emerges from the niche. She delivers her apologetics speech in the softest of tones, crying and pleading as if speaking to children and ending in tearful hysterics.

SISTER CHARON

...My little one, my darling little one, these are the last days, these are the last knocks at the door, the last warnings. Any moment now the Lord will come quickly and snatch its flock in a glorious rapture.

AURORA gets up from the bed crying and strokes the dead bird. She tries to control her cries. Nearby there is a "Chupacabras" costume. It is a reptilian creature with small wings and a long tail which resembles Fidel Castro in uniform.

...Dear little one, let's be like children, without holding any grudges in our little hearts, let us dialogue, let us forgive, let us reconcile with our enemies, kneel down little sister, come on, kneel down before the Lord!

AURORA

(Kneels down and holds the dead bird up in the air.)

¡Aurora del Alba Quiñones, I am your servant Lord, Praise God, Hallelujah!

(She kneels in front of the coffin. Cries hysterically.)

Oh, little Augustine! My dear little bird!

SISTER CHARON

...There's very little time left, but if you humble yourself like a child, says the Lord- Praise God, hallelujah!- that we're going to live in streets of gold, seas of crystal, doors of pearl, where the light will be our Celestial Father, our Divine Christ my love.

AURORA strokes the dead bird. She writes a letter, puts it in an envelope, and includes a few dollars. She tries to fall asleep.

Once upon a time, Christ was on earth and He healed ten, and He healed them from leprosy, and one of them turned to thank the Lord, and Christ said, what? weren't they ten that I healed? Where are the other nine? Christ didn't need it, but it's nice to receive a love letter. Oh, sweet, blessed Jesus, Praise God, hallelujah! How can we not love, how can we not worship, He's admirable, He's the Alpha and the Omega, He's our friend, He's Jehovah's angel. The consuming actor of our lives, Praise God! The head of the church, the head of every man, the way, the truth, and the life, He's the only one who can lead us to the Father, pick up your phone and keep calling, and may God have mercy on us all!

AURORA changes the station and goes into the bathroom to relieve her stomachache, we hear the toilet flush. LIGHTS off on SISTER CHARON and up

on VENUS who springs up from the niche.

VENUS

...So maybe your wish is to be spanked or maybe your wish is that it's you that is doing the spanking while you're making love. We're talking about spanking on a very sexual level, on a fever-pitch level. Maybe this is something that you would like to participate in but you're feeling a little bit hesitant bringing this up to your mate. I think a lot of people would feel hesitant in bringing up a topic such as this. What you can do is, when the two of you are making love, just give a good little tap on the rear end of your mate, right there, yeah! That's our topic for tonight, your: "Bedroom Wish List!" Call us up at "Talk Sex," I'm Venus, with you until dawn.

With toilet paper in tow, AURORA belts out of the bathroom to turn off the radio.

AURORA

Oh, no you don't missy, you're not going to bring in that smut into my house!

A blue LIGHT paralyzes AURORA with fear. ET #2 makes his way into the apartment and chases after AURORA who tries to flee. SOUND of static heard on the radio.

AURORA

Help! SOS! I'm being abducted and taken to Mars!

ET #2 catches AURORA and lays her on the bed. He places a hand on her forehead which relaxes her.

ET #2

Calm down, Aurora, I'm not going to hurt you. We've come to the City of Sunshine to conduct a study on the effect of radio waves on human beings from the Island.

The radio program continues, albeit, with some static. As soon as ET #2 removes his hand from AURORA's forehead, she covers her ears battling to keep from listening to VENUS.

VENUS

...My producer Emilio and I are great fans of this, I think we just have to overcome the hang-up. It can actually be very sexy. Hey Emilio, do you prefer to give or receive? You're a giver! I like to give and receive!

ET #2 begins to spin the bed around.

VENUS

...Or maybe you're into "rimming". Emilio, have you ever experimented with "rimming"? You're a fan of this sport! Okay, what you don't like is going down and doing it to a woman. Oh, but you love it when Gloria goes down on you! Oh, okay! Well for those of you who are not familiar with what "rimming" is, think about what oral sex is, stimulating the genitals with the mouth and with the tongue, "rimming" is stimulating the anus! I know that there are many of you out there who feel passionate about this and that it turns you on. And maybe you listening to me would like this sport on the top of your "Bedroom wish list!" This is one of these shows where your comments are always welcome, and God knows you add so much insight into this. The telephone lines are now open, dial us up at "Talk Sex," I'm Venus, with you until dawn...

The telephone continues to RING.

SCENE:

A radio station. There are still visible traces of the last bomb attack it was

subjected to. The LIGHTS come up on CHIMERA CABAÑAS who is seated at the microphone. SOUND of song "Mas Teatro." ZÄYAS-KAIZEN is on the air at the control booth.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

And with this song by La Lupe, "La Gigigi;" "More Theatre," "Mas teatro," oh, no!, ¡ha, ha, ha, ha!, we've come to the end of "People Sound Off with Zäyas-Kaizen." Until tomorrow ladies and gentlemen, although I won't be leaving just yet, I'll be working the booth. Coming up is Chimera Cabañas, with her show "Chimera at Dawn."

SOUND of feedback during introduction.

I leave you with the most sensual and caressing voice of radio, the leading lady of radio novelas, television, and theatre, more theatre, más teatro, oh, no! The one and only Chimera Cabañas!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Her diction is impeccable.)

Good morning dear friends! Here we are, Sunday, coming to you live from Global Village Radio with our program "Chimera at Dawn." A very warm welcome to all our club members and to those of you who are tuning in for the first time, just that fact alone, turns you into an instant club member. As such, you can participate in our luncheon parties, our theatre outings and our many trips abroad to faraway lands, where you and I can meet personally, meanwhile, keep us company by calling in with your joys and chimeras until 5 in the morning.

(Laughs sonorously.)

I will share with you my advice, my poetry, music of my homeland, and lots, lots of love, this kiss is for you...

(Sounds of a kiss on the mike.)

...from Chimera Cabañas, and welcome one and all to "Chimera at Dawn."

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN plays the show's theme song which sounds like an

instrumental version of
 "Volare, Volare." LIGHTS
 on MUSICAL TRIO.
 CHIMERA CABAÑAS
 takes off her headset and
 turns to ZÄYAS-KAIZEN.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Zäyas, what was all that feedback during my introduction?

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

You shouldn't have let your engineer go on vacation. I'm a journalist, not an engineer.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Shut up! You wouldn't even be on the air if it wasn't for my ratings!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Canicula Cassiopeia is still at the top of the charts!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

And Zäyas-Kaizen at the bottom!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Beware you don't slip and fall on a pineapple peel. I just might have to take over your program.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

The only slip and fall is going to be Canicula Cassiopeia's. You're looking at the next "Queen of the Dawn," sweetie!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN exits.
 LIGHTS on a tube that
 protrudes from a wall.
 Launched from inside the
 tube and landing on the
 stage floor are articles of
 clothing. VESTA's head is
 seen coming out of the
 tube. She talks to the
 audience. CHIMERA

CABAÑAS doesn't pay any attention to her; it's as if she were invisible.

VESTA

I live here in the laundry next door. I spend the entire day hollering for someone to notice me and get me out of here. But I might just as well be invisible. What luck! They hire me to clean the radio station and the very first thing they do is send me out to do their laundry. And at that precise moment the bomb goes off. What luck! It's like they say "You can run but you cannot hide!" The sound of the washers and dryers drives me crazy! But if I don't wash their stinking laundry, these radio divas will not give me anything to eat!

(Points to CHIMERA CABAÑAS and pounds on the beam.)

Hey pumpkin, when are they going to get me out of here? She's deaf, I guess. That Arbitron ratings war has her seeing double! The only worry on her mind is having to look for sponsors to advertise in that silly show of hers. You're looking at one lucky woman, because they say the bomb was meant for the station, not for the laundry. Hey, I got hired as a cleaning lady and not as a laundress to the stars! Do you hear me? GET ME OUT OF HERE!

GANYMEDE enters listening to a radio. He carries a hamper full of dirty laundry and sets it by VESTA. He bounces a basketball and dances to rap music.

VESTA

Hey Ganymede, I want to ask you something young man, come here. Do you get paid for being a security guard or for bouncing that ball all day like an idiot listening to black music?

GANYMEDE doesn't pay any attention to her. It's as if VESTA were invisible.

VESTA

Go ahead Ganymede, shoot!

(She hides inside the tube then quickly comes back out.)

And hurry up with my damn food!

(She hides inside the tube. Off stage.)

Ganymede!

(She sticks her head outside the tube.)

This child is as stubborn as a mule! I'm at the end of my rope!

(She hides inside the tube. Off stage.)

Ganymede!

(She comes out again.)

Can't you see I'm starving, you inconsiderate child?!

(She hides inside the tube. Off stage.)

Ganymede!

(She comes out again.)

This kid really packs a wallop!

(She looks at him with amazement.)

GANYMEDE tires of playing and crosses to the hamper. He takes the clothes that are inside and throws them down the tube. CHIMERA CABAÑAS is on the air.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

This is Chimera Cabañas at the start of a new dawn, and we began it with "Volare, Volare." What a lovely tune, huh? Well dear friends, well today I'm, you can imagine, ecstatic over Saturday's luncheon party, it was an exxtraoordinary success, extraordinary the amount of people who showed up, huh? Everything turned out so lovely, and I feel, really so happy, so ecstatic, so many of you out there in the audience, so much love, so many new people that showed up at our "Chimera at Dusk" luncheon party, and all our regular members, with their love, with their affection, showering me with happiness, and with their birthday presents for me, it really was something so, so, so, marvelous, mar-ve-lous! Like all of our luncheon parties. Well, let's go to our first caller, Global Village, good morning!

LIGHTS on GRACIELA who is calling from her home. She's poised behind a Venetian blind.

GRACIELA

Is it good morning or is it good evening? I don't know what to say!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

GRACIELA! It's good morning darling, it's already past midnight!

GRACIELA

Oh, my God!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

How are you Graciela?

GRACIELA

I'm feeling a lot better, my palpitations seem to be going away...

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Oh, so then you're feeling like a brand-new human being!

GRACIELA

Well, not so brand and not so new, when I look at myself in the mirror, I see that I've lost a lot of weight-

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

But why have you lost, are you on a diet?

GRACIELA

No, I'm not on much of a diet cause I've got diabetes. I just don't like to overdo it. Sometimes I do go on a binge for sweets, fruit cocktails, papaya chunks, guava with cream cheese, three-layered cakes, silly things like that. But one thing is for sure, I do stick to only one meal a day.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Oh, then you're fine, you have nothing to worry about, it's good to lose a few pounds now and then.

GRACIELA

And how have you been?

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Fine, thank God. A little tired after the premiere of my play "The Discreet Charm of the Diabetic."

GRACIELA

I took a lot of photos, you were just fabulous in that last scene, I couldn't stop crying-

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

I never take photos, it's always nicer to get them as presents.

GRACIELA

That last scene between the mother and the daughter was so sad.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

It's got its sad moments but it's also very funny. Not like some of these "modern" plays that insist on such disagreeable topics.

GRACIELA

I'll come by the theatre to see you again when I get back from Albuquerque-

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

I certainly hope so! We're going to miss you Graciela-

GRACIELA

And I'll miss all of you too. It's such a shame that your program doesn't reach there.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Wouldn't that be wonderful!

GRACIELA

Oh, yes! I kept tuning in and tuning in and all I could get was Mexico. I was furious with Mexico!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Can't you get hold of a radio with a better antenna?

GRACIELA

No, I kept getting Mexico. And I was furious with Mexico!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Mexico, yes, Mexico...

GRACIELA

I kept getting Mexico right there, right there where I should be getting Global Village!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Oh well, you tried! Call us when you get back and let us know all about your trip to Albuquerque.

GRACIELA

I'll come see your play at the "José Martí Theatre."

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

"The Discreet Charm of the Diabetic," a very delightful tragicomedy, picaresque, mischievous, light, full of double-entendres, very funny, extremely delightful this tragicomedy written especially for la "Cabañas."

GRACIELA

Well, Chimera...

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Well my darling, thanks for calling. And continue with your diet.

GRACIELA

I'll hang up now or the callers on hold are going to want to feed this old parrot poisoned parsley!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Parsley is very good for you. It's wonderful for those of us who work with our voice, who can go hoarse at the slightest exertion. Well Graciela sweetie, see you soon my love.

GRACIELA

See you soon Chimera, God Bless, bye-bye.

The LIGHTS fade down on
GRACIELA.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Bye-bye! Well, friends, we're going to go to a station break and we'll be right back!

SOUND of rousing music.

COMMERCIAL VOICE-OVER

One planet, one station, Global Village, 730 on your dial! The most powerful station in the Magic City, 100,000 watts of broadcasting power, day and night, we cover the state, we cover the suffering Island and we cover 85% of Latinos who reside in the Bermuda Triangle!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Well friends, we're back, and I want to tell you something, very, very important. This is Chimera Cabañas and I would like to invite you to visit the Organic Health Clinic, where treating diabetes is a routine and not a mystery. Keep that in mind, it is a routine and not a mystery. Don't do anything foolish, go to the clinic, remember that diabetes is a routine and not a mystery, call right now. And tell them that you heard it from Chimera Cabañas, and I always tell you the truth. Global Village, good morning!

LIGHT on MC #3 who along with CHIMERA CABAÑAS enter into an animated game. They move hyper-realistically. SOUND of a fast-forward tape is heard when he speaks.

MALE CALLER #3

¡Lfzjdzzfojopjzpfjepozjdfkzfejwjzppwj! ¡Dkjsjzsfazldilkzzk;dfzp!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Well sir, write a letter to management and suggest to them what you're telling me, that you think callers should limit their time talking, that we should discuss a broader range of topics- what else can I tell you?

MC #3 enters into an animated game again with CHIMERA CABAÑAS.

MALE CALLER #3

¡Flekjferorglkjglkgzorgjrkdf! ¡Glfuezdloekldzojmjelzgjrrj!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

No, no, I forgive you, thanks for calling us. Global Village good morning!

LIGHTS off on MC #3 and
up on GRANDPA.
Throughout the scene
GRANDPA scratches
himself vigorously.

GRANDPA
YOU SOUND VERY FAR AWAY CHILD!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS
GRANDPA! HOW'S YOUR PSORIASIS?

GRANDPA
WHAT?

CHIMERA CABAÑAS
HOW'S YOUR PSORIASIS?

GRANDPA
THE FUNNY BONE IS KILLING ME, CHILD! HOW ARE YOU?

CHIMERA CABAÑAS
STOP SCRATCHING SO MUCH YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO MAKE IT WORSE! I'm doing good, thank God! Listening to people who want to program the station. Doesn't time fly by when you're having fun; he talked for four minutes and didn't seem to mind! The only topic we don't discuss here is politics. We recite poetry, we play music, we have you call in with your stories about things that make you happy, your parties, your grandchildren, etc, etc. I let everyone go on for as long as they want to. We only stop for commercial breaks, other than that, anyone can say whatever they please, I am more than happy to listen to them!

GRANDPA exits. LIGHTS
on CHIMERA CABAÑAS
and on ESTELA who is
talking from her kitchen.

ESTELA

Good morning, Chimera.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

¡ESTELA!

ESTELA

You won't believe what happened to me, I damned well nearly died Saturday night!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

What happened? You looked fine at the theatre.

ESTELA

I was up all night long, not a wink, just couldn't sleep, Neutrino made me a cup of chocolate Quick around eleven o'clock or so, and it just didn't agree with me, and oh my God! I think the cup of Quick chocolate just lumped in my stomach and I got this sharp pain here on top of the belly button and it just shot up my entire right side-

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Oh, my God!

ESTELA

I think it was a gallbladder attack or just some stone moving around, some gallstone or something... I was so sick, let me tell you, it was pure agony-

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

But it's gone away now, right?

ESTELA

Not really, I still have this nagging little pain on the upper part of my stomach, it shoots up my right side-

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Why don't you go to the doctor?

ESTELA

I have to go to the doctor, but oh, my God, what agony, you just can't imagine what I've been through, Chimera!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Dear Lord! You know I'm terrified of chocolate... I love it so!

ESTELA

No, but you know me, I never have chocolate, but Quick, you know all that is imitation chocolate-

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

¡Huuuh! ¿IMITATION? Imitation? There's some chocolate in there.

ESTELA

Look, you know I'm not the type to be constantly drinking chocolate or eating bonbons-

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

I just love it, there's nothing like a hot cup of pure chocolate!

ESTELA

Poor Neutrino, he almost had to call the "Rescue."

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Well, I think you should go to the doctor, maybe there's a problem with your gallbladder and you don't know it.

ESTELA

I don't know, it could be a little problem with my kidney.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Well, off to the doctor with you! Have them take a look at it.

ESTELA

Oh, my God! It was so horrendous! You can't imagine how much I wanted to throw up, I just wanted to throw up. Gee, it's so embarrassing to be telling you all these things over the radio. And to think I was so happy with how it all turned out at our luncheon party and at your premiere.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Thanks love, it was so good, it was terrific!

ESTELA

Well, Chimera, talk to you tomorrow deary, I hope I'm feeling better by then.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Of course, you will, God willing, take good care of yourself and don't forget to call the doctor in the morning.

ESTELA

Chimera, I'd like to hear something from my homeland, can you play for me "Al Vaiven De Mi Carreta?"

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Of course love, I'll go look for it right now.

ESTELA

I wish you continued success with your show tonight.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Thanks, sweetie, give Neutrino a big kiss from me.

ESTELA

All right deary.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Take care of yourself.

ESTELA

Talk to you tomorrow.

LIGHTS off on ESTELA.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Bye-bye! Well friends, let's go now to Zäyas-Kaizen who's standing by in our news bureau.

VOICE-OVER WITH SOUND EFFECTS

Global Village brings you the latest up-to-the-minute news from America and around the Globe. Global Village, #1 for news. Reporting for those that arrived yesterday, those arriving today, and those that will arrive tomorrow.

Disquieting SOUND as background to the news.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

(Rapid-fire delivery.)

The US government approved the sale of pineapples, developed, by means of genetic engineering, stating that these are just as healthy as those that are produced by traditional, agricultural techniques, these pineapples can grow up to 3 feet long. Banana Republics will reap most of the benefits from this venture.

Brief lull in SOUND to emphasize transition.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Thousands of compatriots joined forces in the Magic City to condemn the sinking of a tugboat by the government of Habana, in which 41 people who were trying to flee the island drowned at sea. Close to 3,000 exiles met at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity to pray for the souls of the dead in the July 13 incident, and to pray for the safety of the survivors where at least 41 people were killed when 4 fireboats from the Habana government intercepted on high seas the tugboat "13 of March." They attacked it with high-pressure water hoses ramming and sinking it until it capsized. The majority of the 72 fugitives on board were tossed to the sea; others drowned when the ship's storeroom was inundated by the Cuban fireboats. Coast Guard boats rescued 31 survivors. Our quote today comes from that great writer whose name is Miguel de Cervantes y Savedra, he said the following and we'll leave you with that as our thought for the day: "We are the fruits of our labor." In the meantime, here is the weather report for the Magic City and its vicinities, the forecast for today is...

(He looks around.)

...very stormy, that's the forecast for the day, very stormy, indeed. You're listening to Global Village, more responsible, more professional, and always first with the news.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Well friends, this is Chimera Cabañas back with you again, playing your requests. This one is for you Estela: "To the Swing of my Wagon."

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN plays the song "Al Vaiven De Mi Carreta."

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(She looks through her mail. To Zäyas-Kaizen off the air.)

Look Zayäs, the Arbitron ratings are in!

(After reading the Arbitron ratings report.)

No, I can't believe this Zäyas, another defeat at the hands of Canicula Cassiopeia!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

You gotta razzle-dazzle them! You gotta give the people a conga to dance to, some political chicanery, that's what they like, not that flimsy, syrupy, unctuous style of yours.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Furious.)

Missed it just by one decimal point!

(Reads.)

"'Chimera at Dawn' with Chimera Cabañas:9.8, 'Tribunal at Dawn' with Canicula Cassiopeia: 9.9! 'Tribunal at Dawn' with Canicula Cassiopeia is still the most listened to program in the dawn time slot by people between 64 and 96 years of age."

(Laughing.)

'People Sound Off with Zäyas-Kaizen': 1.2!"

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

I don't give three fucks about Arbitron!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Turn her on Zäyas, I want to see if she has any new sponsors, put her on!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN turns on a nearby radio. The LIGHTS come up on CANICULA CASSIOPEIA who is on the air.

VOICE-OVER WITH SOUND EFFECTS

Humanity Radio presents: "Tribunal at Dawn," with controversial, calcinating, hotter-than-red-hot topics, until five in the morning. If you're fed up with all the mumbo-jumbo you hear on other stations about in-grown toenails and pain in your bunions, keep it here with us. "Tribunal at Dawn," a public forum program, where your phone is your microphone, director, and host: Canicula Cassiopeia!

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Well, folks, they're finally here! And they're staying at none other than the Grand Bay Hotel! The "Summit of the Americas" is finally underway. Of course, without the participation of the sanguinary beast that dis-governs our Island. At this very moment,

the president of the United States is meeting with the other 33 presidents at the Grand Bay Hotel, and folks, we have so many interesting things to talk about. For example, when they get back to their Grand Bay suites, each head of state will be received with an exotic basket of fruits, among those fruits is the "lulu" fruit. Many of you are probably asking yourselves "What the hell is a 'lulu' fruit?" To me it sounds like the name of a high-class pedigree dog, I don't about you. Also inside that fruit basket, the heads of states will have at their disposal: peaches preserved in imported crystal, rare champagne grapes called "Wild Vines of the Andes," apples from Washington, mameys from Martinique, zapotes from Costa Rica, miniature pineapples, and yellow raspberries from India- and I thought I had heard everything by now! No, but it doesn't stop there, listen to this, the very distinguished presidents will have servants strategically placed, listen to this, so that when the president gives the command, the servant will be at-the-ready to pick up the discarded peels from the fruits that the president is about to put in his mouth. What do you think of that? But this is what I want to know folks, "Who's paying for all of this?" What's being left out of the discussion is the plight of the 30,000 rafters that the president of the United States has sent to the concentration camps in Guantanamo. Which by the way, I don't see any exile organization calling for a street protest in front of the Grand Bay Hotel to demand freedom for those rafters. Folks, what I'm getting at is this, the 33 invited presidents are not going to be paying for the exorbitant costs of this Summit, and neither is the president of the United States. It's us who are going to be footing the bill. We the People, who are the ones who pay taxes, the exorbitant taxes, that with each passing day go up more, and more and more, and at the end of the year folks, we get nothing back, not even one lousy PINEAPPLE, MAMEY, AND ZAPOTE FRUIT BASKET. YEAR IN, YEAR OUT FOLKS! NO ONE IS GETTING ANY RICHER! WE'RE TAKING THREE STEPS FORWARD AND TWO STEPS BACK! Well, before opening up the lines to hear your thoughts on all of this, let me share with you an exclusive bit of news, now you know I'm not given to self-aggrandizement, I leave that up to those who want to take my place in the ratings. Who with all that mumbo-jumbo about "diabetes is a routine and not a mystery," they're eating our old folks up alive!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

I swear to God you're going to pay for this Canicula Cassiopeia!

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

What I'm about to tell you is really an honor for me folks, and I want to be the first one to share this exclusive with you. I just finished talking to the Walk of Fame Committee and they told me that I have been selected to receive a star in the "Calle Ocho Walk of Fame." And it is to you that I owe this great homage, you who never abandon our country's cause, assiduous in the struggle like Dostoyevsky when he said "He who

denies his homeland, denies God." You who have always been here with me ready to fight the battle! And I have to say this whether or not it offends some people- that's the reason that the Arbitron ratings have us at the top of the chart as the most listened-to program at dawn- let's go to commercials, we'll be right back!

The LIGHTS dim down on
CANICULA CASSIOPEIA
and come up on Radio
Global Village.

COMMERCIAL VOICE-OVER WITH ANDEAN MUSIC

For centuries the Incas of Machu Picchu believed the rue plant to be a mystical plant that protected you from evil and bestowed good luck upon you. Now, that same positive energy can be found in the rue soap, 100% natural. Inside each rue soap, there's a rue plant that contains an energy that will benefit your karma, clear your aura and bathe you all over with good luck. Available now. New rue soap, clears your aura and bathes you with good luck.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Turn her off!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

(To CHIMERA CABAÑAS.)

Canicula Cassiopeia is right, we just have to keep one step ahead of her. I'm going to call for a citywide work stoppage on the last day of the Summit!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Have you gone stark raving mad? What powers of assembly do you possess?

(Laughs.)

You've been kicked out of every radio station for being a liar and a cheat! I think a bomb threat is a better idea. That will certainly put a damper on her Calle Ocho star party, don't you think?!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

I'm going to get ahead of her!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Don't make me laugh! Are you calling for a strike?

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

It will spring forth from the people, spontaneously, all I need is an open mike.

The LIGHTS come up on
CAROLINA LA MAJA and
CAROLINA LA DE CATALUÑA.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(On the air.)

Well friends, let's continue on with our chitchat, Global Village, good morning!

CAROLINA LA MAJA & CAROLINA FROM CATALUÑA

How are you, Chimera?

(They laugh girlishly.)

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

THE CAROLINAS OF BARCELONA! Carolina from Cataluña..., and Carolina la Maja.

CAROLINA LA MAJA & CAROLINA FROM CATALUÑA

Always trailing after our star.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Thank you my loves, a million thanks, you are both my shining glory.

CAROLINA LA MAJA & CAROLINA FROM CATALUÑA

You know we were both saying to ourselves that Aurora hasn't called in today, poor dear.

(Laughs girlishly.)

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Why "poor dear," Majas?

CAROLINA LA MAJA & CAROLINA FROM CATALUÑA

Graciela told us how she was acting at your luncheon, poor dear.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

My, oh my, the Carolinas of Barcelona are acting so mysterious today, dear God!

CAROLINA LA MAJA & CAROLINA FROM CATALUÑA

Aurora told Graciela all about her poor little bird Augustine-

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Oh, that's it, the little bird!

CAROLINA LA MAJA & CAROLINA FROM CATALUÑA

Graciela stopped by, she looked wonderful. What did you make of Aurora's boyfriend?

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Who?

CAROLINA LA MAJA & CAROLINA FROM CATALUÑA

The old man who went around with the tin cup collecting money to buy firearms.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Oh, Lord God!

CAROLINA LA MAJA & CAROLINA FROM CATALUÑA

Graciela said he was walking around with the help of a walker.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

That was Caribbean Hake of the "José Martí Commando," you're being very naughty today!

CAROLINA LA MAJA & CAROLINA FROM CATALUÑA

Well Chimera dear, we better free up the line or those who are waiting are going to want to feed us poison parsley.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

We'll talk to you tomorrow Cataluña, my love!

CAROLINA FROM CATALUÑA

Until tomorrow, Chimera!

CAROLINA LA MAJA

Until tomorrow, dear!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Until tomorrow, Maja!

(Laughs.)

These girls are just too much, crazy as a loon!

BLACKOUT and LIGHTS on
VESTA who emerges from the
beam.

VESTA

¡GANYMEDE! Where the hell has that godforsaken child gone with my food?

(To CHIMERA CABAÑAS.)

Listen pumpkin, when are they going to get me out of here? This one walks around all day with her head in the clouds. And to think she gets paid to spend her life talking on that phone! There's no stopping her, soon she'll be a millionaire! GANYMEDE!

(She starts banging on the beam.)

CHIMERA CABAÑAS
crosses to the cabin.
GANYMEDE enters with a
hamper and a radio. He
takes a basketball out of
the hamper and starts to
play. The SOUND of the
ball on the floor is jarring.

VESTA

GANYMEDE, stop playing with that damn ball! You're driving me crazy! Here I am trapped in this furnace and all you can think about is that damn ball! I hope it explodes in your face like a grenade, that's what you deserve! How many times do I have to tell you that the sound of that bang, bang, bang, drives me crazy! Ganymede look at me when I talk to you, I am not painted on the wall. And hurry up with my food, I haven't had a hot meal in three days! I pray to God I get struck by lightning!

GANYMEDE tires of
playing and sings along
with the rap song "For the
Love of Money" that's
being heard on the radio.
The LIGHTS come down
on VESTA and up on
CANICULA CASSIOPEIA
who is on the air. Her
guest is CARIBBEAN

HAKE, he is feeble and weak, nearby is his orthopedic walker.

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Welcome back to Radio Humanity folks, as we continue with our radio marathon on behalf of "Commando José Martí." Our guest tonight is Commander Caribbean Hake, greetings Commander.

COMMANDER CARIBBEAN HAKE

Thanks, Canicula. The Commando has always been known for the...

(Yawns.)

...indefatigable task of promoting armed battles within the Island. For those of you who want to sponsor this patriotic cause, the number to call with your donations is-

(He falls asleep and snores.)

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

(She wakes him up.)

Commander!

COMMANDER CARIBBEAN HAKE

1-800-COMMANDO!

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Well folks, we take this opportunity to call upon the different exile organizations and urge them to organize a patriotic act in front of the Grand Bay Hotel, protesting the decision to intern the rafters in Guantanamo. You're on the air!

(Nudges the Commander who continues to snore.)

Commander!

The LIGHT comes up on
MAGDALENA VENTURA.

MAGDALENA VENTURA

Good evening Canicula!

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Good evening, Ma'am!

MAGDALENA VENTURA

Canicula, they just broke into my home and ran away with all the money I had saved up for my dog Puchita's operation. The poor dear is blind in her left eye, epileptic, and suffers from constipation!

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Now I've heard everything! Tell us again the name of your dog so we can sponsor a radio marathon on her behalf and raise enough funds to go through with the operation, Ma'am.

MAGDALENA VENTURA

She answers to Puchita, but she doesn't like Haitians, rafters, black musicians, or those who came here during the Mariel exodus...

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

(Interrupting the Commander who continues to snore.)

Commander!

MAGDALENA VENTURA

Her favorite dish is T-bone steak!

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Ma'am, if you keep on rambling like that it's not going to benefit your cause, what you're telling us is that you have a racist dog! Where do you live?

MAGDALENA VENTURA

Puchita only gets along with the exiles that arrived here in 1959, she can't stand anybody from any other exodus, especially...

(She lowers her voice to avoid being heard by Puchita.)

the ones that came during Mariel...

PUCHITA enters barking, she has a patch over her left eye.

MAGDALENA VENTURA

She just won't stop barking! And if she hears one word that has anything to do with cultural exchanges, we have to tie her up! You see, it's just that Puchita and I arrived here from Spain-

PUCHITA barks ferociously.

MAGDALENA VENTURA

Enough already, Puchita! Sit still, sit, today is not the day they come to mow the lawn at Robert King High Towers. Yes honey, we arrived here with our American residence card, but stop barking or you'll have one of your fit. No Puchita, the Nicaraguan fellow is not coming back to mow the lawn. Sit! Oh Canicula, please hold on dear, let me turn her radio on so she can listen to Ninoska, by God!, that's the only thing that controls her attacks!

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Don't worry, go wait for us in the lunch room, someone from our staff will be by to pick up the dog so she can be with us in the studio during the radio marathon. Goodbye, Ma'am!

BLACKOUT. The LIGHTS come up. ZÄYAS-KAIZEN. He is on the air. Disquieting SOUND EFFECTS.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

(Rapid-fire delivery.)

The totalitarian government of the enslaved Island confirmed today that so far this year they have lost 60,105 animals comprised of bovines and equines. Of those, 1,968 were victims of clandestine slaughterhouses, 15,010 were registered in a mysterious file under "other causes" and 44,000 "cannot be found" affirmed the spokesperson. At no point in time was any reference made to the attacks committed by the famous "Chupacabras," attacks which the population has been suffering from since 1959.

BLACKOUT. The LIGHTS come up on CANICULA; she's on the air.

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Well folks, I'd like to go back to a topic we discussed Sunday, yesterday, a topic that involves me personally, it has to do with the star in the Calle Ocho Walk of Fame. I'm going to call it as I see it without mincing any words, thanks for the honor ladies and gentlemen of the committee, but you can keep your star. First of all, I don't have the \$12,000 you're asking me to spend. I mean if it were for the "League Against Rabies,"

okay, I'd be the first one to go out and help you find sponsors. They say they're not making any money out of this, but I was dumbfounded by the expenses, there are office expenses, rent, payroll, get a load of this one, \$3,500 for the payroll alone. I don't give a hoot about these stars being paid by the TV or film stars that are being honored. But folks, I'm like one of you. These expenses have got to be looked into. And I ask myself: What about our poor Tres Patines? That's been our greatest comedian. Now because Tres Patines lies 3 meters underground without a dime to sponsor his star on Calle Ocho, and no way he can be billed later, now because of that we're not going to honor him? We're up shit's creek without a paddle! The masquerade is over, it's time to take off some masks around here. Let's go to some commercials and we'll be right back.

BLACKOUT. Loud and ostentatious SOUND EFFECTS.

VOICE OVER OF CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

I, as a well-bred woman and journalist, have that unrelenting duty, which is, the defense of liberty and democracy.

GRAVE MANLY VOICE OVER

That's our Canicula Cassiopeia.

VOICE OVER OF CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

As our apostle José Martí once said: "The press is not gratuitous approval or insulting rage, the press is, proposition, study, exam, and advice."

GRAVE MANLY VOICE OVER

Prestige, credibility, and experience, shine through in Canicula Cassiopeia.

VOICE OVER OF CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

"The press should be study and critical review, never hate or wrath, which don't allow for the full expression of ideas."

GRAVE MANLY VOICE OVER

Canicula Cassiopeia is Radio Humanity, upright and unyielding.

BLACKOUT. The LIGHTS come up on AURORA and the two ETS. They're in a spaceship lab. She is

lying on a table with mechanical contraptions around it. There is a machine nearby which the TWO ALIEN BEINGS turn on and aim at AURORA, it emits an intense blue LIGHT.

ET #2

Free your mind of all worries.

AURORA

Where am I and what are you doing to me?

ET #1

This is only a test.

VENUS appears in the niche.

VENUS

This is what I would do if I were in your place: One morning when you're both still in bed, and it's almost time to get up, while he is still asleep, perform oral sex on him!

AURORA gets up and tries to escape.

AURORA

Pigs, scumbags, let me go!

The ETS catch up with her and with a hypnotic stare lay her on the bed. They connect some cables to her head and forcefully pry her eyes open with pincers. She begins to froth at the mouth.

VENUS

Right there where you're lying down, wake him up, perform oral sex! Yes! You'll leave a great big smile on his face. Sex in the morning is wonderful, it gives you a shot of energy that recharges your battery, it's the best way to jump-start your day. If I were you, I would start with a little bit of oral magic every morning. I think this is going to be a very popular topic tonight.

BLACKOUT on VENUS.
The ETS disconnect the
cables from AURORA.

AURORA

This is Chinese torture, somebody help me!

ET #1

We're very sorry but it was a necessary part of the exam.

AURORA

What planet am I on?

ET #2

Relax your mind.

AURORA

Where's my little Augustine? The poor little one must be stiff as a board by now. Let me go!

AURORA gets up and tries
to run away. The ETS
catches up with her and
straps her to the table.

ET #1

(He lays a hand on her forehead for the duration of exams.)

Calm down, Aurora.

AURORA

(Completely relaxed.)

Where's my little Augustine?

ET #1

We have him under observation. Let yourself go, free your mind of all worries.

ET #2

(To ET #1 as he performs a genital exam on AURORA.)

Negative for ova harvesting. Negative for embryo implantation.

AURORA

(Moans, groans, and laughs with unrestrained pleasure.)

That's so rude of you...

ET #2

(He performs a breast exam on AURORA squeezing a nipple.)

Findings: Not pregnant.

AURORA

Ouch!

ET #2

(Squeezes the other nipple.)

Findings: Negative on lactation.

AURORA

(Moans, groans, and laughs with unrestrained pleasure.)

Oouuch!

(On cloud nine.)

Will someone please tell me what in the world does any of this have to do with the study of radio waves?

The ETS props her up on the table to perform a rectal exam.

AURORA

(Incredulous.)

And now what else is there left to investigate?

ET #2

(He asks ET #1 for an instrument.)

Nabo-gaizaz!

(He introduces the instrument.)

Umbilicus! Coitus Interruptus! Negative for menstruation, negative for fertilization:
reject reject reject!

He withdraws the instrument. AURORA orgasms unrestrained during the above exam. There's a trace of terror and horror on her face as she looks at the instruments being used.

AURORA

Ay Ay Ay Ay...

ET #1

You behaved very well.

(He removes his hand from her forehead and stares eye to eye.)

The next exam is very important.

AURORA

(Indignant but not without a trace of curiosity.)

There's still another exam?!

ET #1

(His eyes are almost touching hers.)

This one is not going to hurt you. Look at the screen down there and tell me what you see.

(He places a hand on her head.)

A blue LIGHT shines on a screen.

AURORA

That's me! And I'm very sad because my little Augustine passed away that morning.

ET #1

Anything else?

AURORA

It's Saturday and they're coming to pick me up to take me to "Chimera at Dawn's" club luncheon, but I don't want to go, I'm feeling very sad.

ET #1

What else do you see?

AURORA

I'm entering the Big Five Club. But how can that be possible if I'm here with you on Mars?

ET #1

Empty your mind of all worries, tell me what you see on the screen...

As AURORA begins her narration the scene begins to take place downstairs. The LIGHTS fade down and come up on the luncheon scene. AURORA is wearing her "Chupacabras" costume. She's distraught over the death of her bird. Every now and then she dries her eyes with a black handkerchief. There's a platform for a stage and on it lies a coffin. There are two TV sets, one on each side of the stage. On one set there are images of people eating and drinking at some prior luncheon. On the other set, we can see current images of RADIO CALLERS being filmed by GANYMEDE and shown live. There's a podium nearby. The

MUSICAL TRIO is playing.
 The RADIO CALLERS
 shower CHIMERA
 CABAÑAS with gifts and
 sing "Happy Birthday."
 GANYMEDE helps with
 the gifts.

RADIO CALLERS

Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Chimera, happy birthday to you!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Standing at the podium.)

Oh, my Lord! Thank you for all these gifts, a million thanks! Oh, this one is wrapped so beautifully! Ganymede be careful you don't wrinkle the bows sweetie, you know how I like to keep everything. I am so happy that Father Ballena is going to be accompanying us on our trip to Holy Land. This trip for me, is very special, I believe that being in Holy Land is something you have to experience in order to understand, just walking through Jerusalem is being closer to God, to be christened in the Jordan River like Jesus did, to swim in the Dead Sea, to visit the tomb of Saint Lazarus, huh? I believe one is closer to Heaven, don't you think? To follow the path of our Lord and visit the tombs of Jesus Christ and Mary and to see the Dome of the Rock where Abraham prepared to sacrifice off Isaac, how closer to God! Unfortunately, many of you are going to be left out, so make your reservations early. Well, and now, let's get on with the moment you've all been waiting for, the coffin raffle, courtesy of Van Orsdel Funeral Homes, where their funeral chapels and crematories are never beyond the reach of your pocketbook. Their Pre-Necessity Plan, for example, includes the coffin, the pickup, the embalming, the make-up, the wardrobe, the stay at the funeral home so your family and friends can come and visit, the trip to the cemetery, the services of Father Ballena, and finally, even your burial is included. We need a volunteer who's not dressed up in any sort of costume, please.

CHEO stands up and raises his hand. It would appear that he's in some sort of costume due to the exaggerated jewelry he has on.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

You, right there, yes. You're not superstitious, are you?

CHEO

Me, superstitious? No, sirree, not me!

(Kisses one of the gold crosses he's wearing.)

I've got my spirit guides to protect me.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Lie down in here so you can experience the exceptional quality of our coffin. Are you comfortable?

CHEO

You kidding? I could even fall asleep in here. It's a whole lot more comfortable than the fold-up bed my cousin made me sleep in when she picked me up from Krome.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

And the coffin is fireproof. You know that sometimes when the corpse is decomposing, well, it can start to drip a little, well not so with this coffin, it all stays right inside-

(She listens to GANYMEDE who whispers in her ear.)

Yes, yes. RESPECTED PUBLIC, THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THIS AFTERNOON'S VIDEO, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR REQUEST AND \$20.00 WITH GANYMEDE, our cameraman, expert in the field. Ganymede truly creates magic in his videos. Well, and now, let's get on with the raffle!

(To CHEO.)

Since you've been so kind to serve as our model sir, do you think you can give us a hand pulling out the winning number?

CHEO

I'm at the feet don't fail me now point!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Good luck everyone! Let's see, let's see, the winning number is...

CHEO

It's like winning the Cash Three! Number two... three... seven! Butterfly, marine, and seashell, in my lottery!

AURORA raises her hand.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

And the winner is AURORA! The "Chupacabras!" What an original costume, really. Aurora come up to claim your prize sweetie.

(To CHEO.)

Sir, since you have been such a gentleman, can I ask you for just one more little favor?

CHEO

Go ahead, it's not every day that you meet someone like me!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Go out to the terrace and tell Celeste that the costume contest is about to begin.

CHEO

Your wish is my command, fair lady!

AURORA

(She crosses to the coffin and kisses CHIMERA CABAÑAS.)

Thank you, thank you so much, Chimera.

APPLAUSE.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Well friends, don't forget to try the pumpkin pie. It's all included in your admission price. I'll leave you now with the Commander, but first, let's hear that applause for the musicians!

APPLAUSE.

COMMANDER CARIBBEAN HAKE

(Camouflaged as a shaggy tree in strips of burlap.)

I'll be going by your table for those of you who want to make a donation to help offset the high cost of our firearms.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

We have a lot of gifts to give out, we have a lot of my cassette poems to give away, woow! So many gifts!

COMMANDER CARIBBEAN HAKE

With your help the Commando will be able to continue with its military training in the Everglades.

APPLAUSE. CARIBBEAN HAKE does the rounds with his walker. EVERYONE contributes.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Wasn't that pumpkin pie delicious, Aurora?

AURORA

I can't touch the stuff, my cholesterol level is 600!

There is FEEDBACK from the SOUND system.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Let me switch to another microphone, I'm getting feedback with this one. Those of us who work with our voices have to be very careful. If you don't place your voice right, you could lose it in an instant. That is why when one is doing a play, you have to speak up, your voice has to reach the deaf person sitting in the last row. That is what they tell us when they train us for the stage. The theatre director tell us-

(She listens to GANYMEDE who whispers in her ear.)

Yes, yes. RESPECTED PUBLIC, THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THIS AFTERNOON'S VIDEO, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR REQUEST AND \$20.00 WITH GANYMEDE. He really creates magic!- "Sitting in the last row is a deaf man," the theatre director tells us, "that deaf man has to be able to hear you."

GRANDPA

I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Yelling.)

You have to project so that your voice can travel!

GRANDPA

I SAID I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Yelling.)

You have to project so that your voice can travel and reach the last row, your voice has to travel and reach the last row! If when you're proojecting you misplace your voice, with a simple misplacement, you can lose your voice there and then.

(Changes her mike. Hoarse.)

Can you hear me better now?

The RADIO CALLERS
respond "Yes," "Perfect,"
etc. CHEO whistles.

GRANDPA

NOO, I CAN'T HEAR A DAMN THING!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Well, let's move on to the semi-finalists in our Halloween costume contest. The first semi-finalist is Aurora, Aurora is such a delight in that "Chupacabras" costume.

AURORA parades around.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Our second semi-finalist is...

(She looks around for CELESTE. Calls her.)

CELESTE!

CELESTE enters.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Celeste is "Mata Hari, the Terrorist," and she will perform for us the "Fire Dance," the very popular piece that was to make Mata Hari famous at the Follies Bergère of Paris.

CELESTE is dressed as a
Javanese temple dancer.
Two grenades flank her
hips. She performs an
exotic Hindu dance which
turns into a pseudo strip
tease.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Our last semi-finalist is Grandpa. Grandpa will entertain us with a concept inspired by Goya's painting: "Saturn Devours His Son." What a beautiful name for a tragic farce, isn't it?

GRANDPA's costume has a ring around the waist from which hang figures of babies. He takes out a big brush used to reach one's back when bathing and hands it to CHIMERA CABAÑAS.

GRANDPA

Scratch me there. Lower, a little lower. There my child, scratch me there, right between my buttocks.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS scratches him.

GRANDPA

(Ecstatic.)

There Goddamit! There you son of a gun!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Laughing.)

Grandpa please, we are in public!

GRANDPA

Thank you, my child, it was just an unexpected attack of psoriasis.

GRANDPA parades as the God Saturn. He burns incense and performs a ritual that culminates when he tears off and eats the heads of the figurines that hang from his waist.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Classical that pagan ritual that Grandpa has just performed for us, and I love the smell of that incense, my God! Let's have you all line up so we can find out who the audience will pick, applause for the "Chupacabras"... applause for "Mata Hari the Terrorist"... applause for "Saturn Devours His Son"...

(Laughing.)

Aurora is out of the race! Let's hear it one more time, applause for "Mata Hari the Terrorist"... applause for "Saturn Devours His Son"... and the winner is, Grandpa! Grandpa has just won three cassettes featuring poems by "La Cabañas!" And also this decorative cushion courtesy of Van Orsdel Funeral Homes. The design that appears on the pillow takes its inspiration from the frescoes that adorn the ancient catacombs of classical Rome. I'll have to be leaving in a little while for the theatre, tonight is the premiere of my play "The Discreet Charm of the Diabetic." I have worked with so many directors in my time, but this director, is how I like directors to be. I like them to pull out what I keep hidden inside, and boy, this director pulls it out! I don't care if he makes me repeat the lines once, ten, twenty, forty times, I just want him to pull out what I keep hidden inside-

(To Ganymede who's whispering in her ear.)

Yes, yes. REMEMBER, THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THIS AFTERNOON'S VIDEO, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR REQUEST AND \$20.00 WITH GANYMEDE, expert in the field. Well, that's enough chatter for one day, let's all dance with "La Cabañas" to something out of the ordinary, of course, to "La Macarena." I'll see you all at the theatre!

EVERYONE goes up on the stage in front of the coffin and begins to dance to "La Macarena." All the movements should be symmetrical, aligned, and repetitive. Since it's AURORA's coffin, she's at the helm.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF ACT)

ACT II

MALE VOICE-OVER

A mayor with courage, integrity, and fairness, concerned about our future, the election is this Thursday, vote for Pyrex del Hoyo, who arrived here on these shores when he was just six years old in the Pedro Pan exodus, Pyrex del Hoyo a new mayor for the Magic City, push #37!

MALE VOICE-OVER

This is a paid political announcement, Pyrex del Hoyo for mayor of Magic City!

The LIGHTS come up on
ZÄYAS-KAIZEN; he's on
the air.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

What I want to know is if they're going to stand in front of the Summit like screaming idiots, which is what Canicula Cassiopeia wants them to do, or if they're going to take part in the strike that I'm organizing. That woman is a chameleon. She makes my stomach turn. She talks about the political corruption in the Magic City, and brays about the 68 million dollars missing from the City Budget, and when she has a commissioner like Pyrex del Hoyo on her program, the degenerate and corrupt Pyrex del Hoyo, when she has him in front of the microphone, she salivates all over him like a love-sick school girl. Here at Global Village, it's not about the ratings, it's not about being in front of the spotlight- this is what I wanna know; where are the sons and daughters of all those old geezers now? They're either smoking a marijuana joint or out snorting cocaine at the Tropigala Club. When the despotic butcher on the Island finally kicks the bucket, what on earth are they gonna talk about? Because they don't give a flying fuck, because all they care about is going to the Versailles Restaurant to stuff their faces with some bread with turkey smeared with strawberries or swallow a beef steak wrapped in bacon. These old farts at Radio Humanity, sycophants and scoundrels, they don't want us to organize a strike. What all these cynics aspire to is to plunder and to pillage and to rape our island when she's finally liberated, cowards and good-for-nothings, Yankeeified assholes, waging wars from their wheelchairs, on one leg and a megaphone, old geezers with their penis enlargement pumps who can't even get their pricks up anymore- and let them call me gutter mouth! We have lost all dignity and decorum, my dear friends, the strike is on! Just look at that switchboard light up! Damn! We're kicking ass tonight, pure dynamite! You can say whatever you want as long as it's done

with taste and proper radio ethics. "People Sound Off with Zäyas-Kaizen" you're on the air! What does the citizenry opine?

LIGHT on
MC #1.

MALE CALLER #1
¡Zäyas, you cocksucking, motherfucker!

BLACKOUT
on MC #1.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN
What an asshole. You're on the air!

LIGHT on
MC #2.

MALE CALLER #2
Faggot!

BLACKOUT on MC
#2.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN
(Blows into the microphone.)
Puff, puff! That must've been the Indian from the Village People. He's left his feathers all over my desk. You're on the air!

LIGHT on MC #3.

MALE CALLER #3
Is it true you beat your mother up every time you snort cocaine?

BLACKOUT on MC
#3.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN
At least I have a mother, you old fart, but you don't even know who yours is. You sucker, bastard, traitor, and son of a bitch! "People Sound Off with Zäyas-Kaizen" you're on the air!

LIGHT on MC #4.

MALE CALLER #4

You're a demagogue, that's what you are, a demagogue that's always trying to divide our community-

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Tell me why you think I'm a demagogue, you stupid asshole!

MALE CALLER #4

Because you're full of shit, that's why!

BLACKOUT on MC #4.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

These old geezers can't even get up from the toilet anymore. I'm not scared of them, they can sue all they want for all I care, I don't own a car they can repossess and there are no sponsors lined up to advertise. You're on the air!

LIGHT on MC #1.

MALE CALLER #1

I'm gonna break your ass, asshole!

BLACKOUT on MC #1.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Open topic today, you're on the air!

LIGHT on MC #2.

MALE CALLER #2

Come get a load of my hard-on!

BLACKOUT on MC #2.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

You're the next caller!

LIGHT on CHEO. SOUND
of feedback.

CHEO

What's up, papa!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Turn down your radio, you illustrious minstrel show, I'm getting feedback.

CHEO

You know who this is, right?

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Yes, you nitwit, now turn down your radio or I'm going to get you off the air!

CHEO

At what time is the strike, bro?

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

At 2 p.m. next Monday.

CHEO

Zero tolerance for work on Monday! I'll be sleeping in, boss!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

That's why we planned it for 2 p.m., so you can sleep in, have lunch at La Carreta, fill up your tow truck, and bring your ass and your flag down to the strike!

CHEO

The strike is on! As a matter of fact, I'm striking right now!

(Takes out the claves and begins to sing and play.)

"Como goza mi mulata cuando le traigo la caña... Eh, eh, tumbando caña..."

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Listen to me. You know you're on the radio; do you understand that? Now, you have already gotten together with the other tow truck drivers, am I right?

CHEO

We have 11 tow trucks to bring the Magic City to a screeching halt!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Eleven tow trucks! Give me their names so I can give them some free publicity.

CHEO

"Cheo's Wrecker Service," that's mine, bro...

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Listen Cheo, are you prepared to face the consequences?

CHEO

Yeah, however, whenever, wherever...

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

But you already know the password, right?

CHEO

You mean where we have to go?

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Damn Cheo, you're such a blockhead! You know where we have to go!

CHEO

All right man, chill...

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Are you following me, Cheo?

CHEO

All right, dog, I got you!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Good, the strike is on!

CHEO

On, on, on, on! Come rain or sunshine, the strike is on!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Eleven tow truck drivers have joined the strike. Don't get stuck in traffic next Monday with a broken-down car because the tow trucks will be out of service. Hey Cheo, thanks for your call, my brother.

BLACKOUT on CHEO and
LIGHTS up on MC #5.

MALE CALLER #5

Why should I be forced to shut down my business?

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

You don't have a business, you squirm, you're just a Johnny-come-lately dialogue advocate who turned up yesterday on a makeshift raft. Damn, pure dynamite tonight! The reason for the strike is to demand an immediate answer from the US government concerning the massacre caused by the sinking of the tugboat "13th of March" by Cuban fireboats. Period! For those who want to paralyze the Magic City by stopping your tow trucks on the highways or at the airport's entrances and exits, the most they can do is give you a ticket. Liberty is conquered with the tip of the sword! You're on the air!

BLACKOUT on MC #5 and
LIGHT on MAGDALENA
VENTURA.

MAGDALENA VENTURA

Hey, who do you think you are to be telling the United States what to do? Why don't you go back there and fight!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Honey, what nursing home are you calling from?

MAGDALENA VENTURA

Bunch of low-life, you should all be sent back and put to work cutting sugar cane. No more Mariels...

PUCHITA enters barking.

MAGDALENA VENTURA

...no more rafters, no more cultural exchanges! Puchita, calm down dear! Be careful you don't have another one of your attacks. Run up to your room right now and turn on Ninoska! They should all have drowned at sea!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Of course this lady talks like that because she never had the gift of knowing who her progenitor was. Her aberrant behavior towards me dates back some ten years. I don't know if it's senility or if it's fire in her uterus. What I know is she doesn't want any more people coming over and sharing her benefits. Let's leave the poor old lady alone with her Plan 8, not even her grandkids came to pick her up today. How sad to reach old age without anyone there to love you. And since there's no ill-spoken words only misunderstood ones, to the shitty old lady I dedicate this home-spun fart! Pppp!

FADE down on
MAGDALENA VENTURA
and up on CARIBBEAN
HAKE.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Fart: flatulence which is expelled from the bowels through the anus. Yees...!

COMMANDER CARIBBEAN HAKE

We need to sponsor an armed war on the Island!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

War, what war? There's no honor left with which to make war.

COMMANDER CARIBBEAN HAKE

So you're asking me to risk losing my job to go to a strike that no one is supporting?

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

What work are you talking about? All you old geezers have become millionaires selling cat claws and shark cartilage!

COMMANDER CARIBBEAN HAKE

The last strike you organized was a complete failure-

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Okay, explain to me why, you bugger, you probably like to take it up the ass too, don't you- hold on, let me play the disclaimer!

(He puts on the disclaimer and snorts a line of cocaine.)

MALE VOICE-OVER

Global Village is not responsible for the opinions expressed in our programming, those are the exclusive product of its hosts, guests, and callers.

FADE up on MC #6 and
down on CARIBBEAN
HAKE.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

You're on the air!

MALE CALLER #6

Racist motherfucker!-

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Anything else, young inner-city angry black man?

MALE CALLER #6

Fucking racist!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Your mamma, big-lipped African! Just look at the size of that kisser.

MALE CALLER #6

You're a radio terrorist!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

We're not inciting any acts of violence. It's those communist infiltrators that to give us a bad name go around throwing Cocktail Molotovs at each other.

LIGHTS down on MC #6
and up on HYSTERIC
FEMALE CALLER.

HYSTERIC FEMALE CALLER

Good evening Mr. Kaizen; how are you, sir?

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Hanging by the seat of my pants!

HYSTERIC FEMALE CALLER

If you would be so kind Mr. Kaizen as to allow me to send a message of hope to those out there who are listening to us in the Island.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Go ahead lady, you've got an open mike!

HYSTERIC FEMALE CALLER shouts into the phone with all her might. Nothing can be made out of her diatribe, it is pure gibberish. What does come through loud and clear is her despair and her wrath. SOUND of feedback. ZÄYAS-KAIZEN covers his ears.

HYSTERIC FEMALE CALLER

!!!*#@%&*!!!@;^+?"*#@*'%@&*;#@%&!;^+?"&*;#@%!;&*^+?"!!!*#@&*!!!

(Quite composed, serene and respectful.)

Thank you so much, mister Kaizen, sir.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Damn! That's quite a bazooka of hope you fired there! They're bleeding at the wound my dear lady. You're a fine representative of the militancy in our diaspora! You're on the air...

FADE DOWN on
HYSTERIC FEMALE
CALLER and up on MC
#1.

MALE CALLER #1

What was all that diatribe about, brother? Your station doesn't even reach Hialeah!-

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

These are the infiltrators that get paid over there and cash their checks here. We're sitting on a powder keg! Next caller...

FADE DOWN on MC #1
and up on WC #1.

WOMAN CALLER #1

I came in '68 on the "Freedom Flights" and when we got here this was just a farm!

LIGHTS up on all
CALLERS.

CHEO

It was a field with a bunch of cows running around!

COMMANDER CARIBBEAN HAKE

It was woods, woods, woods, everywhere you looked!, nothing but woods!

HYSTERIC FEMALE CALLER

It was a goddam prairie!

EVERYONE

WE MADE THIS CITY AND WE'RE JOINING THE STRIKE!

Eh, eh tumbando caña...

Eh, eh tumbando caña...

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

The way to capture the imagination of those who want to do business with the communists is by acts of civil disobedience. And notice that I didn't mention the Herald. I have simply been the resonance box, diaphanous and crystalline! Because as our apostle José Martí once said:

(Serious, professional and emotional.)

"With the faithful, with the ones that are always present, with the few, we must begin the struggle, because you must claim your rights, not ask for them, you must pluck them away not beg for them, and countries are amassed and flooded with the blood of men, and the country is everyone's birthright, because our country cannot live in peace, until its government truly belongs to its honorable citizens, great times require great

sacrifices, walking is a form of getting there." We'll be back after a station break and remember:

(Breaks into a playful mode.)

"Life is short, buy yourself a Toyota."

MALE VOICE-OVER

Between the latest and the best, Global Village is superior, this is your station, alternative radio for the Magic City, our credibility lies in an informative balance and not in the utmost extremes.

The LIGHTS come up on GANYMEDE who is seated at his computer. He prints a document which he studies carefully and continues to work on a pipe bomb he's concocting. Once he's finished he packs it in a box and gift wraps it with the same colorful paper and bows that was used for one of CHIMERA's birthday presents. There are five female heads in various states of decomposition dispersed throughout the room. Each one hangs from a thread at different levels from the floor, as if they were an installation at a gallery.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

(Rapid-fire delivery.)

From the studios of Global Village, 730 on your dial, this is Zäyas-Kaizen with the "Police Chronicles." Americans who once viewed terrorism as a strange phenomenon, are living through an alarming wave of attacks by homemade bombs and other artifacts devised by disaffected, middle-class, urban youth, affiliated or not to paramilitary extreme right groups. The bomb attacks, whether carried out or thwarted, have increased from 1,104 to 3,163 in the last 10 years, according to today's "New York Times." The most common explosives are homemade bombs made with steel cylinders full of gunpowder, which is activated with a wick or with a clock-making mechanism. There has been a proliferation of cases in small US cities throughout the US and in

segregated urban areas. With each passing day terrorism can be said to be wearing "...your neighbor's face," this according to government sources. "I don't want to say it's a fad but it sure looks like it," said an agent. And on another note, more than 200 people have called the Metro Police to help identify the "Calle Ocho Strangler." The strangler has killed five prostitutes since last September. The police today published a sketch of a young man who nearly asphyxiated and then abandoned a prostitute a few months before the first killing. The woman survived and described her attacker. He's a young Hispanic who approaches his victims while he plays basketball and listens to rap music. All the victims have been decapitated and their heads have not been found. Their bodies have been abandoned in residential neighborhoods. To help alleviate fears, Pyrex del Hoyo, the commissioner running for the mayor's seat, will hold a public meeting on Calle Ocho's Domino Park. This is Zäyas-Kaizen coming to you live.

BLACKOUT and LIGHT on
VESTA.

VESTA

(To the audience.)

No way! Neither bathed in oil nor packed like a sardine can I squeeze on out of here. Ganymede was here yesterday with the Bomb Squad Police chipping away at the tube, but I've given up all hope! There's nothing left for me to do but to die trapped in here listening to Spanish radio and watching Mexican soap operas. Get me out of here! Or throw another bomb so you can put me out of my misery!

LIGHTS down on VESTA
and up on CANICULA
CASSIOPEIA. She's on
the air.

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

You have to call 'em as you see 'em, I'll say it over and over again, I'm not going to fall for that one, that the president was right in interning the rafters in Guantanamo. The problem here folks is that there are too many chiefs and not enough Indians. The problem here is that everyone wants to be in the spotlight, everyone wants to come out in the picture with his hand over the president's shoulder. The problem here is that we can't be speaking in half-truths, the problem here is we can't be hobnobbing in Washington and at the same time want to help our brothers in Guantanamo. In my country, there is a common saying that says:

She talks with food in her mouth as she eats a Cuban sandwich and fidgets with the paper it came wrapped in. The noise of the paper is heard through the open mike.

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

"The dog has four legs but there's only one road he can take." And here we have to take the road to dignity, the road to righteousness, the road to sacrifice, like the road I took when I came here on January 1st, 1959. After the Summit is over, what then? After the heads of state have eaten their "lulu" fruits at the Grand Bay Hotel, the luxurious and opulent Grand Bay Hotel to which we were not invited, after they have digested those fruits and exotic delicacies, what then?- And look, don't make me talk, these aren't Chinese that just got off the boat- We're grabbing at straws and you know it. Let's not wait to view the body at the funeral home before we start hollering, let's start hollering right now. What's going on folks? It's the same thing they did to us during the Bay of Pigs, today, Wednesday, I'll have a bunch of people calling me at home, everyone waiting to see who's going to cast the first stone, waiting for me to be the standard-bearer. Well if it's up to me to call for a massive protest before the Summit, then I am hereby calling for a protest, the protest has been called folks! The protest march is being called for next Monday in front of the Grand Bay Hotel! This is a problem that affects the entire exile community. And let's call 'em as we see 'em, like a God-fearing soul, not in half-truths, without the "he said, she said." Folks, we have to stop this push and pull, because the problem here is not to win the ratings war, the problem here is getting the rafters out of the camps in Guantanamo. I have to open the lines, that's my tonic, Radio Humanity you're on the air!

LIGHT on FC #2.

FEMALE CALLER #2

Canicula, Have they caught the "Calle Ocho Strangler" yet? I can hardly sleep at night-

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Look my friend, that's not today's topic, the problem of the strangler is a problem between the strangler of prostitutes and the police, the rafters in Guantanamo have nothing to do with this.

FEMALE CALLER #2

Just one more thing I want to ask you-

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Please, don't, I beg you! Radio Humanity you're on the air!

FADE down on FC
#2 and up on MC
#3.

MALE CALLER #3

Good evening Canicula.

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Good evening sir!

MALE CALLER #3

Canicula, is it true the government is going to take away our food stamps and welfare checks if we don't become American citizens?

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

My dear sir, that is not today's topic. Do not confuse apples with oranges. Today we are not discussing local issues. Let's go to some commercials and we'll be right back!

BLACKOUT.

VOICE-OVER OF AURORA

It's Saturday and we're at the theatre. That's me sitting right there crying... But how can I be there if I'm here with you on Mars?!

VOICE-OVER OF ET #1

Tell us what you see on the screen...

VOICE-OVER OF AURORA

I'm feeling both sad and happy. I'm at the José Martí Theatre dressed as the "Chupacabras" and it's Chimera Cabañas' premiere of "The Discreet Charm of the Diabetic."

LIGHTS. There are two TV sets. The scene is of a small theatre. GANYMEDE is filming the audience. These images will alternate with those from the performances. CHIMERA CABAÑAS and ZÄYAS-KAIZEN are pacing nervously "backstage." There are a couple of chairs on the stage, a liquor cart, and a telephone that's on a living room table. There are two "doors" which balance precariously when the "actors" close them. One leads to the "street" and the other to the "bedroom." CHIMERA CABAÑAS is elegantly dressed. The LIGHTS come up in the "theatre." ZÄYAS-KAIZEN is standing next to the liquor cart. He talks to CHIMERA CABAÑAS who is "offstage."

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Eleonora, it's about time you set aside your pride, your artistic vanity and concentrate a little bit on our dear daughter Matildita.

CHEO and AURORA enter and sit in the audience.

CHEO AND AURORA

Excuse me, excuse me...

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Plascencio! Everything I've done, I've done with Matilde's future in mind.

CALLERS applaud once they hear CHIMERA

CABAÑAS' voice from
offstage.

AURORA

(She gets up from her seat.)

Hey, someone peed on my seat. How could anybody do such a thing? My behind is all wet!

CHEO

Sit down, Aurora, I can't see!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Twenty years without seeing Matildita, is a long time Eleonora. What kind of love is that?

CHIMERA CABAÑAS
enters and poses grandly
as she delivers her lines, a
bit stiff-necked. The
CALLERS applaud her
entrance.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Don't ever forget, Plascencio! You're taking to Eleonora le Blanc, the most listened-to psychologist in the dawn time slot!

(Poses.)

More APPLAUSE, the
telephone RINGS.

AURORA

That must be Graciela, get the poison parsley ready!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS pretends not to have heard the comment but she breaks character and laughs all the same in complicity with the CALLERS.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

That must be Matilde to let us know she's on her way, please answer the phone, Eleonora.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

You handle her Plascencio. I can't let her see me in this awful state. After 20 years I want her to find me looking a bit more maternal. Like the last time her eyes met mine.

(She exits and slams the door to the bedroom.)

SOUND of door that closes.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

But Eleonora, my darling, you look superb! Please answer the phone!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS enters to pick up her drink and crosses slamming the bedroom door. She changes "backstage." SOUNDS of door that shuts after it's been closed and of a telephone that keeps on ringing after it's been answered. The door swings back and forth as if it were about to fall.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

(Out of character.)

The door is falling down!

(Singing.)

Falling down... falling down...

(Answers the phone.)

Yes? What could be wrong with this telephone, it keeps on ringing! Yeees....? Matildita, my child! What a joy it is to hear your voice after a 20-year absence! Yes child, I know that if it wasn't because your mother Eleonora is stricken with diabetes, you would never visit this den of iniquity. Look Matildita- sorry child! It's just a habit, forgive me, I know that your name is Matilde and not Matildita.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS enters suddenly, she's

dressed very conservatively. She shuts the bedroom door and looks at herself up and down with disgust. SOUND of a door that shuts. The door swings back and forth as if it were about to fall.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN & CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Out of character.)

The door is falling down!

(Singing.)

Falling down... falling down...

AURORA

Chimera, you look like a nun!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS crosses suddenly "backstage" and changes clothes. She shuts the door. SOUND of door closing.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

I will try my best to remember child. Look Ma-til-de, your mother is very sick and they're going to have to amputate both legs. No, no, her voice remains as sensual and as caressing as the year in which we first met. It's her life that's in jeopardy, child! Yes, child, yes, I know that the focus of your visit also pertains to the arrangement of the will with our attorney present.

AURORA

(Takes a photo.)

Zäyas, you can keep my coffin!

CHEO

Shut up Aurora, I can't hear!

AURORA

Don't tell me to shut up, you're not my mother!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

No, no dear, it's just that there's so much interference with this phone. What do you mean you're downstairs in our condo? Come right up child, we've all been waiting for you!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS
enters grabbing onto the
furniture and poses behind
the chair. The CALLERS
applaud her entrance;
some fan themselves due
to the poor air
conditioning.

AURORA

Chimera, that outfit is beautiful! Why don't you raffle it off at our next luncheon?

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

I don't want to hear any talk about death, Plascencio. Make me a Cuba Libre, I need something to calm my nerves before I set eyes on Matilde.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

But Eleonora, darling, in your condition, how could you possibly be thinking about a Cuba Libre?

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

That's "The Discreet Charm of the Diabetic" Plascencio. It's not all about pain and suffering in this life. There's one pleasant memory I still cherish and cling to and that's of one day having another: Cuba Libre!

CALLERS applaud
hysterically on their feet as
ZÄYAS-KAIZEN prepares
a drink. SOUND of
doorbell.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

No, no, I cannot bear to have her see me like this! I need something still a little bit more maternal!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS
crosses "backstage" and
shuts the door; she
crosses back and picks up
her drink and walks out
again. She carefully
leaves the door ajar.
ZÄYAS-KAIZEN opens the
front door and MATILDE
enters dressed as a nun.
SOUND of a door that
slams shut after it's been
closed.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Matildita...!

CHEO

Quit already! It's sister Matilde, bro!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Matildita! What a joy it is to see you! But you have become a nun. What a surprise! Tell me what you've been up to these past 20 years while I fix you a Cuba Libre. Why the nunnery, child?

MATILDE

It's very simple, Father.

(Aside, to the public.)

One day while I was watching TV at the nun school where you and Eleonora sent me- That's when you got me out of the Island and sent me to Italy- and the patron saint of television, St. Claire of Assisi, came to me in a revelation as I was watching the carnival in Rio, and she told me "The lifestyle you're mother leads is not worthy of you." And right away I turned off the Mardi Gras, and without any trace of self-doubt left for the convent at Assisi and took on the life of a Franciscan nun, father.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

How very charming, dear!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS
crosses with her drink and
shuts the door. SOUND of
a door that shuts. The
door swings back and forth
as if it were about to fall.
The green LIGHT for
Chimera's entrance is not
the right one.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN, CHIMERA CABAÑAS & MATILDE

(Out of character.)

The door is falling down!

(Singing.)

Falling down... falling down...

CHEO

Chimera, your hair looks like it got stuck in a windmill!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Matilde, Halloween is over sweetie!

MATILDE

This is nota costume, Eleonora. I belong to the mendicant order of the Poor Claras.
You are looking good, Eleonora.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

That's the "Discreet Charm of the Diabetic."

MATILDE

How good of you to not have lost your flair for frivolity!

MATILDE stretches her
hand but CHIMERA
CABAÑAS pulls her
toward her.

CHEO

Yo! She's messing up your hair!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Throws herself down on her knees.)

Because of me, you have become a nun! Please forgive me for all the harm I've caused you!

(Turns back to the audience and squirts on artificial tears.)

MATILDE

God is the only one who can forgive you, Eleonora, not me.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

But you're a nun!

MATILDE

But I cannot confess you, Eleonora.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Why do you still insist on punishing me by calling me "Eleonora?"

MATILDE

It was your idea.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN picks up
CHIMERA CABAÑAS and
stands her up.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

Get up Eleonora le Blanc!

(Aside to CHIMERA.)

Quite frankly the role doesn't suit you. You were more credible playing "Medea."

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Aside to ZÄYAS-KAIZEN.)

You didn't like my "Blanche du Bois?"

(Down on her knees, insisting on a crying scene.)

Tomorrow is my operation, they're going to amputate both of my legs Matilde!

CHEO

(He impatiently begins to pace the aisle.)

Sister Matilde of Assisi!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

The doctor can't guarantee that I'll come out alive. I need your forgiveness so that I may die in peace.

SOUND of a cell phone ringing.

AURORA

Yes Neutrino, dear, it's almost over. Take out the pork chops from the freezer and fix me a plate of pineapple marmalade with cream cheese.

CHEO

Shut up already, Aurora!

AURORA

And fix me also a cup of hot chocolate sweetened with condensed milk!

CALLERS try to shut AURORA up.

AURORA

Hush your mother!

CHEO

Let me get out of here or I'm gonna strangle the bitch!

Out of character and frightened by the interruptions, MATILDE hangs on to CHIMERA as she would to a life preserver.

MATILDE

I forgive you all your arrogance, mother!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS
(Hugging MATILDE.)

This is the happiest day of my life! I haven't been this happy since I got my memory back three years after giving birth to you and I recognized you for the first time! Plascencio, call the doctor and tell him not to delay the operation one more minute! Matilde, I bequeath all of my inheritance to the Poor Claras! If it weren't for the operation, today I'd be the happiest mother to ever walk the earth!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN
(On the phone.)

But Dr., are you sure of what you're saying? Yes, of course, right away-
(To CHIMERA.)

The Dr. says there has been a grave error, that your diabetes is under control. You do not need to have your legs amputated, that's another patient. The doctor got that patient's test results mixed up with yours by mistake.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

That does mean my life is no longer in mortal danger?

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

In effect Eleonora, it's not time yet for you to make your exit.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Nothing can stand between us now Matilde! Thank you, dear Lord!

MATILDE

Eleonora, does that mean you're no longer going to leave your inheritance to the Poor Claras?

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

I will donate part of it to them. Thanks to their prayers and your forgiveness, I am now a new Eleonora le Blanc.

MATILDE

God Bless you, mother!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

From now on I'll dedicate myself to forming my own charity.

(A whispered out-of-character aside to the audience.)

Like Willie Chirino's poor kid's foundation.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

(A whispered out-of-character aside to the audience.)

I suggest she models herself more after "Celia Cruz's Psychic Circle."

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Plascencio, run along and send a press release to all local and national media!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

How good of you to have come home, Matildita. We're once again a happy family, Eleonora. And we owe it all to:-

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN, CHIMERA CABAÑAS, & MATILDE

"The Discreet Charm of the Diabetic."

CHIMERA CABAÑAS runs "backstage" and wraps herself in a boa for her curtain call. The CALLERS give them a rousing ovation.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Thank you for all the applause, if you liked the play, tell a friend, and don't miss our next production of the very delightful comedy "A Rafter in Paris," you are truly going to enjoy it. And a special thanks to the Organic Health Clinic, where treating diabetes is a routine and not a mystery. We'll see you at the next luncheon! God bless all of you! A million thanks!

BLACKOUT. The LIGHTS come up on CANICULA CASSIOPEIA who is on the air.

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Welcome Pyrex del Hoyo, and thank you for helping in this fundraiser to help with the operation of Puchita, the one-eyed dog.

PYREX DEL HOYO

You're always behind all the righteous causes, courageous like that great mother of our Island: Mariana Grajales.

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Thanks Pyrex. Well, folks, the news of the day is that they're finally going to honor me with a star at the Calle Ocho Walk of Fame. The expenses for the event will be covered by the organization which awards the star and by the commissioners of the Magic City. After this great honor is bestowed upon yours truly, a posthumous star will be awarded to our great comic Tres Patines! This triumph belongs to all the diaspora, not just to Canicula Cassiopeia. There will be music and an exquisite paella cooked by our commissioner now running for the mayoral seat, Pyrex del Hoyo. He led the fight on the floor of City Hall so funds would be granted to pay for my star, thanks Pyrex! So now you know, we'll see you tonight at Calle Ocho dear callers- and folks, keep sending those donations in because we haven't yet reached the amount needed to operate Puchita, the one-eyed dog!

BLACKOUT and LIGHTS
on CHIMERA CABAÑAS
and the 911 OPERATOR.

911 OPERATOR

What is your emergency?

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(On the phone disguising her voice.)

Cancel that show tonight on Calle Ocho! We're a Marxist-Leninist group and we protest the reactionary right-wing politics of Canicula Cassiopeia. There's a bomb set to go off in exactly half an hour...

911 OPERATOR

Please stay on the line sir- uh... Madam?

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Hangs up. Ecstatic, beyond herself.)

By this time tomorrow, I'll be #1 in the Arbitron charts!

(Takes out some money from her purse.)

My own house on Fisher Island! My own star on Calle Ocho! New clothes, new shoes, more trophies, more gifts, more trips to Holy Land, closer to Heaven, closer to God!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS points to the sky with the dollar bills in her hand. It is reminiscent of Vivien Leigh on the grounds of Tara. BLACKOUT and LIGHTS on the Calle Ocho street scene. There are stars on the floor of famous celebrities. In the middle of the stage there is one that is covered and about to be disclosed. There's a CAMERAMAN filming the event. The MUSICAL TRIO is playing. A BOMB SQUAD POLICE OFFICER looks around for bombs. PYREX DEL HOYO is at the podium. The CALLERS are socializing; one of them carries a sign that reads "Pyrex del Hoyo for Mayor." The CHANNEL 31 REPORTER is transmitting the event live. She talks in low, furtive tones.

CHANNEL 31 REPORTER

As you can see on your screen, Canicula Cassiopeia has arrived at Calle Ocho in a horse-drawn carriage, her fans pursue her on foot, as soon as she can push past them and arrive at the podium, we will bring her to you live. Waiting for Canicula at the podium is the commissioner running for mayor, Pyrex del Hoyo. The dubious cloud that threatens to rain on his mayoral campaign and abolish the Magic City seems not to have dampened the commissioners' spirit. In a news report that you saw here first, exclusively on Channel 31, we informed you of an ongoing FBI investigation, concerning alleged corruption of public officials in the Magic City. We expect to hear any minute now, that Pyrex del Hoyo will be charged by a federal jury for alleged malfeasance of

public funds, bribes conspiracy, and witness tampering. A great majority in the exile community appears to not lend much credence to these accusations. Many allege that this is nothing more than dirty horseplay by Pyrex del Hoyo's opponent in the mayoral race. Canicula Cassiopeia has just arrived at the podium. There are many questions left unanswered regarding the 68 million dollars missing from the City budget. Let's move closer to the commissioner to hear his response to the questions posed in this exclusive interview by Channel 31. Will the City be saved from this financial crisis? Will the City file for bankruptcy? Will the City be abolished and absorbed by the County? Many imponderable questions still remain, but let's listen first to what Pyrex del Hoyo has to say about the delicious paella he has cooked for this tribute now taking place in the Calle Ocho Walk of Fame.

PYREX DEL HOYO

This month the Magic City celebrates its 100th birthday, and in this centennial, this young leader, with courage and experience, marches with you toward a new millennium. I, Pyrex del Hoyo, offer you a vision of grandeur for the Magic City, with morals, honesty, and energy. Since I have been your commissioner not one more German tourist has had his head blown off. Our tourist industry has increased by 40%, our beaches attract more tourists than any other in the state, "Jails for criminals and beaches for tourists," thank you, thank you... Dear voters, after Canicula Cassiopeia receives her star, you are all invited to share with us the paella that I have prepared especially for you and that I hope you will enjoy. We haven't spared anything in its preparation because the honoree deserves it and so do you! The paella has an abundance of meats, sumptuous lobsters, succulent crabs, shrimps, clams, fish, all types of seafood, extra virgin olive oil from Spain, chicken, ham- God Bless America!

GANYMEDE crosses to
PYREX DEL HOYO and
hands him the
gift-wrapped bomb.
SOUND of a clock ticking.

PYREX DEL HOYO

(To CANICULA.)

And here is one more gift! You are so loved by the people.

(He places the gift at the foot of the podium.)

Dear voters...

(Reading.)

It is not a short path the one chosen by this luminary of ours who began as a rumba dancer on our beloved Island. But it wasn't until her arrival on exile soil that she retired

from the musical one-act farces, to devote herself body and soul to the field of uncompromised journalism. Today her program "Tribunal at Dawn," occupies the highest Arbitron ratings of her time slot.

(Stops reading to crown CANICULA.)

It is a great honor for me as commissioner to officially crown Canicula as the reigning "Queen of the Dawn," for her arduous work as a journalist and as a talk show host, in this our second homeland: the Magic City!

APPLAUSE.

PYREX DEL HOYO

Just look around you at all the advertisers that are sponsoring this event: Preparation H, Pepto Bismol, In and Out Funeral Home... Well, on behalf of them and of your thousands of listeners between 64 and 96 yrs old, it is a supreme honor for me to present to you: the "Key to the Magic City!"

(He presents her with the "Key to the Magic City.")

APPLAUSE.

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

(She has on an uncharacteristic smile that never drops.)

Thank you Pyrex del Hoyo, thank you very much! And a big kiss for Tres Patines! God Bless him!

APPLAUSE.

FEMALE CALLER #1

Look this way Cani, a smile for us in the bleachers!

(She takes a photo.)

Now one kissing the star!

EVERYONE

Kiss the star! Kiss the star! Kiss the star!

PYREX DEL HOYO

Let's make way now for Father Ballena so that he may bless the star!

FATHER BALLENA conducts a religious prayer ceremony that culminates in the blessing of the star.

FATHER BALLENA

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos
Santificado sea tu nombre
Venga tu reino
Hágase tu voluntad
Como en el cielo
Así también en la tierra.

EVERYONE

El pan nuestro de cada día
Dánselo hoy
Y perdónanos nuestras deudas
Como también nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores
Y no nos metas en tentación
mas líbranos del mal.

FATHER BALLENA

Dios te salve María
Llena eres de gracia
El Señor es contigo
Bendita tú eres
Entre todas las mujeres
Y bendito es el fruto
De tu vientre Jesús.

EVERYONE

Santa María madre de Dios
Ruega por nosotros pecadores
Ahora y en la hora
de nuestra muerte
Amén.

FATHER BALLENA

Gloria al Padre
Y al Hijo

Y al Espíritu Santo.

EVERYONE

Como era en el principio
Ahora y siempre
Y por los siglos de los siglos
Amén.

PYREX DEL HOYO

And now dear voters, after that brush stroke of solemnity by Father Ballena, the moment has finally arrived for Canicula Cassiopeia to uncover the star on the Calle 8 Walk of Fame. Canicula please, if you will approach the podium...

CHANNEL 31 REPORTER

(Fast and in sotto voce.)

In a few minutes we'll be going live to our reporter on the scene who is just outside the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity where the Virgin is due to land any minute after having left in a helicopter from the Hialeah Race Track. But before we do that we'll also go live to the mass being celebrated in honor of the rafters in Guantanamo. Let me take this opportunity to remind you that Channel 31 will also be present at the protest march that Canicula Cassiopeia is organizing for the last day of the Summit. That one promises to be a scorcher. We'll be there with the most complete coverage at 6 and 11! Channel 31, your team in the trenches at all rallies and protests! Back to you in the studio Lucrecia and Anacleto.

The MUSICAL TRIO stops playing. In the background we hear the song "Siboney."
CANICULA CASSIOPEIA unveils her star as the CALLERS cheer and applaud.

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

Good evening dear radio fans, thank you very much, thank you. You're all asking me to kiss the star, well then, here's a kiss for all my fans gathered here tonight who have placed "Tribunal at Dawn" as the #1 Arbitron rated show.

(She kneels in front of the star.)

This other kiss is for my compatriots living on the enslaved Island, who listen to me on Radio Humanity. This kiss is for the sponsors, because without them folks, we wouldn't have a show. And this last kiss is for the star.

(She kisses the star.)

They tell me there are more people at this block party than when they honored our best and brightest: Gloria Estefan. Folks, this star will remain as a living testament of my work in this land of exile. A reminder of my struggle against the evil tyranny that daily attacks us from the Island. Thanks to all my team, and thank you Pyrex del Hoyo....

PYREX DEL HOYO greets
the CALLERS who cheer
and applaud.

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

I want you to know that Pyrex Del Hoyo has not let himself be intimidated by the bomb threats made by those communist agitators who wanted the City to cancel this event. Quite the contrary, the commissioner has spent the entire day cooking a delicious paella for all of you, and which I see you are already enjoying. Folks, keep on eating, and then let's all dance to the tune of rumba and guaguanco. When I return with all of you to a free Island, I will have the satisfaction of knowing that on this chunk of street, there will forever remain immortalized, my consecrated labor as an exile journalist! Labor which has never been up for sale, like all of those who have sold our country out and are eating our old folks alive with the bit about "Diabetes is a routine and not a mystery" Thank you, thank you very much, thanks-!

SOUND of a bomb blast.
Cataclysm of LIGHTS and
MUSIC. BLACKOUT.The
LIGHTS come up on
CHIMERA CABAÑAS
who is broadcasting from
the studio.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Dear Lord God!

(Laughing.)

Chimera Cabañas here with you once again at the start of a new dawn, and we started it with "Volare, volare!" What a pretty tune, huh? it's marvelous! Well dear friends, today, Thursday, you can just imagine how I feel, very sad. Very sad because of this

tragic accident that happened last night to our colleague Canicula Cassiopeia. Even though she has been part of the competition all along, that doesn't matter. My motto is "Never think twice before doing a good deed." I first met Canicula Cassiopeia many, many years ago back in the Island. An excellent friend and a great radio host, formidable. What happened to her yesterday is deplorable and there must be an investigation into this to find out who is responsible for such a terrible tragedy; which so prematurely has brought down the upright nature of Canicula Cassiopeia. When we come back we'll continue our conversation on this awe-inspiring night of thunder and lightning-

SOUND of lightning. The LIGHTS blink and the studio is momentarily illuminated with white LIGHT. Some objects, unable to resist further attacks, fall like ruins to the floor.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Santa Barbara! That was a close call that bomb!- I mean that lightning!

LIGHTS fade down on CHIMERA CABAÑAS and come up on GANYMEDE.

BOMB SQUAD POLICE OFFICER

(To GANYMEDE.)

We found her here on Friday, at dawn, carbonized, one hand holding a bottle of ammonia. She had a foul smell to her, so did a bunch of dirty clothes lying around her, nothing buddy, it looks like the old sow just drank the ammonia to try to poison herself. What I can't quite understand is, the cause of death: Was it the ammonia, the bomb that went off last night, or the thunderbolt that struck her?

BLACKOUT and LIGHTS up.

MAN

Maria's Furniture! We have four floors filled with furniture and here is where you gotta come shop. If you have old furniture that you wanna trade in for new, here is where you gotta shop. What count is your CASH!

YOUNG MAN

Maria's Furniture! If you don't buy it from my father, you can buy it from me. We have four floors filled with furniture and here is where you gotta come shop. What counts is your CASH!

LITTLE GIRL

Maria's Furniture! If you don't buy it from my father you can buy it from my brother, and if not, you can buy it from me! What counts is your CASH!

BLACKOUT and LIGHT on CANICULA CASSIOPEIA who bolts into the studio like a bat out of hell. She's in a wheelchair that has some IV tubes hanging from it. Both legs have been amputated and cling to the back of the chair as a bloody reminder of the attack. The stumps at the knees are wrapped in bloody bandages. She occasionally uses a mask for oxygen.

CANICULA CASSIOPEIA

And that smacks me as despicable, servile, and of such a corrupt nature as to have no comparison, abhorrent, abominable, criminal, cruel, inhumane, and degrading; the treatment that our rafters are getting in Guantanamo! You cannot serve both God and Mammon! The time to protest is this Monday in front of the Grand Bay Hotel! Well folks, and moving right along to another great exile cause, I want to remind you that today begins our radio marathon to aid in the construction of "Radio Humanity Mausoleum." Our volunteers are standing ready to receive your donations for this humanitarian cause. Don't leave it for later because the weekend is coming and you might forget. I too, subscribe to my colleague Chimera Cabañas' motto: "Never think

twice before doing a good deed." Because in this life you always get your just desserts, even the bomb attacks they launch your way, but folks, the Calle Ocho bomb attack, that's not today's topic! Help us in providing a Christian burial in one of our mausoleums made of imported marble from Carrará. Help us to bury the rafter Raisa, a mother who died of thirst in order to give her child the last drinking water left on the raft. The number to call is 1-800-RAFTERS, 1-800-RAFTERS...

CROSSFADE to
AURORA'S room.

AURORA

I'm going to miss you a lot, when will you come back?

ET #2

Soon. There's still a lot to learn about the effects of radio waves on human beings from the Island. I have a surprise for you Aurora. Open your hands and close your eyes.

(He puts her bird in her hands.)

AURORA

(Opens her eyes.)

Oh my God! It's little Augustine, and he's alive! Look how he flies about.

AURORA chases after her pet bird and catches it, she doesn't notice that ET #2 has gone away.

AURORA

It's a miracle! How did you do it?

ET #2

(Offstage.)

Don't ask, you wouldn't understand.

AURORA

Where did you go?

ET #2

To a very far, far, faraway land... you wouldn't understand. Goodbye, Aurora

AURORA

(Tearful.)

Goodbye sweet prince, come back soon, give my regards to your boss for me. My two Martian angels. I'm going to miss you so!

AURORA chases after her pet bird, catches it, and puts him in his cage.

Unable to go to sleep, she turns on the radio.

LIGHTS on CHIMERA

CABAÑAS and

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(To Zäyas-Kaizen.)

It was just only a joke, Zäyas! How was I to know that anyone could actually mastermind the bombing of Canicula Cassiopeia?!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

(Peels a pineapple.)

You don't fool me with that story!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Back on the air.)

Well friends, it's another Saturday dawn coming to a close, with just a few more minutes remaining, let's take one last call, Global Village good morning!

AURORA

Good morning Chimera!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

AURORA! Where have you been hiding? No one has heard from you since last Saturday!

AURORA

That's because I was abducted and raped by two Martians!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Aurora, you must still be dreaming dear- I've got to put you on hold, sweetie. Our reporter on the scene is calling in with a late-breaking news report. Don't hang up love!

AURORA stays on hold.

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Go ahead with the scoop, Angel! Hello! Go ahead with your report! Hello?

(She walks over to the booth, to ZÄYAS-KAIZEN.)

Zäyas, there's something wrong with the line!

LIGHT on the MUSICAL TRIO. They're wearing T-shirts with the image of Che.

MUSICAL TRIO

Si Fidel es comunista que me pongan en la lista...

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

That's not our reporter on the scene!

MUSICAL TRIO

Que estoy de acuerdo con él...

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

Get them off the air!

CHIMERA CABAÑAS runs to her desk in a frenzy to cut the call. ZÄYAS-KAIZEN throws a pineapple peel in her way causing her to lose consciousness.

MUSICAL TRIO

...¡Qué viva Fidel!
 ¡Qué viva Fidel!
 ¡Qué viva Fidel!, señores...
 ¡Qué viva Fidel!...

CHIMERA CABAÑAS

(Losing consciousness as she battles with the peel.)
 Get them off the air!

MUSICAL TRIO

¡Cuba sí!
 ¡Cuba sí!
 ¡Cuba sí,
 Yanqui no!

LIGHTS off on MUSICAL TRIO.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN

(Pokes his head out of the booth.)
 "Veni, vidi, vici!"
 (On the air.)

That last call from those communist scumbags appears to have mildly inconvenienced our dear Chimera. But "Zäyas-Kaizen at Dawn," will continue on with you, at the foot of the cannon, ready to battle Arbitron. Just look at that switchboard! Pure dynamite! Meanwhile, this is the weather forecast for the Magic City and its vicinities, the forecast for today is-

(Looks around him.)

clear. Unfortunately, it's not the same for our Island, as hurricane Pope John Paul II lurks dangerously close. Funny the names they come up with for hurricanes, don't you think? Pope John Paul II promises to be more devastating than hurricanes Flora and Andrew combined. This station will be accepting donations for those in need should hurricane Pope John Paul II happen to strike the Island with its ecclesiastical winds. We're one country united!

(He takes out a bag of rice with "EXILE" written on it.)

The thought for the day is from the French philosopher and encyclopedist Denis Diderot, who said "When the last king is hung with the tripe of the last priest, then there will be liberty in Europe."

(He imitates Chimera's voice and tone.)
Aurora, are you still on hold sweetie?

AURORA
Yes, I'm still here. Can you play something from La Lupe?

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN
(He imitates Chimera's voice and tone.)
Aurora, this kiss is for you sweetie, don't hang up!

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN drags a moribund CHIMERA CABAÑAS to what's left of Vesta's tube. The LIGHTS begin to fade down.
SOUND of song "Adios."

CHIMERA CABAÑAS
(Semi-conscious.)
Global Village good morning... it was just a foolish thought Zäyas, I didn't set-off any bomb... to my dear callers, I'll see you at the next luncheon... it wasn't me Zäyas... may God Bless all of you, thanks... a million thanks... respected public, those of you who want to obtain a copy of this afternoon's video, please leave your request and \$20.00 with Ganymede, expert in the field... no Zäyas, it wasn't me... don't miss our next production "A Rafter in Paris," you're really, really going to love it... Zaayaaaas...!

LA LUPE

CANCIÓN ADIÓS

Con el llanto de tus ojos
Y las manos sin destino
Te vi partir
Destino cruel que así mató
Todo el amor que nos unió
¡Aaaayyyy...!

SPOTLIGHT on LA LUPE
who sings CANCIÓN

ADIÓS as ZÄYAS-KAIZEN
 throws CHIMERA
 CABAÑAS down the tube.
 SOUND of Chimera's body
 falling on the laundry floor.
 He clasps his hands
 triumphantly and cleans
 her desk with a feather
 duster. He throws her
 nameplate and other
 belongings in the garbage
 can and sets it on fire. He
 places his own nameplate
 on the desk and crosses to
 the cabin.

ZÄYAS-KAIZEN
 (Singing along with LA LUPE.)

LA LUPE

Adiós
 Qué triste fue el adiós
 Que nos dejó al partir
 Ya sin voz de llorar
 Partir fue regresar a mí
 Al escuchar tu voz
 Sin tenerte aquí....

At long last, in the
 darkness of her room and
 with her ear to the phone,
 AURORA has fallen
 asleep waiting for Zäyas to
 return.

END OF PLAY