

## Operation Ajax and The Country Behind The Curtain

*a plunged up particle from the bowels of America's wholly unimaginable and unwritable history by johnmichael rossi*

### **CHARACTERS:**

DOROTI, a young international traveler, lost in NYC  
SUSPISHUS-PAKEJ, a tin man in need of oil, channeling  
Mohammad Mossadegh

### **SETTING:**

A large sign reads "IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING."  
DOROTI enters and reads the sign.

### **NOTES:**

This play has been conjured up from the pages of Stephen Kinzer's All The Shah's Men, An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror.

DOROTI

If.  
Yooo.  
C.  
Sum. Thing.  
Saaaa, Sum-Thing.  
Huh?  
Hm...  
Ahhh!

[DOROTI looks around and surveys the audience. She chooses select members in the audience. Each time she "sees something" of interest, she "says something" in her own language. For example, "I see a man with a red shirt." "I see a hot guy with sideburns." She does this about three or four times. As Doroti "sees" and "says," SUSPISHUS-PAKEJ creeps on, disguised as box. DOROTI eventually sees SUSPISHUS-PAKEJ.]

Huh!  
Hm?  
Ooooh...

[DOROTI gravitates towards the package with caution. She moves in and lifts the top of the box. SUSPISHUS-PAKEJ rises holding a box of Ajax. He appears to be stuck.]

OOOH!

(she applauds)

SUSPISHUS-PAKEJ

Nhhhh. Uhhhhhh. L.

DOROTI

Huh?

SUSPISHUS-PAKEJ

Eeeeed. Oi! L.

DOROTI

Hm?

SUSPISHUS-PAKEJ

Eed. Oi. Ul.

DOROTI

Oil?

Oil!?

(She pulls an oil can out of her bag, presents it to the audience)

Oil!

(She begins oiling SUSPISHUS-PAKEJ and he becomes animated with each drop. She oils his mouth and he begins to speak.)

SUSPISHUS-PAKEJ

"My countrymen lack the bare necessities of existence. Their standard of living is probably one of the lowest in the world. Our greatest natural asset is...-"

(DOROTI oils him some more)

"... suffering in conditions of absolute misery without even the barest necessities of life. If the exploitation our oil industry continues in the future as it has in the past,-"

(DOROTI oils him some more)

"If we are to tolerate a situation in which... the foreign exploiters continue to appropriate practically all of our income, then our people will remain forever in a state of misery."

(DOROTI attempts to oil him but she has run out of resources.

SUSPISHUS explodes.)

"Our actions are described as *insensate*, and our people *deluded*... precipitate, arbitrary, intolerable. Hustling. Intransigent. Wild accusations! Ridiculous! Base Ingratitude! Intemperate! EXPLOITERS! ILLUSORY!! SUICIDAL!!!

(silence)

## DOROTI

(channeling Madeleine Albright)

"In 1953, the United States played a significant role in orchestrating the overthrow of Iran's popular Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh. The Eisenhower Administration believed its actions were justified for strategic reasons. But the coup was clearly a setback for Iran's political development. And it is easy to see bow why many Iranians continue to resent this intervention by America in their internal affairs,"

(SUSPISHUS-PAKEJ begins to softly hum *Somewhere over the Rainbow*. DOROTI channels Jelaluddin Rumi)

I hold no religion or creed,  
 am neither Eastern nor Western,  
 Muslim or infidel,  
 Zoroastrian, Christian, Jew or Gentile.  
 I come from neither land nor sea,  
 am not related to those above or below,  
 was not born nearby or far away,  
 do not live either in Paradise or on this Earth,  
 claim descent not from Adam and Eve or the Angels above.  
 I transcend body and soul.  
 My home is beyond place and name.  
 It is with the beloved, in a space beyond space.  
 I embrace all and am part of all.

(a slow fade to black, humming continues on and on...)