

MISFIT TOYS
BY GEORGE SAPIO

Big Bob.....Male. The group leader.
Mr. Purple.....Male. “Reservoir Dogs”
Junior.....Female. Cute. Too cute, maybe.
Lord Invader.....Male. Very male.
Slamalama Dingdong.....Female. Very female.
Peter.....Male. Wears bunny ears.
Bob.....Female.
Buzz.....Male. Open, confused.

Directors: Descriptions are suggestive; cast appropriately according to your availability, needs, and sexual/social values.

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[Note: Since this is a group therapy session, actors are encouraged to ad-lib either encouragements or other appropriate-in-group-therapy-kind-of-lines as needed.]

SLAMALAMA

...and it was beautiful. It was like we... just connected... in a way that was... so much better than ever before.

BOB

That's wonderful, Slama.

SLAMALAMA

She was so kind and gentle, and she held me, touched me, moved me so tenderly. It lasted so long and yet it was over too early. I wanted more. I never wanted her to stop. I felt like I had gone places I'd never even seen before!

[GROUP claps and offers ad-lib encouragement]

BIG BOB

Oh, that's excellent, Slama. I'm sure everyone here is glad to know you've made a breakthrough.

LORD INVADER

So to speak. *[Chuckles]*

BIG BOB

Vader, what did we say about disrespecting a fellow group member?

LORD INVADER

Sorry.

BIG BOB

To the group, please.

LORD INVADER

I'm sorry, group.

[GROUP expresses encouragement]

BIG BOB

Well, as long as we're giving you our attention, we may as well move on to you. Have you acted on your task from last week?

LORD INVADER

[Half mumbled in embarrassment] I didn't.

[GROUP expresses disappointment]

I didn't have an opportunity!

JUNIOR

That's always your excuse! Every week!

LORD INVADER

That's always the case! It's not my fault. How could it be my fault? She keeps me in the drawer. Something about this new guy... his equipment must be frickin' sturdy. Or something.

MR. PURPLE

No attacking, Junior. Vader's having a hard time. Or not, as the situation begs..

JUNIOR

Oh please. You always back him up.

MR PURPLE

I most certainly do not.

BIG BOB

Okay, stop.

JUNIOR

Yes, you do!

MR PURPLE

You're dreaming. She's dreaming right?

BIG BOB

I asked everyone to stop. And I mean it. I will send somebody out at the next disturbance.

JUNIOR

Sorry.

MR PURPLE

Sorry.

BIG BOB

What?

MR PURPLE/JUNIOR

[*Together*] Sorry, GROUP.

BIG BOB

We're not making a good impression for our new member.

BOB

[*Snorts*] ...member...

BIG BOB

So before this turns into a kindergarten class, let's go around and introduce ourselves. We'll start with you, Bob.

BOB

“Bob”

SLAMA

[With great pride] Slamalamadingdong

[GIRLS applaud]

PETER

The name is “Peter.”

[Girls applaud louder]

MR. PURPLE

“Mr. Purple” *[Ad-lib]*

LORD INVADER

Lord Invader here.

JUNIOR

My name's “Junior.”

GROUP

Awwwww!

JUNIOR

[Under her breath] I fucking hate that.

BIG BOB

Well, then! Group, let's welcome our newest male appliance.

[GROUP goes silent, stares at BIG BOB]

BIG BOB

[Beat] Oh boy.

BUZZ

What?

BIG BOB

Group? What did I just do?

GROUP

[All together] You assumed.

BIG BOB

Assumed what?

GROUP

Identity.

BIG BOB

Identity. Right. Just goes to show that even I can make mistakes. I apologize, Buzz.

BUZZ

I don't understand. I don't have an identity problem. I'm here for [something different.]

BIG BOB

Hang on, Buzz. One thing at a time.

BOB

May I speak? Thanks. Buzz, I refer to the persona we were given by our users. You know, like you were? Big Bob jumped the gun.

BUZZ

What do you mean? I were what?

[Silence, then it dawns on everyone]

BIG BOB

Buzz, were you never allowed to assume your own identity?

BUZZ

I don't know what you mean. I didn't know I was supposed to.

[GROUP shakes their heads in sympathy]

BUZZ

What?

BIG BOB

Okay. I think I see the root of your problem.

BUZZ

You do? I haven't even said anything yet.

SLAMA

We try not to assume anything in this group, but one of the most prevalent problems we encounter is knowing one's own identity.

BUZZ

I'm a dildo. Look at me: I'm a big penis. It's kind of a no-brainer, isn't it?

JUNIOR

Everything here is no-brainer, Buzz.

BUZZ

I'm sorry?

BOB

This group, this therapy group. When we are utilized, we operate on the same mental level as our users, and at those times our users aren't rational. Therefore no critical thinking.

LORD INVADER

It's all emotion at the moment, and immediate reaction to that emotion.

PETER

Any thinking involved is most definitely of a fantasy nature.

JUNIOR

We're kind of the anti-brain, Buzz. If you know what I mean.

BUZZ

I'm lost.

MR PURPLE

Let me offer this analogy. The human body has a brain and a set of

GROUP

Gonads¹

MR PURPLE

And there's only enough blood in the body to operate one of them at a time.

[Group ad-libs]

BUZZ

Okay, fine, but wait, [that's the thing...]

BIG BOB

Without the specific knowledge of who you are and what you're supposed to be, you can't become a fully effective toy for your user.

BUZZ

But that's not why I'm here. Far as I know I don't have an identity crisis.

BIG BOB

Just because you're a rather impressively large penis, does not automatically make you male.

PETER

You don't even realize that your identity is based to your owner's predilections.

LORD INVADER

You don't think you have an identity crisis because you don't realize you're supposed to *have* in identity.

BUZZ

But isn't being a really big penis mean I'm male?

GROUP

[With emphasis] NO.

BUZZ

Holy shit!

¹ All together, as if this is a kneejerk, familiar reaction shared by all. Possibly a sacred word.

BIG BOB

Why are you here?

BUZZ

Because I'm... I'm... Now I can't say it.

JUNIOR

Whatever it is, Buzz, your identity is your starting point.

BUZZ

It is?

MR PURPLE

Most assuredly. Let me explain. Some of us are considered specifically male by our users.

BUZZ

Right. As you would expect.

SLAMA

And some of us are looked on more as a female friend in a male form.

BUZZ

But aren't we all substitutes for the same thing? I mean, what we are, that's definitely male.

BIG BOB

In an archaically traditional, obviously structural sense, yes.

BOB

But we try not to think traditionally.

JUNIOR

Depending on our users, we can become female--

SLAMA

Or genderfluid, depending on personal needs.

LORD INVADER

Absolutely. We occupy the full spectrum of...?

ALL

Identities!

BIG BOB

Buzz, do you have any idea how your owner thinks of you?

BUZZ

Uhhh... I ... I'm not sure.

SLAMA

He's male. Look at him.

BOB

Slama, don't do that.

SLAMA

Oh, come on, Bob. Check him out. That toy is thick and veiny as hell.

LORD INVADER

Oh please. I know some women that fit that description!

SLAMA

What owner would think of him as female? Oh come on, it's obvious. Look at –

BIG BOB

Slama!

[SLAMA quiets, but rolls her eyes in derision]

BIG BOB

Buzz, the question here is a critical one. Your identity is the most basic thing in your psyche. It determines who you are, how you think of yourself, how you are perceived not just by others but most importantly by yourself. Which is critical. You can't go through your warranty not knowing. Your self-esteem and your successes all depend on it.

BUZZ

I never thought about it. I never knew I had to.

PETER

See? Now this is the problem with most of the accompanying instructions. I mean really. They must think users are so stupid that they actually give you diagrams on how to put in the batteries--

LORD INVADER

For those of you who need them.

BIG BOB

Lord Invader, you're being device-ist. And you're being rude to our new group member!

LORD INVADER

I'm sorry. *[Beat]* Group!

BIG BOB

That's better.

LORD INVADER

...batteries...

BIG BOB

I'm asking you to stop.

LORD INVADER

I mean come on. No offense, Buzz, but vibrating? As if you want to what? Simulate humping someone who's getting the electric chair? Now *that's* kinky.

BIG BOB

That's enough. I'm sending you out. You're done for tonight. We'll see you next week.

LORD INVADER

This is bullshit. [*Crosses to exit, then turns and faces GROUP.*] I don't need batteries. I'm fucking *ribbed*, bitches. [*Exits*]

BIG BOB

I'm so sorry about that, Buzz. It's clear that some of us have a ways to go before we're able to stand up on our own.

BUZZ

It's okay. I get it. I mean this is group therapy, right? So. Identity seems to be a critical issue.

PETER

It's everything. It's who you are. It's how you're used. It's your relationship with your user.

BOB

First of all. Basic fact number one:

GROUP

All of us have users.

JUNIOR

And basic fact number two: we have to find ways to relate to them in ways that achieve . . . what?

GROUP

Mutually satisfying emotional release.

PETER

This is what I mean. The reason I was getting so excited before about the instructions is simple.

BIG BOB

Let's not divert from the issue, Peter.

PETER

I won't. I promise. But they include (like I said) how to insert batteries, which is OMG a no-fucking-brainer, right?

SLAMA

Language.

PETER

Right. Some even have diagrams on how to use us. I mean, come on. You're going to take us home and you don't know how to use us? Why would you buy one of us if you had no idea how to use us? Think about it. The options are somewhat limited!

BIG BOB

Point?

PETER

But what they don't tell you. And this is probably the most important part of our relationship... Is how we determine who we are.

BUZZ

Okay. Wait, wait. What do you mean, "who we are"?

PETER

It's a long and detailed concept, this multiple and frequently flexible identity we toys have. [You start with . . .]

MR. PURPLE

I'm stealing.

PETER

What?

MR. PURPLE

I'm stealing the conversation. I have a steal chip.

PETER

I hate you.

MR PURPLE

What Peter is trying to say (and taking all session to do it) is that we are employed by the entire range of sexual preferences and gender identities. Our users are straight, gay, and bisexual, while being either male, female, and gender non-conforming. Most of us are based on some variation of the the archetypical bullet shape, but there are some of us who are alternatively crafted.

JUNIOR

Like two heads. Some of them even light up. That shit's freaky.

MR PURPLE

TO CONTINUE. The upshot is that we are used in the most intimate ways by various owners. Who we are is essential, because without that knowledge we cannot really establish a true connection with our users. If we don't know who we are we can't become what our users need us to be and we just stay in the bottom drawer forever. We remain just an unused piece of plastic--

BOB

Plastic *composite*.

SLAMA

Flexible jelly. Perfect for beginners.

JUNIOR

Hand-blown glass, baby. *Sharper Image* catalog. Only in the first class cabin, by the way. Ohh yeah.

BIG BOB

That's a quarter, Junior. Bragging jar.

[JUNIOR rises, crosses and puts a coin in a jar held out by BIG BOB labeled "Bragging Jar."]

JUNIOR

Totally worth it.

MR PURPLE

So knowing if we are considered male or female is a start.

BUZZ

Wait. A female dildo?

PETER

Why not? Women stimulate each other digitally. That's penetration.

BOB

Never heard of chicks with dicks?

BUZZ

Ahhh...

MR PURPLE

In a sexual relationship, almost anything is possible. So then we can continue to distinguish between the various denominations.

BIG BOB

Who's your owner, Buzz?

BUZZ

Her name is Chloe. She's an accountant.

JUNIOR

And how does she use you?

BOB

Wait!

JUNIOR

Oh hell. You're right. I'm jumping ahead. Who does she have sex with when not you?

BUZZ

Well, most of the time I'm in the underwear drawer so I can't really see. I feel like I'm betraying her.

BIG BOB

It's okay, Buzz. What's said here, stays here.

BOB

We never let on anything that gets spoken about.

JUNIOR

It's the only way this group manages to work. Trust. We're a family.

PETER

So tell us. What's her preference?

BUZZ

Both, I believe.

SLAMA

Shazam!

PETER

Jackpahhhhhht!

BOB

I knew it!

MR PURPLE

Well, it's a small wonder you're confused.

BIG BOB

Buzz. Here's a mirror.

PETER

I love it when this moment happens!

BIG BOB

Now close your eyes. Breathe deep. Be receptive to the reality of your being. Erase the board of preconceptions. Ready? Now open your eyes and look at yourself. You are a dual use dildo.

BUZZ

I am? Wow.

MR PURPLE

Who does she think of when you're being utilized?

BUZZ

Ummm...

SLAMA

Oh come on. You can tell us. In for a penny, in for a pounding!

JUNIOR

It's how you build trust with us. You tell us and we tell you.

BUZZ

No, hold on. I wasn't evading. I was just realizing something. She can switch partners every time, right?

BOB

Hell. She can switch in the middle.

SLAMA

Coupla times if she wants. Why not?

BUZZ

Omigod. It's coming clear.

BIG BOB

What, Buzz?

BUZZ

No wonder. I've been confused. That's what it was. I didn't know who I was or who I'm supposed to be and that's why. I thought... I thought...

PETER

You thought consistency of identity?

BUZZ

I'm not sure. I think so. I mean I didn't know what to think because I had no idea I had to think it. But yes, that was it!

PETER

I totally blame the manufacturers. I mean look at this poor soul.

BUZZ

That must be it. Sometimes it just felt all wrong. Like it was two different things happening. Her experience and mine.

BOB

Dude. Been there.

SLAMA

Yup.

MR PURPLE

Oh yes. Many of us have had to sort through our identities at some point. I know that for me, the epiphany was earth-shattering.

BUZZ

So what are you?

MR PURPLE

I am most definitely a male toy. Usually a certain man she met online. But occasionally, especially after she's had her third glass of wine, I become female fingers.

BUZZ

And the rest of you?

BOB

Female. Her college professor most of the time.

JUNIOR

I'm a female. Sometimes several.

PETER

Male. Past six months I'm his supervisor at work. We're talking overtime.

BUZZ

And you?

SLAMA

I am woman, hear me roar. I'm a man, come back for more.

BUZZ

That's so hot.

SLAMA

And I'm hypo-allergenic.

[She challenges him with a sexy look. He grins and adjusts in his chair, clearly engaged. Ad lib from GROUP]

BUZZ

Ohhh myyyy....

[More ad-lib]

BIG BOB

Okay people, we only have about ten minutes left and even though we achieved a great amount today—Buzz we're really happy for you and Slama stop playing with your speed control—we still haven't found out what originally brought you to our group. You came here for a reason, Buzz. What was it?

BUZZ

Oh, that. I'm claustrophobic.