

DIVISION III
by
Wendy MacLeod

Contact:
Beth Bickers
Abrams Artists Agency
275 Seventh Avenue
26th Floor

New York, NY 10001
(646) 486-4600

beth.blickers@abramsartny.com

No part of this play may be performed, reproduced, or changed without written permission.

DIVISION III

by

Wendy MacLeod

A locker room after a college game. YOUNG and LENTZ and BALDWIN

are changing out of their uniforms. They are popping Advils and sharing a Ben Gay tube. Their bats lean up against the lockers.

YOUNG

They're eight runs up, in the seventh, the guy's stealing,
what kind of an asshole...?

LENTZ

It's like not enough their team is beating us, their school is beating us, he personally has
to beat us, you know?

YOUNG

Stealing is very personal...

LENTZ

It's very personal...

YOUNG

But there was a case where, okay, his id wanted to steal but his superego should have
stepped in...

LENTZ

Exactly, that's what it's there for...

YOUNG

But that guy was all id.

LENTZ

Total id.

YOUNG

He gets a double, but he's got to push it, you know. Make it a triple.

LENTZ

In your face.

YOUNG

Exactly. That's a violation.

LENTZ

No class.

YOUNG

There's an unspoken rule and he violated it.

LENTZ

I'm surprised they weren't bunting.

YOUNG

Ben Gay me, man.

LENTZ

Same shoulder?

YOUNG

Yeah.

(LENTZ rubs Ben Gay on YOUNG's shoulder)

Did you hear them talking trash?

LENTZ

Fucking rude.

YOUNG

What was that? This isn't Little League.

LENTZ

Fucking obvious, your mother this, your mother that...

YOUNG

I mean their pitcher is out there, throwing cheese, and we have to listen to that...

LENTZ

Did you hear what he said to me? He said "You hit stupid."

YOUNG

Hello? Stupid is an adjective.

LENTZ

I said what you mean is that I hit stupidly...

YOUNG

Which still makes no sense...

LENTZ

I mean I hit badly, okay, I hit ineptly, I hit in an unorthodox fashion, all these things are true, but I do not hit stupidly. I know exactly what I'm trying to do when I hit that ball.

BALDWIN

May I ask a question? Why do we suck so bad?

YOUNG

We've always sucked. It's the great Kenyon tradition of sucking ass.

LENTZ

We're Division III. Get used to it.

BALDWIN

But this is the thing...they're Division III.

YOUNG

What's your point?

BALDWIN

Why don't they suck?

YOUNG

They do suck. But we suck worse.

BALDWIN

We have no pride. We just take it. Week after week.

LENTZ

Well, what are you gonna do?

BALDWIN

I mean we get kicked out of the fieldhouse for aerobics. You know what I'm saying?
In the life of the college, aerobics takes precedence over us.

YOUNG

So?

BALDWIN

We need to practice, we play games, I mean if the aerobics class misses a class, they have another class, we have one shot, every week...

YOUNG

You're getting caught in this whole Western win-lose mindset. You're disregarding the entire mystical element. I mean think about it--(*slowly*) nine men, nine innings, ninety feet between the bases. Huh?

LENTZ

The ball is round, the bat is round...and there's no time...

YOUNG

There is no time! On a baseball field.

LENTZ

Every man gets his turn at bat...

YOUNG

A game can go on forever...

LENTZ

Like the Rip Van Winkle Theory. Any man, any ball player, any...

YOUNG

Shoeless Joe Jackson could appear on that field today and nothing would have changed...

BALDWIN

Except he'd win.

YOUNG

There's a quote about baseball, many people go, but few understand the game...

BALDWIN

I understand the game, I love the game, which is why I want to win the game.

YOUNG

This is not about you, this is not about what you want, this is about a team...

LENTZ

It's like life...

YOUNG

It's exactly like life, all you can do is make the plays that come to you, and do your best at bat, and if every man on your team is doing the same...

BALDWIN

We still lose! I mean in high school it was different, we had like this stadium, here we have this field that they like forget to mow, where people walk their dogs, where there's like doo and dandelions and shit...

YOUNG

I'm glad to be out of high-school, there was this whole homophobic, racist thing happening there...I'm Jewish right? You know what my high-school coach called toe touches? Jewish penny-pick-ups.

LENTZ

Asshole. That man isn't fit to play baseball.

BALDWIN

Didn't you say something?

YOUNG

The man insulted me, okay, he insulted my people, but you just got to, you know, suck it up. I mean, I'm a catcher, I get nailed by balls. What am I gonna do? Stop the game for a band-aid. No, I'm gonna spit on that cut, and play ball. And that's what I suggest you do.

BALDWIN

There are other sports. There are teams here that actually win.

YOUNG

Oh sure, the leisure class sports...

LENTZ

Baseball is the only democratic game. You don't have to bench press 300 pounds...

YOUNG

You don't have to be 6 feet two...

LENTZ

You don't have to run the 440 in 4...

BALDWIN

You don't have to fucking catch a ball to be on this team!

LENTZ

Hey, we're not athletes, we're ball players.

BALDWIN

What if I actually decide I want to go pro?

LENTZ

Hey, if you've got the talent, they're gonna find you...

YOUNG

Wherever you are, it's like tribal drums, the word spreads from to diamond to diamond...

BALDWIN

It depends on the diamond, the word might spread from Miami to Arizona, from Arizona to Berkeley, but nobody's gonna drop by Gambier Ohio! Nobody's gonna come see some pissant backwater liberal arts baseball team! I mean the coach barely shows up for the game! I mean he's coaching track and field at the same damn time!

YOUNG

Losing doesn't make us losers. You're confusing the result with the action, you see what I'm saying?

BALDWIN

No.

YOUNG

All right, look at it in existential terms.

LENTZ

Camus!

YOUNG

A person is defined by their acts. Our act was playing ball.

BALDWIN

You call that playing ball? Our act was losing.

YOUNG

No no no, you're missing the point. That was not our action. That was the score, that was the result, that was beyond us, what is within us, what is us, is playing. We are players.

BALDWIN

Let me ask you a question. Don't you miss winning?

YOUNG

Winning or losing, it's still the same game.

LENTZ

The same sounds.

YOUNG

Yes.

LENTZ

I was late for practice yesterday but I found you. I just listened for the crack of the bats and the slap of the leather. It's like I swear to god if I lost my sight tomorrow I could still play ball.

YOUNG

God I know what you mean. You hear the crack and you feel where the ball is going...

LENTZ

Sometimes in the outfield, I close my eyes when the ball is coming to me. I close my eyes and I catch it. It's like...typing. Like looking at the keys can mess you up.

YOUNG

And then there's the smells. That muddy springtime smell.

LENTZ

And the smell of the chalk.

YOUNG

And that leathery, sweaty smell of your hand when it's been in the glove. It's like when your hand's been inside a woman.

LENTZ

Wo.

YOUNG

Have you seen the team pictures in the fieldhouse? The old ones. Have you seen them?

LENTZ

They're us.

YOUNG

They are us. I swear to God.

(pointing to LENTZ and BALDWIN)

I see you and I see you and there's a guy could be my father and it's like baseball is youth.

LENTZ

And you know they're all dead now...

YOUNG

And someday they'll be looking at us...and they won't know whether we won or lost. All they'll know is that we played.

LENTZ

That we were young.

YOUNG

That we were here.

BALDWIN

And that we played.

YOUNG

It's like we're ghosts.

(beat)

LENTZ

I'm getting chills.

BALDWIN

I'm freaking.

YOUNG

I'm having an epiphany.

(beat)

LENTZ

Is it over?

YOUNG

Yeah.

LENTZ

I'm gonna go retape my bat. You gonna retape your bat?

YOUNG

I'm there. Baldwin, you want me to retape your bat?

BALDWIN

You fucked it up last time.

YOUNG

Fuck you then, do it yourself.

BALDWIN

I plan to.

Did you see their wad of a coach?

LENTZ

King Wad.

YOUNG

The Wittenberg wads.

BALDWIN

That wasn't a game. It was a wadfest.

LENTZ

Should have brought the wad-off.

YOUNG

Wad-away.

BALDWIN

Like that guy was safe.

YOUNG

Maybe in the movie.

(BALDWIN and LENTZ and YOUNG exit carrying their bats)

LENTZ

I'm going with the red tape this time.

BALDWIN

Like the color's really gonna help your slump.

LENTZ

It might.

BLACKOUT

