SMOKE SCENES

by NICK ZAGONE

CHARACTERS

JOHN
MARSHA

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SMOKE SCENES

[Lights up on JOHN and MARSHA. They’re actors. On stage with John and Marsha there might be some chairs.]

JOHN
51 short plays about smoke in ten minutes. Go.

MARSHA
Do you smell smoke?

JOHN
What? (sniffs) No.

MARSHA
Oh.

JOHN and MARSHA
[wiping hands over face and bowing head]
Aaaaaand scene.

MARSHA
Do you smell smoke?

JOHN
No, not at all! Why?!

MARSHA
Hmmm.

JOHN and MARSHA
Aaaand scene.

MARSHA
Do you smell smoke?

JOHN
No.

MARSHA
I could swear I smell something burning…

JOHN
[points at something]
Agghhhaaaaa!
Aaaand scene.

MARSHA
Do you smell smoke?

JOHN
No.

MARSHA
I could swear I smell something burning…

JOHN
You’re crazy. There’s something wrong with you. You got problems! Forget this--I want a divorce.

Aaaand scene.

MARSHA
Do you smell smoke?

JOHN
No! For the last time! No! NO!!

Aaaand scene.

MARSHA
Do you smell smoke?

JOHN
I love you.

Aaaand scene.

MARSHA
Do you smell smoke?

JOHN
Oh go to hell.

Aaaand scene.
JOHN
Mind if I smoke?

MARSHA
No go right ahead.

JOHN
Thanks.

MARSHA
I used to be a smoker. I like the smell.

JOHN
I really appreciate it.

MARSHA
No problem. So I was wondering maybe I could…

JOHN
Taxi!

JOHN and MARSHA
Aaaand scene.

JOHN
Mind if I smoke?

MARSHA
No, go right ahead.

JOHN
Sorry, I know, nasty habit, but I love it. If I could smoke all day I would. I could be on a
desert island with just me and my smokes. I just need a break. Get away from it all. By
myself for a while, just me alone and my smokes. Nobody ya know. Desert Island,
seriously, me myself and I, and my smokes. Wouldn’t that be great.

MARSHA
Yea. So would you like some company?

JOHN and MARSHA
Aaand scene.

JOHN
Mind if I smoke?
Not at all, I’m a smoker too.

JOHN

You smoke? Fantastic.

MARSHA

Let’s smoke!

MARSHA

Yes! Let us smoke!

JOHN

Let’s smoke and smoke and smoke!

JOHN

Let’s smoke until we cannot smoke anymore!

MARSHA

Let’s smoke until we die!

JOHN

Do you have a light?

MARSHA

Ah, shit.

JOHN

Taxi!

JOHN and MARSHA

Aaaand scene.

JOHN

Mind if I smoke?

MARSHA

No. Yes. Well, maybe. Well, I don’t know. Ummm. I don’t want to tell you what to do, but I do care about my health, but I’m sure one little smoke isn’t going to kill me. I’m conflicted. I guess it depends if you’re coming on to me.

JOHN and MARSHA

Aaaand scene.

JOHN

Mind if I smoke?
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JOHN
Mind if I die you selfish prick?

MARSHA
Mind if I smoke?

JOHN
No. Mind if I blow ping pong balls out of my vagina?

MARSHA
Mind if I smoke?

JOHN
[grabs him and kisses him]
Take me now or lose me forever.

MARSHA
Taxi!

JOHN and MARSHA
Aaaand scene.

JOHN
Care for a smokie?

MARSHA
An Oscar Mayer pork sausage you mean?

JOHN
Yeah, a little smokie, an hors devours for one… or two!

MARSHA
Mmmm-Mmm. Love those smokies!

JOHN
It’s a party in a can!

MARSHA
Now in turkey!

JOHN and MARSHA
Aaaand scene.

JOHN
Care for a smokie?
MARSHA
An Oscar Mayer pork sausage you mean?

JOHN
Yeah, a little smokie, an hors devours for one… or two!

MARSHA
I wouldn’t eat one of those if you paid me.

JOHN
Now in turkey!
Care for a smokie?

MARSHA
An Oscar Mayer pork sausage you mean?

JOHN
Yeah, a little smokie, an hors devours for one… or two!

MARSHA
I’d rather eat my own feces!

JOHN
Now in turkey!
Care for a smokie?

MARSHA
An Oscar Mayer pork sausage you mean?

JOHN
No, I mean a smoking pile of your own feces! Of course I mean an Oscar Mayer pork sausage!

MARSHA
Taxi!

JOHN
Care for a smokie?

MARSHA
No. No thank you.

JOHN
They’re good.
MARSHA
Sorry, I’m a vegan.

JOHN and MARSHA
Aaaand scene.
And now our scene “Care for a Smokie” by Anton Chekhov

JOHN
So. That’s the end of life here. Care… for a… smokie?

MARSHA
That’s funny, I can’t seem to find… No… No thank you.

JOHN
It’s cold out. Thirty degrees. They’re good. The smokies.

MARSHA
Where did it go? Yes, it’s cold. It’s the end of life here. Sorry, I’m a vegan.

JOHN and MARSHA
Aaaand scene. “Care for a Smokie” by Sophocles!

JOHN
Citizens! I will find this smokie and end the plague!

MARSHA
You are the one you seek!

JOHN
Yes! I am! I could eat, but I could not taste!

MARSHA
Oh curs-ed man. The gods will punish you. Cannot you see we are Vegans!

JOHN and MARSHA
Aaaand scene. “Care for a Smokie” by Shakespeare

JOHN
Do you careth for smokie bode bodkin?

MARSHA
Rogue! I would lift my dress to a catfish!

JOHN
Come then, you lady are a fishmonger!
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MARSHA
Words, words, words! Vegan am I, get thee gone!

JOHN
By Edward Albee!

MARSHA
What a dumpy can of smokies! Who said that? What a dumpy can of smokies!

JOHN
I don’t know!

MARSHA
Yes you do, you milquetoast good for nothing!

JOHN
I killed him! Our son was a Vegan! And I killed him!

SAM SHEPARD!
You! You couldn’t even steal a can of smokies!

JOHN
You don’t think I can steal a smokie? I can steal a smokie I can fill this kitchen with smokies! Eugene Ionesco!

MARSHA
Did you just see that herd of smokies running through town?

JOHN
I will not capitulate to the nazi's! I mean the smokies!

ARTHUR MILLER!

JOHN
For god’s sake dad your smokies are a dime a dozen and so are you!

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS!

JOHN
Blow out your smokies Laura, and so, goodbye.
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David Mamet!

John

Fuck you and your fuckin’ smokies you stupid fuck!

Martin Scorcese!

John

Fuck you and your fuckin’ smokies you stupid fuck!

Andrew Lloyd Webber!

John

[sings]

“Midnight and the smokies are burning”

Marcel Marceau!

[They pantomime the scene, John ends it by giving Marsha a big red plastic flower.]

Tony Kushner!

John

Please. Smokies are so Steven Spielberg.
Absurdism! “Care for a smokie?”

We should really go get some smokies.

Yes we should.

Maybe tomorrow.

Yes.

Realism! “Care for a smokie?”
MARSHA
Why wouldn’t I want a smokie?

JOHN
Existentialism! “Care for a smokie?”

MARSHA
If I am nothing else, I am a smokie.

JOHN
Surrealism! “Care for a smokie?”

MARSHA
Fishy. Fishy. Fish. Fish. Melted clock.

JOHN
Expressionism “Care for a smokie?”

[Puts his hands on his cheeks, mouth open a la Evard Munch]
Philosophical! “Care for a smokie?”

MARSHA
What do mean by smokie?

JOHN
Intellectual! “Care for a smokie?”

MARSHA
That depends on what you mean by smokie.

JOHN
Actual! “Care for a smokie?”

MARSHA
Actually? No.

JOHN
Aaand scene. How many is that?

MARSHA
40! Ten more! One minute! What are we going to do?

JOHN
Got it! One-person historical figure plays! Nixon! Go!

MARSHA
I am not a smokie!
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JOHN

Martin Luther King!

MARSHA

I have a smokie!

JOHN

Clinton!

MARSHA

Smoke ‘em if ya got ‘em!

JOHN

What?

MARSHA

Sorry I mean… give me an easy one…

JOHN

Ruth Bader Ginsberg!

MARSHA

Easier.

JOHN

Lincoln!

MARSHA

Let my smokies go!

JOHN

That’s Moses.

MARSHA

Is it?

JOHN

Yes. “Four score and seven smokies!” This isn’t working. Here, give me three at a time.

MARSHA

Orson Wells. Paris Hilton. And… that guy over there (points to someone in audience).

JOHN

“Smokie.” “Smokie. That’s hot.” “Smokie.” How’s that?
MARSHA
Sucked. Here I got one, God.

JOHN
God? Let’s start at the beginning.

MARSHA
In the beginning there was the smokie.

JOHN
No I mean, (sits) “Do you smell smoke?”

MARSHA
Okay. “Do smell smoke?”

JOHN
[sniffs]
Why yes, yes I do.

JOHN and MARSHA
Aaand Scene.

BLACKOUT