

# **DYNGUS DAY**

A 10 Minute Play

by

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**DYNGUS DAY**

**CHARACTERS:**

**LAQUANDA:** A woman with a dream, African American.

**CHERISSE:** A woman with accomplishments, African American.

**PLACE:**

A city in the U.S.

**TIME:**

The first Monday after Easter.

*(LAQUANDA carries a box, handing out small packages wrapped in paper)*

LAQUANDA

*(Calling out to unseen party people)*

Pierogi? Fresh and mostly hot - absolutely -- Kielbasa?  
Remember to vote for me! Happy Dyngus Day!

*(CHERISSE walks up)*

CHERISSE

What the hell are you doing?

LAQUANDA

What are you doing here??

CHERISSE

Mom said she thought you'd be down here causing trouble-

LAQUANDA

I'm not causing any trouble, get out of here-

CHERISSE

Sorry, I can't let you-

LAQUANDA

You promised:

*(Gestures between them)*

My life. Your life. Big wall.

CHERISSE

Yeah, so much for my New Year's Resolution.

LAQUANDA

Go away --

*(waving to someone)*

Happy Dyngus Day! Pierogi?

CHERISSE

"Dyngus Day"? Stupid people finally got their own holiday?

LAQUANDA

It's Polish.

CHERISSE

Oh, sure, let's play to the stereotype.

LAQUANDA

It's Christian.

CHERISSE

So Polish Christian is cool but Baptist Christian is out? We couldn't even get you to wear a nice Easter hat to church yesterday.

LAQUANDA

Those hats always make me look like a flower.

CHERISSE

That's the point-

LAQUANDA

I'm afraid some bee is gonna pollinate me.

CHERISSE

So-

LAQUANDA

So Dyngus Day has no hats -- it's just fun! It's called "Wet Monday"!

CHERISSE

I think you stumbled into a porn movie.

LAQUANDA

*(Slaps Cherisse's arm)*

Christian!

There's nothing pornographic about it! Guys get to soak girls in water, and whip their bare legs with palm leaves... and... spray their beer foam all over girl's faces... and... Okay, it sounds very pornographic, but it's quaint! It's charming!

CHERISSE

It's "Fifty Shades of Gratosky".

LAQUANDA

You know nothing. Go. Home.

*(Calling out)*

Have a pierogi, ma'am?

CHERISSE

Where'd you get the pierogies?

LAQUANDA

I made them.

CHERISSE

You? Miss "How do make Swiss Miss Instant"?

LAQUANDA

*(Smiling and waving out at the crowd)*

I read a recipe. Please go away, you're killing my vibe.

CHERISSE

Last time I checked I only improved your image.

LAQUANDA

Not anymore. Go away.

*(Calling out)*

I've got blood sausage right here!

CHERISSE

Ewww.

LAQUANDA

It was supposed to be Kielbasa but I don't think I cooked it enough...

CHERISSE

You can't sell that! You're gonna poison people!

LAQUANDA

I'm not selling it, I'm giving it away. And food poisoning is a time-honored part of Dyngus Day.

CHERISSE

How do you even know Dyngus Day? Do you know a Polish person?

LAQUANDA

Mr. Wisnewski from high school.

CHERISSE

He was from Detroit.

LAQUANDA

But he inspired me!

CHERISSE

He was arrested for taking photos of wrestlers in the locker room.

LAQUANDA

And when he was in prison I have no doubt he ate Kielbasa and pierogies and blood sausage.

CHERISSE

I don't know if the kind of blood sausage your sellin' was the kind he was gettin'.

LAQUANDA  
I have other Polish friends!

CHERISSE  
Who?

LAQUANDA  
...Wikipediaski.

CHERISSE  
...you're a freak.

LAQUANDA  
I'm a freak on a mission, my mission-

CHERISSE  
Oh no.

LAQUANDA  
Will you please go home?

CHERISSE  
That's exactly why Mom sent me, you had that "mission" look in your eye.

LAQUANDA  
I don't-

CHERISSE  
The same look you had when you were like, "How come the Gorton Fisherman is a man? Why isn't it a Gorton Fisherwoman? I'm starting a campaign, I'm writing letters!"

LAQUANDA  
You were just jealous of how hot I looked in my yellow hat and rain slicker.

CHERISSE  
It's the same look you had when you were like, "How come there's no black leadership in the KKK? Black people can hate too!"

LAQUANDA  
You're just jealous of how hot I looked in my robe and hood-

CHERISSE  
You cut holes in Mom's best sheets!

LAQUANDA  
I'm a fighter. Like my Polish brethren.

CHERISSE

That's what this is, isn't it - "Where are all the black Polish people on Dyngus Day"-

LAQUANDA

I am expanding the palate.

CHERISSE

What's in the pierogies?

LAQUANDA

...they're fusion pierogies.

CHERISSE

It's supposed to be potatoes and cheese. What's in 'em?

LAQUANDA

...collard greens and sweet potato pie mix.

CHERISSE

Jesus Christ!

LAQUANDA

It's Polish soul food-

CHERISSE

And your blood sausage kielbasa?

LAQUANDA

Ham hock kielbasa.

CHERISSE

You are insane. You are frickin' insane.

LAQUANDA

I am expanding our world!

CHERISSE

You're frightening all the poor old Polish men.

LAQUANDA

I'm not frightening, I'm enticing.

CHERISSE

Then why are they all waaaay over there?

LAQUANDA

You're scaring them.

CHERISSE

What are you even trying to do??

LAQUANDA

I want to be Miss Dyngus!! Okay?? I'm trying to be voted Miss Dyngus!

*(Pause.)*

CHERISSE

But you're black.

LAQUANDA

Breaking color barriers...

CHERISSE

Your name is Laquanda. Johnson.

LAQUANDA

Shut up. They all think I'm Laquandawski Johnsonczyk.

CHERISSE

I do not believe you.

LAQUANDA

Of course you don't! You never do -- you don't have to! You were a finalist for Miss Teen Ohio! You were Miss Sweetheart! Miss Pre-Teen Person of Color! You were Miss Black Dodson County!

CHERISSE

I earned those!

LAQUANDA

No one said you didn't! But I couldn't! I came in fourth place for Miss Healthy Cholesterol, Central Division! I didn't even place in Miss Oral Hygiene 2014! And there were only three of us!

CHERISSE

So...

LAQUANDA

So Miss Dyngus is my last shot at Miss Anything! Once, just once in my life I want a tiara and a sash - I don't care if it's for Best Polka In the Under 60 Age Range. I want this.

CHERISSE

...I'm sorry. I had no idea.



LAQUANDA

You never asked. You were too busy winning every award you went for.

CHERISSE

Do you really think you have a shot? You are... you know... not Polish.

LAQUANDA

(Pointing)

That candidate over there keeps telling Pollack jokes.

CHERISSE

That's probably not gonna help...

LAQUANDA

And she's messed up every single punch-line.

(Pointing)

And that one over there is so drunk she puked on the judges during the accordion portion.

CHERISSE

Okay.

LAQUANDA

(Pointing)

And that one's from Poland, but she was a collaborator with the Nazis back in '44.

CHERISSE

So she's old. And offensive.

LAQUANDA

She keeps "Sieg Heil"ing Jesus and the Easter Bunny.

CHERISSE

So...

LAQUANDA

I think I got a shot?

*(Cherisse pauses... they watch each other... Cherisse nods.)*

*(Cherisse turns out and holds up a paper-wrapped pierogi)*

CHERISSE

*(Yelling out)*

Get your Fusion Pierogies and Kielbasa right here from the future Miss Dyngus! Right Here! Vote now!

LAQUANDA  
(Hugs her)

I love you.

CHERISSE  
Luquandawski Johnsonczyk for Miss Dyngus! Wet Monday for  
Everybody!

CHERISSE AND LAQUANDA  
Happy Dyngus Day!!

*END OF PLAY*