

WAX HISTORY MUSEUM
By Maggie Smith
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CAST

MS. HOWARD – a teacher, 40's
ROBBY – a fourth grader, 10
LILY – a fourth grader, 10
JOAN – a fourth grader, 11

(Lights up. A classroom. MS.
HOWARD stands at the front of the
room. ROBBY, LILY, and JOAN stand
behind her in a line.)

MS. HOWARD

Hello, parents, and thank you all for coming to this year's
Fourth Grade Wax History Museum!

(MS. HOWARD leads the audience in
applause.)

MS. HOWARD

A few weeks ago, each one of your students pulled a historical
figure out of a hat in order to research them. Let's hear a
little bit about these figures. Robby, you go first.

ROBBY

Hello, I'm Frederich Neitzsche. I was a German philosopher in
the 1800s.

MS. HOWARD

Very good. Lily?

LILY

(In a bad British accent)

'Ello! I'm Queen Elizabef the-

MS. HOWARD

Lily, no British accent. This is why we don't fund the arts
anymore.

LILY

But I... Okay. Hello, I'm Queen Elizabeth the First. I was the
Queen of England from 1558 to 1603.

MS. HOWARD

Thank you. Joan?

(JOAN steps forward. She is wearing a fake beard.)

JOAN

Look at me. Look closer. Look me deep in my eyes. Feel my presence. I know when you die. It's me. God.

MS. HOWARD

(Head in hands)

Not again.

JOAN

I loved humanity. And humanity was supposed to love me. Until Eve ate an apple from the forbidden tree and was cursed with menstruation.

MS. HOWARD

Okay! Joan, we talked about this last time. You're not allowed to push your religious beliefs in the classroom.

JOAN

Joan isn't here right now. Only God. I have willingly destroyed the world I created before, and I'll do it again. You all are sinners.

MS. HOWARD

Joan, stop it. We are not talking about sin, again. Half of the people in this room aren't even Christian.

JOAN

Would you rather talk about the fact that, when I first made humans, that Adam and Eve's children had to marry each other in order to create offspring. The human race is a product of incest. And I did it that way on purpose.

MS. HOWARD

Joan, we aren't talking about that right now. Lily, tell us about Queen Elizabeth.

LILY

My dad was King Henry VIII, my brother was Edward III, and my sister was Mary I, the first Queen of England. My entire family was royal.

JOAN

Thanks to me, God. I chose her and her family to rule through the Divine Right of Kings

LILY

Oh, hi God. It's me, Queen Elizabeth I.

JOAN

Hi, Elizabeth. How are you?

LILY

Not good. Another one of my moms got beheaded.

MS. HOWARD

We're not roleplaying right now. Robby, tell us more about Nietzsche.

ROBBY

I was born on October 15, 1844 and died on August 25, 1900. I did a lot of philosophical research my entire life, and I was known for creating Nihilism. I once said that "God is dead, and we have killed him."

JOAN

And then he rose again from the dead on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures.

MS. HOWARD

Joan!

JOAN

My turn? Yes please. I would like to use my time onstage to evoke the second coming of your Lord and Savior, my son, Jesus Christ. Close your eyes as I choose a soul to crucify in His Name.

MS. HOWARD

Joan. That is enough. Take a look around you. Everyone else has researched a historical figure and wrote papers with five MLA citations. You haven't even turned in a paper.

JOAN

I raised a man from the dead instead.

MS. HOWARD

And did that help you with your project?

JOAN

No. Now there's just a family out there that's going through a lot of tough emotions right now.

MS. HOWARD

I know for a fact I did not assign anyone to do a project on "God."

JOAN

Being Hall Monitor isn't cutting it anymore. I want the power I can only get from giving and taking lives.

MS. HOWARD

Joan. Who were you assigned to research for your project?

JOAN

Christopher Columbus.

(A beat.)

MS. HOWARD

You may continue.

(Blackout.)