

the beginning of

**POWER IS THE GREATEST APHRODIAC
OF THEM ALL** (from **ROMANTIC FOOLS**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

(**ROMANTIC FOOLS**, a comic revue for one man and one woman, is published and licensed by Playscripts, Inc. www.playscripts.com)

We hear the sounds of the man and woman grunting and groaning.
Lights up on the man and the woman seated at a table, arm-wrestling.

MAN

God, you're good.

WOMAN

So are you.

MAN

I've never known anyone I feel so compatible with.

WOMAN

I've never felt happiness such as this.

MAN

I'm so lucky.

WOMAN

I'm so grateful.

MAN

This is living.

WOMAN

Does it ever bother you that you peaked sexually
at nineteen and I still won't for several years?

The woman begins to win.

MAN

Probably not as much as the place inside of
you that still believes you're going to go to hell
for allowing yourself so much pleasure.

The man begins to win.

WOMAN

Do you know that the guy across
the street makes ten thousand dollars
more a year than you do?

The woman starts to win.

MAN

You look beautiful tonight.

WOMAN

(relaxing)

I do?

The man starts to win.

WOMAN (cont'd)

I'll always love you. No matter
how bald you get.

She starts to win.

MAN

That reminds me. Do you know
who hid the bathroom scale?

He takes over.

WOMAN

I think I saw it hidden in the closet
behind your stash of *Playboys*.

She takes over.

MAN

You feel threatened that I enjoy
pictures of naked women?

He takes over.

WOMAN

You feel threatened by women
who come in three dimensions?

She matches him.

MAN

That's it. Let loose.

WOMAN
(passionately)

I am.

MAN
Give me everything you've got.

WOMAN
I am.

MAN
Pour it out.

WOMAN
Oh, yeah.

MAN
And don't get self-conscious about
all those sounds you make.

She weakens.

WOMAN
Remember how I once told you
length isn't important?

MAN
Yeah.

WOMAN
I meant it.

MAN
I know.

WOMAN
Width is important.

He weakens.

MAN
Remember how I once told you
that breast size isn't important?

WOMAN
(thinks, then:)
No.

She weakens for a moment and then pushes back. A beat.

MAN

You're great tonight.

WOMAN

You, too.

MAN

You've never been better.

WOMAN

Thanks.

MAN

I think you're the best I've ever had –
in this state.

WOMAN

(pressing with all her might)

Who?!

MAN

It's not important.

WOMAN

Who?!

MAN

I didn't respect her like I respect you...
I didn't like her as much... I didn't love her...

She relaxes a little.

MAN (cont'd)

It takes more to build a relationship than
the fact that she was a volcano in bed.

WOMAN

(really mad now)

If that's what you want, why don't
you screw Mount Vesuvius?

A beat. They're evenly matched.

MAN

You know, I hear some couples
have relationships based on
cooperation and mutual respect.

WOMAN
(after a quick thought)

Perverts.

MAN
Maybe it isn't good the way we always
act with each other.

WOMAN
That's who we are.

MAN
We can change.

WOMAN
Why?

MAN
Because I don't think this is healthy.
Let's change.

WOMAN
How?

MAN
We just do.

WOMAN
How?

MAN
We just decide to change.

WOMAN
Then what?

MAN
Then we agree to stop this exhausting,
hostile game.

WOMAN
You're up to something.

MAN
I'm not; I swear... You want to stop?

WOMAN
How?

MAN

I'll count to three. When I reach three,
we'll both just stop. Agreed?

WOMAN

(after much thought)

Agreed.

MAN

One... Two... Three.

They both press harder than they ever have before.