

the beginning of

**THE ULTIMATE BATTLE FOR TOTAL CONTROL  
OF THE *ENTIRE* UNIVERSE** (from **POOL PARTY**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

*Time:* The present

*Place:* A backyard swimming pool.

*Characters:* JASON and ASHLEY, both entering puberty  
JASON'S MOM, off-stage

As the play begins, two noble warriors, JASON and ASHLEY, enter in the middle of a fierce, passionate swordfight. The swords are made of plastic or perhaps long floatable "noodles". As they battle, we hear a robust musical score, the kind heard accompanying a swordfight scene in a movie. The characters make such comments as "Take that!" and "Aha!" as they thrust and parry. The battle continues until Ashley presses her sword against Jason's body.

ASHLEY  
Give up?

JASON  
Never!

The battle resumes. Jason finally thwacks Ashley's sword with such might that it flies into the pool. She jumps in after it.

JASON (cont'd)  
You'll never get out of this pool alive.

ASHLEY  
You want me, Earthling, come and get me.

Jason jumps into the pool with his sword. They continue the battle with music blaring. Eventually, Jason presses Ashley against the pool wall.

JASON  
Nothing can save you now. Nothing!

From off-stage, we hear JASON'S MOM:

MOM (o.s.)  
Jasonnnnnn!

The music comes to an abrupt halt.

JASON

Yes, Mom.

MOM (o.s.)

I thought you agreed to clean up around the pool.

JASON

I'll do it later, Mom.

MOM (o.s.)

The Kramers will be here in half-an-hour.

JASON

(as in, "Stop bugging me!")

I'll get to it.

MOM (o.s.)

When?

JASON

Ashley and I are battling for total control of the entire universe.

MOM (o.s.)

You've got ten minutes.

ASHLEY

I guess you don't have much time, Earthling.

JASON

I don't need much time, Princess.

ASHLEY

Queen. I said I was queen.

JASON

You're too young to be a queen.

ASHLEY

There was a young queen in STARS WARS EPISODES ONE and TWO.

JASON

And they sucked.

ASHLEY

My mom said a woman can become anything she wants – and I want to be queen!

JASON

And what does your dad say?

ASHLEY

My dad says anything my mom  
wants him to say.

JASON

Well, we know who controls  
the universe in your house.

ASHLEY

The clock's ticking, Earthling.  
What do you want to do?

JASON

There's only one fair way to finish  
this battle... Jousting!

ASHLEY

You're on!

The music resumes as Jason and Ashley get out of the pool, run to opposite ends, and grab inflated pool animals. They climb on them and rush towards each other, their swords ready to attack. When they get close, they lunge at each other so strongly they simultaneously fall into the water.

JASON

Shall we call it a draw?

ASHLEY

When the fate of the entire universe  
is at stake? Never!

JASON

Then I suggest... hand-to-hand combat!

ASHLEY

You're on!

They begin splashing each other with their hands. They finally grab each other and are wrestling in the water. Suddenly Jason leaps backwards. The music comes to a screeching halt.

JASON

I-I-I-I'm sorry.

ASHLEY

About what?

JASON

I didn't mean to grab your, I just –

ASHLEY

It's okay.

JASON

– You were moving so quickly, and suddenly your – your – your –

ASHLEY

“Boob”?

JASON

It was an accident, I swear.

ASHLEY

We could make it even if I touched your balls.

JASON

No!

ASHLEY

Chicken?

JASON

*No.*

ASHLEY

Well then?

JASON

Name one STAR WARS movie where any of the guys let a gal touch his balls.

ASHLEY

I bet they do on the porno version.

JASON

There is no porno version!...  
Is there a porno version?

ASHLEY

Maybe.

JASON

Well, I haven't seen it. My folks won't even let me go where I want on the Internet.

ASHLEY

(as if quoting an adult:)

The human body is nothing to be ashamed of.

JASON

Well, in my family you're supposed to be ashamed of everything.

ASHLEY

Do you have any pubic hair yet?

JASON

Do you?

ASHLEY

I asked you first.

JASON

Well, I asked you second.

ASHLEY

I asked you first.

JASON

Well, I asked you second.

ASHLEY

I asked you first.

JASON

Well, I asked you second.

ASHLEY

You are so immature.

JASON

At least I'm not a girl.

ASHLEY

Girls have boobs.

JASON

Barely.

ASHLEY

You – you're scared of them, aren't you?

JASON

Scared? I hardly noticed them.

ASHLEY

Then how come you're always  
staring at my nipples?

JASON

I do not!

ASHLEY

I've seen you.

JASON

They're, they're just the closest part  
of you to my eyes.

ASHLEY

I think you *like* looking at them.

JASON

(defensively)

You know, I've got nipples, too.

ASHLEY

You have male nipples. They don't count.

JASON

They count.

ASHLEY

My nipples will give milk.

JASON

I hate milk.

ASHLEY

Well, you're a jerk.

JASON

I am not; I'm just lactose intolerant.

ASHLEY

My mom told me that my breasts  
will be aesthetically pleasing.

JASON

Your mom talks too much.

ASHLEY

My mom says men are more  
visually stimulated than women.

JASON

My mom says I'm too young to be stimulated.

ASHLEY

And what does your dad say?

JASON

My dad says that even though he doesn't love my mom anymore, he'll always love me.

ASHLEY

And what does your stepdad say?

JASON

My stepdad says he loves me as if I were one of her own.

ASHLEY

And what does your stepmom say?

JASON

She says, "Of course I love you. I just had a bad day."

ASHLEY

And what do *you* say?

JASON

It's bad enough to have two parents; no kid should have four. And you know, I don't get a bigger allowance than my friends whose parents *aren't* divorced. But I have to get *two* Mother's Day cards and *two* Father's Day cards.

ASHLEY

That's not fair.

JASON

When I grow up, I'm loving *nobody*.

ASHLEY

What if you met the right girl?

JASON

I'd vomit.

ASHLEY

Before or after you grabbed her boob?

JASON

It was an accident!