

the beginning of

**HEY, GOOD LOOKIN'** (from **POOL PARTY**)

a short comedy by Rich Orloff

*Place:* The river's edge  
*Time:* Ancient Greece  
*Characters:* NARCISSUS  
Narcissus' aide SUPERFLUOUS  
NARCISSUS' WIFE  
Two (or more) members of THE CHORUS

As the play begins, THE CHORUS addresses the audience. (Although written for two, the number can be increased and speeches divided.)

CHORUS #1  
Many, many years ago

CHORUS #2  
When Socrates philosophized

CHORUS #1  
When creatures metamorphosized

CHORUS #2  
When Hippocrates hypothesized

CHORUS #1  
And lots of guys did it with goats.

CHORUS #2  
Lived a man content in business and pleasure

CHORUS #1  
In work and leisure

CHORUS #2  
By every measure

CHORUS #1  
And his name was –

CHORUS #1 and #2  
Narcissus.

NARCISSUS and SUPERFLUOUS enter.

CHORUS #2

One day Narcissus and his trusted aide  
Superfluous were walking to a nearby town...

SUPERFLUOUS

Hurry up, sir. You know the most important  
people in the oil industry will be at this meeting –

NARCISSUS

And I'm ready for all of them.

SUPERFLUOUS

You could become a major player in the oil business.

NARCISSUS

Stop worrying—

SUPERFLUOUS

There will be people representing  
both green olives *and* black olives.

NARCISSUS

Don't worry, I'm completely prepa— Whoa.

Narcissus suddenly notices his reflection in the water.

SUPERFLUOUS

So let's go over the plan one more –

NARCISSUS

Shhh.

Narcissus stops to ponder his reflection.

SUPERFLUOUS

What?

NARCISSUS

(to his reflection:)

Heyyy, good lookin'.

SUPERFLUOUS

Narcissus, we don't have time to –

NARCISSUS

(to his reflection:)

I know this is going to sound bold, but you  
are the most attractive man I've ever met.

SUPERFLUOUS

Narcissus –

NARCISSUS

(ignoring his assistant:)

And I love the way you look at me.

You sexy thing, you. I... I... *I want you...*

(to himself:)

Oh my gosh, I must be gay!...

Oh well I'm Greek, big deal.

(to his reflection:)

Come here often?

SUPERFLUOUS

We're late!

NARCISSUS

(to his reflection:)

I have to go. What's your name?...

Kinda shy, huh? I'll be back... A lot.

SUPERFLUOUS

Now let's walk quickly.

NARCISSUS

But these are my dress sandals.

Narcissus and Superfluous exit.

CHORUS #1

The meeting did not go well.

CHORUS #2

Narcissus had hoped to capture the olive market, but all he got was the pits.

(if the audience groans:)

Hey, you want tragedy, go see MEDEA.

CHORUS #1

Take your kids; they'll never complain about you the rest of their lives.

CHORUS #2

After the meeting, Narcissus and his trusted aide Superfluous started on their way home.

Narcissus and Superfluous enter. Narcissus is walking at a fast pace ahead of Superfluous, who has trouble keeping up with him.

SUPERFLUOUS

You know, if we took another route,  
I think I know a short cut.

Narcissus quickly returns to where he saw his reflection and peeks out at the water.

NARCISSUS

I knew you'd be there. You wouldn't  
believe the day I've had. But I don't care.  
Looking at you, I'm one happy man.

SUPERFLUOUS

You do have a dinner party, you know –

NARCISSUS

(to his reflection:)

So what's your sign?

SUPERFLUOUS

You're hosting the party.

NARCISSUS

You host it.

SUPERFLUOUS

I'm a lousy host.

NARCISSUS

I'm staying here.

SUPERFLUOUS

I tell people, "Hi, I'm Superfluous",  
and they walk away.

NARCISSUS

(to his reflection:)

I could look at you forever. No, that's not true.  
The more I look at you, the more I want to...

Narcissus leans in to kiss his reflection and finally bobs his head in the water.

NARCISSUS (cont'd)

Where'd you go?... Oh, there you are.  
You little flirt. Come here.

Narcissus leans in to kiss his reflection and bobs his head in the water again.

NARCISSUS (cont'd)  
(becoming fed up)  
Okay, once was cute. Twice is impolite.  
You know you want me.  
(as he closes in on himself:)  
Yeah... yeah... Pucker up.

Narcissus bobs his head in the water again.

NARCISSUS (cont'd)  
Damn it! You think you're so special. You, you –

Narcissus gives his reflection a “fisted arm” obscene gesture.  
Of course, that means the reflection gives him one, too.

NARCISSUS (cont'd)  
(furious)  
Oh, yeah?! Well, how about this?!

Narcissus gives his reflection two “fisted arm” obscene gestures.  
The response infuriates him more.

NARCISSUS (cont'd)  
Why you little –

Narcissus gives more gestures to his reflection, a rapidly escalating  
and unwinnable battle with himself.

SUPERFLUOUS  
Sir?... Sir?...

NARCISSUS  
(to his reflection:)  
You can go to Hades! I never want to see you again!

SUPERFLUOUS  
Let's go, sir... And don't tell anybody about  
this, or they'll start to call you Narcissy.

Narcissus and Superfluous begin to exit. But Narcissus, tormented, stops.

SUPERFLUOUS (cont'd)  
Uhh, Narcissus?... Sir?

Narcissus runs back to where he saw his reflection.

NARCISSUS (cont'd)  
(desperate to win back his love)  
I'm sorry. It's not you; it's me. I just  
want you so much. Could you ever find  
it in your heart to forgive me?

SUPERFLUOUS

This is getting too weird.

NARCISSUS

What wonderfully forgiving eyes you have...  
I can't live without you.

SUPERFLUOUS

I'm outta here.

NARCISSUS

Love your smile.

Superfluous exits, muttering:

SUPERFLUOUS (cont'd)

Nobody ever says to me, "I can't live  
without *you*, Superfluous."

NARCISSUS

I usually don't put out on the first date,  
but for you I'll do anything.

CHORUS #2

When Narcissus didn't come home,  
quickly spread the story

CHORUS #1

Of Narcissus' affair with his reflected glory

CHORUS #2

Some folks were curious

CHORUS #1

And one folk was furious

CHORUS #2

And who was pissed by the wet kisses of Narcissus?

CHORUS #1

That person was –

CHORUS #1 and #2

Missus Narcissus.

NARCISSUS' WIFE enters. She's pissed.

NARCISSUS' WIFE

(calling out:)

Narcissus!!!!

NARCISSUS

Shit.

(to his reflection:)

Don't go.

Narcissus turns away from the pool, as if hiding someone.

NARCISSUS' WIFE

So there you are.

NARCISSUS

Hi, honey.

NARCISSUS' WIFE

You missed your own party. Dinner was ruined.

NARCISSUS

Sorry, honey. I must've lost track of the time.

NARCISSUS' WIFE

What's behind you?

NARCISSUS

Nothing.

A quick series of moves: Mrs. Narcissus moves towards the water; Narcissus moves to block her. She shifts, and he shifts with her. She shifts again, and he shifts again.

NARCISSUS' WIFE

Who are you hiding?

NARCISSUS

Oh, nobody.

NARCISSUS' WIFE

Are you hiding a woman?

NARCISSUS

No, I swear.

NARCISSUS' WIFE

Some little Helen of Troy wannabee?

NARCISSUS

No, no.

NARCISSUS' WIFE

Move over.

NARCISSUS

I'm really comfortab—

NARCISSUS' WIFE

Move over.

Narcissus' wife pushes Narcissus aside. She looks into the pool.  
Narcissus' wife starts to cry.

NARCISSUS

I can explain.

NARCISSUS' WIFE

You don't have to... She's beautiful!

NARCISSUS

"She"?