

LOST & FOUND NATION

By Idris Goodwin

A short play for young audiences and families
commissioned by La Jolla Playhouse

©2020

For personal use only



Lost & Found Nation

By Idris Goodwin

A play for two

1 - a kid

2 - a kid

2

Where did you find it?

1

In the basement.

2

Whoa

1

Yup. It was my grandfather's I think

Isn't it cool?

2

So cool

What's it do?

1

I don't really know. But it looks cool.

2

Yeah it does

1

Guessing it was for his work.

2

What did he do?

1

He was a mortician

2

What's that?

1

When people die. He gets them ready for funerals

2

Cool he was like a crypt keeper?

1

Yea. I was too little to see the bodies

2

Awww

1

I know but sometimes I'd go over there for funerals

2

Weird

1

And when I was little he used to tell me all these creepy stories about what the bodies did
After he left

2

How would he know if he wasn't there?

1

I figured that out when I got older but--when I was little little I used to believe him when
he said they would stand up and look for their old clothes

2

So what would he use that for in the funeral home?

1.

Maybe to pull people's brains out with it.

2
Nooooo

Well---maybe
Hey! Try to pull your own brain out!

1
I'll pull YOUR brain out

(they laugh)

1
So what'd you find?

2
Uh this?

1
Whoooooooooa

2
Pretty gross huh

1
What happen to its eye?

2
My brother says a rat chewed it out

1
How would he know?

2
He's part rat I think

1
Wow.

2

Yeah--I was thinking because it's so creepy
We could mount it on a staff and maybe use it for our flag.
Use it to scare enemies

1

We won't have enemies anymore.

2

We won't?

1

Remember what our new nation rules said

2

Uhm

1

You don't remember?

2

I forgot

1

No Wars

2

Right
Right
Right

1

Because its like the song
War is good for absolutely nothing

2

I still haven't heard that song

1

Dude its so easy to find

2

I know I'll listen to it
Not even Star Wars?

1

Sure make believe wars
With jedis and stuff are okay
We just don't want real life wars.

2

Okay

1

But how are we supposed to build the new nation
If you can't even remember our new rules?

2

We just came up with 'em yesterday

1

(sigh)

One: No War because War is good for absolutely nothing

Two: We take something old and make it new again

2

And chip parties on Saturdays

1

Right and chip parties on Saturdays

2

Well okay then I guess we don't have a use for this ugly thing in the new nation.
I'll put it back.

1

Okay

2

We got a lot of stuff in that attic though. I'll find something cool

1

Yeah

Remember yesterday, that scary velvet picture of the clown

2

Now THAT would scare our enemies...if we had enemies

1

But we don't have enemies in the new nation

2

Right

Yeah I'll go back to the attic and find something super cool

Kind of like your grandpa's funeral tool...even though we don't know what it does.

1

I thought we agreed. It's for taking out brains

2

Oh right

1

And we need that in the new nation

We got to examine everyone's brains and make sure they know the new rules

2

Right

1

Which are?

2

One: No War because War is good for absolutely nothing

Two: We take something old and make it new again

Three: Chip Parties every saturday

1

Good. Spot on.

2

So -- how should we test if that tool is really for taking brains out?

1

I guess I could start on you

2

No way

How bout I start on you!

1

Rock Paper Scissors?

2

Okay

They do one round

The loser says "Best two of out of three"

They play more

Someone loses

Welp...time to take out the brain

1

Wait. But we both know the new nation rules already

2

Yeah

1.

So we can't take out the brain and teach it what it already knows

2

Oh yea that's right

Riiiiiiight

Ha!

1

That was a close one

...

...

2

Hey maybe go try it on your dad

1

Good idea. Be right back!

2

Oh and since you're going downstairs
Get some chips

1

It's not even saturday

2

In the new nation its always saturday

End of Play

.
. .
. .
. .

POTENTIAL FOLLOW UP PROMPT FOR YOUNG LISTENERS

What would be the three rules of your new nation?

What is something old that you would make new again?