

PERUSAL SCRIPT

I Ultimately Declare

An Audio Play in One Short Act

by **Alice Jankell**



Newport, Maine

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I ULTIMATELY DECLARE

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CHARACTERS: 3f +4f, 1m(students)

MS. GOSHEN.....A middle-aged woman

NURSE

DOCTOR

5 MEDICAL STUDENTS

I ULTIMATELY DECLARE a 10-minute play by *Alice Jankell* 3f +4f, 1m(students) A Medical Exam Room. Modern/Medical costumes. Celebrating an oft-overlooked milestone. This is a big one for all women, so where are the greeting cards for it? Finally, it is lionized here, in a doctor's office. *Can be done as a Radio/Audio Play or could be fully staged. Premiered on WAMF Old Time Radio Hour, New Orleans*
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ALICE JANKELL — For Disney, Alice helped to create and develop new Broadway musicals. As Associate Artistic Director of The Williamstown Theatre Festival, her directing work included *AS YOU LIKE IT*, *DINAH WAS*, and *ENOUGH ROPE*, the special event on Dorothy Parker starring Elaine Stritch. As Creative Director of The Barrow Group's F.A.B. (For, About, and By) Women, Alice co-helmed the company of 125 women and helped generate and produce 48 new plays. She has worked in theaters around the country, including the Mark Taper, L.A. Opera, The Public Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, The Hollywood Bowl, La Mama, and City Theater, among many others, as well as in film and TV. Favorite acting roles include a solo performance, backed by the L.A. Philharmonic, at the Hollywood Bowl. She has taught acting at Carnegie Mellon and on the graduate level. Alice directed and co-wrote *URBAN MOMFARE*, which won a Best Musical Award from the NY International Fringe Festival, was a Critic's Choice, and garnered 4 stars from Time Out. Just before Covid, Alice directed *AN ENCHANTED APRIL* Off-Broadway, and more recently, she directed and filmed Craig Lucas' brand new play, *MORE BEAUTIFUL* for the Putnam Theatre Alliance. A founding member of Core Artists Ensemble, member of The Actors Studio PDW, Theatre Now National Musical Theatre Workshop, New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect, and a co-founder of Putnam Theatre Alliance. AEA/SAG-AFTRA/Dramatist Guild
<https://www.alicejankell.com>

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(The examination room in the medical suite of a busy gynecologist.)

(SFX: A curtain slides open.)

NURSE: Step right in here, Ms. Goshen.

MS. GOSHEN: Thank you.

(SFX: Crinkly paper being pulled out and manipulated.)

NURSE: The room's all clean, but here's some fresh paper for the examination table.

MS. GOSHEN: Great. Thanks.

NURSE: No worries!

MS. GOSHEN: Oh, I'm not worried.

NURSE: No, no, I meant--you said, "Thanks", so--

MS. GOSHEN: I was just teasing.

NURSE: Oh. Ok. Just take off all your clothes and hang them right on the hook. There's a gown in that bag. Put it on with the-

NURSE:

MS. GOSHEN:

-opening in the front.

-opening in the front.

MS. GOSHEN: I'm an old hand.

NURSE: Of course.

MS. GOSHEN: You missed your cue! You're supposed to say, "Not that old!"

NURSE: Aw, you're not that old!

MS. GOSHEN: There we go.

NURSE: The doctor will be right in. This is just a Well Visit, correct?

MS. GOSHEN: Routine, annual Pap test. But I do have a question for the doctor. It could be a unique day for me.

NURSE: No problem!

MS. GOSHEN: I didn't imagine there was.

NURSE: What? No, of course not. I didn't mean--

MS. GOSHEN: I'm just playing with you. I'm kind of revved up, and I become the Don Rickles of the medical suite.

NURSE: (Not really getting it) Oh, I get it! I'll be right back! Put on the gown.

MS. GOSHEN You bet.

(SFX: Curtain closing.)

(SFX: Undressing, rustling.)

NURSE: (Through the curtain) Ms. Goshen?

MS. GOSHEN: Almost ready.

NURSE: Ms. Goshen, I just need to ask you something while you're changing. Can you hear me through the curtain?

MS. GOSHEN: Of course. Go ahead.

NURSE: Since this office is part of a teaching hospital, we have some medical students with us today on their Gynecology rotation. Do you mind if they observe your exam? We have to ask first.

(SFX: Paper crinkling as MS. GOSHEN gets on the exam table.)

MS. GOSHEN: Today?

NURSE: They need to see all kinds of things, even a Well Visit.

MS. GOSHEN: I see.

NURSE: They'll be very quiet. They just watch.

MS. GOSHEN: I don't know. I didn't anticipate this today.

NURSE: You don't have to, Ms. Goshen.

(SFX: Paper crinkling as MS. GOSHEN shifts uneasily.)

(Beat.)

MS. GOSHEN: You know, why not? I pushed three babies out at this hospital 20 years ago, in front of what felt like a *township* of students, so I guess there's nothing left to hide.

NURSE: Thank you!

MS. GOSHEN: It could help mark this possibly very eventful occasion. And things like this should be marked. They really should be.

(SFX: Paper crinkles.)

I'm all set. Come on in.

(SFX: Curtain opening. Lots of footsteps.)

NURSE: Ms. Goshen, this is Amelia, Daniella, Karishma, Asmita, and Steve.

THE STUDENTS: *(Shuffling, overlapping each other)*

Hello!

Hi.

Thanks for having us.

Thanks!

Hello.

MS. GOSHEN: Wow. Ok. The more the merrier.

(SFX: Shuffling, as the DOCTOR comes through.)

DOCTOR: Knock knock! Hello Ms...

(SFX: Computer key taps.)

...Ms. Goshen! Thanks for letting our students join us.

THE STUDENTS: *(Overlapping each other)*

Yes, thanks!

Thanks!

Really nice of you.

Yeah.

Really.

MS. GOSHEN: I don't mind at all.

(SFX: More computer key taps.)

DOCTOR: Great. According to your chart your vitals are all the same as they were last year. I'll just have

a look and make sure there are no changes. Anything you want to discuss first?

MS. GOSHEN: Actually, there is. It's been a while since my last period--

DOCTOR: How long?

MS. GOSHEN: Almost a year.

DOCTOR: Ok! Sounds like-

MS. GOSHEN: Sounds like "the fat lady's sung".

DOCTOR: You're likely in Menopause.

MS. GOSHEN: The cake is baked, the chicken's cooked through, it's in the can, she's called it a day...
Anything from the Greek Chorus by the door? Anybody?

STEVE: She's hung up her cleats?

MS. GOSHEN: Good one, Steve!

DOCTOR: How are you feeling?

MS. GOSHEN: Really good, thanks.

DOCTOR: Mood swings?

MS. GOSHEN: No more than usual.

DOCTOR: Sleeping ok?

MS. GOSHEN: Fine, but I'm thinking of starting a 3:00 am book club. Why don't we have those?

(SFX: Giggles.)

DOCTOR: We should start one! Any hot flashes? Students, these are the questions. Are you recording this?

THE STUDENTS:

Yep.

Uh huh.

Got it.

Yeah.

This is great!

MRS. GOSHEN: I get a little middle-aged neck heat, but nothing a hair clip can't fix. I won't leave the house without one.

DOCTOR: Me neither, actually!

MS. GOSHEN: Occasional night sweat. My husband finally gets all the blankets to himself, so he's good.

DOCTOR: All sounds manageable.

MS. GOSHEN: So, here's my question: Do you think we can remove my IUD?

FOUR and a half more pages to the end