

"DUELING SPEAKERS"

Based on a skit by Greg Beastrom, this script was expanded by Michelle Bechtel and Sara Neisner.

<http://www.firstlightplayers.org/scripts.htm>

Lights up:

Setting: Street corner - DAY

There is a CROWD of people milling about on the street. Two SOAPBOXES are placed on either side of the stage. As the crowd continues to mill about, one SPEAKER rises up on one of the soapboxes and gets everyone's attention.

SPEAKER 1: Everyone! Let me have your attention! I have found the key to the perfect life! Listen to me!

The crowd congregates around the speaker.

SPEAKER 1: The most important thing is to have a pant leg rolled up. That's right. Show some leg. Not only is slimming, but it also attracts those sun rays for the perfect tan.

The crowd rolls up a pant leg and shows off some skin. Another person breaks from the crowd.

SPEAKER 2: No wait! That's not right! That's not the answer!

He gets up on the opposite soapbox and crowd gathers around him.

SPEAKER 2: What you have to do is to go bare foot. If you go barefoot you can feel the vibrations of Mother Earth. You will be able to be one with the natural universe and this allows you to connect with your inner self. Going barefoot is definitely the answer!

The crowd all takes off their shoes and feel with their feet. Some listen to the floor, others shake with inner vibrations.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, no! You've got it all wrong. Being barefoot isn't the answer. Striking the right pose is the answer. Like this, you see? You can't go wrong standing like this.

The crowd congregates around the other speaker and attempts to strike the complicated pose. Much flailing and dramatic falling, taking as many people down as possible.

SPEAKER 2: Uh-uh. I don't think so. No pose will cut it without the right scarf. You have to show that you have style and class. Without a scarf, you won't last long.

Crowd grabs scarves from a box and wears them funny.

SPEAKER 1: Wait! I've got it! Hats! Hats are the answer! Not only do they make you look smart, they actually improve your intelligence. You just can't make it without a hat.

Crowd grabs hats and acts smarter than thou.

SPEAKER 2: *(More seductive)* Sunglasses will make you irresistible. You are the reason for the season! Make yourself look good. And make sure people notice.

Crowd excitedly pulls out a pair of SUPER COOL SUNGLASSES.

SPEAKER 1: Are you kidding me? Sunglasses are not the answer! Your life will only be complete when you have a cell phone. Texting is the only way to stay in contact with all your friends. BFF, baby. Sunglasses have G2G! LOL!

The crowd pulls out cell phones and begins to text.

SPEAKER 2: Cell phones are not the way. Backpacks! They hold everything you need and hold you together. Life's just not complete without a backpack.

Crowd grabs backpacks and wear them as wrong as possible.

SPEAKER 1: *(In rhythm)* Punch! And Punch! And step back, and punch! Work your way to the perfect body and you'll be on top. You're doing it! It's all about how look.

Crowd attempts to follow the exercise pattern, many getting too tired and dropping out.

SPEAKER 2: *(Dramatic hum)* It is not just about how you look, it is how you feel. The perfect Yoga workout helps you get in touch with your inner chi. Then your life will be balanced. Close your eyes. Visualize a calm mountain stream and chant your mantra. Then you will find true inner peace.

Crowd is excited and each do a yoga position.

SPEAKER 1 *(Getting louder)* Are you kidding me?! Yoga is not the answer! The answer can only be found in water!

SPEAKER 1 takes a nice long drink.

SPEAKER 1: It purifies the body and the mind!

Crowd drinks hastily from water bottles, spilling more on themselves than into their mouths.

SPEAKER 2: No! No! Starbucks!

Crowd rushes to grab cups.

SPEAKER 2: That smooth liquidy brown stuff that gives you extra energy for life. A caffeine buzz will give you the edge you need!

A VISITOR approaches PERSON, who's moved away from the crowd. The speakers silently mime different actions and the crowd bounces back and forth between each speaker. CRUNCHES.

VISTOR: Hey. Why don't you join them?

PERSON: Frankly, they're wearing me out. I feel like a tennis ball in the Wimbledon championships.

Crowd moves into PUSHUPS, most people simply wilting

VISITOR: Why are they doing this?

PERSON: We're all just looking for the perfect life. These guys keep telling us they've found what it takes.

VISITOR: If you're looking for answers, I know where to look.

PERSON: Oh no. Not you too.

Crowd does the WAVE.

VISITOR: No, not me. The answers I've found are right in the Bible. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

PERSON: Well how do I know this Jesus is the right way?

VISITOR: Look, these guys change their message every time they lose their following. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He never changes. And I've never found anything more exciting or awesome than following Him.

PERSON looks interested and relieved.

VISITOR: Here, let me tell you more about Him.

PERSON and VISITOR exit stage.

SPEAKER 1: CONGA! Conga is the answer!

CROUD jumps in line and follows SPEAKER 1 off stage, leaving SPEAKER 2 alone.

SPEAKER 2: *(Starting to whimper)* I don't need them anyway; solitude is the key to the perfect life.

SPEAKER 2 pauses and then runs off stage balling (*comically*)

THE END