

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

### GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

**A Play in One Act**

**By Susana Cook**

**2000**

Seven queer homeless women engage themselves in a ritual representation of a riot. Finding the consciousness that will free them from isolation, connecting their present to the history of survival and revolution, they discover the power of the powerless.

#### **Characters:**

Don Antonio

Maria

Moreira

Don Segundo

Vicenta

Zoilo

Vizcacha

Note: All the characters are women played by women even if their name is masculine.

*We hear industrial sounds. On stage seven working stations. Factory, sweaty ambiance. We see them in the far back. They'll say these lines into a microphone. The music is loud.*

**Don Antonio** - Gross National Product

**Maria** - General Narration Performed

**Moreira** - Nationally Produced by a Gross Product

**Don Segundo** - Gross Negation Permitted

**Vicenta** - The Gross Ones in this Nation of Products

**Zoilo** - What makes me Gross?  
Why Aren't I National?  
Should I become a Product?

**Don Antonio** - Of how I became gross in this nation of products

**Maria** - Of how this nation produces products for the gross

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**Don Segundo** - Gross Nations in search of products

**Vicenta** - The story of something very gross  
deeply national  
almost a product

**Maria** - so gross... so national that they made it into a product

**Don Segundo** - Grossly written. Nationally produced

**Zoilo** - Looking for the gross. Trying to be national. In search of a product

**Don Antonio** - She likes me gross. She likes me national.

**Moreira** - Produced by a national gross product

**Zoilo** - Produced by the national gross

**Maria** - National products for the gross

**Don Antonio** - Who makes the products? In what nation? It's getting gross

*The women enter from the back, walking in line slowly towards the audience. Then music stops. We hear drums. They are walking around at night, trying to stay awake. Don Segundo can't take it anymore, then she lies down to rest.*

**Vicenta** - Wake up

**Don Segundo** - Why?

**Don Antonio** - We shouldn't fall asleep

**Don Segundo** - I am tired, I am exhausted. I was riding the subway for three nights

**Moreira**- (to **Maria**) For how long didn't you sleep?

**Maria** - I don't know, since I was evicted

**Vicenta** - For how long can we go on without sleeping?

**Zoilo** - We are OK for right now

**Don Segundo** - I am not OK. I want to sleep, I don't give a damn

**All**- Get up! Wake up!

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**Vicenta** - This is serious Don Segundo, it's illegal, you'll go to jail

**Maria** - Get up, do you have money to pay a fine?

**Don Segundo** - No

**Maria** - Then get up, you can't afford to sleep

**Don Segundo** - Is it illegal to sleep?

**Maria** - Yes, if you are poor, yes. If you can't pay rent, yes. Get up already  
(Don Segundo gets up)

**Maria** - Stay awake

**Don Segundo** - Until when?

**All-** (They mumble a couple of reasons, they all talk at the same time) Until we can afford to pay the rent, something like, I don't know the deposit, it's not gonna take that long, we'll save some money

**Vicenta** - We shouldn't be that close to each other, let's spread out

**Don Segundo** - You guys are paranoid. You are having hallucinations

**Vicenta** - Move to the sides, move to the sides

**Don Segundo** - Somebody has to stop her

**Moreira** - No, we have to move to the sides

**Vicenta** - This is a private street where we are standing right now

**Don Segundo** - No, it's not

**Vicenta** - It says, PRIVATE STREET NO STANDING

**Don Segundo** - It means cars

**Maria** - All streets are private

**Zoilo** - We should sleep on Sundays, I guess. Because that's what God said, that we should rest on Sundays

**Maria** - It doesn't apply to us. We'll nap in the morning as if we are not sleeping

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**Moreira** – She is great at that. She sleeps standing at the bus stop

**Zoilo** – We'll get a room in a shelter

**Don Segundo** – I am not going back to that shelter. There are bugs in the pillows

**Maria** – Don't worry, there's no more room anyway

*The women will go to their working stations. They will hammer, move boxes, carry stuff, pulling chains, and using heavy tools.*

**Vicenta** - Something is growing

**Don Antonio** - I know, I heard

**Don Segundo** - What is growing? The bugs in the pillows are growing

**Don Antonio** - I don't know, but they keep talking about the growing

**Zoilo** - The economy is growing

**Don Antonio** - That's right, the economy is growing

**Moreira** - And what does that mean?

**Maria** - It means that the economy is growing

**Don Segundo** - How can we get there?

**Maria** - Where?

**Don Segundo** - To the economy

**Maria** - I don't know. I think you inherit your place there

**Zoilo** - We are in the economy, we all are part of it

**Don Segundo** - But how can we get to the growing part?

**Maria** - What growing part?

**Don Segundo** - The flourishing part

**Zoilo** - I was there, I had a great job, and it was getting only better and better

**Don Segundo** - What job?

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**Zoilo** - I used to work for the fish industry. I was a fisherman

**Maria** - Fisherwoman

**Zoilo** - Well, no, it's called fisherman

**Moreira** - That's a cool job

**Zoilo** - Yeah, it was cool. I liked it

**Don Segundo** - And what happened?

**Zoilo** - Not much, at some point there were no more fishes

**Vicenta** - What do you mean no more fishes?

**Zoilo** - No more fishes

**Moreira** - What happened to the fishes?

**Zoilo** - We were all fishing

**Vicenta** - Gosh

**Zoilo** - We lost our jobs.

**Moreira** - And what happened to the company?

**Zoilo** - The company moved to a different lake  
I was a good fisherman

**Maria** - Wasn't it fisherman?

**Zoilo** - Yeah, fisherman

**Don Segundo** - I feel sorry for you

**Zoilo** - Yeah, I feel sorry for the fishes too

**Vicenta** - How many lakes left?

**Zoilo** - I don't know. Nobody is really doing the mathematics

**Don Antonio** - Are we environment?

**Vizcacha** - So you are a fisherman

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**Zoilo** - Fisherwoman

**Moreira** - You said that is fisherman

**Zoilo** - Shut up kid.

**Vizcacha** - I am a hacker

**Moreira** - That's what I want to be, but I am not very good with computers

**Vizcacha** - I don't know much about computers myself but they arrested me for computer terrorism

**Moreira** - Cool

**Vizcacha** - They didn't want me to use the phone. I think they were mistaking me for someone else. I go to the library to play with the computers you know? I don't have permission now

**Zoilo** - They said hacker? They said you are a hacker?

**Vizcacha** - Yeah

*Industrial music starts again, in crescendo. Then it fades so we can hear the lines.*

**Moreira** - I wish I could destroy their secret information, and pass it to someone else. And the secret information of this one to the other one. So they destroy each other. But for right now, I have to do it without computers, low tech vandalism. I'll have to break their cars  
and their shoes  
their boats  
and wanna break their horses and the pictures of them

**Vizcacha** - The kid is right. It's no good to just stay sitting watching

**Zoilo** - She is a troublemaker

**Moreira** - I am a peace lover

**Vicenta** - It has to be peaceful

**Vizcacha** - Peaceful my ass

**Moreira** - Yeah, peaceful my ass.

**Vizcacha** - For peaceful to work we need a government capable of shame

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**Moreira** - I am going to break their fucking beds and the chairs that go with the color of the curtains and the sofa, and the design of the...

**Zoilo** - No, you shouldn't

**Vizcacha** - Yes, you should. They gonna see you kid

**Don Segundo**- They gonna see you and they gonna put you in jail

**Moreira** - No, they are not gonna see me because I'm gonna pinch their eyes

**Don Antonio** - That's very Shakespearean

**Vizcacha** - No, don't pinch their eyes. You want them to see you. You want them to see their broken chairs and sofas

**Moreira** - I know, but who? Which one? I know I will know. I know I will know

**Vicenta** - It's all pretty much the same

**Moreira** - I am gonna break the window of that store. And that is a window. The window that I will break. That window

**Zoilo**- 10 million windows may be better

**Moreira**- Don't fucking tell me what to do

**Don Segundo**- There's no way in

**Moreira** - Yes. I'll break the window, and we'll get in

**Zoilo** - You said you are a peace lover

**Vizcacha** - We tried peacefully, and we were crushed

**Moreira** - I hate this factory. I hate the owner of this factory. I hate every factory he owns. I hate factories. I hate products. I hate selling. I hate the market more market more market. I hate the people who keep buying and buying. I hate to turn on a TV and they are trying to sell me something. To turn on the radio and they are trying to sell me something. To turn on the web and they are trying to fucking sell me something.

**Vicenta** - Look at the good side, you can find great stuff in the garbage

**Moreira** - I hate them. I hate them all. I am gonna kill them. I am gonna twist their guts and make a bow

**Vicenta** - What's that?

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**Moreira** - From the French Revolution

**Maria** - The French Revolution?!

**Moreira** - Yes, the thing about the intestines or the guts. The bow is my creation

**Zoilo** - Could somebody stop her? She is disturbing me

**Maria** - Moreira stop please

**Moreira** - Why should I stop?

**Maria** - You are disturbing Zoilo

**Moreira** - Sorry Zoilo

**Zoilo** - Thank you

**Moreira** - Thank you for what?

**Zoilo** - For stopping

**Moreira** - I am not stopping, I am taking a break

**Vicenta** - Let her talk, it's fun

**Zoilo** - She is just cursing

**Vicenta** - she might come out with some good idea

**Don Segundo** - At least she is trying

**Zoilo** - She doesn't know anything

**Don Segundo** - One thing I know, there's no more time left. We are about to explode

**Zoilo** - We should talk to the boss. I am sure there's a way to get some understanding

**Don Antonio** - Yeah, let's talk to the boss. Hey, you, motherfucker, we are starving here. If you could please stop piling up our money

**Zoilo** - That's not the way to talk. You'll get nowhere like that

**Don Antonio** - Excuse me sir, we are suffering the consequences of long term disadvantage. We are feeling the damage of constant deprivation, since before we were in



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kindergarten. Could you fucking give us back the money that we and our parents worked for?

**Maria** - And grandparents

**Don Antonio** - And grandparents

**Don Segundo** – Who is the boss anyway?

**Zoilo** - You need Jesus

**Maria** - No, we need a riot

**Moreira** – Whoever you are, we hate your guts, your cars, your ugly face

**Zoilo** - What after the riot?

**Vicenta** - You won't ask that question

**Zoilo** – They gonna kill us

**Vizcacha** – They gonna kill us anyway

*Music stops. Drums. They will interrupt their work and getting together for a riot.*

**Moreira** – Ok, let's do it

**Zoilo** – Let's do what?

**Moreira** – Let's plan a riot

**Don Segundo** – I don't think people plan riots, they just explode

**Moreira** – Let's explode a riot

**Zoilo** – What for?

**Moreira** – Just for fun

**Zoilo** – A riot is not fun

**Vizcacha** – It could be fun. The idea of freedom it's fun. The possibility that freedom could appear is fun

**Don Antonio** – At least we can think about it

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**Zoilo** – I can think about it. Why? You think I can't? We'll have five minutes of glory

**Don Antonio** – No, it's not five minutes. It's gonna be the rest of our lives

**Zoilo** – The rest of our lives in jail

**Don Antonio** – We won't go to jail

**Zoilo** – Really?

**Don Antonio** – We'll create a strategy

**Maria** – We should place small groups of people in different parts of the city. And we start moving gradually. So, when they turn their attention to one group, there's another group starting somewhere else

**Zoilo** – I see, so this is not a riot, it's more like a guerrilla warfare

*They will start grabbing pieces of wood and sticks for the riot*

**Don Antonio** – No, it's a riot. A chronic riot. We should last for a longtime, or we'll start one every day, like a ritual

**Zoilo** – Why don't you open a church?

**Maria** – I really want to rehearse this, it's gonna be very therapeutic

**Moreira** – Yes, let's do it already

*They stop working joining Moreira in the planning*

**Zoilo** – What? We're going to rehearse?

**Vicenta** – Yeah, until we believe that we can do something

**Zoilo** – Yeah, we can do something. You know what we can do? We can go for our bologna sandwich. That's what we can do. Let's go, let's go get our sandwich

**Don Segundo** – I don't want anymore bologna sandwiches. It's making me sick. If you mention it again, I'm gonna throw up

**Zoilo** - You are too political. And what is this? Revenge

**Vicenta** - It's not revenge, it's justice. People have to pay for their wrongdoings

**Zoilo** - According to the law, and they didn't do anything wrong according to the law

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**Don Antonio** - But the law is there to create some order, and this is a mess. If they keep thinking that this is order, they'll never change the law

**Zoilo** - We can't change the law

**Don Antonio** - But we can change the order, we can show the disorder

**Vicenta** - They force us into order

**Maria** - No, they are just covering up the disorder, but it's still legal

**Don Antonio** - No, it's not. This is crime, people are dying

**Moreira** - Revenge is not that bad, we should legalize revenge

**Don Segundo** - *Talking to an imaginary police officer* - Excuse me officer, we have legitimate feelings of resentment and outrage here

**Vizcacha** - I read in a bumper sticker that we have to thank a police officer. Nice car, a Mustang

**Don Segundo** - We require material restoration, apology, and even retributive justice

**Vicenta** - what do we need to thank a police officer about?

**Vizcacha** - In the name of somebody

**Don Antonio** - Compensation, we want compensation

**Moreira** - We are America!

**Don Antonio** - neat

*Loud music. They will rehearse a riot. This riot is loud and fast. They will run towards the audience with sticks and tools in their hands.*

**Don Antonio** - Run!

**All** - Where?

**Vicenta** - This way

**Don Segundo** - Glory!

*When they get very close to the audience they'll stop, we'll hear "Kill me ", a slower song. They'll go back, and rehearse again. When they get close to the audience for the second time they turn their back and walk slowly towards a heavy bin placed center- stage with*

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*ropes. Each of them will grab a rope and pull out while saying their lines. When the tension of the ropes it's extreme they'll start turning slowly as a wheel around the bin.*

**Zoilo** - This is violence

**All** - It is kind of violent

**Vicenta** - It is not pure violence though

**Don Segundo** - It depends. Everything is relative

**Don Antonio** - God is on our side. Ergo it's not violence anymore

**Maria** - And what does God have to do with all this?

**Don Antonio** - I don't know. When people assume that God is on their side, they can do whatever they want

**Zoilo** - Thinking is fine, thinking is not dangerous

**Don Antonio** - It's an uprising. It's part of the nature cycle. It's a natural law: Everything that goes too far down, down-raises, needs to go back up. Upraises  
Pure physics

**Vicenta** - It's part of the balance, the natural equilibrium

**Don Segundo**- Something went wrong with the trickle down. The pipes got clogged, everything was getting stuck up there

**Maria** - So we are cleaning the pipes in a way

**Don Segundo**- We need to change the pipes

**Vicenta** - I think we need a new pipe system

**Moreira** - I think we need to trickle up. Using the same pipes. Shooooom! A bullet trickling right up, far up, all the way up

**Zoilo** - I find this really disturbing, I can't concentrate. I know what I want, and I'll get it without having to pinch anybody's eyes. How much is the rent? I'll pull it together, how much?

**Don Segundo** - You can get a place for \$700, but then it's the deposit

**Vicenta** - Come-on, who can make 14 hundred?

**Maria** - And you need to eat sometimes

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**Zoilo** – I'll do it. I'll eat and everything, and I'll help you guys

**Don Antonio** – You make \$153. What are you talking about?

**Maria** - Let's say that you could have what you want. You have what you want and you want what you have. What do you want?

**Zoilo** - You

**Maria** – Things, things. What things do you want?

**Zoilo** - I want to be smart, young, beautiful, interesting, important

**Maria** - Things honey, things

**Don Segundo** – Can I ask for something too?

**Maria** – Sure

**Don Segundo** – I would start by sleeping, that's what I want, I am tired. I would pay myself enough to pay rent, and good food. No, first I would need to sleep. I would sleep for a week first, more, more than a week

**Don Antonio** - Are we legal?

**Maria** - For right now, yes, I think

**Don Segundo**- We are suspects

**Don Antonio** - We should be illegal

**Moreira** - What are you talking about? You want to go to jail?

**Don Antonio** - No, they should go to jail. This should be illegal. The whole thing

**Maria** -(to Zoilo) You look good

**Moreira** - You look terrific

**Vicenta** - I like your garment

**Maria** - Seriously, you look good

**Zoilo** - I feel good

**Maria** - Go darling, the world is yours. Go for it. You can make it

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**Zoilo** - I'll make it

**Maria** - Look at you, you are so strong, so muscular. What is it that you want?

**Zoilo** - I am not sure, but I am so excited. I feel my individuality growing

**Don Segundo**- Are they talking about sex?

**Don Antonio** - No, about property

**Moreira** - No, about nationality

**Vicenta** - There's no boundaries. We are flourishing. There's a great job awaiting for you. Go get it

**Zoilo**- I know, I know, I will. I have skills  
writing skills, social skills  
I have achievements  
I am computer literate  
I think I am the person you are looking for  
I know Mac, IBM

*During Don Antonio's monologue they will be throwing stuff center stage. Rock music. Don Antonio is talking to a microphone, facing the audience.*

**Don Antonio** - I am sweet and tolerant  
I like to work with people and without people  
I can handle the most difficult customers  
I know some carpentry  
I anticipated that you might be in the need of someone  
With my unusual blend of qualifications  
I am incredibly qualified  
I am very enthusiastic  
I eat whatever you give me  
I show initiative  
I can speak concisely yet with sufficient detail  
I have a good appearance, good presence  
I can smile, I love smiling, I could smile all day  
I am positive  
I am positive you will find the time you spend analyzing my capabilities well worth your time  
I like this environment  
I am healthy, happy, charming  
I love your country, my family, your company  
I love you  
It would be my pleasure to offer you additional details regarding my qualifications during an interview

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At your earliest convenience  
I am available immediately  
I have referrals ambitions  
I am clean, responsible, neat and sweet  
Not only am I healthy, but I also look very healthy  
You should see me in an interview  
My public speaking is amazing  
I can work under pressure, even harassment  
I can work hungry, tired, over time, over you  
I am deeply satisfied to live in America  
I would be happy here  
I am happy already thinking of how happy I would be to work here  
This place is great; I match with the walls  
I have hobbies, little hobbies that will keep me happy when I am not at work  
I'll be whatever you want me to be: Train me - Guide me  
Your success is my success  
I have a corporate soul  
I like this team feeling  
I can easily be pressured into conformity and obedience  
I can pass as nobody  
I can accept very graciously being excluded from opportunities, culture, public debate and power

*Music stops. They will stand in line waiting for food. There's going to be bowls and a big pot with soup.*

**Don Segundo**- Let's think about the future

**Zoilo** - yes, let's thinks about the future

**Moreira** - children are the future

**Vicenta** - Right, so they should worry about it

**Moreira**- I think we are in jail

**Vicenta** - No, we are not

**Moreira** - Yes, we are

**Maria** - No, we are not, we are free

**Don Segundo**- right, we are outside, don't you see?

**Don Antonio** – So you give jobs? That's very nice of you. You'll give me the possibility to work for the minimum legally possible pay. I am healthy now, but I would get

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psychosomatic diseases here. Psycho-social, somata- social things. I forgot to mention in my resume, I like to go to people's houses and steal their CDs.

I am having trouble remembering things

*They'll start cleaning the stuff center stage, mopping and sweeping.*

**Vicenta** - Stop worrying about that, you only make it worse. Just remember your name, you don't need anymore

**Don Antonio** - It's good I don't have to change clothes. It would make things more confusing

I was cleaning this woman's house the other day, she yelled "Are you cleaning the bathroom again?" And she was right: I had cleaned it already

**Don Segundo**- I am the opposite. I can't think forward. I have no imagination

**Don Antonio** - Then I went to the living room, there's a very nice fancy red velvet queen couch- chair. I wanted really badly to throw up on that chair. I thought, this would be a perfect moment of communion of my intestines with my sweat and my blood

**Zoilo** - The vomit doesn't come from the intestines

**Don Segundo**- where does it comes from?

**Zoilo** - I don't know the stomach

**Don Antonio** - No, the vomit comes from everywhere

**Vicenta** - Did you do it?

**Don Antonio** - No

**Moreira** - It's OK, you could vomit everywhere sweetie

**Don Antonio** - I know, but it wouldn't make any sense

**Vicenta** - Yes, it would

**Don Antonio** - A different one, I wanted my communion

**Don Segundo**- Shh, shut up, I am trying to vomit

**Zoilo** - I can't vomit like that

**Vicenta** - What are you gonna vomit? You need to eat before you vomit

**Don Segundo**- I did, I did



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**Don Antonio** - I wonder why sometimes it gets absorbed into the body, and sometimes becomes vomit. What makes it go out?

**Vicenta** - It's very interesting.

**Don Antonio** - The same vomit can get reabsorbed. If you swallow your vomit it goes back in. The body doesn't recognize it as vomit anymore. Come on, body, you didn't want this shit before. Why are you taking it in now? . It's not food, it's vomit, get it out again

**Maria** - I thing that this whole conversation about vomit is really disgusting

**Don Antonio** - Excuse me, but this is a scientific conversation about why the body reabsorbs fluids that were previously expelled as vomit, and takes it in as good food

**Maria** - I got it, stop it. It's not polite to talk about vomit

**Don Antonio** - You are wrong there, it's not polite to vomit, but to talk about vomit it's fine, it's a medically oriented conversation. I found some doctor's clothes

**Zoilo** - Jesus said...

**Moreira** - stop with Jesus already

**Zoilo** - Life is about surviving

**Don Antonio** - Jesus didn't say that

**Zoilo** - Yes, and he said that it would be easier to pass a camel though the eye of a needle than to get a rich person enter heaven

**Don Segundo** - so they are going to hell?

**Don Antonio** - Yes, we take turns

**Moreira** - Let's switch

**Maria** - Switch what?

**Moreira** - Speed up the process

**Zoilo** - What process?

**Moreira** - Let's send them to hell

**Vicenta** - Right, we can say that we are speeding up a Christian statement

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**Don Segundo** - We are saints

**Moreira** - Jesus said that they are going to hell? And who's gonna send them?

**Zoilo** - Not you, relax

**Don Antonio** - I am a messenger of God

**Maria** - Really? And what is your message?

**Don Antonio** - "You Pigs"

**Maria** - That's it? That's your message?

**Don Antonio** - Yes, that's it, it's short but eloquent, "you pigs"

**Zoilo** - Well, nobody is getting your message

**Vicenta** - It's always like that

*They will start lifting heavy stuff that they will move around back and forth.*

**Don Segundo**- what is that story that God comes to earth disguised as a homeless person, to check people's reaction? To see what the truth is. They were waiting for God to show up, and God was already there amongst them. Because they think God will come as a big thing, like a King you know? But no, She was like one of us

**Maria** - Actually when they see you they get the message, only reversed. They read "You Pig"

**Moreira** - So God was there checking up on something?  
What should we be doing?

**Maria** - I don't know what but something for sure

**Don Segundo** - This is an emergency but I don't have the energy

**Moreira** - Yes, you do

**Don Segundo**- I feel like there's a truck on top of me

**Vicenta** - There's a couple of trucks

**Moreira** - No, there's no truck

**Zoilo** - It's that job that you were doing with the toxins

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**Don Segundo** - Yes, it's the superaccumulation of shit

**Don Antonio** - It's always like that. Outside, above or below

**Maria** - What?

**Moreira** - She has never been too good with details

**Don Segundo** - I think I am getting sick

**Maria** - No, you are not, you can't

**Don Segundo** - It's the bologna sandwiches

**Don Antonio** - No, it's not only the bologna sandwiches. There is a war in here and we are not fighting

**Vicenta** - What are we gonna do?

**Don Antonio** - (to Zoilo) Where is your priest costume?

**Zoilo** - I told you I lost it

**Maria** - And why a priest costume?

**Don Antonio** - It helps

**Vicenta** - If the market is free. Deregulated. And we are part of the market. Everything is part of the market. We are deregulated. We are free to destroy the market

**Don Segundo** - Yes, but how?

**Don Antonio** - With logic. Rich gets richer. Rich produces poor. Poor produces riot. Ergo rich produces Riot

**Zoilo** - I'll tell you what the logic is. The people who give the money for the presidential campaign are the ones who will get all the favors when that person gets to power

**Don Segundo** - We should raise money for the presidential campaign then

**Zoilo** - No, Don Segundo, we are talking millions, but you can work for those people, and get part of the favor

**All** - Yuuk! (*expression of disgust*)

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*They will change clothes. The clothes are in garbage bags and in the sides. They'll wear factory workers' uniforms.*

**Don Segundo** – What do you say when you work for no money?

**Maria** – Volunteer

**Vicenta** – worker

**Don Segundo** – No, when it's almost no money

**Maria** - It's a germ

**Don Segundo** - What is a germ?

**Maria** - The rich thing

**Vicenta** - It's a ritual of death

**Don Antonio** - No, it's more like torture

**Don Segundo** – We are like volunteers

**Zoilo** - We could be rich one day

**Don Antonio** - Torture is the almost death. It's about survival. Surviving death just about, on the verge. They don't want us dead.

**Vicenta** - They can hear the yelling, the crying, the starving.

**Don Antonio** – Right, so they know we are alive

**Don Segundo** – Working

*They will place themselves in line. They'll start repetitive factory work.*

**Zoilo** -Why don't you think about a nice little story? The bear and the mamma bear. And the little bears playing. Mamma bear is cooking. Bear is sitting by the fire

**Maria** - And then they turn on the TV, and that's it, they hate their place, they hate their face. They feel like buying. They buy a computer. They go online. Oops, everything is about buying again; they change the decoration of the bathroom this time

**Don Segundo**- and there's only white bears on TV

**Maria** - *(continues)*

Mamma bear goes to work; little bears go to work

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

- Where is the bathroom?
- There's no bathroom
- I can't breathe, where is the window?
- There's no window

Mr. Bear, Mrs. Mr. Bear and little bears sit at the table to eat pasta. And they are sick of eating pasta. Bears are not supposed to eat that much pasta

Little bears go to school and there are no more chairs to sit in. The class is so crowded

-Don't worry, teacher says, in a couple of months we'll have enough chairs

- Yeah! Are they gonna bring more chairs?

- No, most of these kids will drop out of school and these chairs will be enough

Little bear waits patiently for those kids to drop out of school so she can sit. Not under that leak. It's cold at school. It's cold at home, but it's hot at work

So bear, mamma Bear and little bears get sick of it and one day...

**Zoilo** - OK, I got it, and then what? What after the riot?

**Don Antonio** - We'll smoke a cigarette

*Intimidating white light. They start spreading. The stage gets empty of workers. We'll hear their voices coming from the sides.*

**Don Antonio** - Oh, "nobody" threw a stone.

**Maria** - All those things running. So much yelling.

**Zoilo** - My cleaning lady didn't show up yet.

**Don Segundo** - Oh, no, I don't have any employee today, I'm losing lots of money.

**Moreira** - My clothes are all dirty.

**Vicenta** - Where are the cashiers?

**Vizcacha** - "Nobody" threw up on my chairs.

**Don Antonio** - There's something like horse shit on the sidewalk.

**Moreira** - The windows look so dirty.

**Maria** - Who is gonna get me a taxi?

**Vicenta** - Where's our doorman?

**Don Antonio** - Doorlady sweetie, doorfemale.

**Maria** - Come-on, we are doing OK, we are all OK, come back here I said. We are happy. This is America.

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**Don Antonio** - Dirty immigrants, you see? they didn't show up to work today lazy bastards.

*Lights change to soft ceiling ambiance. We hear cheesy happy white music. Performers change their clothes into festive attire, yellow, pink, bright colors, hats, purses and gloves. They will bring toy furniture.*

*Moreira is now Jackie, Maria is Patricia, Vicenta is Leslie, Don Segundo is Dottie, Zoilo is Patty, Vizcacha is Daisy, Don Antonio is Jody*

*Jackie turns on the TV, they are showing a movie with only white people in it. There's only one black woman in the background. Jackie is black, she gets very excited*

**Jackie** – Patricia! Patricia! Come!

**Patricia** – What? What is going on? I am in the shower!

**Jackie** – Come!

*(Patricia comes, there's no sign of her coming from the shower. She is dressing festive attire like the rest of them)*

**Patricia** – What is going on?

**Jackie** – I am on TV. Look!

*They watch the TV, the images from the TV have nothing to do with Jackie, but they get very excited*

**Patricia** – Wonderful honey, congratulations

**Leslie** – Who is on TV?

**Jackie** – I am on TV, look! Jody! Dottie! Patty! Leslie! Daisy!

**Patricia** – I'll make some cookies to celebrate

*She goes to the toy oven and makes toy cookies. Jody comes.*

**Leslie** – Dottie! You want some cookies?! (Dottie comes)

**Daisy** – (entering) Who is on TV?

**Jackie** – I am. We are celebrating

*Patty comes. They are all happy to see something like Jackie on TV*

**Jackie** – Look Patty! I am on TV

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**Patty** – I know, I saw it yesterday

**Jody** – You were yesterday too?

**Jackie** – I think so

*They eat cookies happily*

**Daisy**- Oh, by the way, I have a surprise for you guys

**The girls** – You do?

**Daisy** – Yes

**The girls** – Great

**Jody** – These cookies are delicious

**Jackie** – Patricia made them

**Patricia** – Well, she was on TV

**Leslie** – You are a good cook

**Patty** – And a good friend

**Dottie** – Well, it comes together

**Patricia** – Not always

**Dottie** – Well, if you cook with love, it tastes good

**Leslie** – It's true

**Daisy** – So, do you want to see my surprise?

**The girls** – Sure, where is it?

**Daisy** – Here, in the computer. You have to come

**Dottie** – We have to go over there?

**Leslie** - It's ok, let's go.

**Patty** - Let's finish with the cookies first.

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**Patricia** - Let's go she wants to show us her surprise. Here we go sweetie

*Daisy grabs a little mic from the computer.*

**Daisy** - If you talk to this little mic, they can hear us in Germany

**The girls** - Nooooo

**Daisy** - Yes. It's virtual communication

**The girls** - In Germany. Our voices? I can't believe it

**Daisy** - Who wants to start?

**Jackie** - Go Patricia

**Patricia** - Me?

**The girls** - Yes, go

*Patricia grabs the mic.*

**Patricia** - Hello

...

They heard me in Germany?

**Daisy** - Yes

**Leslie** - I want to say something

**Daisy** - Go ahead

**Leslie** - We are in New York saying these things

.....

It's great, it's like a phone. I never called Germany

**Daisy** - No, it's not like a phone, they can see you too

**The girls** - They can?

**Daisy** - Yes, stand in front of the computer, do something

**Patty** - We should speak in German

**Patricia** - We could do a little dance



# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

*Dottie doesn't join the dance. She sits with the radio. They play a song, any popular song, she turns the volume loud*

**Dottie** – It's me! It's me! On the radio

*During the song they will go back to previous clothes and characters*

*Dottie becomes Don Segundo, she is sitting alone center stage.*

*We hear funeral music, everybody comes back in their original clothes and characters.*

**Don Segundo**- I better have another life

**Maria** - What's wrong?

**Don Segundo** - I am not feeling well

**Zoilo** - We need a doctor

**Maria** - We need a lot of things honey, we just can't afford them

**Vicenta** - Sit here by the fire

**Don Segundo**- if I wasn't hungry I could think. What do you have there?

**Maria** - Danish sugar cookies. What do you have?

**Don Antonio** - Italian fogliately

**Vicenta** - What are you eating?

**Zoilo** - crackers

**Maria** - From where?

**Zoilo** - I don't know, crackers. From the cracker factory

**Maria** - Let me see, from Great Britain. Can't you read? You are eating Great Britain crackers

**Zoilo** – Cool

**Maria** – No, it's not cool. They keep moving all the shit around. " Danish people eat American sugar cookies, Americans eat Danish sugar cookies, the exchange of recipes would certainly be more convenient"

**Don Antonio** - Something went wrong, but it's legal, there's nothing we can do about it, rest in peace

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**Don Segundo** - I am not dead yet

**All** - We know

**Don Segundo** - It's not like this is my funeral or something

*Vizcacha will start singing a funeral song, Maria will join her*

**Don Segundo** - Here rests in peace the soul of this African-American, Queer-American, Homeless-American

**Moreira** - Shut up, you are not dead. Lady Di died, JFK junior died

**Don Segundo** - And she is not even dead yet

*Maria and Vizcacha are singing loud now, the song becomes more intense, losing or transforming its funeral mood into painful violence.*

*Maria will get up and act up a dominatrix scene. She carries a wet towel that she will squeeze letting the few last drops to fall. We hear loud drums, she dances to the rhythm of the drums. The rest of the cast is watching her, reacting with their bodies to her blows. At the end of her dance, the other women start talking.*

**Vicenta** – That's your job?

**Maria** – No, for right now just blow jobs at the Laundromat. But I am learning, if I get these gigs, I can pay rent for all of us

**Don Antonio** – Beautiful

**Moreira** – It's a cool job

**Zoilo** – Not beautiful, interesting

**Vicenta** - I wouldn't say cute, but beautiful, yes, romantic

**Moreira** - When I lost my virginity...

**Vizcacha** – Oh, please

**Moreira** – What?

**Don Antonio** – I have some left

**Vicenta** - Some what?

**Don Antonio** - Virginity

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**Maria** - I am a total virgin. I feel more virgin that when I was a virgin

*We'll hear jazzy music, they will talk with sexy choreographed moves.*

**Zoilo** - I love virginity

**Maria** - What kind?

**Don Antonio** - I lost my virginity when I had to touch shit for the first time. And it was an accident

**Zoilo** - Virgin means brand new

**Don Antonio** - I know, I was brand new, I never touched shit before

**Maria** - It's about honor

**Zoilo** - It's about the body.

*They all turn to the left side in sexy attitude, placing right hand in between the legs, holding right leg. The moves will dissolve into vague moves touching their bodies*

**Vicenta** - Is it the first time you touch your body or the first time somebody else touches your body?

**Vizcacha** - It's the first time you think about your body.

**Maria** - No, it's the first time somebody else thinks about your body

**Don Segundo** - No, it's the first time you think about touching your body, or somebody else touching your body

**Vizcacha** - I think it's about what you put inside

**Maria** - No, it's the first time you want to show your body

**Zoilo** - No, it's when you read something disgusting or you eat something disgusting.

**Don Segundo** - It depends on who you are, where you live

**Vicenta** - It's about how much you know. If you don't remember anything it's fine, if you don't imagine anything it's fine

**Vicenta** - I pulled down my underwear when I was six in front of four boys, does that count as the moment I lost my virginity?

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**All** - *(They mumble, but they are not sure what is the answer)*

**Don Antonio** - You can't think about virginity like that, in broad terms, it goes part by part, like chastity, it applies according to the law, or the religion. For example the chastity of my knee.

*They all look at her knee*

I have a virgin knee, nobody has ever touched my knee. Nobody has sexual fantasies with my knee. I don't think about my knee in a sexual way

**Maria** - Can I see your knee?

**Don Antonio** - Shut up, you are ruining it

**Maria** - Let me see it

**Don Antonio** - My antiseptic virginal knee

**Maria** - You never show your knees. I always wanted to see your knees

**Don Antonio** - *Showing her knee* That's it, it's all polluted now

**Zoilo** - A knee is not a sexual part

**Maria** - What if I touch your belt  
A belt is like a sex toy

**Zoilo** - It's different, the difference is that you won't go to jail for wearing a sex toy, I mean a belt

**Maria** - If they knew how much a belt can turn me on, they would put some butches in jail just for wearing them

**Vizcacha** - Thank you baby

**Maria** - I have a client who has a company guess where?

**Don Antonio** -Where?

**Maria** - In your country

**Zoilo** - In her country?

**Maria** - In her country

**Vicenta** - Really?

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**Maria** - *(To Don Antonio)* Hey, in your country

**Don Antonio** - It's not mine. In his country

**Vizcacha** - Right

**Zoilo** - It's your country of origin, you know

**Vicenta** - It is your country, you can't be deported from there

**Don Antonio** - That's not true

**Maria** - Anyway. I need you to teach me some words in Spanish

**Don Antonio** - Oh, God

**Maria** - Come-on, you are not going to?

**Don Antonio** - No

**Moreira** - I know a couple of words in Spanish: camion, novia, señorita, baño, mi amor, la casa

**Maria** - I don't need those words

*Everybody shaking right knee, bending down, during Antonio's lines*

**Don Antonio**- I know the words you need: *(Spanish insults)* Hijo de puta. Baja la cabeza mierda. Quedate ahí sentadito que te reviento a patadas. Me ois? Chancho de mierda

**Maria** - Yes, that's more like it. *She tries to repeat some of the words in Spanish*

**Don Antonio** - Escupi mierda, vomita

**Maria** - Ok, I need you to go slower, I won't remember. Maybe you can write them down for me

**Vicenta** - You gonna give that guy pleasure?

**Don Antonio** - Shoot you are right

**Maria** - No, she is helping me, it's ok. Just a few hon, he doesn't know much anyway

**Don Antonio** - Chancho burgues de mierda

**Maria** - Chancho burgues de mierda

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**Don Antonio** - Go home

**Maria** - Go home

**Don Antonio** - Rich people are boring  
White people are boring  
Straight people are boring  
Conservative people are boring

**Maria** - Vanilla people are boring

**Zoilo** - Nah

**Moreira** - Christians are boring

**Don Antonio** - Thanks God for La Pachamamma

**Moreira** - Good thing they die

**Maria** - They need something to turn them on

**Don Antonio** - Turn them on, please

**Maria** - Well, I do. But I can't do everyone

**Zoilo** - Yeah, do your mathematics

**Don Antonio** - To make the money my boss makes in one year, I would have to work 8 thousand years. And that's great, because I am gonna live longer than him

**Don Segundo** - Why?

**Don Antonio** - If one hour of work is worth 97 times less than their hours, it might be because we have more hours

**Maria** - We only need to wait. At some point nobody will have money to buy anything, and it's gonna be the end of this whole shit

*They will go get empty baby carriages from the back.*

**Zoilo** - Thank God we are acting. It would be really bad if all this was true. I love fiction, stories. Can you imagine if we couldn't fall asleep? God! Or if we would be worth 97 times less than somebody else's life?

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

Things make sense, that's always the case, historically, historic sense. We can't lose faith. Everything is a choice. We are choosing or we did at some point. I know some people can't help themselves, but the government is there to help them. This is America

*We hear classic music. They'll come carrying baby carriages*

**Don Segundo** - What a beautiful day

**Maria** - Isn't it gorgeous?

**Vizcacha** - Healthy day

**Moreira** - So beautiful, I could stay outside all day

**Zoilo** - Wouldn't it be great?

**Maria** - Honey, it's so sunny, so warm, let's stay outside

**Zoilo** - I am a very outdoorsy person

**Vicenta** - Breathe deep, enjoy the air

**Moreira** - I would stay outside all day

**Maria** - Me too, if I could

**Don Antonio** - Beautiful, beautiful day

**Moreira** - Gorgeous

**Zoilo** - Let's go hiking

**Vizcacha** - I would just sit in the sun

**Don Antonio** - Let's keep walking, let's keep walking, it's so beautiful outside

**Juan** - (to Maria) could you grab the baby please?

**Maria** - There's no baby in here honey

**Juan** - What do you mean no baby?

**Maria** - It's symbolic

**Moreira** - It symbolizes that the babies are dead

**Vicenta** - No, that they will die

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**Maria** - No, that they were taken away by foster care

**Don Segundo** - No, it represents the statistics, that the average homeless person is a child  
Juan - All the baby carriages are empty?

**All** - Yes

**Maria** - It's symbolic, everything is just symbolic

**Don Antonio** - I represent the immigrant

**Vizcacha** - I represent the hackers

**Moreira** - I represent the young queers, who were kicked out from home

**Vicenta** - What do I represent?

**Maria** - The butches

**Don Antonio** - No, I represent the butches

**Maria** - You said that you represent the immigrant

**Don Antonio** - An immigrant butch

**Don Segundo** - I hope I don't represent the femmes here

**Don Antonio** - I think you represent the women who had to run from abusive husbands

**Zoilo** - Why do I always get to be vanilla one?

**Maria** - I should represent the butches, I am sick of being the over-sexualized femme

*They get ready for another riot*

**Don Antonio** - Let's move

**Maria** - We should make a long line, like it has no end

**Don Segundo** - We need more people

**Don Antonio** - It's ok, people will join. We'll go in slow motion, they won't stop us and we'll give time for people to join

**Moreira** - We should take them by surprise



# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**Vizcacha** - The slow motion will take them by surprise

**Zoilo** - They will think it's a performance

**Don Antonio** - It is a performance

**Zoilo** - There's a permit required to do performances in the streets

**Don Antonio** - Really? We'll get a permit then

**Maria** - So this is a slow motion riot?

**Don Antonio** - Yes

**Don Segundo** - There's no such thing as slow motion violence

**Don Antonio** - Yes, there is

**Moreira** - What if we have to run away from the police? We gonna run in slow motion?

**Vizcacha** - We won't run

**Moreira** - But how will people know what is going on?

**Vizcacha** - They know what is going on. And if they approach us, we can explain. Or maybe they're just gonna join us

**Don Segundo** - So how are you planning this exactly?

**Don Antonio** - I don't know. I think it's gonna be like marching in a way. Like a slow motion riot, that will not speed up but will never stop. Like a snow ball, we should start finding each other, so we will grow in numbers

**Zoilo** - And that's when you need the permit

**Vizcacha** - The slow motion will take them by surprise, they won't know what the fuck is going on, they will probably think it's a performance, and will ask for a permit

**Maria** - Riot by definition is fast

**Don Antonio** - But this is a slow motion riot, so by definition it has to be slow

**Maria** - Then it's not a riot

**Moreira** - aren't we gonna break any windows? (to Zoilo) Do we need a permit for that?

**Zoilo** - They will think we are crazy

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**Vicenta** – They do anyway

**Don Segundo** – And why slow?

**Moreira** – Maybe we should start from many different spots and then join up in one place

**Maria** – It's gonna take for ever that slow

**Don Antonio** – It has to be long

**Don Segundo** – You gonna be switching people, or it's always the same people? Are we gonna take breaks?

**Vizcacha** – Maybe it should become a ritual. We start every day, so we keep recruiting

**Moreira** – I like it, I think we need this

**Zoilo** – What is the point? What will we be getting out of this?

**Vizcacha** – We'll see how many we are

**Vicenta** – And they'll see how many we are

**Vizcacha** – And who we are

**Vizcacha** – And they'll be afraid, they are chickens, they'll be terrified. We need this.

**Don Segundo** – It's like getting out of the closet

**Vizcacha** – Right, we can be proud you know?

**Don Segundo** – You can't be proud of poverty

**Vizcacha** – Why not? We didn't do anything wrong. We are honest. We can't be proud that they fucked us up, but we can be proud that we are not like them

**Moreira** – Right, we are proud of that, we are not like them

**Vicenta** – We are survivors

**Maria** – Are we bringing the baby carriages?

**Don Antonio** – Yes

**Don Segundo** – So, this symbolizes a riot or it is a riot?

# SUSANA COOK

## HIDVL ARTIST PROFILES

**Don Antonio** – When they do a military parade, is it the symbol of a military parade or is it a military parade?

**Maria** – Or is it a performance? The performance of a military parade?

*Slow motion riot.*

**Moreira** – Where are we staying tonight?

**Don Antonio** – Here

**fin**