

HIJOPIEDRA (Son of a Rock)

(The scene takes place in the heart of a mine shaft. Julio, an exotic dancer, has just exited the stage. Gloria, hostess of an underground Gem and Mineral show, enters.)

GLORIA

Alright, people, give it up for Julio, our featured exotic dancer. *Te gusto?* Eh? Well, I hope you liked that. That's my baby. He was always so quiet. Now he's into this strip mining. Is it my problem? At least he's working – and so am I. My feet are killing me. *Hola guapo*. Ready for the show? *Ándale!* Looks like this *loca* has her work cut out for her tonight. Now, some call this the Devil's Shaft, the Tunnel to Inferno, the Mouth of Darkness. *Miamorcito*, just call it Gloria's Hole and Dinner Theatre. Welcome.

(Gloria is distracted by a sound in the lobby of the theatre. She directs her lamp towards the lobby.) Excuse me? Hello. Can I help you? Can't you see there's a show going on? You're a little late. Who? I don't care. Tea party? No, honey, this is Gloria's Hole and Floor Show. All we got is Tequila and Aguardiente. Can I see some ID? Look, get on out of here. See that rabbit over there? Why don't you follow his white ass on out of here. Excuse me? What?!! *Mal parida*. No baby, you eat me! Look, there is one thing nastier than a Red Queen and that is a big, bad brown one. *Vete!* Run, girl, run!

(Gloria returns to the stage.)

Shit, *pinchi pelada*, crawlin' up inside my cavities. *Babosa*. I'm tellin' you. They're workin' me tonight.

(Gloria brings on the rock stage and begins to set up the Gem and Mineral show.)

Well, you came here for adventure, didn't you? *En un momentito*, you gonna see some natural wonders.

Before we start the show, the Grovers Corners Arts Commission gave us a little funding, see? And they wants you to know that (reading from a card) "the following show reflects our commitment to diversity. Our stars have been chosen for their ornamental abilities, decorative talents and because of their great interest to collectors" Hmmm. But, hey, we're not here to throw stones. We're here to have some fun.

(Gloria moves back to the rock stage.)

You're in for a treat. Welcome to *our* Gem and Mineral show!

(Gloria turns on the rock stage lamps and her head lamp. She reaches into a coffee can and cups a rock in her palm.)

(singing to the tune of Fobia's "Piedra")

PIEDRA
CUIDEN LA PIEDRA
NO LA MOLESTEN MAS
DEJENLA DONDE ESTÁ
QUE AQUÍ ESTÁ BIEN

SOLA Y BIEN

Our first star is Desert Rose. An anhydrous sulfate. Gypsum roses are born in places where gypsum has dissolved in percolating waters, which are drawn to the surface and evaporate. Hey Rose, talk your talk.

(Gloria sets Rose on the Rock Stage.)

DESERT ROSE

Hi. I just wanted to say that we need to stop buying into the divisiveness that permeates our community. Be proud of your composition and also recognize that we have a common goal to ensure a safe future for generations to come. No more blasting! No more raping! No more poisoning! Enough is enough. It's about survival.

GLORIA

PIEDRA

*CUIDEN LA PIEDRA
NO LA DEFORMEN MAS
DEJENLA DONDE ESTÁ
QUE AQUÍ ESTÁ BIEN
SOLA Y BIEN*

Now, let me tell you something about Geode. You might think, "Hmm. Nothing special. Plain old rock. Big deal. Worthless. *Desechable*. Dirty. In fact, looks like a potato. But, if you took the time to crack it open, you'd find Geode lined with crystals deposited from mineral rich waters. Geode is a source of gem crystals.

(Gloria sets Geode on the Rock Stage.)

GEODE

Yo soy piedra. Tu eres joya. Ellos son mezcla. Pero todos tenemos el mismo deseo de sobrevivir y adelantarnos. Pero, digo, como vamos a estar unidos so no les entiendo. Ni una maldinga palabra. Hijoep...

GLORIA (anxiously)

...PIEDRA...

*ROCKS
TAKE CARE OF YOUR ROCKS*

(Gloria reaches into the can and cups a rock in her hand.)

Pyrite. A simple iron sulfide. Some people call Pyrite "fools gold", but Pyrite is harder than gold and very brittle. Ain't nothin' foolish about improving circulation. Aiding digestion. Influencing a more positive outlook on life and opening the mind to new ideas.

(Gloria sets Pyrite on the Rock Stage.)

PYRITE

Hi Gloria. I'm glad I came. Well, it's unlike me but I've been feeling kinda cynical about coming to yet another Gem and Mineral show. I just got so used to being on display. I dunno

... I mean, this is supposed to be our show, but it's not. I mean, like, nowhere in the promotion for this show does it say I'm Pyrite. And, well, I didn't care at first and then I remembered why I'm here, which is to create Pyrite visibility. Particularly for those of us who are into other iron sulfides.

I don't mean to whine. I know how hard you've worked Gloria. And I'm glad you asked me, because I don't want to isolate myself in events that are Pyri-centric either or set myself up as a spokesmineral or role matter either. I dunno, I just had to say that. I dunno. Thanks.

GLORIA

*PIEDRA
CUIDEN LA PIEDRA
NO LA MOLESTEN MAS
DEJENLA DONDE ESTÁ
QUE AQUÍ ESTÁ BIEN
SOLA Y BIEN*

Citrine. This brown quartz hails from San Diego County and helps to raise self-esteem. Citrine is lighthearted, cheerful and full of hope.

(Gloria sets Citrine on the Lazy Susan.)

CITRINE

I really don't know what to say.

PYRITE

What???!!!

CITRINE

I just came for the music.

GEODE

Que dice?

PYRITE

Are you kidding?

DESERT ROSE

What about Citrine visibility?

CITRINE

I really don't know what to say.

GEODE

Hijoep...

GLORIA (singing rapidly now)

*PIEDRA
CUIDEN LA PIEDRA
NO LA DEFORMEN MAS
DEJENLA DONDE ESTÁ*

*QUE AQUÍ ESTÁ BIEN
SOLA Y BIEN*

What can I say about Obsidian? You've always been there for me, baby. Took care of my stomach area. Te adoro. Obsidian is a glass formed from rapidly cooled lava. Aztec word is "iztli" and "teotetl" or divine stone because of its many uses as a knife, arrowhead, ornament, mask, mirror. Hi, Obsidian.

OBSIDIAN

Hi Gloria. Look, though some of us prefer to be called stones or gems or fossils. We all have one thing in common. We're rocks. Some of us are more articulate. Some of us have more charisma and talent. Some of us skip. Whatever. However you spell it, we're rocks. I'm tired of this bickering. Do we only come together during earthquakes? Look, we all had a great time in the Stone Age. Of course we did. And we've had hard times too. Granite. But we're still here, right? Look, we've made it through paper weights. We made it through pet rocks. If we had our shit together, we would have gone and worked for those damned Flintstones. I'm gonna do something. I'm done sitting around being inactive.

PYRITE

Waddya mean? Selling out?

OBSIDIAN

No, I'm talking about action.

DESERT ROSE

It's about survival.

CITRINE

It's about hard work.

GEODE

Que chingaso!

PYRITE

Easy for you to say. You're a gem. You think you're more valuable.

CITRINE

No, I'm not!

GEODE

Que pelean. No me importa.

DESERT ROSE

We're rocks. We bleed.

PYRITE

I beg to differ. Some of us are minerals.

GEODE

Vendido.

PYRITE

You're no rock. You're cracked.

OBSIDIAN

Fuck you!

DESERT ROSE

Focus everybody. Focus.

CITRINE

I don't like that kind of language.

GEODE

Hijoepiedra.

OBSIDIAN

Fuck you too.

DESERT ROSE

Focus.

PYRITE

What about me?

CITRINE

I don't understand.

GLORIA

Alright! Alright! Enough! Stop! If we mess up we all lose. OK? OK. Obsidian, you have a song for us?

OBSIDIAN

Sure.

GLORIA

Good. Remember, you're here, you're hard and you're not dead weight. So lighten up. Hit it.

(Gloria sets up a stage for Obsidian. Obsidian sings. Gloria, wearing a miner's hat, throws a spot on Obsidian.)

I'M STONE IN LOVE WITH YOU: SONG

IF I COULD, I'D LIKE TO BE
A GREAT BIG MOVIE STAR
OVERNIGHT SENSATION
DRIVE A BIG EXPENSIVE CAR

I WOULD BY YOU ANYTHING
YOUR LITTLE HEART DESIRES
THESE THINGS I'D DO
CAUSE I'M STONE IN LOVE WITH YOU

I AM JUST A PLAIN OBSIDIAN
DOING EVERYTHING THE BEST I CAN
BUT IF I COULD I'D GIVE THE WORLD TO YOU

I'D LIKE TO SOMEDAY BE THE OWNER OF
THE FIRST HOUSE ON THE MOON
THERE WOULD BE NO NEIGHBOURS
AND NO POPULATION BOOM

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT ALL I DO
IS DREAM MY LIFE AWAY
I GUESS IT'S TRUE
CAUSE I'M STONE IN LOVE WITH YOU

(Gloria lifts Obsidian to her lips. The song ends with a kiss. Blackout, as Gloria turns off the rocks stage lights.)

GLORIA

(Ad lib, as she wheels the rock stage off.) Now all of you rest your voices for the next show. There's another tour coming through. C'mon, that was good except for .. well, just ... try to keep it together ...