

IRRATIONAL RATIONAL

(SCENE: The stage is bare and black. YANI has his back to the wall, anchoring himself firmly in place with his feet. He trembles and whimpers.)

(NORMAN enters from stage-right and walks across in a straight line, swinging his arms like parallel pendulums at his side.)

NORMAN

(looks to the audience, without stopping)

A sidewalk.

(turning and pointing both arms at the man)

A man. Standing with his body pressed flat against the wall. He trembles slightly. And whimpers, he whimpers. And his name is Chuck. No, Greg. No, YANI! His name is Yani. And Yani trembles and whimpers.

(looks to stage-left)

Then this girl walks in from off stage. Her name is Kahlua. Kahlua's walking along, she's smiling, she's happy, and then all of a sudden she sees Yani. And she stops. Cause Yani's like pressed up against the wall, trembling and whimpering. Kahlua looks at Yani. Cocks her head a bit. Steps closer. Steps back. Clears her throat.

KAHLUA

Are you okay?

NORMAN

Yani whimpers loud.

KAHLUA

Can I help you?

NORMAN

Yani whimpers twice.

KAHLUA

What's wrong?

NORMAN

Yani whimpers a really long whimper as if to say WHAT THE FINK DO YOU THINK IS WRONG, CUNT?

(beat)

But he doesn't say that. He trembles more. Kahlua walks up to him real slow and holds out a hand. It gets closer and closer to him. Slow. And then her fingers graze his shoulder.

(Yani leaps away from her and yelps.)

(Norman laughs.)

NORMAN (Continued)

Kahlua scrambles back, scared out of her breath. She like stares at him like he's weird. Cause he is. Yani's pretty weird. And she catches her breath.

KAHLUA
I can't help you if you don't tell me what's wrong...

NORMAN
Yani whines. Kahlua stares at him. He trembles and whimpers.

KAHLUA
All right then...

NORMAN
She walks away.

YANI
No!

(Norman suddenly shifts his attention more to Kahlua. Like he's watching as opposed to dictating.)

NORMAN
She stops. He talks like really fast and panicky.

YANI
You can't leave me, don't leave me, you can't leave me here to die!

NORMAN
(going up to her)
She goes back closer to him.

KAHLUA
Will you tell me what's wrong?

YANI
Don't go don't go don't go...

NORMAN
(getting closer to her)
She steps forward and reaches for his shoulder again.

KAHLUA
Tell me what's--

YANI
Don't touch me, I'll fall, don't touch me!

NORMAN
She steps back like a step.

KAHLUA
You'll fall?

YANI
Don't let me fall please Grroeb just don't let me fall...

KAHLUA
You're not going to fall...

YANI
I'm gonna fall I'm gonna fall please please don't let me fall...

NORMAN
She glances around for some odd reason. Steps up.
(so close his face almost touches hers)
Whispers in his ear all secret like. Like it's a secret.

KAHLUA
You're standing on solid ground, man...

NORMAN
(stepping back)
He stops trembling. He stops whimpering. He looks at her
over his shoulder.

(Seconds pass, Norman turns back to
the audience, grins, puts a
silencing finger to his lips.)

(And Yani screams.)

NORMAN (Continued)
(fast, happy)
Really really really loud:

YANI
I'm gonna fall for the love of Grroeb I'm gonna fall and I'll
die!

NORMAN
And then like wicked quiet:

YANI
I'm gonna die I'm gonna die please please don't let me die...

NORMAN
(almost giddy)
Kahlua looks away, looks back. Think she's confused?

KAHLUA
What do you want me to do?

YANI
Help me help me don't let me die...

(Norman wanders over and leans
against the wall while they talk.)

KAHLUA
I'm not going to let you die...

YANI
Fall I'm gonna fall please please don't let me die...

KAHLUA
What can I do to convince you you're safe?

YANI
No no no not safe no...

KAHLUA
But you--

YANI

No no NO! Never safe! Not safe never safe never safe I'm gonna fall...

KAHLUA

I... Do you have some sort of... Are you sick? Like disabled? Like do you have something that makes you fall?

YANI

Not steady! Shake shake!

NORMAN

(laughing)
She's definitely confused.

KAHLUA

What?

YANI

Shake shake! Shake shake! Never safe from the shake shake shake!

KAHLUA

Shake sh... Are you afraid of earthquakes?

YANI

Shake shake... Shake shake...

KAHLUA

Maybe you shouldn't live in Cali, man...

(Norman laughs.)

YANI

Never safe never safe... Never from the shake shake shake...

KAHLUA

But I don't think there's... I mean there hasn't been an earthquake today, has there?

(Yani stops. Slowly he turns his head toward Norman. Norman looks at him.)

NORMAN

(confidently)

Whining, like real low and throaty and shit:

(Yani turns his gaze slowly forward again.)

YANI

Nooooooooooooooooo nooooooooooooo no no no no noooooo...

(Kahlua sits down slowly.)

NORMAN

(stepping forward, happy)

And then this dude walks up from the other side of the stage, the side Kahlua didn't come from, and he goes up to her all like half annoyed and half concerned. Well, more like 70/30. On the annoyed side. His name's Bob. Boring name, Bob. But kinda fun to say. Bob. He sees Yani. Gives a glance.

BOB
What's going on, Kay? I was waiting...
(Kahlua jumps to her feet and runs
up to him.)

KAHLUA
This guy, he's... having some trouble...

NORMAN
Yani trembles. And whimpers.

BOB
He's a freak. Let's take off.

NORMAN
Yani whimpers loud.

KAHLUA
He... seems to think he's gonna fall.

NORMAN
Yani whimpers twice.

BOB
What do you mean fall?

NORMAN
Yani whimpers a really
long whimper as if to
say WHAT THE FINK DO
YOU THINK SHE MEANS,
DICK?

KAHLUA
Fall! You know, like
down...

BOB
To the ground?

KAHLUA
He thinks he's gonna fall down and die...

(Bob goes over to Yani, Kahlua
follows hopefully.)

NORMAN
Loud and obnoxious - like a Bob:

BOB
Hey! You're on solid ground, man!

NORMAN
Yani moans a real high squeaky moan.

BOB
You can get away from the wall, man! Come on, Kay, let's
just leave.

KAHLUA
I can't...

BOB
He's creepin me out!

KAHLUA
We can't just leave him here!

NORMAN
Bob sighs. Yani whimpers. Bob goes over and grabs him--

KAHLUA
Bob!

NORMAN
--and throws him toward the front of the stage.
(to Yani)
That was a sissy yelp, man.

YANI
Fall fall I'm gonna fall!

BOB
You're not gonna fall, dumbass!

YANI
Don't let me don't let me don't let me fall! Don't wanna
fall don't wanna fall don't wanna fall down and die!

BOB
You're not gonna--

KAHLUA
Bob!

BOB
Well he's not gonna fall, Kay! Jesus!

KAHLUA
Go wait in the car!

BOB
I'm not leaving you here with him!

KAHLUA
Go wait in the car, Bob!

NORMAN
Bob laughs. A frustrated ass of a laugh. The laugh of a guy
who gets laid a lot but still doesn't think it's enough. And
he skulks off the way he came, shaking his head like an ass.

(to the audience)
I didn't like him anyway. He has a boring name.
(beat)

So now Kahlua goes over to Yani and kneels down next to him.
He's bent down kind of like a frog, squatting, with his hands
firmly on the ground. And he's trembling. And whimpering.

KAHLUA
Hey... It's okay... What can I do to help?

YANI
Fall fall don't let me fall...

KAHLUA
I won't. I won't let you fall.

YANI
Never safe never safe never safe from the shake shake
shake...

KAHLUA
Can I do something to stop the shake shake shake?

YANI
Can't stop the shake shake shake...

KAHLUA
Then what can I do?

YANI
Don't let me fall...

KAHLUA
What can I do?

YANI
Don't let me fall!

KAHLUA
Okay. Okay. I...

(She sighs. He may not realize it
yet, but the actions are starting
to come before Norman cues them.)

NORMAN
She sighs and runs a hand through her hair.

KAHLUA
How can we make sure you don't fall?

YANI
Never fall never fall please please don't let me fall...

NORMAN
She stands up and looks around.
(curious, apprehensive)
Her eyes widen a little.

KAHLUA
You know what?

(Norman watches her suspiciously.)

KAHLUA (Continued)
You know what makes it so *I* never fall?

NORMAN
(getting nervous)
Yani stops and looks up at her real slow.

KAHLUA
My shoes...

NORMAN
(nervous)
Shoes?

YANI
(curious)
Shoes?

KAHLUA
Yeah, my shoes... They make it so I can't ever fall.

(Norman goes over and stares at her shoes. Flip-flops.)

YANI
Shoes? How?

(Norman kneels at her feet.)

KAHLUA
Well... They have... They have really high insoles...

NORMAN (shocked) Insoles?
YANI (hopeful) Insoles?

(Norman moves his hands to her bare ankles, looks at the audience in horror.)

KAHLUA
Yeah, insoles. They... A 300-pound guy can try to push me down and I just won't fall...

(Norman laughs and shakes his head.)

YANI
Don't lie don't lie--

KAHLUA
I'm not! I'm not lying, they showed it on TV...

YANI
Really?

KAHLUA
Really... You want mine?

YANI
What?

KAHLUA
Yeah, here...

NORMAN
(jumping to his feet)
She's taking off her shoes!

YANI
(grabbing her feet)
No! Don't do it don't do it don't fall because of me!

NORMAN
(desperate hope)
Always thinking, that Yani...

KAHLUA
No I won't! I won't fall... I have another pair, I'll be okay...

YANI
Not here not here no you don't have them here!

KAHLUA
It's okay! They're in my car, it's just over there...

NORMAN
(scared)
She points off stage or something.

YANI
Over where?

NORMAN
Off toward where Bob went.

KAHLUA
Over there!

NORMAN
(defiantly)
Bob's not coming back, I'm calling him Charlie now.

YANI
Where Bob went?

NORMAN
(pleadingly)
Fine, I'll call him Bob.

KAHLUA
Where Bob went...

(Norman comes to the front of the stage and looks to the audience for help.)

YANI
How will you get there?

NORMAN
Ha!

KAHLUA
I'll...

YANI
(snatching the shoes off her feet)
How will you get there without the shoes?

NORMAN
I love him.

KAHLUA
You can walk me there...

YANI
Walk you?

KAHLUA
Yeah. Put on the shoes and walk me there.

(Silence. Norman looks back to them.)

NORMAN
(horrified)
Yani looks down. Like he's actually thinking about it.

KAHLUA
Then neither of us will fall, okay?

NORMAN
Yani... Yani nods?

YANI
Okay...

KAHLUA
Okay...

(Yani sets the flip-flops down in front of him. Pulls his boots off one at a time. Slides his feet into the flip-flops. And starts to get up. Norman stares on in horror.)

NORMAN
He stands up.
(excited)
And drops back down!

YANI
No no gonna fall no!

NORMAN
She grabs his arm.

KAHLUA
It's okay, just try...

NORMAN
(almost whining himself)
He whines a low steady whine as she pulls him slowly to his feet. And then he's up. And she's pulling her hand away. And he reaches his arms out to steady himself. And slowly his lips curl upward in a weird little smile...

(Kahlua laughs.)

NORMAN (Continued)
That makes Kahlua laugh!

KAHLUA
See?

YANI
No fall...

KAHLUA
No fall.

YANI
No fall, not gonna fall...

KAHLUA
You're never gonna fall again. Will you walk me to my car?

NORMAN
(trying to be calm)
He bites his lip. Nods. She leans on his shoulder.
(MORE)

NORMAN (Continued)

They walk off toward Bob.

(defeated)

They leave his old shoes behind.

(LIGHTS OUT.)