VENUS

by Suzan-Lori Parks

The Roles

- THE MAN, LATER. THE BARON DOCTEUR
- THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
- THE CHORUS as:
  THE CHORUS OF THE 8 HUMAN WONDERS,
  THE CHORUS OF THE SPECTATORS,
  THE CHORUS OF THE COURT,
  THE CHORUS OF THE 8 ANATOMISTS

OVERTURE

VENUS clothed and facing stage right.
SHE revolves. Counter-clockwise. 270 degrees.
SHE faces upstage.

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
The Venus Hottentot!

THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN
The Venus Hottentot!

THE MAN, LATER THE BARON DOCTEUR
The Venus Hottentot!

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CALLALOO

(rest)  

VENUS revolves 90 degrees. SHE faces stage right.

CHORUS  
The Chorus of the 8 Human Wonders!

THE MAN, LATER THE BARON DOCTEUR  
The Man, later  
The Baron Docteur!

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST  
The Negro Resurrectionist!

THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN  
The Brother, later  
The Mother-Showman! later  
The Grade-School Chum!

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST  
The Negro Resurrectionist!

CHORUS  
The Chorus of the 8 Anatomists!

(rest)  

VENUS revolves 180 degrees. SHE faces stage left.

THE MAN, LATER THE BARON DOCTEUR  
The Chorus of the 8 Anatomists!

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST  
The Man, later  
The Baron Docteur!

THE MAN, LATER THE BARON DOCTEUR  
The Negro Resurrectionist!

THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN  
The Chorus of Spectators!

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST and THE MAN, LATER THE BARON DOCTEUR  
The Brother, later,  
The Mother-Showman!, later  
The Grade-School Chum!

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THE MAN and THE BROTHER
The Negro Resurrectionist!

THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN
The Chorus of the Court!

ALL
The Venus Hottentot!

(rest)

THE VENUS
The Venus Hottentot.

(rest)
(rest)

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
I regret to inform you that the Venus Hottentot iz dead.

ALL
Dead?

THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN
There wont b inny show tonite.

CHORUS OF 8 HUMAN WONDERS
Dead!

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
Exposureiz what killed her nothin on
and our cold weather. 23 days in a row it rained.
Thuh Doctor says she drank too much. It was thuh cold I think.

THE MAN, LATER THE BARON DOCTEUR
Dead?

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
Deh-duh.

THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN
I regret to inform you that the Venus Hottentot iz dead.
There wont b inny show tonite.

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
Diggidy-diggidy-diggidy-diggidy
THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN
Im sure yr disappointed.
We hate to let you down.
But 23 days in a row it rained.

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
Diggidy-diggidy-diggidy-dawg.

THE MAN, LATER THE BARON DOCTEUR
I say:
Perhaps,
She died of drink.

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
It was thuh cold I think.

THE VENUS
Uhhhh!

CHORUS OF 8 HUMAN WONDERS
Turn uhway. Dont look. Cover her face. Cover yer eyes.

THE VENUS
Uhhhh!

CHORUS
(Drum. Drum. Drum. Drum.)
(Drum. Drum. Drum. Drum.)

CHORUS MEMBER
They came miles and miles and miles and miles and miles.
Comin in from all over to get themselves uh look,-see.
They heard the drum.

THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN
Drum Drum

CHORUS
(Drum Drum)

THE BROTHER/SHOWMAN CHORUS
DRUM (drum)
DRUM (drum)
DRUM (drum)
DRUM (drum)

THE VENUS
(I regret to inform you that thuh Venus Hottentot iz dead.
There wont b inny show tuhnite.)
CHORUS
(Outrage! It’s an outrage!)

THE MAN, LATER THE BARON DOCTEUR
Dead?

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
Deh-duh.

THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN
Tail end of r tale for there must be an end
Is that Venus, Black Goddess, was shameles, she sinned or else
completely unknowing of r godfearin ways she stood
totally naked in her iron cage.

CHORUS OF 8 HUMAN WONDERS
Shes thuh main attraction she iz
Loves thuh sideshows center ring.
Whats thuh show without thuh star?

THE VENUS
Hum Drum Hum Drum.

CHORUS
Outrage! It’s an outrage!
Gimmie gimmie back my buck!

THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN
Behind that curtin just yesterday awaited:
Wild Female Jungle Creature. Of singular anatimy. Physiqued
in such a backward rounded way that she out shapes
all others. Behind this curtin just yesterday alive uhwaits
a female—creature
an out—of town
whos all undressed awaiting you
to take yer peek. So youve heard

ALL
Weve come tuh see your Venus.

THE MAN and THE BROTHER
We know youre disuhpointed.
We hate tuh let you down.

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
A scene of Love:
THE VENUS
Kiss me
Kiss me
Kiss me. Kiss

THE MAN, LATER THE BARON DOCTEUR
I look at you, V
and I see Love

THE VENUS
Uhhhhhh!
Uhhhhhh!

CHORUS OF 8 HUMAN WONDERS
Turn uhway. Dont look. Cover your face. Cover your eyes:

THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN
She gained fortune and fame by not wearing a scrap
Hiding only the privates that lipped in her lap.

THE CHORUS OF 8 ANATOMISTS and THE MAN, LATER THE BARON DOCTEUR

A CHORUS MEMBER
They say that if I pay uh little more
I’ll get tuh look uh little longer
and for uh little more on top uh that
I’ll get tuh stand
stand off tuh thuh side
in thuh special looking place

A CHORUS MEMBER
(And from there if I’m really quick I’ll stick
my hand inside her
cage and have a feel
(if no ones looking)).

ALL
Hubba-hubba-hubba-hubba

THE VENUS
Hum Drum Hum Drum

ALL
THE VENUS HOTTENTOT
THE ONLY LIVING CREATURE OF HER KIND IN THE WORLD

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AND ONLY ONE STEP UHWAY FROM YOU RIGHT NOW
COME SEE THE HOT MISS HOTTENTOT
STEP IN STEP IN

THE VENUS
Hur-ry! Hur-ry!

ALL
Hur-ry! Hur-ry!

THE VENUS
But I regret to inform you that thuh Venus Hottentot iz dead.
There wont b inny show tuhnite.

ALL
Outrage It’s an outrage!
Gimmie Gimmie back my buck!

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
Hear ye Hear ye Order Order!

ALL
The Venus Hottentot iz dead.

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
All rise.

MEMBER OF CHORUS, AS WITNESS
Thuh gals got bottoms like hot air bulloons.
Bottoms and bottoms and bottoms pilin up like
like 2 mountains. Magnificent. And endless.
An ass to write home about.
Well worth the admission price.
A spectacle a debacle a priceless prize, thuh filthy slut.
Coco candy coloured and dressed all in au naturel
she likes when people peek and poke.

THE VENUS
Hum drum hum drum.

THE BROTHER, LATER THE MOTHER-SHOWMAN
Step in step in step in step in.

THE VENUS
There wont b inny show tuhnite.

THE MAN, LATER THE BARON DOCTEUR and THE CHORUS OF 8 ANATOMISTS
Hubba-hubba-hubba-hubba.
THE VENUS
She gained fortune and fame by not wearin uh scrap
Hidin only thuh privates that lipped inner lap.

ANATOMIST FROM THE EAST
I look at you, Venus, and see:
Science. You
in uh pickel
On my library shelf.

THE VENUS
Uhhhhhh!
Uhhhhhh!
Uhhhhhh!
Uhhhhhh!

ALL
Order Order Order Order!

(rest)

THE NEGRO RESURRECTIONIST
Tail end of our tale for there must be an end
Is that Venus, Black Goddess, was shameles, she sinned or else
completely unknowing of r godfearin ways she stood
totally naked in her iron cage.
She gaind fortune and fame by not wearin a scrap
Hidin only the privates lippin down from her lap
When Death met her Death deathd her and left her to rot
\textit{Au-naturel} end for our hot Hottentot
And rot yes she would have right down to the bone
Had not the Docteur put her corpse in his home.

Sheed a soul which iz mounted on Satans warm wall
While her flesh has been pickled in Sciences Hall.

\textit{CURTAIN}
\textit{APPLAUSE}