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Linda Meadows
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IMAGING IMOGENE (First performance, 2000)

Returning to their practice of doing site-specific drama, the group has written a play that takes place in a health club and is about all of our obsessions with our bodies and images. The play takes place in the CLINIC of guru Dr. Green, who promises miraculous transformations in his back room. Original music and songs by WOMEN AT PLAY regular, Daniel Rogers.

Contact Info/Request Script:

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Act 1, Scene 4

AT RISE: IMOGENE is sitting at restaurant table waiting for her mother, ROSE

IMOGENE

(She arranges her hair and her outfit. Then looks at watch)

ROSE

(She wears a stunning suit with perfect accessories. IMOGENE rises for exchange of kisses in the air)

I hope you haven't been waiting long, Imogene, but I've been to THE CLINIC and I became so carried away with my program that I lost all track of time.

IMOGENE

I've only been here five and a half minutes, mother, but I did begin to worry. You are usually excruciatingly punctual.

ROSE

No need to worry, Imogene. I was in very good hands, the best of very good hands, those of none other than Dr. Green, THE CLINIC director. Well, not exactly in his hands, perhaps. I confess that I haven't seen him. . . yet. But I happen to know that he personally planned my program.

(Sees IMOGENE's shoes)

Imogene, if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times: you shouldn't wear white shoes after Labor Day and definitely not until Memorial Day! Well, anyway my dear daughter, that brings me to the point, THE CLINIC. I'm signing you up and since they have a two for one plan this month, I'm signing Ruthie up as well. Three generations at THE CLINIC!

(IMOGENE puts up her hand to decline)

Oh, now don't thank me, dear. I love looking out for your welfare. I want you to be overjoyed with yourself the way everyone should be.

IMOGENE

I'm not thanking you, mother. I'm telling you not to do that. I'm not that unhappy with myself. And Ruthie is joining the Peace Corps with her new boyfriend, Jacob, so she won't even be here.

ROSE

Nonsense, Imogene. I just signed her up at THE CLINIC. You know, dear, that dress is for someone a little thinner and taller. Anyway, as I was saying, I know you're not unhappy with yourself, but you should be.

IMOGENE

Mother, can't we just have a nice gossipy, normal lunch. I really am worried about Ruthie, and I could use some advice. Can't you forget THE CLINIC for a while?

ROSE

Forget THE CLINIC? But Dr. Green is a genius. He's made me better than I was, and that was no easy task.

(ROSE begins to sing or say the following to music)

AM I REALLY PERFECT?
YES, I'M REALLY PERFECT
LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND SAY I'M NOT
I DARE YOU!

NO, YOU'D NEVER DO IT
MY IMAGE GOES TO PROVE IT
THE CARE OF ME CAN LEAVE YOU LITTLE DOUBT
TAKE A GANDER.

LOOK AT THESE EYES, THIS NOSE, THIS MOUTH
THE SYMMETRY'S DIVINE
LOOK AT THIS NECK, THESE ARMS, THESE LEGS
THEY'RE PERFECTLY ALIGNED

SO NOW I CAN REVEAL IT
THE SECRET'S OUT, BELIEVE IT
I WORK LIKE HELL FOR THIS MOST BLISSFUL STATE
YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT.

THE CLINIC'S WHERE I DO IT
I'M HOOKED AND I CAN'T HELP IT
IT CURES MY ILLS, MY LIFE IS ALL WORKED OUT
YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT!

LOOK AT MY SKIN, MY HAIR, MY NAILS
THEY'RE ALL IN SCRUMPTIOUS SHAPE
LOOK AT MY KNEES, MY THROAT, MY WAIST
THESE TRUTHS YOU CAN'T ESCAPE.

AM I REALLY PERFECT?
YES, I'M REALLY PERFECT
LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND SAY I'M NOT
I DOUBLE DARE YOU

YES, I'M GLAD I'VE SAID IT
I'M NOT AFRAID TO FLAUNT IT
AND NOW I HOPE TO PASS IT DOWN THE LINE
TO IMOGENE AND RUTH, AND THAT MEANS YOU!

DO WHAT I SAY OH DAUGHTER MINE
AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND
HOW RIGHT I AM, HOW SURE, HOW COOL
I'M UP TO LIFE'S DEMANDS.

WELL, I AM REALLY PERFECT
I LOVE IT THAT I'M PERFECT
WHAT ELSE IS THERE FOR ME TO EVER WANT!
WHAT ELSE IS THERE FOR ME TO EVER WANT?

IMOGENE

Food? Aren't you hungry? I'm starving. I can't understand where the waiter is.

ROSE

Oh, didn't I tell you. I told the maiter'd that we wouldn't be ordering anything to eat. You're on that diet I put you on and I never think about food, so why should we have lunch!

IMOGENE

Some water then. I need something.

ROSE

I know what you need and it isn't water. Besides, the water is terrible here, very low quality. If you want water, I'll send you a case next time I order it from Denmark. At any rate, it's time to take you to THE CLINIC.

IMOGENE

What about our concert?

ROSE

Bother the concert.

IMOGENE

But how can I go? My hair, my clothes, my skin. I look awful and I'm starving.

ROSE

Ah, but my dear, Dr. Green will transform you.

(ROSE drags IMOGENE out)

END OF SCENE 4