

Stage Play

***The (Other) Meaning of Life***

A parody in two acts

by Garrett A. Hughes

*The humorous and ribald story of creation as found between the lines of the first three chapters of Genesis.*

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

JOSIE	female, 50s, protective
LUKE	male, 50s, self-indulgent
ADAM	male, 20s, curious, empathic
EVE	female, 20s, curious, intelligent
MICH	male in gender, but more female in nature, 30s
STAGEHAND	male, 40s, aka Sunny, great disposition

**PLACE:** Paradise, hell and the motherland

**SET:** Each scene requires a minimum of easily movable props (except possibly for the snake). See the individual scene notations for details.

**TIME:** In the Beginning

**SYNOPSIS:** *The (Other) Meaning of Life* attempts a comedic explanation of the events described in the first three chapters of Genesis. Since the re-creation of the world and the human race, even on a small scale, is beyond the resources of most stage productions, this script adopts a highly stylized approach to those events. And, unlike the biblical version, the devil, known as Luke, plays a significant role in suggesting aspects of the created world. In fact at the time of creation, God, aka Josie, and Luke, are on more than amicable terms—they are partners.

Their relationship is platonic to be sure, much to Luke's thus-far eternal disappointment. Luke sees no future in a such a relationship, so he is continually working to remedy the situation: either among the minions (who have no will to resist), or, hopefully, with a being of free will much like himself. Convincing Josie to produce such beings, however, is another matter, because she will have to face the fact that they might not choose to be devoted to her: a situation she finds difficult to accept. The fact that they might turn out like Luke also gives her pause. She finally accepts Luke's challenge—God only knows why—and then all hell breaks loose.

When Adam arrives on the scene he is immediately taken under Luke's wing and taught the facts of life (almost but not quite). Luke reserves his special charm for Eve who appears shortly thereafter, but Eve is wary of his advances. Together Adam and Eve explore the dichotomy of bliss without free will, how children come into being, and finally arrive at a point where they are able to choose the course of their own existence. But not without consequences.