

ALL WET WITH TERRY GROSS

By

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2002/2016

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FADE IN:

INT. - APARTMENT BATHROOM - CURRENT -DAY

"HIT THAT JIVE, JACK" Sung by DIANA KRALL coming out of aof bathtub-shower. Inside the shower a woman is soaping up. It is a typical 60's apartment type bathroom, with a vintage naked-women, clay ashtray hanging on the wall, alongside of Tibetan prayer hanging.

TERRY GROSS is a "no-nonsense" interviewer. She is not mean but she is not a sycophant either. She prepares extensively for each interview and has her notes with her at the time. Her voice is clear, without regional accent, not high or low -pleasant, firm but not threatening.

DEBRA MILLER is a young 50-something of average build and looks. She is washing and rinsing her hair. She starts to soap up her washcloth but drops the soap and is bending to pick it up.

TERRY finishes her interview--which is heard under the shower sounds, but clear.

TERRY (V.O.)

Well, thank you, DIANA. Diana Krall is currently on tour in Europe and the United States and her album of classic covers, (name) was released this year on Sony.

DEBRA

You're welcome, Terry. It really has been a pleasure.

TERRY

We'll be right back with our second guest...DEBRA MILLER".

Woman (Debra) turns head quickly to radio, unbelieving what she has just heard. Camera pans up to steam which fills the screen.

The steam turns into smoke from an incense stick in an ashtray, as camera pulls back to show radio studio.

INT. -PUBLIC RADIO STUDIO -A MOMENT LATER

TERRY GROSS and DEBRA MILLER sit in a room that is a traditional radio studio, headsets, microphones, glass partition, and one or two items that would be found in a bathroom.

(CONTINUED)

Since we never really know what Terry looks like, she is imagined by DEBRA and as the interview progresses, she changes. The first time we see TERRY she is a voluptuous blonde, in a low cut blouse and tight jeans....or something very hot.

DEBRA also changes at various points. Upon our first view of her, she is wrapped in a towel, hair still damp, but with make-up on.

TERRY

Often I am accused of being just another part of the promotion machine. Today, however, we will be talking to a guest who has absolutely nothing to promote...

Debra re-adjusts herself in front of the microphone, smiles.

TERRY (cont'd)

(continuing)

Debra Miller has had a dismal artistic career, ranging from her feeble literary attempts published only in small local weekly's, to a short acting career which amazingly did include a Broadway show, but one with neither dialogue nor original music, and a few movies shown only at indie festivals. Yet the youthful 50 year old, likes to think of herself as a legend... at least in her own mind.

DEBRA

Thank you, Terry. It has always been a fantasy of mine to be a guest on your show. I have been a loyal fan, first in New York, when you were still interviewing cutting edge artists, to now where you stick it to all the headline grabbers!

TERRY

I am flattered at your unwavering devotion, and I do enjoy a large following in all the big cities...especially among the gay community due to the ambiguity I foster in regards to my own sexuality...but lets get back to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TERRY (cont'd)

you. You say that you have no specific creative talents, yet you have been involved in creative endeavors for all of your life.

DEBRA

Well, I guess that is really true, Terry. I was first on TV as a four year old...a local PBS station, in fact. There was a modern dance teacher, Dick something...now that I think about it, I sure hope he was gay, cuz it seems kinda weird, a grown man leading 4 and 5 year old girls arms flailing pretending to be trees, leaves or breeze....

INT.-1950'S TELEVISION STUDIO (FLASHBACK SEQUENCE)

Small girls dressed in black short sleeve leotards and black ballet slippers, following a 30 something man dressed in 50's pants and long sleeve shirt, with scarves flowing on a small television studio set. One big camera and boom mike follow the girls and...Dick

BACK TO SCENE

DEBRA (V.O.)

At about 8, I went on to dance for the elegant and famous, Dame Margot Fontayne. Then years of dance and theater, as well as public humiliation with my family, prepared me for a grueling stint in college as a member of the Bozo Theater Collective.

SERIES OF STILL SHOTS-under V.O.

These photos are very surreal. Each photo shows Debra with her younger sister (5 years) and her mother. Each photo has them dressed in very similar outfits; that is, the material is the same but the style varies a little so that the outfit is "age appropriate". Each picture is in front of a house and the three are always posed the same. There is about 1 year between each shot, which starts when Debra is about 7.

END OF SERIES

EXT. 1972 COLLEGE CAMPUS (FLASHBACK SEQUENCE)

Serious in their mission, white-faced (make-up)
 "Bozo Collective" Members dress in Military Jackets over
 blue jeans-Jewish Afro/long seventies hair spilling out of
 military hats, strung out a la a chorus line. They sing
 "There is nothing like a bomb" to the tune of "There is
 nothing like a dame" from South Pacific. They dance with a
 large cardboard cut out of a bomb, while others stand with
 protest signs against the Vietnam War, and hand out
 flyers...

BACK TO SCENE

TERRY shoots Debra a very questioning and almost
 disapproving look.

DEBRA

(defensive)

Well it was the early
 70's...But our main writer has
 turned out to win a Pulitzer
 Prize...and another fellow actor
 runs one of the few successful dot
 com magazines. Still, it's true we
 might have chosen a better name...

TERRY gives her that knowing look.

TERRY

O.K, let's move quickly through
 the 70's...-it says in your bio
 that you attended a Leftist law
 school known by the now dated
 moniker of "The People's School of
 Law"... What was that about and
 what about the arts?

DEBRA

Ah, the law school
 diversion. Terry, it was the mid
 70's and all us liberal reform Jews
 wanted to do something to change
 the world! I squeaked thru college
 without an arrest, so I thought,
 "be a lawyer for the People!"
 Sadly, I lost interest in "the
 People" when I found out I hated
 the practice of law....

TERRY

And so, you moved to the
 artistic capital of the U.S., New
 York City.

(CONTINUED)

DEBRA

That's right, Terry, my lover-let's call her "Kate"- was an actor and so we packed up the Volvo and moved to New York City!

TERRY

Well, now that you have brought up the subject of your homosexuality, what was it like to be so openly gay long before Melissa, Ellen and now Rosie?

DEBRA

Hhmmm, what was it like in the early 70's, 80's, 90's and now 2000?

SERIES OF SHOTS - SEX SEQUENCE

A) The 70's-two young 22ish women, one with long hair, the other shorter/ embrace, kissing, and generally fumbling around sexually, in a room with Indian bedspreads, Angela Davis poster, Joni Mitchell music.

B) The 80's-same bedroom black bedspread, 3 women-30 something, dildo's off to the side, Anti-nuke & Broadway posters, Cocteau Twins music.

C) The 90's-same bedroom-leopard bedspread, 2 women-40 somethings, whips, chains, vase with red roses. Depeche Mode music.

D) The 90's-same bedroom as above, same 2 women, (no chains/whips), one on her back, the other in traditional muff diver position-both look at the door as another woman enters to discover them, much to her dismay.

E) 2002 same bedroom- Martha Stewart collection bedspread, tasteful poster, one woman, vibrator.

END OF SERIES

BACK TO SCENE

TERRY

(Relieved...)

OK, then. That pretty well sums up the lesbian aspect. I think we can move on.

Enter hairdresser and make-up artist who pamper Terry. An assistant enters with coffee. Another assistant enters with newspaper.

(CONTINUED)

ASSISTANT
(hesitantly)
Ms. GROSS I have your
Wet-Cap-nonfat-double-vanilla
latte.

DEBRA

And I will... as soon as I make it
clear to the audience that sex
between lesbians is as different
and varied as lesbians themselves!
I do not speak for all lesbians,
however much I might like to...

TERRY
(over lapping on last
line) OK. - oh that's hot...ahh
your move to New York is where we
ended

before that ah, hot... sequence.
You

started your work with a Lesbianrun
performance space on the Lower
East Side?

DEBRA
Yes, Terry, that's correct. In our
4th floor walk-up loft, we created
plays against the grain and the
odds, with about 100 bucks worth of
materials and a whole lot of
gumption!

INT.-ON AN OFF-OFF-OFF BROADWAY STAGE

The stage is bare with only an audition light off to stage left, piano down stage right, with pianist. In the middle of the audience is a table set up over the seats for the director, lighting designer, and assistants. A small working light is set up, with 8x10 glossies, binders and papers.

TERRY is in the "directors" seat. On stage is a line up of hopefuls---the musical intro to A Chorus Line's "I hope I Get It". A little dancing, some bumping into each other, finally,

DEBRA

"God, I hope I get, I hope I get it, how many does she need? How many boys, how many girls? I really need this job, please God I need this job" etc.

TERRY looks at the photos, whispers to her assistant, basically ignoring everyone.

Debra spins out into the wings, with small smoke pots(explosions) going off after her.

BACK TO SCENE

TERRY

Where did that come from?

DEBRA

I had some time and thought, what this fantasy needs is a great big production number! Did I tell you, one of my favorite directors is Mel Brooks?

TERRY begins to get anxious and starts to look at her watch.

DEBRA (cont'd)

(trying to make sense)
And then the song really does speak to my on-going difficulties with employment...so you see there is a connection.

TERRY

But you ...you, of all people, really did make it into a show on Broadway, at the famous St. James Theater with the brilliant

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TERRY (cont'd)

Bill Irwin...that show "Largely New York" received rave reviews from all.

DEBRA

I know! Imagine me, me, of all people, playing The Kennedy Center AND Broadway. Oh you should have seen the looks by people who considered themselves REAL actors! It was IRONY in action!

have seen the

looks by people who considered themselves REAL actors! It was IRONY in action!

TERRY

Yes, but I am interested in how you made the leap from the squeaky clean humor of Mr. Irwin's award defying show, to the off color, off kilter foul-mouthed, bigoted biker dyke gang leader you played in "Lez B Friends."

DEBRA

Wow, Terry, that was a mouthful wasn't it?

TERRY

(beaming)

I do have a handle on that elocution thing, now don't I?

DEBRA

Ah, yes, but back to me... a role like the one I had in "Lez B Friends", comes along so rarely that I felt by my investigating the dark side of humanity, I was testing my acting prowess.

TERRY

Hmm, yes but kidnapping a baby and selling her to a transvestite, turning the mother out as a prostitute, and torturing innocent bystanders...that just

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TERRY (cont'd)
might be pushing the envelope of
evil?

DEBRA
Do you really think so, Terry?
Let me think about that...

INT.- BALLROOM HALL

TERRY and Debra are in ballroom gowns, dancing and talking
for the rest of the interview.

TERRY
Do you have any plans for
the future, hmmm, say maybe a
project with a little less
intensity?

DEBRA
Well, I was thinking of a new
show: The Dyke X-Files, featuring
Scully and her new assistant
Tanika Johnson....Or a Sally Jesse
Raphael episode: "Unspoken Shame:
Lesbians who sleep with Men". ...
Oh, wait I do have one that might
fit. It is a short, based on a
fantasy that I have with a
famous NPR interviewer...You
know him...his name is Ira Glass...

Fade out on face of Debra-the smoke of the incense flows
up into the steam of the shower and Debra is standing in
the shower looking at the radio, taking it into her hands,
she changes the station to "The Car Guys" show. She
smiles. She continues to rinse. The steam begins to obscure
her.

CLICK THE CAR GUY:
Is that D-E-B-R-A from Los
Angeles, California?

FADE OUT.

THE END