

Spontaneity

Another Naked Angels Cold Open

By Constance Kuntz

CAST LIST

MUSE - FRENCH/FRENCH ACCENT. EXCESSIVE, VIBRANT, UNIQUE.

JACK KEROUAC - CHARISMATIC, HONEST, FRANK

Most dialogue is to the audience.

JACK KEROUAC

(to audience)

Good evening, I'm Jack Kerouac.

MUSE

(french accent/to audience)

And I am Jack Kerouac's Muse! *Bon jour!* I greet you in the name of spontaneity! (*sends elaborate kisses to audience*) Mwah! Mwah! Mwah!

JACK KEROUAC

So good to see you again. (*to audience*) Muse is the reason I wrote!

MUSE

Contrary to popular belief, it wasn't the caffeine, booze, amphetamines/ ayahuasca

JACK KEROUAC

/Benedrine, marijuana, morphine /

MUSE

/No! It was none of that! *C'est moi!* I inspired him! We were amazing together.

JACK KEROUAC

It's true. I was married three times but the best relationship I ever had was with Muse.

MUSE

Awww. (*pointedly to audience*) And how is *your* relationship with *your* Muse?

JACK KEROUAC

(sincere)

Oh how I bared my soul to Muse --

MUSE

--He did. And he shared his truth with his Beat friends.

JACK KEROUAC

Yes, I was always honest with Allen, Neal, and William.

MUSE

(really leans in to audience)

This is important: He was mysterious with me; and he was frank with his friends. He did not hide from his truth: and neither should you.

JACK KEROUAC

Muse taught me to embrace spontaneity.

MUSE

Oui. The first idea is always the best idea!

JACK KEROUAC

Muse taught me to follow my instincts.

MUSE

The real discipline is having the guts to do what you want to do. PRO TIP: Forget listening to your stupid mothers! They are *poo poo*! Listen to your Muse! Your muse knows what's best for you... and the craft!

JACK KEROUAC

(connects with audience)

Everyone has a muse. You, you and you: each of you has your own spontaneous, hysterically excessive, and frantically active muse!

MUSE

You feel your muse wiggling and jiggling inside of you? *Oui*? Feels good, *oui*? There are billions of us. Sadly, very few people listen to us.

JACK KEROUAC

I listened to mine and wrote more than *On the Road*. I also wrote *The Essentials of Spontaneous Prose*.

MUSE

It's not as boring as it sounds.

JACK KEROUAC

It was good, but not as good as the five pieces of new writing you are about to experience tonight at Naked Angels Tuesdays at Nine Chicago!

MUSE

I hear tonight's writers are very good at listening to their Muses!

JACK KEROUAC

They are, and so is tonight's comedy guest: BLUNCH! These geniuses are going to share 10 minutes of their excellent improv with us!

MUSE

Spontaneity at its finest! Like the Beats, the Blunchies are in touch with their muses AND they're all great friends! Isn't that right, Darren (and/or Joe or Will)?

Darren or they respond(s).

JACK KEROUAC

We'll see BLUNCH in about 40 minutes, but now let's get ready to see new writing read 'cold' by actors who - like us - were handed their scripts just minutes ago.

MUSE

(confesses)

I'm not really Jack Kerouac's French Muse. (*drops accent*) I'm [SAYS NAME HERE] .

JACK KEROUAC

I'm not Jack Kerouac. I'm [SAYS NAME HERE].

MUSE

Though all of tonight's actors have had their scripts for mere minutes, Tuesdays@9 is in its 35th year! It's the longest running cold-reading series in the United States.

MUSE

'Tuesdays' is part of the New York arts organization Naked Angels.

JACK KEROUAC

Naked Angels is named after the founding fathers of the Beat literary movement.

MUSE

Called "naked" because they were artistically vulnerable.

JACK KEROUAC

Called 'angels' because the Beats let their imaginations soar high above the expectations of a dull, conservative society.

MUSE

Jean Marie McKee is a founding member of Naked Angels and the artistic director. She oversees all chapters of Tuesdays@9 in New York, LA, Miami and Chicago.

JACK KEROUAC

This Chicago Chapter was founded in 2018 by Joshua Fardon and Patricia Mario!

MUSE

We are grateful to them - and our venue Chicago Dramatists - and the Russ Tutterow Theatre!

JACK KEROUAC

And we acknowledge that this theater sits on the traditional homelands of The Council of the Three Fires. Please continue to treat it with respect.

MUSE

It has taken spirits, angels, ancestors, muses, and many people -- including you -- to get us here today.

JACK KEROUAC

We are grateful and hope you enjoy Tuesdays@9 Chicago. Please welcome your creative director, Constance Kuntz. *[koonts]*

They sit onstage between Constance and Josh.

CONSTANCE KUNTZ

[Thanks the actors, says she's glad to be there, briefly explains purpose of cold open, says Aviva's gone till April 21 maybe 28, thanks Darren Stephens, Becca Schwartz, and Jake Beauvais -- introduces this week's guest host JOSH CARPENTER.]

JOSH CARPENTER

-Says hello in his own way

- Reminds actors to make bold choices that align with the writing, and to stay seated for safety. If it's a big scene with lots of actors, please face out. If it's a small scene, you can look at each other.

-Shares lineup

1. *Emo Night!* by Gabriella Bonamici
2. *The Inevitability of Falling* by Kevin Theis
3. *The Bicycle* by Cathy Earnest

BREAK for brief announcements, donations, then *BLUNCH IMPROV*

4. *The Perseverance of the Saints* by Kat Evans
5. *Rho Variant* by Lani Montreal *[LAY-nee]*
6. Shout out to our writing understudy, Richard Lyons Conlon.

Closing remarks from JOSH CARPENTER.

Thanks writers Cathy Earnest, Gabreilla Bonamici, Kevin Theis, Kat Evans and Lani Montreal, and writing understudy Richard Lyons Conlon. Thanks comedy guest BLUNCH IMPROV. Says nice things. The End!